

THE EYES and EARS

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This is the 90th edition of Eyes & Ears in the current series.

Canungra – Kokoda Barracks – definitely NOT a holiday camp for the faint hearted!



KOKODA BARRACKS, CANUNGRA, QUEENSLAND...

Kokoda Barracks was established in 1942 for Army jungle warfare training. It was closed between 1948 - 1954 and had its highest tempo during the Vietnam war in the 1960's and 1970's. It is still used for jungle warfare and infantry training, with Defence Intelligence facilities on the site. It is located in the upper Coomera River Valley between the Darlington and Beechmont Ranges in southern Queensland and is approximately 60 kilometres south of Brisbane. The base contains numerous weapons ranges, fire training areas, bulk fuel storage in above ground and underground fuel tanks and vehicle maintenance workshops. The site also contains a sewerage treatment plant, a former water treatment plant, a quarry and an old landfill.



Just a couple of familiar glimpses...



Allen Morley – “Dicko, I went to Canungra (as I stated last month “It was probably one of the more enjoyable parts of my two years in retrospect.”) with the late Roger Long and late Mick Campbell, plus a very overweight Cookie Walton. Roger was on M-60 duty the second night and fell asleep while on piquet. The 'enemy' stole the M-60 from him, with his subsequent punishment being to lug the gun everywhere for the rest of the course. He bitched and complained even more than normal. We had to make up a stretcher on the last day in the bush and 140kg (approx) Cookie Walton was lying back and relaxing, with “Mudguts” Long and his now attached M-60 given the major part of the carrying job. I never ventured to Wiangaree.

Steve “Boots” Boutlis – missed December's deadline, actually Boots has a well know reputation for being somewhat late from time to time and as the story goes he has a pre-arranged agreement with his local undertaker not to close the coffin at the start of the service as he may be late in arriving and would hate to have damage done to the lid! However, I had to include this yarn as it's Boots to a “t” -

“Hi, Dicko, My apology for not having sent a Christmas card to you. I don't have a mailing address for you. I hope that you enjoyed your Christmas, and I wish health for you during 2016.

Mate, I missed out on all of the below except for North Head and Canungra. I think most of the misses were because we were doing the survey courses at North Head. The Canopus Room is a fond memory, but not so the fire pickets around the whole North Head area at all sorts of night hours, in winter. Canungra was another place to forget (in Autumn, when the fire-buckets all froze). The ambush drills and the following "form up and charge" at an unseen enemy convinced me that I should not have, along with Phil E and "Folls", volunteered to go to Nam as a replacement. I figured that if I could not see "the enemy" in practice, I wasn't going to see him in real life! I'd not be coming home if that happened! Loved the shoot from the hip with the Owen in the trails. Nailed every bastard that popped up. If only "Charlie" would pop up so nicely and not shoot at me! Hope all is well with all of my 131 comrades. Boots"

Stuart Sporn North Head - 3 Times at least

Tianjara - ???

Shoal Water Bay - Yes with umpire staff during pre departure for 4RAR Vietnam deployment

Canungra - Yes

Fire Picket - No

Jervis Bay NSW South Coast - Firing Mortars for a sound ranging exercise

Also visited the pub frequently @ the Corso Cheers"

...then Stuart added later...

"You only went to JTC for obvious reasons It was pretty hard yakka but I strangely almost enjoyed it.

We had an "unusual" break half way through and were allowed into Brisbane on the Friday night. A late departure in a Mark 3 then we rolled the truck with 22 on board!!! We still went to Brisbane.

RAP back at Canungra and my medical records did not record the incident!!! I broke my glasses and on return to JTC we had a night march through the mud and wait-a-while overnight with me on a "lead" behind the bloke in front as I couldn't see a thing. Did the army replace my looking gear? No bloody way as it was my parents.

After getting married in March 67, JTC, and the following shit I was glad to get the SVN for a "rest"

Damian McManus "Hello Paul, Long time since I have contributed. No reason, just D.O.B.

My memorable experience in Jungle Training was when we had to climb Mt Tambourine, prior to Canungra. Around February - March 1966.

Somehow I had learnt that German for "I Love You" was "Ich Lieber Dich".

We camped for the night, all knackered, set up Hootchies with Rope Lines due to the slope we were supposed to sleep on.

