

THE EYES and EARS

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



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Supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs

50 Years
April 1966 - April 2016



The Memories Remain
1966 - 1971

May 2016

marks 50 years since the Detachment arrived in South Vietnam
Join in the celebrations in Enoggera, Brisbane
for ANZAC Day and 26th April for the
50th Anniversary Memorial Day

Vietnam Veterans Day...



August 18th, Vietnam Veterans Day, is the anniversary of Australia's most significant campaign in Vietnam - the Battle of Long Tan.

August 18th is Vietnam Veterans Day. Originally it was a day to commemorate the Battle of Long Tan in 1966; it has since been adopted by all Vietnam veterans.

"The battle of Long Tan was the largest single unit battle fought in Vietnam by Australian troops. It began on the afternoon of August 18th and went right through the night until the morning of the 19th. That reason why it was looked on as decisive and significant was because the Australian had only been there a few months - it was the first major conflict involving Australian troops in Vietnam. The Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese Army were aware that the Australians were there to secure the province and decided that they would take them on. That was the fate that befell a company of men - Delta company, from the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment - who were on patrol that particular day. The enemy lay in wait for them - a huge ambush in a rubber plantation called Long Tan. The Australians had to hold off thousands of enemy troops for the duration of that battle. Eighteen Australian troops were killed - up to a thousand of the enemy. The skills of artillery men and arrival of Armoured Personnel Carriers with more men saved the day. The 6th Battalion was called the "Baby Battalion" as it was made up largely of national servicemen - and they certainly underwent a baptism by fire."

In acknowledging Vietnam Veterans' Day Communities throughout Australia remember the sacrifices made by our young men and women in a conflict that spanned a ten year period.

Ed - try as I might to find something remotely relevant, in the Australian daily press, on or about 18th August and I failed miserably to be reminded of the significance of the day. Therefore, I cut and pasted the piece in above thanks to The Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch Incorporated. It's just a short, succinct piece but does the day proud.

Sydney – **Allen Morley** chimes in with the Locator's activities – "The 131 Detachment stalwarts attended the Vietnam Veterans Day Memorial Service and lunch at Bankstown District Sports Club on August 18th.

On parade were Merv Nairn and Des McGuiggan (pictured at right)...



...Nick Proskurin and Ernie Newbold (smiling widely in pic at left), Grahame Dignam, Ged Carroll, George Lane and Allen Morley. Sadly, Pioneer Jim Fitzgerald was unable to attend due to medical issues. Our best wishes go to Jim.

The address was given by Maj Gen Mark Kelly (Rtd), Repatriation Commissioner. He spoke on some of the Vietnam War build up, plus highlights and lowlights of our six years in country.

After lunch entertainment was courtesy of Roland Storm, who was something of an unknown to many. However, he is a music contemporary of Lucky Starr, Little Patty, Col Joye etc, and is described as Australia's Ambassador of Rock and Roll.

The day closed with a warmly contested raffle. Allen"

. Graham Williams in his inimitable way sends in a great contribution, the first part covering his involvement in this year's Vietnam Veterans Day, then goes on to express feelings and thoughts on the future of Memorial Days plus a project very dear to his heart. Have a read and see if you can lend a hand...

"Hi Paul, It is Graham Williams. Thought I would send on the attached photo (at right) taken at Kirra Sports Club on the Gold Coast on Vietnam Veterans Day. Left to right **Grant Perrins, myself and Ian Brignall**. We were advised on the day that it would be the last Memorial Service at this venue. Originally this Service was previously held at the Aero Club at Coolangatta Airport where a Memorial Garden was built and extended over time. When the Aero Club closed down some years ago Kirra Sports Club was to take over the running of this day for the Veterans and the Memorial Garden moved to that venue where it was further extended to quite a substantial Memorial that covered all three services. Unfortunately with the passing of time the upkeep of this garden has become too much for those



Veterans able and willing to care for it. It is unfortunate as the Club and especially the staff did truly go out of their way to make this a very special day for those who attended. After several meetings Nerang Services R.S.L. offered to move the Memorial Garden, as is, to their premises to continue the tradition there. I am not sure what will happen here now as Nerang is a 40 minute drive up the coast and many Veterans from this area find that beyond them. I expect those from this area will now make their way to South Tweed Sports Club instead which always turns on a good day also. Guess I will just play it by ear next year.

