

THE EYES and EARS

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



Editor: Paul 'Dicko' Dickson

email: three-zero@hotmail.com

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ANZAC Day 2015 –

100 Years and the tradition continues

Record crowds came out in abundance from cities and towns Australia-wide to take part, watch and absorb the moment as we remembered and paid homage in a ceremony that unites the nation.



Sydney is reported on by **Allen Morley** – “A great turnout today. The day began with blue skies and only a limited cloud cover. Sydney continued to dry out after the deluge of earlier in the week.

The banner was raised in O'Connell street and veterans came from all corners of Australia. The Detachment march attendance was in excess of 40 in all, led by Major General Tim Ford and Lieutenant Colonel Warwick Hamilton, both former OCs in South Vietnam.(at right)

Our march start was greatcoats on and off until we started at 11am. Reminds me of those two years national service. The crowds were impressive in their numbers and enthusiasm. Lots of support for us marchers. Our flag/banner bearers were L/Cpls Carpenter and Thwin. We presented them with a 131 Association badge for their help.

At the Hyde Park end our reps went in many directions.

Lunch at “Zest”, City Tattersalls Club was extremely well attended, a total of gunners of twenty. A beer or two plus a wine or two or three. A delightful turn out and many tales to tell.

All “lunchees” wandered off over time. Just in time for a hail stone farewell to tell us goodbye from Sydney. Allen”



And as always it's a great thanks to **Bob King** for his many camera angles.



Part of the group in O'Connell St, then at left Ernie Newbold, Ged Carroll and Nick Proskurin get a Banner shot



Vic Danko, Roger McDonnell, Ken Woodbine, Geoff Holden and Ian Amos





Lunch at "Zest"



...**Grahame Dignam** adds a bit more commentary - "The Banner was carried by 2 cadets from 233 ACU (Australian Cadet Unit) St George Area Rockdale NSW (see pic below).

Ross Gunnel is visiting his son who lives in Engadine. See the photo of Ross with son David and his son Liam - and the rest of the family cheered wildly.



"Maj Gen" Kenny McNamara is shuffling along with the help of medication for Diabetes - standard for our age. Family affairs over lunch:

Ern Newbold was accompanied by brother David

Ged Carroll had the family (12) along - could have been 4 generations

Phil Endicott has a new glider while he repairs his OLD glider after a rough uphill landing at the end of an adventurous flight

Bob King took photos"

Melbourne as reported by **John Dellaca**...



Waiting for the start of the parade. Mike Butler. John Dellaca. Alan Adams. Mitch Miller & Mike Davis

"Hi Paul, attached some Photos from Anzac Day Melbourne 2015.

Just a small roll up of 6 Locators. what we lacked in quantity we made up in quality!! Weather conditions was poor, rained most of the day. Massive crowds in Melbourne. All in all a great day to celebrate the centenary of the landing at Anzac Cove."



Three of us were at 31 Alpha during 1968 John Dellaca. Mitch Millar. Peter (Bluey) Dealy Bluey's first march in Melbourne

Canberra where **Bert Blink** fills in the blanks –

"Paul, The Canberra march was packed. The normal seating arrangements, after the march, flowed over onto the ground level seating.





Obtained photos of the 18 Pounder but unfortunately missed all the opportunities to see it in the flesh.



Note in one photo, of the gun, there is a person pushing a green trolley but he unfortunately missed collecting one dollop of horse shit, which appeared to have disappeared by the time the Viet Veterans marched past.

We also had a member of Royalty, the Duke of Kent, he was present as the President of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Bert"

Rockhampton as reported by **John Blake** – "Dicko, This is the first time I've been able to find my way into a camera on Anzac Day. Have attended a few of course but seem not to make the cut photographically. A couple of years ago I happened to be in Roma, sitting on a step, when I was approached by a lady, to lay the wreath for the Vietnam vets even though I was in town just for the day. I was sure the local paper would have had a photograph of me but alas there was nothing.

This time I was in Rockhampton. Attended the Dawn service, see picture at right, then later marched in the town March with some fabulous blokes from unattached units. Palled up with a chap (and his wife) from Kiwi land who had worked for the poms, doing some serious time in the Middle East and now living in Australia, retired from the coal industry. Halfway through the march I swapped over to march with the Vietnam vets – a very small group. Joined everybody at Frenchville Sports Club, just around the corner from where I am staying. This is the meeting place for the local RSL which lost its clubhouse, apparently through mismanagement or worse. I had been there three



nights before having dinner with the people from the Troop Train Tour that was a re-enactment of the run from Winton to Brisbane picking up volunteers for World War I. Somebody, apparently as a hobby that got out of hand, has made up a set of photographs, replica metals and citations, all framed for presentation, for all Australian VC winners. He is now touring with it. It will be showing at Gatton next week. I had heard the collection was there and went into the room out of curiosity. I lasted, I think, 20 seconds and had to walk out I was so choked up. Later that evening I met Keith Payne. Thankfully I didn't choke up at that stage.

Hoping to be at Seymour. Late entry.