Bombardier Carl Doebrmann was in charge.{God love him} On his orders for "Lights Out and SLEEP" I managed to get a chant going which the Troops picked up. - "ICH LIEBER DICH CARL!!". It went on for at least 15 minutes while Carl stormed around clinging onto our rope lines trying to find an offender. He Didn't.

Carl was one of the Good Guys. R I P. But on the night it was funny.

Cheers to All. Gunner Damian McManus 3787689.

[In Vietnam I let him know that I was the "offender", we had a good laugh and a few drinks.]"

Rieny Nieuwenhof "Hi Dicko...Thanks for the invitation to vent. After the radio signallers course at School of Artillery I was posted to 16 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Woodside SA. Whilst there I did the NCO course and became a Bombardier. The next thing I am told is that I'm being posted to Vietnam, no idea at that stage to which unit, and was required to complete the Jungle Training course at Canungra...where? Being the first intake for the year the composition of the group was very diverse. There were cooks and bottle washers, pogos, guys that had been 'hiding' in Q Stores around the country and some more enlightened people like artillery blokes. This group was at various stages of unfitness. The jungle course soon sorted them out. There were lectures.. 'Hey stay awake gunner!'.. rifle drills and the obligatory forced marches with full pack and SLR. The wonderful obstacle course beginning with the march up 'suicide hill'. The group had to get to the top as ONE, so if anyone fell behind the group had to turn round and 'pick up' the stragglers. I forget the number of times we had to turn around. I remember asking "God please can I have a heart attack NOW". In the end we carried the packs and rifles of the cooks and bottle washers so that we all reached the peak. We had the pleasure of a dip in the river to cool down... the diving platform was a lot higher than anyone had expected however.

Then there were the jungle tactical exercises... laying an ambush and waiting for the enemy to arrive. While we waited in anticipation ticks and other creepy crawlies rummaged in our underpants! We had the pleasure of throwing 'smoke', of sleeping in our hastily erected hootchies only to be drowned when it rained. More ambush drills and learning hand signals... it was like being in the scouts again, but much more serious. The heat, humidity, mozzies and ticks were ever present. There were horrible stories of ticks entering blokes penises, ear holes and embedded in clothing. We must have used the world's supply of tick powder and mozzie repellent. After this death defying and physically demanding three weeks I was posted to 131 DLB Nui Dat/Horseshoe....oh bliss! Rieny Nieuwenhof"

John Lucas "Hi Paul, A few memories of Canungra...

Everywhere we went in the camp was at double time, no walking.

We conducted a search of a mock village in the hills that was populated by infantry who had returned from Vietnam masquerading as "local villagers"...the word was "don't turn your back on them"! We had to navigate through hills with

a map and compass only. The last day included a forced march out of the hills, it was a fair distance (16kms??).. Bread and jam with a cup of tea at the end never tasted so good.

Other than that I remember the Muscle Toughening Course and Abseiling Course
Never been fitter either before or since!! Cheers, John"

Bob Billiards – "Paul, My ramblings, Bob... Canungra JTC August 1967

I believe it must have been August 1967 and just 7 months from being drafted and starting basic training at Pucka. Memory is a bit faded but I do remember some of the things that we went through. You would need to read my recollections with those of Ian Amos, Geoff Holden, Kenny Woodbine and I believe Stan Briggs as I seem to remember him and I on a cut off position for that all night ambush.

We all went by train from Central and we were told that we didn't need to take any greens along as they would be provided and I presume at this stage we may have been issued with our SVN kit and had our GP's. We took our rifles from Holsworthy (I seem to remember having them on the train?) and my sister and her family meeting me on Central station and showing the nephews the rifle (SLR). I can't remember a thing about the train trip, whether it was overnight or a day trip, but on arriving in Brisbane, the battery had sent us a day early and therefore we were billeted at Enoggera before the trip into the hinterland.

On arrival we were paraded before our commander who was a youngish 2Lt who hadn't had a haircut for several months and we would have been charged if we had a similar hairstyle. The course wasn't just baggy bums, but there were some military elite in ranks from 2Lt to Major. So at our first meeting it was suggested (strongly) that we all did what we were instructed and life would be good for all of us. We didn't have to get up for the 5am run, but it was a 7am run as our Lt liked his kip. All had to be in bed at 9PM "and this applies to you officers as well!". After the parade and prior to organising our billets, there were officers on the course most upset that this little 2Lt spoke to them in that way! We then went for a tour of the site and consequently through the "bear pit" in our nice shiny new greens, and only set! We managed to get another couple of pairs from "Q". Have no idea if we had a platoon sergeant but I suppose we did, all I can remember is the 2Lt and the hair sticking out of the back of his cap.