My project to document the pictorial history of the Detachment in Vietnam from Circa August 1968 through to June 1970 is now starting to pick up speed and coming along nicely. It may need to be tweaked somewhat due to a shortage of photographs for the period August through October 1968 but several people are doing what they can there so we shall see. I figured the Pioneers and Coral Vets are well documented so why not those who came after. Have had quite a chuckle to myself as I have gone about collating the photos. Had mobile phones been around way back then there are a number in the Detachment who would have been serial "selfie" offenders.....it would seem anytime a camera was produced these few found a way into the shot. As I mentioned in the past coming up with the right names for faces has been quite a challenge but we are getting there with only a few now still unnamed. More about that at a later date. While it covers many who passed through the Detachment during that time I have come up short with a few glaring omissions so wish to ask the Locating Membership if anyone can help out in this regard.

I am trying to source photographs in the hope someone on the Membership List can assist. Please feel free to pass on my E mail address.....what I am looking for is ANY photograph that shows any of the following people taken while they were in Vietnam and covers a period from Dec 1968 through into 1970.

Pierre Goss.....Peter Clarke.....Robert Holdsworth.....Randall Jones,.....Bill Lachlan..... Bill Doyle.....Paul Tys, (Lt).....Gordon Williams, (Lt).....Gary Stratton,.....Edd Cooper,.....Terry Fox,..... Robert Etherington,.....Richard Mahoney.....Phil Wapshot,.....Tony Eaton (Capt),.....Roger Stanley,.....Brian Kennedy (Capt),.....Alan Cleasby (B.S.M.)..... Geoff Macaulay (B.S.M.).....Luigi Lanera,....or Andrew Csinicsik

Alternatively should anyone need to call to find out what it's all about my number is (07) 55 998709. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated. Hope all is well in your neck of the woods. Regards, Graham Williams."

. Rieny Nieuwenhof had a busy day in Geelong and in Melbourne and got these photos to us to highlight the day...



"Hi Paul,

Choose what you want from these images. These were taken at the Melbourne Shrine VV Day Memorial service. Maybe you recognise Michael McLaughlin, President Victorian RSL, and yours truly laying a wreath on behalf of the Geelong Vietnam Veterans.

Rieny"



. AN/KPQ-1 RADAR South Vietnam

Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery South Vietnam 1966 - 1970

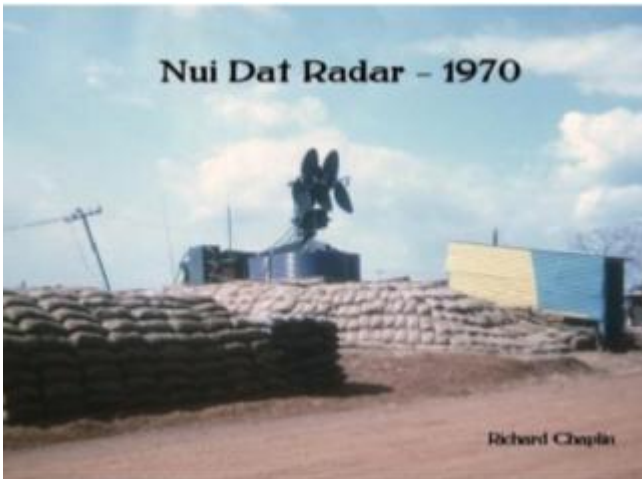
This document records a brief history of the mortar locating radars used by Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery in South Vietnam...the reproduction of which has been granted by its author –

Keith R Ayliffe BEM
Ex 131 Div Loc Bty

1970 - The end of an era.

Official records of the AN/KPQ-1 radar lack necessary detail for this period and I am grateful to Richard Chaplin for allowing me to use extracts from his diary, these extracts are identified in italics and RC at the end.

January - May - An AN/PKQ-1 radar located at HORSESHOE feature An AN/PKQ-1 radar located at Nui Dat (AWM 3-6-22)



Not much changed over the years, The sign remained the same, the lines never changed only the command post seems to have acquired new sand bags and a coat of paint.

18 January - 12 to 15 enemy mortar rounds (no calibre recorded) fired into Horseshoe, mortrep obtained by Det 131 LP and locreps produced by radar and sound ranging. CB fire conducted by C/2/35 US 155mm SP onto suspected mortar base plate position - YS394716. No further information recorded

2 February - At 0145 Hrs four (4) Radar operators at Nui Dat, are affected from gas from an unknown source near the radar. Investigations failed to find the source or identify the gas. The operators were fully recovered 24 hrs later and reported no ill effects.