Well, did the washing last night so I am going for a bike ride this morning. See Ya JB"

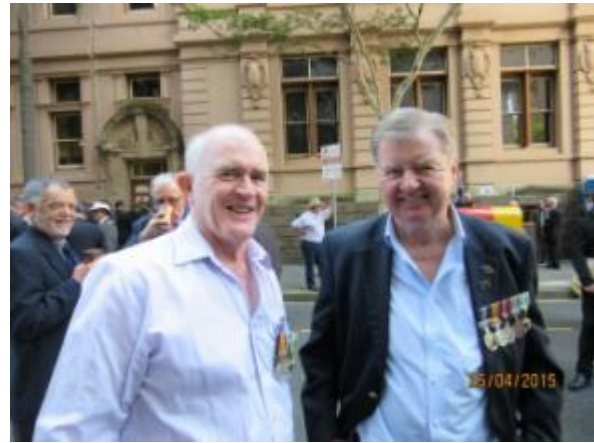
Brisbane gets a great coverage of the proceedings as usual from **Terry Erbs**...

The Regiment held its traditional Dawn Service at our memorial at Enoggera while Phil Sheedy, John Bristow, Lionel Outen & I attended the dedication of the Samford RSL Avenue of Honour, where a plaque for Tony Coutts has been laid.

Unlike last year CO Lt Col Bede Galvin didn't make it compulsory for his diggers to march so it was very pleasing to see so many young veterans join the "oldies" for the Brisbane march. We did make back in time for the city march despite a long dedication at Samford- politician's and long speeches!



Lionel Outen, Phil Sheedy & John Bristow



Steve Hall & David Dodds

It was the usual pre march "hurry up and wait" in the sun, assembling in George St but it did allow time to catch up with old mates and meet the latest veterans - they are so young or maybe we are just getting old and grey!



Forming up in George St ANZAC Day 2015
Led by current CO Lt Col Bede Galvin and past CO Lt Col Phil Swinsburg, nearly 160 including 12 Vietnam veterans, marched behind the new Locating banner.



As we marched down George St into Adelaide St and past the saluting dais at King George Square and ANZAC square, veterans were warmly and continuously applauded by record Brisbane crowds.



After a short walk to the Stock Exchange Hotel we all enjoyed a refreshing ale or two! It was a very suitable venue for older gunners with poor hearing, who found a quiet saloon for a yarn. While younger veterans appeared to enjoy entertainment saloon and the ambiance of a sunny beer garden with it's barbeque continuously serving good tucker!

Perth is given the run-down by **Barry Guzder** – “Hi Dicko, couple of photos as requested ! In the photo (below): Joe Libbrizzi, Me, Chris Chapple and John Lochore. Two others missed us somehow (Phil Perrin & Gordon Williams). But it was a great day and we had many tall tales and true. Good to hear stories from other blokes from other eras after we left. Another photo coming. Barry G.”



...**John Lochore** added a few more words on the day – “Hi Barry, Chris and Joe, I enjoyed getting together Anzac Day. It was good to march, and then it was good to have those few beers after. (After the hour wait in ‘The Pub With No Beer’ until midday!) Did you kick on long after I left? I enjoyed the chat – bit of proper talk, also the two funny guys holding forth. Good stuff. Compliments also to Joe’s patient friend, the other Joe, to Mal from Sigs who took our pics, and to Ron the volunteer who didn’t get upset when I spilled beer in front of him. Will send some pictures soon. Cheers, John”

ANZAC Cove is done proudly by **Geoff Blackwell** as he reports on a unique ANZAC Day experience from offshore at Gallipoli – “Hi Dicko, had the Dawn Service on board the Celebrity Constellation moored in Anzac Cove.

A live feed from shore then an excellent service on the pool deck with the ships captain acting as chaplain. The ship has around 1500 Kiwis and Aussies, with about 600 vets, mostly Vietnam era. The dawn photo from the ship is from where the 200 strong fleet disembarked the troops at that time 100 years ago. Haunting! We then toured the battlefields and the memorials. Geoff”





Ed couldn't resist the following photo – it just represents the Australian spirit of young blokes in times of conflict...reminded me of the blokes out at Horseshoe with the “pup” they took under their collective wings!



A soldier plays with a kangaroo, the regimental mascot, in Egypt in December 1914 (AAP)

The photo was taken in the lines of the 9th and 10th Battalions at Mena Camp, ten miles from Cairo.

. Historic Anzac gun arrives in Canberra to lead the march... thanks to both **Bert Blink** and **Terry Westerway** as they both forwarded the following article which was published in the Canberra Times covering a very special arrival...the restoration in no small part was aided by our Locator Kevin Browning who is seen with the Governor General Peter Cosgrove below...



The 18-pounder field gun that will lead this year's Anzac Day march has been welcomed to Canberra by Governor-General General Sir Peter Cosgrove. It is being kept at Fairbairn ahead of the big day and is a tribute, complete with ammunition limber, gun crew and horses, to the Australian artillerymen who served in World War I.

Photo: Jeffrey Chan

The Anzac Centennial Gun is marched down Scherger Drive during the official welcome to Canberra ceremony. **Photo: Jeffrey Chan**



One of more than 3000 such guns used by British forces during World War I, this particular piece saw service with the Anzacs on the Western Front. Restored to better than original condition by master coach builder Jim Frecklington, the creator of the Queen's Coach, the olive green weapon is held by the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company. It was sourced from the Bandiana Army Museum's artillery collection and subjected to a painstakingly historically accurate restoration that has cost hundreds of thousands of dollars ahead of the Anzac centenary.



Colonel Ian Ahearn (Ret), Warrant Officer Kevin Browning (Ret) and Jim Frecklington show Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove the Anzac Centennial Gun.

Photo: Jeffrey Chan

"This gun needed a major amount of work," Mr Frecklington said. "Over 100 years rust gets in and around the rivets and bolts. That's all had to be taken apart and sandblasted."