From there it was a lot of fun, except for the water tower jump as I am really scared of heights, but a suggestion I would have to do the course again prompted me to close my eyes and do the jump. The morning run was very satisfying and the dip in the bear pit refreshing after a long run through the obstacle course. I think there was one accident and one of the blokes broke or sprained a leg on the 6 foot long jump across the water filled hole. Can't remember if we threw Grenades here and I might be confusing that with basic training as a couple of us threw a few more to empty the box. (mmmmm, maybe at Pucka) loved the obstacle course and the old Vickers firing over our heads. The night firing was great but I didn't fire a shot in the shooting gallery where they had the pop up targets as I didn't see anything pop up at all. Nearly drowned in the river crossing as somehow I ended up with the M60. The blokes in the boat asked if I was OK and I did say no as another few feet along the sagging rope I would have dropped the gun.

The all night ambush was interesting with me and "Briggsy" taking turns in making a cuppa a bit over the eastern side of the hill looking out over the lights of the Gold Coast. I think it was in a state forest somewhere, possibly Clagiraba State Forest. It was raining and the lights would disappear for a few minutes as the showers passed by.

What else? Yes, we did get dragged out of bed for a 5am run and the 2Lt said to us all "You can thank your officers for this!"

One of the permanent staff tents caught on fire and was destroyed. We couldn't get ours to burn because of the wettish weather!

We had to do 50 push ups one morning because the M60 wasn't perfectly clean! We tried to say we were Artillery and not infantry but I think that might have added a few more push-ups.

On the river crossing we had to do the wary thing and go to a firing position on the riverbank. My firing position was on a bed of stinging nettles, so now I know what they look like.

On the final obstacle course (which had a tight time limit) we had found a bypass up the slippery muddy slope that we were expected to haul ourselves up with a set rope. Why would you want to go up a slippery muddy slope when there was a perfectly good bypass? The Service Corps Major was struggling to get up it so we called him to come around with us at which he was eternally grateful and so we all passed this gruelling 3 weeks (was it 3 weeks?) course and headed back to Holsworthy and a week's pre-emb leave."

Paul Dickson (Ed) – My reflections are very similar to all of the above. I guess there was maybe 6 of us from 131 (possibly more).



Canungra with Pete Fletcher (at left) and "Fletch again with Al Adams and Max Troynar strolling past (on right). No doubt there are numerous photos with blokes standing, in a rather washed out bedraggled fashion, outside the tents. We also made the move onto Wiangaree where Al Adams and I buried our spare set of rain soaked greens (they were excess weight), used cigarettes to remove leeches off each other and got lost with Ian Yerbury leading the expedition, not to mention setting an ambush and the enemy had better things to do elsewhere



David Dougherty – “CANUNGRA Period: Sept/Oct 1967? Transport to/from: Boat/car/plane/train?

Time: 3 weeks too long

Memories are of the first week being totally stuffed, 2nd week starting to feel OK and 3rd week giving it to the new arrivals. Interminable walking and running, including down hills that we had just gone up. Why? So that we could go back up again. Or else carrying stretchers back up them and not desiring to be carried due to the not so infrequent dropping of the stretcher, and the person unlucky enough to be on it. Can't remember much about grenade practice but I can't have dropped one and then looked at the pin in my hand wondering “what the....”. I do know that if the mines were more than smoke mines then I wouldn't have been throwing grenades. Poking bayonets into the ground only seemed to antagonise the mines into action. Obstacle courses that always seemed to end in mud or water, with a lot of the same in between, whether over a wall, along a rope or swinging from one (set long enough to drop you in the mud), overhead bars and over the river on a rope bridge with someone bouncing it. Crawling under barbed wire while some smart bastard set off explosions adjacent to you and a machine gun firing over the top of you. Being in overnight ambush positions and having someone tap you on the shoulder and telling you that you're now dead and to come with them. And of course the lantana, through it, under it and over it.