*"In the evening just after I had completed the 1st Shift manning the Nui Dat Radar Unit I had retired to bed at 0130. After about 15 minutes I felt a horrible feeling in my nose like breathing pepper or something acidic, made me feel nauseous, and my eyes started to water. I heard Burt Jacka sniffing as well and realised that it wasn't just me. It was then that I realised that it was probably **gas**. I grabbed my gas mask, and by then the alert had been given and everybody headed to the bunkers or command post with rifles and ammunition just in case it was a ground attack - it wasn't as it turned out and we were stood down."* - RC

4 February - "Burt Jacka and I travel Shotguns on a convoy with the Engineers and a crane to Xuyen Moc where Australian Engineers were building a new Town Hall for the village." - RC

9 February - "Caught the 0715 helicopter in to Nui Dat from the Horseshoe FSB and built a covered entrance to the Nui Dat Radar Unit Command Post, painted it yellow, and installed a red light at the entrance.

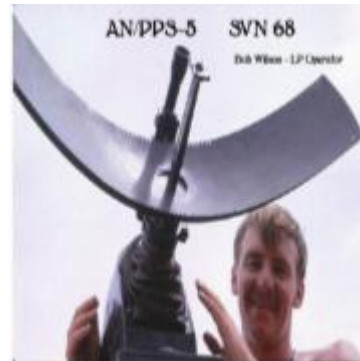
Caught 1745 chopper back to the Horseshoe FSB." - RC



Nui Dat, South Vietnam. March 1970. Adelaide Army sponsored concert party's finale at Luscombe Bowl. The entertainers on stage are, left to right: Tammy (of the brother and sister act, Ricky and Tammy), Bev Harrell, Ricky, the Wills Sisters, Ann and Sue. The show was rated tops by hundreds of off-duty troops who packed the bowl. Copyright AWM.

The Melbourne show 1967. L-R Bob Retrot, John Vickery, Miss Patti McGrath, Tony Goldsmith, Leigh Hemming.
Photo supplied by: Kevin Browning

20 February - "Catch chopper into Nui Dat and watch the Show at the Bowl - Bev Hamel, The Wilson Sisters, and Ricky and Tammy. At night B52s conducted an air strike on the Long Greens after Aussie troops had large contacts during the previous days. The ground shuddered and the mountains glowed red." - RC
21 February - B52 strike on the Long Hai Hills in support of 8 RAR. Following the B52 strike and intensive artillery fire, three rifle companies, with tanks and cavalry still in support, redeployed to the Long Hai Hills
22 February - "On last shift we did some Impact Point identification for friendly mortars firing on suspected VC activity reported by Topsy 25." - RC. (Note: refers to a ground surveillance radar possibly AN/TPS-25)



Authors Note: *The US had a number of types of Ground surveillance radar (GSR) systems in SVN among them were the aging AN/TPS-25 (sometimes referred to as Topsy 25) and the newer AN/PPS-5. Both had a range of about 10000m and were used to detect movement. (Vehicle, human and animal movement could be detected.)*

24 February - —Go out with a Protection Party for the 131 Div Loc Bty Survey Unit. Travel in APCs and have a very rough ride through the undergrowth. See 3 monkeys and a deer. During our clearing patrol we nearly lost one of our men (Warren Jeanke) who got left behind but luckily he was quickly noticed as missing. We retraced our tracks and found him. After we had been in the area for about 3 hours we heard firing about half a mile away and found out it was one of our infantry patrols coming straight for us. We then found out that we had not had permission to be in the area. We immediately travelled hell for leather out of the area leaving clouds of dust behind us. In our haste the APC I was on hit a tree branch containing a large ants nest and they went everywhere including into the APC. A fumigating grenade was used to kill them but everything then was covered in yellow dust! Later in the day myself, Vic Ciccollela and Lt Paul Tys went out of the base to check on a reported blind mortar that turned out to be an Illumination Mortar. " - RC

1 March - —Battery BBQ - plenty of good food and beer followed by a football match between the Nashos and the Regs - punches and blood everywhere!" - RC

6 March - —Part of a Protection Party for the Survey team - hot and very dusty." - RC

7 March - 4 Field Regiment RAA arrived in SVN and in the first Commanders monthly report, there is a report that —one radar was located at Nui Dat and the other at HORSESHOE 4 Fd Regt Standard operation procedures (SOP's) had an allowance for a Radar Section Commander and a Radar No. 1 to accompany their recce party.

"Watch the parade for the change-over from 1 Field Regiment to 4 Field Regiment. Film - Thoroughly Modern Millie. - 2200hrs - 77 degrees Fahrenheit." - RC

15 March - "Service Horseshoe radar unit generator. Return to Nui Dat in jeep the long way and through (sic "Throw"!) tins of (FSB Horseshoe) C Rations out the back for the local children along the way - they love it! Test Nui Dat radar's ability to track US Battery 155 shells and it works reasonably well." - RC.