This work ran in tandem with the training of the horses that will pull the field gun up Anzac Parade on Saturday, April 25, by Goulburn's Max Pearce.

Among the heaviest and most versatile field artillery pieces of the Great War, the 84mm 18-pounders combined the latest in recoilless rapid firing technology with horse propulsion.

Gun crews were drilled in deploying the weapons, which could fire 20 rounds a minute, in the shortest possible time and under the worst conditions imaginable.

Warrant Officer (ret) Kevin Browning, a Vietnam veteran who did two tours of duty with the 131 Divisional Locating Battery between 1968 and 1971, is an artillery history expert who worked as an adviser on the project.

He said in France the 18-pounders (so called because of the weight of their shells) were used to lay down a creeping barrage behind which the infantry would advance across no-man's land.

"The men knew the closer they stayed to the exploding shells the safer they were," he said. "It was called hugging the fall [of shot]. The barrage was intended to keep the enemy's heads down and stop their machinegunners opening up." The downside was the closer you were to the fall of shot the more chance you had of being killed by one of your own shells.

"You have got to take your hat off to these men [the infantry]," Mr Browning said. "They got up each morning to see how the cards would fall. There was little or nothing you could do to influence whether you lived or died."

General Cosgrove said the guns, and their French and German equivalents, had been devastatingly effective anti-personnel weapons on the battlefield.

. HMAS Sydney – “Vung Tau Ferry”...May marks 50 years since the re-vamped “old girl” made her maiden voyage to Vung Tau –



The Vung Tau Ferry - 8 June: The transport ship (converted aircraft carrier) HMAS Sydney, with destroyer escort HMAS Parramatta and HMAS Duchess, arrives at Vung Tau on the first naval logistical support operation.

During the Vietnam War the task of moving, supplying and maintaining Australian forces in

South Vietnam was shared between the Royal Australian Air Force, civilian aircraft – mainly Qantas – and ships from the Australian National Line (ANL). But the bulk of the task fell to the Royal Australian Navy and the vessel that carried out the majority of transport duties to and from Vietnam was the former aircraft carrier, HMAS Sydney.

Sydney's first voyage to South Vietnam, escorted by HMAS *Melbourne*, HMAS *Duchess* and HMAS *Parramatta*, began on 27 May 1965. For *Sydney's* crew, the trip meant the chance to both establish routines for a logistic task, the like of which had not been undertaken by the navy for twenty years, and to gain an understanding of the risks facing their ship in hostile waters. In the years to come, the run to Vung Tau and back became an increasingly speedy and smooth operation. Nevertheless, each voyage required a great deal of hard work, particularly during the loading and unloading phase of the operation.

In its role as the 'Vung Tau Ferry', HMAS Sydney brought together men from two distinct cultures: the army and the navy. In the days before she sailed from Australia, Sydney would be loaded with soldiers and their equipment. Crew members would be detailed to act as 'sea daddies' to groups of soldiers, helping them to get their bearings on board ship, showing them where to keep their gear and how to sling their hammocks – a novel, and often unwelcome, mode of sleeping for most soldiers. Apart from the unfamiliarity with shipboard life, or indeed with the ways of the navy, the soldiers often found Sydney to be uncomfortable, particularly in tropical waters when the heat below decks was intense.

During loading and unloading, when *Sydney* and her escort ships were anchored off Vung Tau, their crews were prepared to counter any attacks launched from shore. The ship's divers carried out constant patrols, checking hulls and cables while armed sentries stood on deck with orders to fire on suspicious movements in the water. As it turned out, neither *Sydney* nor her escorts were endangered in Vietnamese waters. But she performed in her role as 'Vung Tau ferry' very effectively, safely transporting thousands of troops to and from Vietnam along with thousands of tonnes of cargo and equipment.

By 1972, when Australia's involvement in Vietnam ended, *Sydney* had carried 16,000 army and RAAF personnel to Vung Tau on 24 ferry runs and had made a 25th trip to Vietnam to deliver and pick-up military equipment. Every voyage took between 10 and 12 days in each direction, a time during which soldiers heading for Vietnam were given hours of physical training and prepared for the year that they would have to spend as combatants in a war zone. For those on the return voyage after their twelve-month tour of duty, the passage to Australia offered a chance to relax, to reflect on their experiences and to prepare themselves for the transition from war to peace. Such a period of reflection was denied to those soldiers who returned home by aircraft, leaving Vietnam and being home within 10 hours. Although many Vietnam veterans recall being ignored upon their return to Australia, this was not the case for those who returned with their battalions on board HMAS *Sydney*. When the ship docked, the infantry were often met by dignitaries, including the Minister for the Army, and a march through the city - Sydney, Brisbane or Townsville - usually followed within hours.



Sydney's efforts were complemented by the work of two Australian National Line vessels, MV *Jeparit* and MV *Boonaroo*. After February 1967 *Jeparit* sailed with mixed crews, civilian seamen and naval personnel. *Boonaroo* made only two voyages to Vietnam and did one of these as a commissioned naval vessel. *Jeparit* on the other hand made 43 voyages to Vietnam, often coming up against strike action imposed by anti-war unions that delayed her loading and unloading. By 1970 authorities were sufficiently concerned at the toll that strike action*(see below) was taking that in December that year she was commissioned as a Royal Australian Naval vessel, making union concerns, at least on board, irrelevant.