But at the end of each day there was a jug waiting at the canteen, XXXX maybe, but no-one cared so long as it was cold. And it was only 3 weeks out of 104.”

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

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

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

Ron Mason”

...then Ron added in a later email to Grahame Dignam...

“Grahame, I will be involved in the gravesite vigil at the Shepparton cemetery on Feb 21, the group that will be running the service for James Menz is the Outer Eastern Melbourne VV Association, I can provide contact details if required. Are any of the Locators Assoc blokes that served with James Menz based in Melbourne & prepared to go to Marysville? A wreath from the Assoc would be best placed by an Assoc member or at least someone ex 131.

I may get a chance to speak with someone from OEM VVA early next month so keep that in mind if any negotiating is required regarding a wreath. If anyone requires information & wants to phone my mobile is 0427 326 410.

Keep up the good work Grahame, Regards Ron.”

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

. Grahame Dignam – sent in the following email after hearing from **Michael Butler** raising the changing face of the Detachment compound/s (all of them including LPs, Arty Tac, Det HQ, Radars, Survey, RAEME etc etc) -

“I was wondering after the request by Michael Butler...for pictures of Det 131 compound over the years.

What did the compound look like year-by year after Feb 66 after we all came home individually or in groups. It was a living breathing “thing” but pics would be good- things like;

The Sound Ranging was the next big thing - the bunker was underground I think?

Then came the unattended Ground Sensors - where was the equip located for that (John Brewer involved with this one) (Mentioned in OC Kennedys document 69 -70)?

The Transport depot moved into the area?

There was a fire fighting depot as well?

When and where was the first Womens Toilet inside NUI DAT - (see OC Kennedys document again)

Have a good New Year and hope the bangs are far enough away not to cause concern!!!!

Regards gd,”

Ed continued on with the thoughts – “Did the blokes in later years live in our “tent” lines or move into huts (like some of the Yanks)? I don't think the Arty Tac line tents would have survived another couple of years after we left maybe they were replaced/up- graded! pd”

. April 2016 at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera, Brisbane

— Hey it's 2016 already, I've got to give some serious thought to getting organised for the 50th reunion weekend in Brisbane in April!!"

It'd be great to catch up with a bunch of the blokes again at the 20 STA Regiment barracks at Enoggera – I'd better get cracking!

**DON'T LEAVE IT TO THE LAST MINUTE,
It's less than 12 weeks to go!!!**

Please read the following below



To allow us to get numbers for the 50th Re-union Dinner at Kedron-Wavell Services club, we are asking for a notice of intention by way of a deposit of **\$100 Per person**. This would cover the meal cost at the club, and the BBQ lunch at **The Jim Menz Club following the Plaque Dedication**. Also please indicate if transport is required (donation required) for Sunday to Enoggera Barracks and Monday to the Dawn Service Enoggera and Travel to the March in Brisbane.

Deposits showing your name can be made electronically direct to the Associations Bank account: **A/c**

Name: 131 Locators Association Inc. **Bank:** Westpac, Kingsgrove NSW **BSB No:** 032 166 **A/c No:** 264133

or
By cheque – Make payable to: 131 Locators Association Inc and mailed to: **G. Dignam, Secretary / Treasurer,**
131Locators Association, 8 Darling St. ABBOTSBURY NSW 2176

The proposed itinerary is:

Programme

. **Saturday 23rd April - 50th Reunion dinner at Kedron Wavell RSL at Chermside** - This will be an easy venue to attend as I presume it'll be an evening event and plenty of transport from either the CBD or any of the venues listed out in the Chermside area.

. **Sunday 24th April – Plaque & radar dedication at Enoggera in the late AM**, followed by **barbecue lunch at James Menz Club 20th STA**. This I guess will be a mid to late morning event. Possibly not all that easy to get to and from using public transport from the Chermside area, but OK from the CBD. It will also depend how close the train/bus station in the Enoggera area is too.

. **Monday 25th April – Dawn service at 20th STA memorial & gunfire breakfast at Enoggera, Anzac Day March CBD and then drinks/lunch at the Stock Exchange Hotel CBD**. This will not be easy to get to at dawn on public transport. After the breakfast, depending on the closeness of public transport services, this may work. Public transport after the march should be fine to any location.