19 March - "Go to Vung Tau (Peter Badcoe Club) for the day however about a mile from the Nui Dat gates we are shot at from the rubber trees - a bullet passes very close to Chris Chapple's head. A short time later our vehicle breaks down and we need to be towed the rest of the way to Vung Tau. Spend the day in the pool and surfing. When we get back to Nui Dat we find that the Radar Unit had been in operation since 1400 as there were contacts in the Warbies and one New Zealander had been killed." - RC

20 March - Van Kiep (YS3690) reports incoming mortars. Radars produce Locreps at Grid 381632 which is engaged by C/2/35 US Arty. Results unknown. This is the last known recording of an enemy mortar locrep by an AN/KPQ-1 in SVN.

"Mal Musgrave gets a LocRep from the Horseshoe Radar Unit and choppers verify about 30 Vietcong. US Husky Charlie Battery fire 124 X 155 rounds at the target. The Commanding Officer is pleased with the Radar Units performance and at last we are getting some recognition." - RC

29 March - "In afternoon prepare radar for an Air Burst Registration but the guns decide not to do it in the end - so play cards with Chris (Chapple) and Mal (Musgrave) down in the CP (Command Post)." - RC

31 March - "Go to FSB Anne with Sgt Peter O'Donnel as he had not seen a FSB (neither had I apart from the Horseshoe). Very dusty indeed - the worst I have experienced to date. Go through Ban Jar (a Vietnamese settlement). Do Air Burst Registration in the afternoon." - RC

4 April - "Come in from Horseshoe for 2 days as I have night off. Do an Air Burst Registration for the Yanks artillery, and they say they will do their calculations...so I leave. Then they change their minds, and Bdr Mal Musgrave has to follow my previous calculations as he could not find me - I was playing table tennis!" - RC

25 April - "After a short Anzac Day parade in 102 degrees Fahrenheit and high humidity the whole Nui Dat crew went out to the Horseshoe to set up a new Command Post on higher ground to protect it when the wet season arrives. A bulldozer helped by pushing large amounts of soil against the command post walls to provide added protection (and nearly destroyed it in the process!) The new CP is much larger than the original and much cooler." - RC



The last new site for the radar at the Horseshoe. Completed 25 April 1970, ceased operations on 18 May 1970. Pictured on right is Jeff Bassford doing what all good radar operators did - posed with the radar.

Photos: Richard Chaplin

27 April - "Go back to the Horseshoe and move all the equipment from the old CP to the new CP including setting up the radar unit in its new location. Burn all old ammo boxes and sand bags. On 30 April most of the detachment again go to the Horseshoe for the morning to move the generators." - RC

29 April - "Hear that Radar units may be pulled out of SVN with 8 RAR in August/September as will 27 men from our battery." - RC

12 May - "Catch chopper from Horseshoe to the Dat - pick up a carton of "goffas" and a box of C Rations for the Horseshoe crew. Also learn that one radar unit will be pulled out within 14 days and the other soon after." - RC

18 May - The AN/PKQ-1 radar at the Horseshoe was closed down/came out of action for the last time in SVN.

"WO Perry advises that the Horseshoe FSB Radar Unit is to be pulled out that day, and Sgt Black and I go to the Horseshoe to assist and oversee dismantlement of the radar unit." - RC

19 May - The AN/PKQ-1 radar located at Nui Dat came out of action/closed down for the last time being the last operational AN/KPQ-1 mortar locating radar in SVN.

"Radar unit at Nui Dat pulled out. On the same day the radar units crew were advised that they would soon be on 107 Battery Strongpoint duty, work in Arty Tac, and may also have some role in Civil Aid." - RC

20 May - "Worked all day cleaning both radar units and then was advised by DSM (WO Perry?) and Sgt Black that they will need to be transported to Vung Tau by truck for steam cleaning and boxing up prior to shipping to Australia. I was advised that myself plus 6 others from the radar section would be going to Vung Tau with the radar units and would likely spend a few days there assisting with the final cleaning/boxing prior to the units being shipped back to Australia." - RC

1 June - All radars (although not specifically mentioned, believed to be Alpha, Bravo and slave radar Charlie) and their equipment including vehicles were RTA in accordance with the first phase of the Australian withdrawal from SVN. (AWM - 3-7-12)

After the withdrawal of the radars, what happened to the radar operators can be summed up by the following statement from an ex Det 131 radar operator SVN;

"I was in the Dat from Jan 1970 at the time John Gorton announced staged withdrawal plans for the troops, resulting in 131 closing down the radar and returning some other equipment including vehicles. I remember cleaning all the local dirt out of everything to be returned as this was important for Australian quarantine purposes. One of the Landrovers was so hard to clean we painted it (over the dirt).