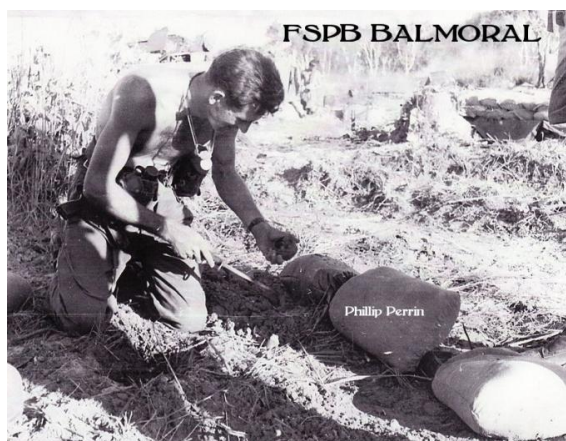
Next month we'll do a follow up with a detailed coverage of the controversies surrounding "The Vung Tau Ferry"

. 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



It is interesting to note that no crater analysis was conducted at FSPB CORAL for the simple reason that very few craters were left untouched, a collecting frenzy occurred with soldiers from all units including members of Det 131 removing tailfins as souvenirs. Crater Analysis was conducted at FSPB BALMORAL with the Arty Int Operators uncovering not only 60mm mortar craters but also fragments from a number of armour piercing 75mm recoilless rifle rounds. The photo is of the OC of Det 131 (Capt. Phillip Perrin) at FSPB BALMORAL conducting crater analysis, which produced a fuse from a 75 mm recoilless rifle which had armour piercing capabilities.

Photo supplied by: Phillip Perrin

June - Charlie Radar (A12) replaced Alpha Radar (A6) as the operational radar and became Alpha Radar (A12). A6 radar was

then crated for RTA.

23 June Alpha Radar (A12) was deployed by air to FSB CONCORD YT0317 during Operation TOAN THANG 11 in AO BIRDSVILLE

18 July - Alpha Radar (A12) returned to Nui Dat. No enemy mortar activity was recorded during this period.

19 July – Bdr K Ayliffe replaced Sgt N Lindroos as No.1 Bravo radar. Sgt N. Lindroos assumed control of Alpha radar as No.1.

26 July – Bdr Colin Gordon became No.1 Alpha radar replacing Sgt N. Lindroos

29 July - Operation PLATYPUS commenced, with Alpha (A12) moving by air to FSB AVENGER (YS454838) on the west side of Route 2, 15 km north of NUI DAT, 5 km south east of FSB COOLAH in the Cu Bi Rubber Plantation in AO KIMBERLEY. Alpha Radar (A12) was deployed with Alpha Bty 2/35 Arty (US), to be joined later 161 Fd Bty RNZA.

05 August - An odd note to this sequence is that the with no radars in Nui Dat, the provincial capital Baria was mortared, receiving about 20 rounds of 81mm enemy mortar fire.

08 August - The new radar (A8) arrived in country; this became the slave Charlie Radar'. (A12) returned to Nui Dat.

28 August - Operation DIAMANTINA began and Bravo Radar (A7) was deployed by air to FSPB LONGREACH (YS525767) 10 km north, north east of NUI DAT, 3 km west of FSB WILTON, 1 km east of Ngai Giao and 7 km east of Route 2 in AO COBAR.

September - Although information is sketchy about this period, it appears that Bravo Radar (A7) returned to Nui Dat and the LONGREACH site was re-occupied by Alpha Radar (A12) (by road) sometime on Operation HAWKSBURY, however, 1 RAR Duty Officer's log for Operation HAWKSBURY (AWM95, 7/1/91 Part 4 - 12-14 September 1968), states the name of this FSPB is LOWREACH (LONGREACH ??) YS5276. Note grid references are the same.

12 October - Operation CAPITAL, reconnaissance in force in AO DICKSON began.

Bravo Radar (A7) moved by road to deploy in FSPB LION (YS613815).

1/2 November - An enemy Ground and mortar attack occurred with Bravo Radar (A6) recording a number of locreps which were engaged by the guns of 102 Fd Bty.

An infantry patrol became lost during Bravo Radar (A6) stay at FSB LION. By having a Helicopter hover over the patrol a fix was determined by the radar.

19 November - Operation CAPITAL ends. Bravo Radar returns by road to Nui Dat.

03 December - Operation GOODWOOD commences to achieve rapid destruction of enemy 3/271 Battalion or other VC elements in the AO, and any enemy installations /assets discovered.

3/271 Battalion was, according to intelligence sources, believed to have recently received large numbers of North Vietnamese replacements. The battalion was estimated to include between 250 and 300 men, and was well equipped. Located in the Hat Dich area, the battalion was believed to be occupying a number of permanent base camps, complete with numerous trench systems, bunkers and underground tunnels.

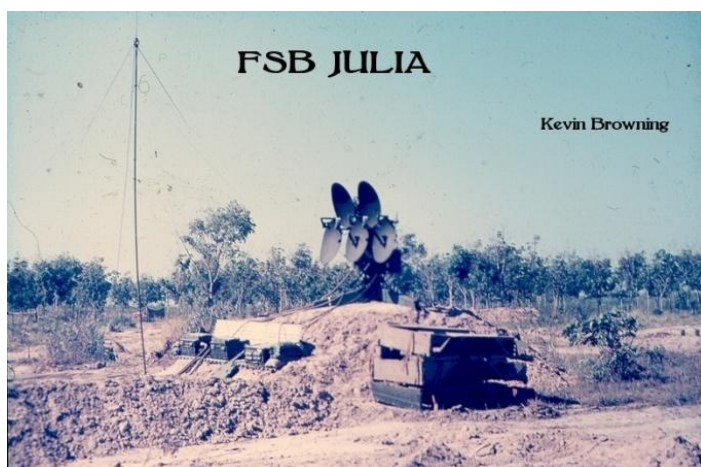
To achieve this, a forward 1ATF base was deployed at FSB JULIA YS2281 which was situated north of the village of Thai Thein, on Route QL 14, with Armoured support and three (3) Artillery FSPB were deployed:

- a. FSPB DYKE YS2780 104 Fd Bty.
- b. FSPB CHESTNUT YS2280 A Bty 2/35 Arty (US) and C Bty 2/40 Arty (US). From discussions, it is believed a radar was deployed here but as yet unable to confirm this.
- c. FSPB AVENGER YS4583 161 Fd Bty (after initially deployed at HORSESHOE).

Alpha Radar (A12) deployed by air to FSB JULIA along with a forward TFAIO and an LP. This was the last air deployment of the radar, as according to records, the AD equipment special base had —fallen apart and could no longer be used.

05 December – LP and other sources report mortar firing, search bearing sent to radar. Alpha (A7) records two (2) locreps at YS475623 and YS484626. At 2204hrs 104 Fd Bty fires on YS475623 and at 2329hrs fires on YS484626 resulting in six secondary explosions reaching a height of approximately 150ft. Bright green and orange flames were also observed.

09 December – Bdr Terrence Loftyll Hayes replaced Bdr Keith Ayliffe as No.1 Bravo radar.



Although the radar was air lifted into FSB JULIA, it would leave by road transport. The photo shows the special vehicle platforms stacked and waiting to be reassembled to their respective vehicles. The AD fibre glass platform had fallen apart' and from this point all movement of the radars was by road.

30 December – Alpha Radar returned to Nui Dat
By the end of 1968 the Sound Ranging base had been established at Nui Dat, this was to allow for both radar systems to be deployed outside Nui Dat at the same time.

Next month we'll get into **1969 – Winding down...**

. **Murray Smale** writes to us after reading April's *Eyes & Ears* sent in the following with regards to the radar deployment in FSB Coral..

"Hi Paul, Murray Smale here,

I very much enjoy your Newsletter and appreciate the effort you go to in maintaining the 131 Div Loc Association, however it would be negligent of me not to advise that it was "Bravo Radar" not Alpha that was deployed to Coral FSB.

You can verify this by obtaining a copy of "The Battle of Fire Support Bases Coral/Balmoral" published by the Department of Veteran Affairs and available from the Australian War Museum.

On page three (3) you find a photograph of Bravo Members including myself, Dennis Dyer and Alan McDonald waiting to be Choppered to Coral. Your other facts are correct and we were indeed fortunate that the attack came in on top of the guns and not us, given that all we had were our SLR's.

Regards and thanks again for all your efforts, Murray"

...this prompted a reply from us (Bert blink and myself)...

"Murray, Great to hear from you and read your comments.

I was advised by Bert Blink to have a re-look at Keith A's article from ANKPQ-1 history and would like to raise a few points that he makes on pages 25, 26 and 27. He records that Alpha radar was at Coral/Balmoral and was severely damaged on the in the very early morning hours of 13th May and replacement parts and also replacement radar operators arrived -

"A road convoy from Nui Dat arrived about midday. Part of this convoy contained two vehicles from Det 131 and one vehicle from 131WKSPS. Apart from a change of a number of radar and LP personnel, the vehicles contained replacement radar units and parts from Charlie Radar (A12). The forward TFAIO arrived by road from Bien Hoa and deployed with 12 Fd Regt Tac HQ. (See Annex D - FSPB CORAL manning - Det 131 Div Loc Bty.)"

Would you have arrived out to Coral/Balmoral as a replacement, because your name is listed on page 45 of this history as being part of Alpha radar?

I look forward to hearing back from you. Paul"

...this got the following response from Murray...

"Hi again Paul, No I was with Bravo Radar positioned near the 2/35th, in fact we did most of our "boozing" in their bar and crawled back through the wire getting home in the dark.

With respect to FSB Coral, we choppered out of Nui Dat by Chinook on the 12th May arriving at Coral with the bulldozers to assist in digging in on the nor-east side of the "Track", with some equipment for the FSB being put down on the western side of the "Track" which proved fortuitous because we were obviously being observed by elements of the NVA.

In the early hours of the 13th May I had just finished my shift on the radar and was standing above ground near the water tent when the distinctive "pop" of RPG's signalled the commencement of the NVA attack. Two of these RPG's "fizzed" passed me, one to my left and one to my right nearly taking my bloody head off and I jumped into the nearest hole on-top of two of our boys before my cigarette hit the ground.

With respect to the fortuitous part, most of the NVA mortar and RPG fire went straight over our heads throughout the night landing on the western side of the "Track". Additionally, the west side had 200-300 plus yards of open ground and must have seemed tactically wrong for the NVA to attack the base from this side instead coming in from the nor-east over the Mortar Platoon and onto 102 Battery's Guns. Had they in fact come in from the west all that was standing in their way was us dug in on the edge of the "Track" with our SLR's, not an M60 to be seen.

The NVA didn't repeat their mistake in the second attack, putting most of their fire right on top of us.

I hope this helps to clear up some misconceptions.

Regards Murray and I recommend the DVA Publication as previously mentioned."