Final transport details and pick up points and times (via charter bus/es to selected accommodation where numbers are staying) will be advised closer to the date. This will depend on responses, the difficult times slots (24th Enoggera Service and lunch [closeness of train/bus stop], 25th Dawn Service and to the March),

Cut and paste to email replies:

		Yes/no	No. in party
Saturday 23rd	Re-union Dinner Kedron Wavell Club		
Sunday 24th	Plaque and Radar Dedication Enoggera -BBQ		
Monday 25	Dawn Service-Gunfire B/feast- bus to Brisbane –March - drinks - bus to Enoggera if required.		

Grahame Dignam
Secretary / Treasurer
131 Locators Assn Inc

. **Rieny Nieuwenhof** responds to another email from **Ed** which was a flow on from his "Canungra..." one above where I asked him how he got to 131 – yes it's another twist of fate, similar to **Rob Retrot** who had his sights set on PTI-ing and also made it to 131...

"Yep, that's another story Dicko . I trained as an artillery radio operator (I'd wanted to be a PTI, but the Army had other ideas) learning a new way of saying the alphabet ... alpha, bravo, charley etc. then laying landlines, learning codes, radio procedure, reading maps etc. and then sent to an anti-aircraft regiment? Here we learned to identify aero plane profiles, despite the fact that Australia had no anti-aircraft weapons in Vietnam and that the North Vietnamese had no combat planes! Spent a lot of time looking at bofors, but was never actually a member of a gun crew. I did act as Safety Officer in a little boat, off the coast of Victor Harbor, when the bofors tried to hit a drone pulled along (with a loooooong rope) by a small plane. Oh what joy and smell of diesel fuel. Back to Woodside to paint more rocks and do guard duty with an axe handle! And then I was told I would be going to Vietnam and join a battery. Naturally I thought it was a gun battery, but no it was a locating battery and I would be the section leader of Artillery Intelligence. I felt that sitting in a LP on shift was not the most productive use of my time! Like so many others I became an accomplished 500 card player "I'll go misere..." Them were the days! Rieny"

. **Allen Morley – North Fort Reunion**



At left - Terry Westerway, Ged Carroll, a shy Merv Nairn, Ernie Newbold, Vic Danko, Des McGuiggan, Kevin Thornton and George Lane.

Earlier this month a group of 131ers returned to North Fort, Manly. A couple of the group also included a nostalgic visit to the old School of Artillery as an adjunct exercise.

We had been informed that an AN/KPQ-1 radar was there for our inspection. And there it was, older and very dusty, but so easily recognized. The radar boys had tears

in their eyes as they looked her over and patted her – the radar, that is. What a nostalgic event after almost 50 years of separation. The photo shows Ged Carroll, George Lane and Merv Nairn standing with the radar, and if you look closely the tears in their eyes are very real. Also present were the various components which made the radar functional.



Would you buy a used radar set from this group above?

Next stop was the old equipment room, where a Tellurometer was slipped from its carrying pack. As there were no surveyors in the group, no sighs or tears came when the instrument, still in remarkably good condition, was revealed. Bruce Irvine, and no doubt many other surveyors, would have been ecstatic if he/they were there.

So what's the point of all this you may well ask? The Association Committee is keen to relocate the radar and Tellurometer to an appropriate museum, so that they can be displayed to the public. That would be a much better future for both historic pieces of equipment that are closely linked to the Detachment 131 story.

Before we departed, a visit to the site library resulted in another real find by George Lane. The manual for the AN/KPQ-1 radar was in the library collection. That means we now have accurate dimensions, weights and other specs, so that was a third important find.

. **Bill Taggart** sent in the following Invitation to ALL of us to join in with our mates from the 1st/83rd – it could be a really interesting event to get along to...

"Hi Paul,

I would like to extend an invitation to our **October 2016 Reunion (Oct 14-15-16-17)** to any of your guys who may be travelling to the US this October. Maybe you could add an item to a future E&E. We would welcome anyone who would like to attend. Please ask anyone interested to get in touch with me so I can provide the details.

Bill"

. **Rieny Nieuwenhof - Mk III** – Rieny has been a busy "Locator" this month – this is his third interesting correspondence (let's hope he keeps it up!) – "Hi Paul, Here are three photos (below) I found in a powerpoint presentation that might be of interest? Members may know who the chaps are? Rieny"



Ok, this got me into it, well at least to pass the ball onto our **Ernie "Super Sleuth" Newbold** to do some fossicking and here's what he came up with four emails –

Email 1. "G'day Paul, I'm sure that all three photos are from the AWM collection As I recall the first one may have been taken by Stan (Pablo) Briggs, possibly using someone else's camera, possibly John Delacca's see the following link.