I remained on duty and ended up cruising with armoured, participating in protection parties and patrolling with the grunts including a night ambush operation. A group of us remaining 131 people also manned a forward observation post for a period in a bombed out monastery on top of a small but steep hill called Dihn Co, near the Long Hai's. No radar but an infra red searchlight, lots of fireflies and great views.

This was an active area with artillery rounds regularly going over the top and on one occasion machine gun rounds coming in from a grunt contact below. I believe that it was possibly at Dinh Co that 131 concluded its locating role in SVN" - Chris Chapple.



1970 - Monastery at top of Dinh Co.

Photo: Richard Chaplin

1970 - Moving Searchlight into position.

Photo: Richard Chaplin

19 Aug - Appointment: Officer Commanding Det 131 (TFAIO) Captain Timothy R. Ford. The Last Officer Commanding appointed to Det 131.

This was the end of the story for the radars but not for Det 131. The Sound Ranging Base closed in October 70, and during this period the Det Surveyors were transferred to 12 Fd Regt. Records show that Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery (SVN) officially closed on 31 July 1971



Sensors take over Bravo radar site

Capt T Ford and Lt J Evans prepare a sensor unit Photo: Kevin Browning.

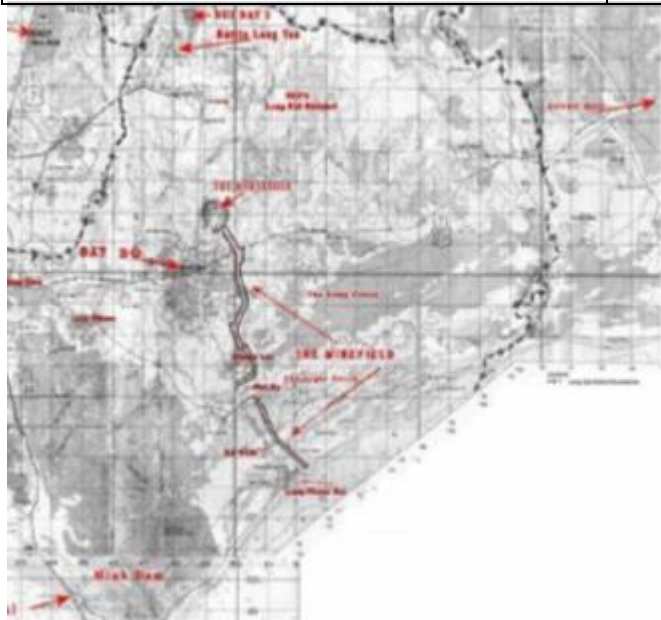


Photo of operations map removed from radar command post on its closure

Radar Synopsis

A. The original two systems, which arrived in SVN May 1966, were identified only as Alpha Radar and Bravo Radar. With the original Slave' radar named Charlie.
B. Alpha Radar and Charlie Radar were returned to Australia (RTA) as unserviceable in April/May 1967. C. Bravo Radar then became the slave Charlie Radar which allowed for identification as A12. D. Radar system A6 was known as Alpha Radar from May 1967 to June 1968. E. Radar system A7 known as Bravo Radar from May 1967 to RTA June 1970
F. Charlie Radar A12 replaced Alpha Radar June 68. This system therefore remained in SVN from May 1966 to RTA June 1970 longer than any other System. It also rotated through the unit as firstly Bravo Radar (66/67), then Charlie Radar (67/68) and finally, Alpha Radar (68/70).
G. Radar System A8 arrived in SVN in June 68 and became Charlie Radar (from 1968 to RTA June 1970).
H. From April 1969 all official identification of the radars cease and they were referred to as Nui Dat radar or Horseshoe radar. Even radar operators were unsure as to which radar they were on for example a quote from Richard Chaplin —

Although my diary records that on arrival in Vietnam I worked on Alpha radar located at Nui Dat, a photograph I took of the Nui Dat radar has a large sign next to the Command Post identifying the Nui Dat radar as "B" Radar Detachment; so presumably FSB Horseshoe was Alpha"

Acknowledgements: Ian Finlay - Radar Op - SVN 67-68, Robert Wilson - Arty Int Op - SVN 67-68, Phillip "Doc" Sheedy. - Radar Op - SVN 68-69, Terry Erbs. - Surveyor - SVN 68-69, John Posener. - Radar Op - 133 Div Loc Bty, Ernie Newbold. - LP Op - SVN 67-68, George Lane. - Radar Op - SVN 66-67, Bert Blink. - LP Op. - SVN 67-68, Warwick Brooker - Surveyor - 67-68
Many Thanks to all who participated. K.A

For the reader's interest, the 1 Field Regiment Commanders Diary Narrative 1 - 31, Dated May 66 contains a request to change the name from Det 131 Div Loc Bty to 1 ATF Locating Troop.