. **"OC's recollections SVN"** – this is a great, time consuming, project developed by Allen Morley and then glued together by Grahame Dignam and from all accounts is progressing very nicely with some fantastic "memory" recounts coming in of the blokes who looked after at least one of our mother's children. The time for post warranty/guarantees that the OC's offered have elapsed – ALL claims now should be directed to the DVA and we wish you best of luck!

The Officers Commanding the Detachment in date service order in South Vietnam were –

1966 – 1st May – Capt James H Townley

1966 – 12th August - Capt Barry L Campton

1967 – 17th April – Capt Warwick R Hamilton

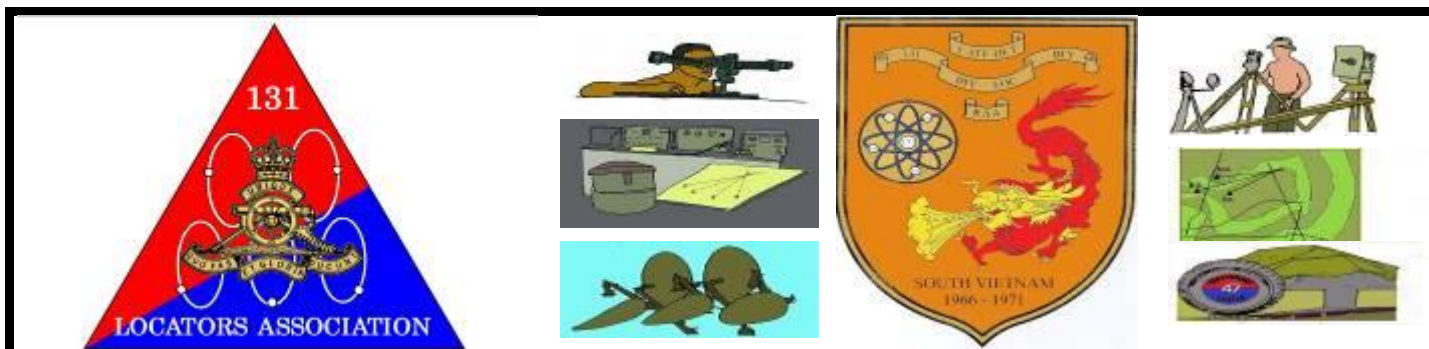
1968 – 19th January – Capt Phillip M Perrin

1969 – 14th January – Capt Anthony S Eaton

1969 – 16th August – Capt Brian W Kennedy

1970 – 19th August – Capt Timothy R Ford

It is hoped to be able to commence the series in the coming month's *Eyes & Ears* and also add them to the website as an integral part of our archival history.



Committee members:

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

Welcome – The Association has great pleasure in welcoming Derek Hinde to the Association fold and thanks to both Ross Gunnell and Merv Nairn for renewing their memberships.

Presidential perambulations

“In mid-April I travelled to Canberra for the baptism of my great niece. This was a good opportunity to also check out the Detachment plaque at the Australian War Memorial. I am happy to report that it is doing well in the Canberra weather elements. The AWM has opened a new WW1 section, which is both riveting and fascinating to interact with. Those diggers had it tough.

My previous visit to our Nation’s Capital was a couple of years ago. To me it remains a country town trying to be a city (sorry Bert). A massive number of new office buildings, hotels and houses have been built. Not sure who is paying for them. Even more confusing are the roads which in some cases seem to start and stop as dead ends.



And the drivers cannot park correctly as these two pics show:
 This approach to Canberrans’ parallel parking was not uncommon.



Then in downtown El Paso – sorry Kingston – I encountered major problems with a parking meter,. No matter what was tried I could not get it to accept my credit card to pay for the parking.

And then it rained, and rained and rained for the entire drive home.
 I hope all of our readers celebrated the Centenary Anzac in style and with reverence.
 Cheers Allen”



. Upcoming Events Calender –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 26th May, 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 still time to make it to Seymour...

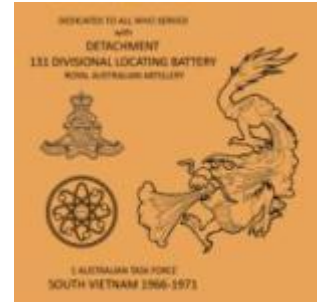


Roll Up! Roll Up!

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

See you at
SEYMOUR
MAY 4th
2015



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/>

Hey here's some great news and someone to say g'day to at Seymour...

We have been notified that Major Russ Hamsey will be joining us for the Dedication Ceremony in Seymour. Unfortunately he cannot extend his stay for the Dinner and overnight due to commitments.

"Grahame:

Excellent, thank you for the read-in. As an old Locator, I am certainly keen to support any efforts to keep the memories alive.

Puckapunyal is near and dear to my heart. As a Canadian, I was stationed there for three years and began life as an Aussie there. I am aware of the importance of the place (and Seymour) to the memory of National Service.

The plaque that you mention to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the departure of the 131 Det to SVN belongs in the Regimental Precinct (right in the middle of Gallipoli Barracks). You may wish to consider conducting the ceremony prior to ANZAC Day as the btys begin deploying to the field shortly after and you will not have the full regt avail until late Nov. I tell a lot of people about 131 Det's actions in Vietnam and it would be bloody marvelous to have this ceremony next year. I even have a few sites in mind.

I will be pleased to let the Menz family know that we still honour their sacrifice to this day. The MENZ Club and the reason it is called that is briefed to the soldiers at the start of every year.