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/P01766.002>

Here's what the link above describes group of blokes as -

"Fire Support Base Andersen, Bien Hoa Province, Vietnam, 1968-05-12. Members of 131 Divisional Locating Battery, Royal Australian Artillery (RAA), waiting with their full kit to be taken by air to Fire Support Base (FSB) Coral, which was just being established in Bien Hoa Province. The five soldiers on the left of the picture are (left to right): Gunner (Gnr) Wally Franklin; Gnr "Bluey" Piesley; Bombardier Nev Wortlehook; ? Gnr John Dellaca; Gnr Ian Kennedy. The identity of the other soldiers is unknown. That night and the following day, FSB Coral would come under heavy attack from a battalion of the North Vietnamese Army (NVA). (Donor J. Dellaca)"

The other two, I'm sure that I have seen on the AWM website in recent months but I can't put my finger on them straight away, I'll keep looking and let you know what I find. As I recall the guy in the third picture with the screwdriver was one of our RAEME guys. Regards, Ernie."

Email 2. "G'day Paul, here's the link to the third photo.

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/COL/66/0980A/VN/>

Regards, Ernie. Two down, one to go."

Here's what the link above describes the photo as -

"Nui Dat, Vietnam. 1966. Some of the sophisticated equipment in use by Australians at their Task Force base is shown in operation by Corporal Geoff Cartwright of Oakleigh, Vic. It is the parabolic reflector of radar controlled detectors which can spot the source of enemy mortar fire. It is operated by 131st Divisional Locating Battery, Royal Australian Artillery (RAA), on operations against the Viet Cong. *Nui Dat, Vietnam.*

Email 3. "G'day Paul, here is the link to the second photo..

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/THU/68/0612/VN/>

"Bien Hoa province, South Vietnam, 1968-06. Bombardier Keith Hyliffe of Parramatta, NSW, checks over sensitive radar equipment being used at fire support base (fsb) Coral in north-west Bien Hoa province to track the source of enemy mortar fire directed against the Australian base. Bombardier Hyliffe is a member of the 131st Divisional Locating Battery.

I think the name should have been Keith Ayliffe, and not Hyliffe.

Regards, Ernie.

also try this link.

https://www.google.com.au/search?q=awm+131+div+loc+bty&biw=1456&bih=869&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiE3sC57MnKAhUS8GMKHUCJA_IQ_AUIBygC&dpr=1#tbm=isch&q=AWM+THU%2F68%2F0612%2FVN&imgsrc=

...whoa there's a heap more!

Email 4. "G'day again, here is another interesting photo.

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/ERR/68/0934/VN/>

Check out the column on the right where it says "more like this"

Regards, Ernie".



Here's what the link above describes the photo at left as -

"Nui Dat, South Vietnam. 1968-10. Artillery surveyor, Gunner David Dougherty of Cronulla, NSW, a member of the 131st Divisional Locating Battery, Royal Australian Artillery (RAA), uses a theodolite at the 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF) Base. He is the son of Major General Sir Ivan Dougherty, Director General of Civil Defence, NSW."

August 2016 in Canberra – Vietnam Veteran's Day

Not to be missed.

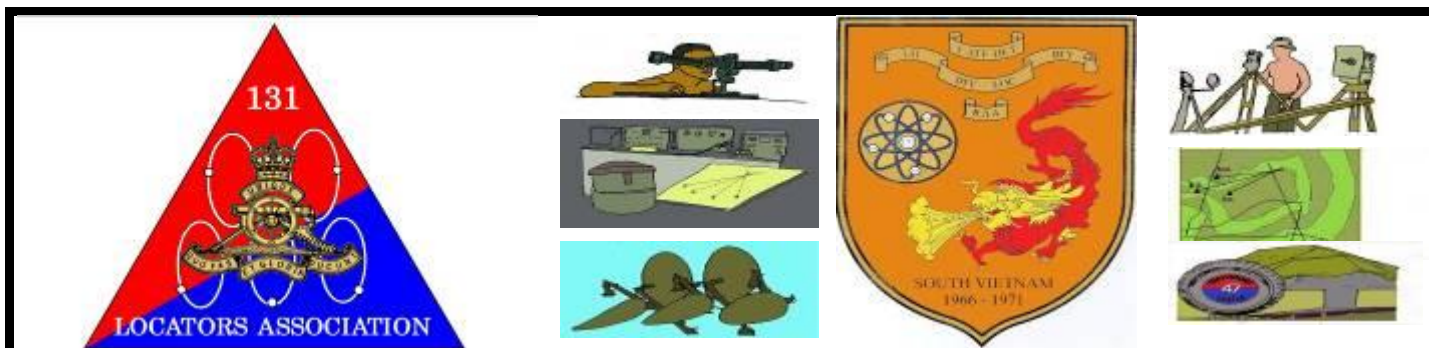
50th Anniversary Battle of Long Tan.