That ends our adaption of Keith's fascinating narrative of our time in South Vietnam – we thank you Keith for the blood, sweat and tears put into this remarkable tome.

Ed – I was fascinated by **Richard Chaplin's** diary records, actually so much so, that I dropped him a line. It was something that I deeply regretted not doing as would be fascinating to have it to reflect on. I don't have any written or recorded (I exchanged tapes with my mum and dad) memories which is also sad. If any of you have such records and would care to share them it'd be great to publish them and have them archived on our web site?

. April 2016 in Enoggera, Brisbane – shouldn't be missed!!!



Ed – I was there on 20th April, 1966 where I met a couple of future Locators (unknown to us at the time) and we caught a bus to the airport. Enoggera seemed ok then (a bit stark) so it should be good to go back to for a visit to see if they've done any improvements – I might even meet the same two Locators once more?

.Terry Westerway and Pete Ravleje both sent in the following article which on the face looked like a bit of a "long bow" effort, but go to the link below and have a read of the 33 pages – it shows some of the fears of the Chinese as to the Americans encroaching too far into North Vietnam and maybe the Americans backing off on their far north bombing escapades, then the fall out between the Chinese and North Vietnamese and so on... The extract comes from the Cambridge University Press (SOAS University of London) – "The Chinese Involvement in Vietnam". If you can't access the full article (<http://www.jstor.org/stable/655420>) then let me know and I'll send it to you.

China admits 320,000 troops fought in Vietnam

HONG KONG (Reuter) — China has admitted for the first time that it sent more than 300,000 combat troops to Vietnam to fight against U.S. forces and their South Vietnamese allies.

The semi-official China News Service said today that China sent 320,000 soldiers to Vietnam during the 1960s. It also spent over \$20 billion to support Hanoi's regular North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong guerrilla units.

The agency report cited "The History of the People's Republic of China," published by the official State Archives Publishing House, as saying that more than 4,000 Chinese soldiers were killed during the war.

Fighting ended when victorious North Vietnamese tanks battered their way into the grounds of Doc Lap Palace in Saigon on April 30, 1975.

During the war China denied U.S. allegations that its soldiers were operating in Vietnam.

U.S. intelligence reports at the time spoke of U.S. combat units finding soldiers dressed in Chinese combat gear and wearing Chinese

insignia.

Presidents Johnson and Nixon were wary of allowing U.S. aircraft to bomb too close to the Chinese border with North Vietnam for fear of involving the Chinese on a larger scale.

During the 10 years of direct U.S. involvement, American troop levels reached over 500,000. Estimates of North Vietnamese Army units varied, but Hanoi maintained throughout the war its soldiers went only as volunteers to help the southern Viet Cong guerrilla movement.

Units from South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand fought alongside U.S. and South Vietnamese soldiers, with logistical support from Thailand and the Philippines.

Correction

The source given for a map accompanying an article yesterday on a proposed high-speed rail system was incorrect. The map, similar to one from the Chicago Tribune that that newspaper credited to Argonne National Laboratory, was not furnished by the laboratory.

. **Missing Mate** – Allan Harrison sent the following in on behalf of Les Falkai and we thought we'd give it a fly to see if we could find any info re: **Terry "Tiny" Welsh** –

"Hi Paul

Hope this finds you well and even improving!

LSTA Association Member Les Falkai is trying to get in touch with Terry "Tiny" Welsh with whom he served in Det 131 Div Loc Bty SVN in 1971. Terry was a Surveyor.

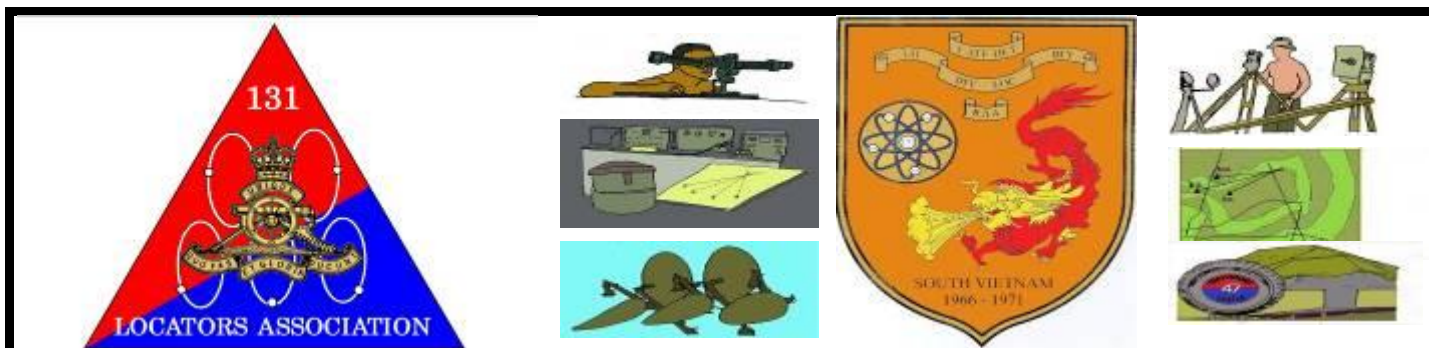
I'm giving it a run on the website and in the next LOCREP currently being compiled.