I look forward to joining you on the day

Russ Hamsey

RW HAMSEY

MAJ, 2I/C

20 STA Regt

Gallipoli Barracks

Enoggera, QLD

Some background information follows:

Major Russell Hamsey - Second in Command, 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment

Major Russell Hamsey was born and raised in Canada. He enlisted in the Canadian Army in 1977 and served in a variety of postings as an Artillery Officer. He was dispatched from his gun battery in 1980 to a Regimental Survey Officer Course and in short order, became a passionate Locating Artilleryman.

In 25 years of service in Canada, Major Hamsey was employed as a Regimental Survey Officer, a Locating Instructor-in-Gunnery, a UAV Troop Commander and a Division Artillery Intelligence Officer. During his time as a Locator, he

qualified and worked in all Locating disciplines (Survey, Artillery Meteorology, Flash Spotting, Sound Ranging, Weapon Locating Radar, Ground Surveillance Radar, Unmanned Aerial Systems and Artillery Intelligence).

In 1999, Major Hamsey and his family were posted to Australia and enjoyed three years in Puckapunyal as a Liaison Officer. In 2002, to avoid having to return to the snow and cold, Major Hamsey discharged from the Canadian Army and enlisted in the Australian Army as a lateral transfer. He was posted to the School of Artillery in Puckapunyal as the SI STA, then to Enoggera as a member of the Army HQ team that built 20 STA Regt.

In 2006, he was posted to 20 STA Regt as the first BC 132 UAV Bty. Over the next two years, MAJ Hamsey deployed twice to Iraq with elements of the regt operating the AN/TPQ-36 WLR, the Skylark MUAV and the ScanEagle UAV. He also served as the regt's Operations Officer.

In 2008, Major Hamsey was posted to a four year term in HQ 1st Division and was overjoyed to return to 20 STA Regt in 2013. Upon his return, he took up duties as the Regt's second-in command where he currently continues to help build and develop the unit.

He has been married to the long-suffering Debbie for over thirty years and they have two children, Kelsey and Grant. Major Hamsey's hobbies are cigars and 20 STA Regt.

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

Presidents report.

Allen visited the WW1 exhibition at the AWM which was excellent and also reported the 131 plaque laid in May 2012 is in good order

Reported no advice yet re the DVA Grant decision covering the Seymour and North Head events.

Allen suggested that we invest in a purpose made photo album in military colours with an embossed artillery badge as a centerpiece. The item is available through the brother of Ern Newbold who is a Book binder by trade. The cost of the item has been approved up to \$500 by a vote of the members present. A digital version of the album will also be placed on the website

Reported that he has developed an "Order of Service" for the Seymour Dedication Ceremony where attendees should number 36 for the Ceremony.

Timings will be:

1030 gather at the Paver site

1100 Welcome

Dedication Address

Unveiling of the Det 131 DLB paver

Ode

Last Post

One Minutes silence

Rouse

Bugle by LAC Tim Billiards

LEST WE FORGET

RESPONSE: LEST WE FORGET

Thanks and farewell

1130 Break for viewing of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Walkway

Responses for other Seymour activities are –

Mon - Seymour Club 1900PM (bar open your cost) for Dinner (34) 1930PM:

Tues 1030 proceed to Australian Tank Museum and the Artillery museum(29)

Wed 0700 Bus collects from The Coach & Bushmen Motel for Phillip Island (28)

Arrive 1030 Dedication of Plaque 1100 view Museum artifacts depart 1330 for

Seymour stopping for lunch (60 minutes) Arrive Seymour 1800.Hrs

Thurs 0700 The final day breakfast (27) and depart.

Webmaster Update.

Bob provided an email of website stats which showed a small but steady growth in activity. A notable figure is the number of downloads of archived editions back to 2009.

Webmaster Update.

May event – Seymour and Phillip Island 2015. See above

Tank Museum visitor entry information for cars will be sought as this is the preferred transport method for this venue.

Coach for the Phillip Island Excursion- booked 48 seater

Other Matters.

Leon Webster and Terry Kelly responded to an item placed in the Daily Telegraph. Contact will be followed up.

Committee members will begin to capture relevant dates in the history of 131 DLB which can be passed on to Maj Gen Tim Ford.

A suggestion to invite Captain Wales, who is visiting Australia, to the Seymour Dedication failed as no one knew who to approach with the invitation.