Function Great Hall Parliament House.

Vietnam Veteran's Day Service Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Det 131 DLB Commemorative Dinner.





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>

Well I've just realised a little under 12 weeks to go till we get together in Enoggera for the 50th anniversary function. It's going to be a full on weekend not only with the Commemorative ceremony, but ANZAC Day all being shared with the 20 STA Regt blokes. I can't wait! **Grahame Dignam.**

Presidential perambulations

It's raining in Sydney, so it must be summer. The New Year seemed to tick over, then zoom through, and now 'tis the end of January. 2015 was a wet year here, with annual rainfall about 110% of average. And the former Australian of the year, Tim Flannery, said some years ago that the Sydney dams would never be full again, ever. Wrong call there. I started the year having only recently replaced my old computer due to a non-fatal, but severe hard disk problem. It wasn't great fun trying to work out Windows 10 after years of Windows 7. And one email account was transferred OK, the other not so. My new computer tells me that I have installed Outlook, but I am buggered if I can get it to work. I will have to go into the flashy Microsoft store in Sydney to get it sorted. With my Tablet, installing the email accounts was a breeze. So what am I doing wrong, I wonder?

I see in this edition that Bill Taggart has advised of the 1st/83rd reunion in October. At this stage I have not contacted Bill to get all the details. But, as an o/s holiday is due I thought I might enjoy attending. Their guns kept me awake some nights so it would be interesting to discover who was responsible for that.

If anyone else is interested in attending the reunion please send me an email to locators131@y7mail.com or phone me on 02 94283275 and we can discuss the possibility of attendance.

Allen

. Upcoming Events Calender –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 16 February, 2016 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, 20th January, 2016 at 1100hrs at North Fort...

Chairman, Allen Morley opened the meeting at 11.15 AM. He welcomed Kevin Thornton – one of our Pioneers – who had travelled from Taree for the meeting. He also advised that because of other activities planned this would be a shorter meeting than usual. It was a good turnout with Allen Morley, Ernest Newbold, George Lane, Vic Danko, Terry Westerway, Kevin Thornton, Ged Carroll, Merv Nairn and Des McGuiggan in attendance.

Presidents report.

The North Fort paver remains in limbo, awaiting an arrangement with an appropriate engraver. The grant covering the paver has been acquitted with DVA.

The Geelong brick is awaiting work on the Memorial site. Rieny has advised the site dedication will be in August 2016

There is no word yet on the success of the DVA Grant application for the reunion and dedication at Gallipoli Barracks Enoggera ANZAC DAY 2016. A scouting party will be travelling to Enoggera to ensure plans can be finalized.

Nick Proskurin is still working on the model for the list of Detachment names to be presented to 20STA at Enoggera.



The program following the meeting involved inspection of the on-site AN/KPQ-1 radar and the tellurometer

Webmaster Update.

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

Other matters

Vic advised he had attended a 70th birthday party for one of our members. Someone representing Legacy was in attendance and Vic asked that we look into the possibility of some future support for Legacy

Vic also advised of a new preventative vaccine which is effective against shingles, and is available from GPs. He will email Dicko with the details for inclusion in *E&E*.