You may be able to help through *E&E*.

If anyone can help, can they please email their details to me at allan@harrisonsolution.com.au and the info will be sent on to Les.

Thanks. Allan H."

Ed – This subject could be continued and the following names added from this month's "Birthdays in the Battery" article below – **Phillip Ross, John Greenway, Les Smithlester, Gary Grimwood, Bob Bruce, John Pollock, Robert Etherington and Peter Whitaker** – hey at one time they were all someone's mate/s! Can't we locate some of these blokes?



Committee members:
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Vic (Melb) – Alan Adams, **WA** - Barry Guzder
<http://www.131locators.org.au>

We didn't crack it for any new members this month and there's a few renewals that could be paid up. Other than that we survived another one and had a successful meeting (see below) with some good stuff reported on. I guess I'll just have to wait to see if any cheques arrive in the mail this month. **GD**.

Presidential perambulations

Final football time in Oz. Be it NRL or AFL. Although a bit of soccer locally and in Europe complicates the international picture. Cricket is forgettable.

The A\$ movement has hit the conversion to the £ and € so holidays to the north are more expensive. Although, I can remember suffering a situation where the A\$ was only worth £ 0.33. Savage.

When we travelled for our Asian "holiday" all those years ago, I guess we were not too concerned about exchange rates. R&R in Hong Kong or Singapore was pretty good value. Booze was cheap and those young Asian ladies did not seem to charge an amount that seemed too much. Ping pongballs or not.

So many memories and so long ago. Coming up to 50 years to remember, or maybe forget. 2016 will provide the chance to compare notes and history. A time to maybe close some loops.

I look forward to a reprise of the Welcome Home Parade at Enoggera in April 2016. Sign up now or miss out.

Fifty years anniversary is too important not to attend.

Allen

. Upcoming Events Calender –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 15th September, 2015 at 1100hrs

Venue: Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club, 26 Humphries Rd., Canley Heights Ph (02) 9604 9975 and for directions - <http://www.canleyheightsrsl.com.au/contact-us/> You're all welcome

. Pertinent Points – extracted from the 131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 25th August, 2015 at 1100hrs...

Presidents report.

.Allen reported that Bankstown Sports Club hosted the Sydney Vietnam Veterans Day event in its usual professional fashion. **Next year's event will be in Canberra – keep this on your calendar – more information to follow.**

.Reported that planning for ANZAC DAY 2016 in Enoggera is underway with Terry Erbs acting as Planning OIC. A message from Maj. Russell Hamsey with some suggestions was discussed and will be actioned as considered appropriate.

Webmaster Update.

Bob provided stats via email. He has placed 2 OCs recollection items on the website in the "Through their eyes" tab and albums have been arranged for relevant photos. **Ed** – Log on and have a read of your OCs recollections!

Special Events items 2016.

A unique 50 year insignia has been developed by Ern Newbold and a complete listing of Det 131 DLB personnel who served in SVN will be presented to 20STA in ceremonies marketing the 50 year anniversary - See last page.



Other Matters.

Ern Newbold has been scoping the issue of photo sizes for use in the Presentation Album previously mentioned and submitted examples of a size (5x7) that would work well and include some text. We required about 200 good quality photos covering the entire detachment period 1966-1971. **Ed** - Do you have a photograph we can use?

AGM will be held on 17 November 2015 commencing at 11.00 at:
Canley Heights RSL and Sporting Club, 26 Humphries Rd, Wakeley NSW 2176