Birthdays in the Battery...May –

May		Name	Regt No	YOB	In SVN	Out SVN	Comments
	1	DENNIS FORSTER	39992	1949	30 04 1969	16 04 1970	
	2	NICK ARMSTRONG	43316	1944	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	
	2	MICHAEL YOUNG	2786087	1946	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	
	2	BRETT RAINSFORD	4719790	1946	18 12 1968	28 11 1969	
	4	BRIAN KILLWORTH	2782129	1945	04 05 1966	02 03 1967	
	4	PETER ROBERTSON	15543	1936	04 05 1966	29 04 1967	
	5	DAVID CORNELL	5713808	1945	07 08 1966	30 04 1967	
	8	JOHN ROBERTS	3787005	1945	04 05 1966	29 04 1967	
	8	GRAEME OWEN	39453	1948	08 11 1968	19 11 1969	
	10	KEN WOODBINE	2786077	1946	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
	10	MICHAEL QUINLAN	2788865	1946	08 11 1968	05 11 1969	
	11	BOB KING	2785420	1946	10 06 1967	23 04 1968	
	12	MERV NAIRN	2781450	1945	20 05 1966	01 05 1967	
	12	GORDON WILLIAMS 2Lt	2783891	1945	13 05 1968	26 03 1969	
	13	DAVID KEECH	311588	1947	04 06 1970	10 06 1970	131 † 1999
		" "			11 06 1970	26 05 1971	AATTV
	15	LESLIE CONNELL	6709098	1948	23 09 1969	13 08 1970	† 2011
	17	PAUL ANGELL	2790740	1948	23 09 1969	04 06 1970	
	17	KENNETH SANDERSON	3794846	1948	23 09 1969	13 08 1970	
	17	LAURENCE MION	3795762	1948	01 04 1970	03 12 1970	
	18	PETER COLMAN	2791655	1948	22 12 1969	17 12 1970	
	19	DENNIS DYE	2412366	1945	27 11 1969	26 11 1968	
	19	TERRY WEEKES	3787197	1945	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	
	19	JOHN TICKLE Sgt.	214000	1942	03 03 1971	13 08 1971	131
		" "			14 08 1971	09 09 1971	12 Fd Regt
	20	NICK PROSKURIN	2785002	1946	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
	21	PETER RAVELJE	3794461	1947	16 12 1969	04 06 1970	
	21	STUART TELFORD	2791930	1948	20 01 1970	03 12 1970	
	21	SIMON WILLIS	3797687	1948	02 12 1970	29 07 1971	
	22	BRIAN TURNER	2412230	1947	20 05 1966	02 05 1967	
	22	ANDREW CSIVINCSIK	2790320	1947	02 12 1969	04 06 1970	
	23	JIM SELLWOOD	1731045	1945	04 05 1966	30 04 1967	
	24	JOHN BREWER (M.I.D.)	16220	1944	05 02 1968	07 02 1969	131
		" "			12 03 1970	25 02 1971	4 Fd Regt
	26	KEN WHITTLE	2781996	1945	20 05 1966	27 03 1967	
	26	BERT BLINK	3789692	1946	10 06 1967	21 05 1968	
	26	RAYMOND MITCHELL	218731	1951	30 05 1970	10 12 1970	† 24.09.11 - 131
		" "			10 12 1970	11 03 1971	4 Fd Regt
	28	SYTSE ELZINGA	3787318	1945	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	
	28	FREDERICK MARWICK	45285	1948	10 03 1971	28 06 1971	131
		" "			28 06 1971	20 12 1971	12 Fd Regt
	29	CHARLES O'NEILL	1735063	1946	15 04 1970	17 12 1970	
	29	ROGER PRYKE	312827	1951	30 05 1970	26 05 1971	
	30	ROGER LONG	3788775	1945	05 06 1967	12 12 1967	† 22.05.90
	30	RON WEBB	1411172	1943	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	† 29.03.77
	30	ANTHONY EATON Capt.	17090	1941	14 01 1969	30 07 1969	
	30	WARWICK BROOKER	1732289	1946	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
	31	STUART PHILIPSON	3799990	1950	27 04 1971	17 12 1971	12 Fd Regt

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received 128 and we've sent out 128. 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 –

Hopper, Diana May – wife of Peter, mother of Christopher and Chelsea passed away on 9th April, 2015. Diana was an Associate Professor at Faculty of Health Sciences, Bentley Campus at the Curtin University in Perth, AW. Background - Over the years travelled and represented Australia as a Sports Physiotherapist and worked at the Olympics and the Commonwealth Games; World University Games; Arafura Games; Australian Institute of Sport Rhythmic Gymnastics Team; West Australian Institute of Sport female rowing crew; World, National and State Championships in many individual and team sports. Worked overseas in Zimbabwe where she was the only sports physiotherapist and worked with the Zimbabwe Cricket team, men's and women's hockey teams. Travelled with Zimbabwe Men's Hockey Team to Malawi where they won the African Hockey Cup. Organised sports coverage for international, national, state and club events including fun runs. Recently, worked as a Sports Physiotherapist in private practice.

May she rest in peace



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

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

Hope we hear from you?

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

. Other related sites...

. Artillery Surveyors 131 Div Loc Bty...



ARTILLERY SURVEYORS 131 DIV LOC BTY

"Elements of 131 came wandering in from the bush"

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

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

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

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

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

. Locating , Surveillance & Target Acquisition Association...



LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION
The Eyes And Ears Of The Battlefield

...see the LS & TAA website for up to date information – <http://www.locatingartillery.org/http://www.locatingartillery.org/>
Future Committee meeting dates – Sun 24 May 2015 at Paddington RSL. Sun 19 July 2015 AGM at Paddington RSL.



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



www.artilleryhistory.org



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



Website link - <http://www.dva.gov.au/Pages/home.aspx>

. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE

The Dept of Veteran's Affairs has launched a new mental health initiative to assist veteran's experiencing the affects of mental illness and their families. Providing information and fact sheets about understanding mental illness, links and contact information for accessing support, and online resources for health professionals, this website focuses on helping veterans identify early warning signs of mental illness to effectively manage their mental illness and seek treatment. For more info or to access, please visit www.at-ease.dva.gov.au

. 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery...



Dedicated to the men of the 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery who served in Vietnam from 1966-1971. We left Fort Sill in October 1966 for Vietnam. We originally were at Bear Cat, Nui Dat and Xuan Loc. We later were in many other locations in Vietnam. We also welcome our Australian and New Zealand Allies to whom we owe so much.

It is also dedicated to those members of the 1/83rd who did not return. We will never forget their sacrifice. Website: http://83rd_artillery.home.comcast.net/~83rd_artillery/

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

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