. 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...February –

February	NameName	Regt No	YoB	In SVN	Out SVN	Comments
1	JIM MENZ	38838	1946	10 10 1967	18 02 1968	† 18.02.68 KIA
2	ROGER McDONNELL	2784019	1945	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
3	ROBERT GIBSON	2787361	1947	29 01 1968	07 02 1969	
3	EDWARD HENSON	2788331	1947	16 09 1968	27 08 1969	
4	OLAF ASMANIS	3796272	1947	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	
	IAN YERBURY Capt.	43129	1944	{05 05 1967	05 03 1968	131 † 1989
	" "			{05 02 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd REGT
5	RICHARD FLAVELL	3791902	1945	23 09 1968	04 06 1969	
5	GEORGE CLARK	2412252	1947	{20 01 1969	21 01 1970	
	" "			{09 01 1967	27 09 1967	1 ARU/131
5	STEPHEN HALL	4720327	1948	27 11 1969	13 08 1970	
6	MICK HABBEN	3788307	1945	05 05 1967	20 12 1967	
	LINDSAY BLACK Sgt.	213794	1940	30 04 1970	04 08 1970	131 † 2009
	" "			05 08 1970	12 03 1971	4 Fd REGT
8	ROBERT RAMSAY	2788108	1947	16 09 1968	27 08 1969	
8	IAN CAMPBELL	3798378	1949	10 02 1971	07 06 1971	131
	" "			07 06 1971	30 10 1971	12 Fd REGT
	GEOFF WOOD	2783898	1945	04 05 1967	13 12 1967	† 26.04.07
	CHRIS ARMISHAW	2781291	1945	04 05 1966	27 10 1966	† 10.02.70
9	GARY WORRALL	43796	1945	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	
9	NEVILLE HASTINGS	1730813	1945	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	
10	ERIC WILLIAMS	1735449	1948	13 02 1970	04 02 1971	
10	GRAHAME SMITH	2792939	1947	30 05 1970	26 05 1971	
11	DENNIS MALLOY	3795057	1948	22 07 1969	16 07 1970	
12	ROSS GUNNELL	5714499	1945	05 05 1967	27 09 1967	
12	LEIGH BAKER	3789657	1945	10 06 1967	23 04 1968	
12	ANTHONY SHELDRAKE	5716358	1948	04 11 1969	13 08 1970	
14	ERNEST NEWBOLD	2783771	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
14	KEVIN HEENAN	3794777	1948	27 11 1969	13 08 1970	
14	MARCUS ROBINSON	2791229	1948	20 01 1970	13 08 1970	
16	DAMIAN McMANUS	3787689	1945	20 05 1966	29 05 1967	
16	LUIGI LANERA	3795443	1947	25 11 1969	12 11 1970	RAEME
16	TERENCE HUNT	3792120	1947	19 02 1968	21 02 1969	
17	ADRIAN SPENCER	3794631	1948	28 10 1969	13 08 1970	
18	TERENCE McMANIS	44277	1950	30 05 1970	09 10 1970	
21	WILLIS (BILL) WIGHT 2Lt.	39136	1945	12 01 1967	23 04 1968	
23	GEOFFREY JEBB WO2	24660	1930	12 04 1968	16 04 1969	
23	GRAEME SALTER	3792618	1947	16 09 1968	27 08 1969	
23	GRAEME JENNION	3796241	1947	24 03 1970	04 03 1971	
24	GREG GREEN	2784565	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
24	ALBERT JACKA	39856	1950	16 12 1969	11 03 1971	AACC

27	DONALD PERRY WO2	38675	1936	15 04 1970	19 11 1970	
28	NORBERT KROLL	218285	1948	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	
28	BRIAN MITCHELL	2412582	1949	14 03 1968	26 03 1969	
28	KIM MCGRATH	2795249	1950	N/A	N/A	

Ed – 13 with white backgrounds not located as yet!

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received **129** and we've sent out **129**. Ed – Let's try for 2 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.

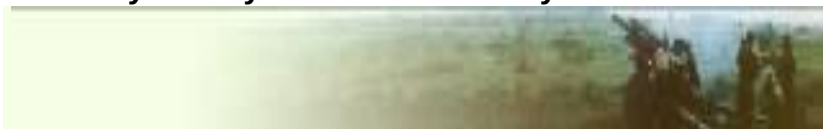
So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the Eyes & Ears regularly you could bite the bullet and email **Grahame Dignam:sectreas131locators@gmail.com** and he could forward you the relevant forms to join - Memberships are available for 1 year or longer deposit a DONATION direct (add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



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://www.1stbn83rdartyvietnam.com>



The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association

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

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

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