. 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...September –

September	Name	Regt No	YOB	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	ERIC THOMPSON Sgt.	44153	1948	18 02 1968	18 02 1969	
	" "			13 05 1971	04 06 1971	VISIT
2	PHILIP MULGREW	3411756	1948	29 04 1968	07 05 1969	
3	MILLS BUCKLEY	16950	1937	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	† 02.04.07
3	PETER SAINT	45033	1949	04 11 1970	29 07 1971	
6	JOHN DELLACA	3791355	1945	29 01 1968	28 01 1969	
7	STEVE BOUTLIS	3787962	1945	02 01 1967	27 09 1967	
7	GARY BESTER	3411737	1948	08 01 1968	03 12 1968	
7	IVAN MILLS S/Sgt.	213051	1934	31 01 1969	05 11 1969	
8	WILLIAM EDWARD	2789911	1947	21 02 1969	21 02 1970	
12	BARRY NUGENT	1411039	1945	03 01 1967	12 12 1967	
12	LARRY BRIDGE	2786506	1946	15 03 1968	18 03 1969	
12	PHILIP JOHNS	4719086	1946	16 09 1968	18 03 1969	
12	STEVEN VOSS	1735605	1948	29 04 1970	18 03 1971	
12	KEVIN GEOGHEGAN	219351	1951	16 12 1970	02 06 1971	131
	" "			02 06 1971	23 12 1971	HQ AFV
13	VICTOR CLAXTON	4410991	1948	17 01 1968	23 12 1968	
14	MERV DART	37821	1942	03 01 1967	09 01 1968	† 2001
14	FRANK IPSA	3786657	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
14	RUSSELL HEWITT	2792435	1948	03 06 1970	04 03 1971	
16	FRANK PEPPER	216683	1948	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	† 27.12.89
16	RONALD DEAN	215527	1944	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	
16	BRIAN BLACK	2786469	1946	27 11 1967	26 11 1968	† 18.01.11
16	ALLEN WHEATLEY	2790305	1947	16 09 1969	04 06 1970	
17	JOHN BLAKE	1731550	1945	04 05 1967	13 12 1967	
17	BARRY GUZDER	5714500	1945	10 06 1967	21 05 1968	
17	MAURICE ARCH	43350	1937	02 01 1967	14 11 1967	
17	ERNEST GALLOWAY	216708	1948	08 01 1968	22 04 1968	
18	BOB WILSON	3791425	1946	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
18	JIM LAWLER Sgt.	28523	1936	18 12 1967	03 12 1968	
19	ROBERT DAVID GOW	61644	1944	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	
19	HUBERT ANDREWS	2790121	1947	21 02 1969	21 02 1970	
19	WESLEY HINDMARSH	2791313	1947	30 09 1969	13 08 1970	
19	PHILLIP WAPSHOT	3793468	1947	27 11 1969	18 03 1970	
21	GARRY LEPLAW	217182	1948	05 02 1968	11 02 1969	† 06.12.83
22	IAN BUBB	2792358	1948	13 05 1970	11 03 1971	RAEME
23	GREGORY TOMMASI 2Lt.	3791966	1946	10 03 1970	25 08 1970	131
	" "			25 08 1970	11 03 1971	4 Fd Regt.

	GORDON CAMPBELL GUNN	16915	1944	11.03.69	11.03.70	† 23.09.13
24	BOB. BILLIARDS	2785702	1946	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
24	GEOFFREY CARTHEW	2793339	1949	03 06 1970	09 06 1971	
26	KEN. McNAMARA	2783740	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
26	JOHN DAVIES Sgt.	29351	1937	07 10 1966	30 04 1967	† 2004
26	RONALD BOALER	130230	1948	20 02 1970	11 02 1971	
28	LEONARD WALKER	3798942	1949	16 12 1970	30 06 1971	Det 131 † Unknown
	" "			30 06 1971	30 10 1971	12 Fd Regt.

Ed – 10 blokes not highlighted is possibly one of our best months – we could improve it though by **Locating** a few more!!.

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

. **Located...**

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



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.

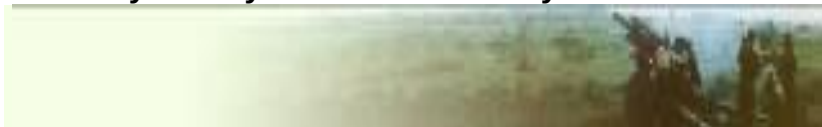
So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the Eyes & Ears regularly you could bite the bullet and email **Grahame Dignam: sectreas131locators@gmail.com** and he could forward you the relevant forms to join - Memberships are available for 1 year or longer deposit a DONATION direct (add 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://83rd_artillery.home.comcast.net/~83rd_artillery/

I have to apologize for being late with this note. I was away for a couple of weeks and just recently returned.

To all my Australian and New Zealand mates, I want to let you know that we at the 1/83rd are thinking of you on the 49th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. We know how significant a date this is in history for all of you and we want you to know that we stand by you to remember those who fell in this battle along with all the other brave men of your countries who died, were wounded or otherwise suffered in any other way as a result of the Vietnam War.

Lest We Forget.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-08-18/battle-of-long-tan-remembered-on-vietnam-veterans-day/6706396>

Bill

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

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