

THE EYES and EARS

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Will it look like this on Phillip Island???



The AN/KPQ1 shown here is at 20STA Regiment in Enoggera however, the one at North Fort has been dismantled – read on...



Working on the base - Ken Woodbine, Bob Billiards (Part obscured), Gordon Malcolm (red shorts), Ern Newbold (yellow shirt - obscured at rear), Ian Amos.

Checking bits and pieces - Ian Amos, Allen Morley, Vic Danko, Ernie Newbold, Ken Woodbine and Bob Billiards.



Ian Amos and Gordon Malcolm stacking boxes on pallet.

Ernie Newbold, Bob Billiards, Ken Woodbine and Vic Danko (awaiting lunch)



Gordon Malcolm, Ian Amos and Allen Morley (also awaiting lunch)

Allen Morley's Report on the dismantling and storage (preparation for transport to The National Vietnam Veterans Museum on Phillip Island) of the "dear old" ANKPQ1 which took place on 30th November at North Fort...

"We had a most successful day at North Fort today. The stack and control groups for A13 were cleaned up and stacked ready for transporting. WD 40 saw lots of application as a late preservative. The antenna group was

successfully removed - not quite as easily as by a group of 20 year olds, but successfully nevertheless. The antenna pedestal was separated - more correctly dropped, but without damage - then placed on the transporting table. The table for transporting the antenna group was cleaned up and is ready to load the antenna onto for its travel. There is no generator as part of the goodies, but perhaps that is not surprising.

It was interesting to check some of the paper work. The modulator (an early modem maybe?) was in fact from A11.

The power supply and control amplifier are both from A4. The pieces were delivered to the School of Artillery in April 1986, so have been gathering dust for 30 years. Considering the nearness of the marine environment of the North Fort area the parts are all in surprisingly good condition. But I don't think that we will get it to fly again.

For the working bee we had two former radar specialists - Ian Amos and Gordon Malcolm - who were able to provide considerable guidance in deconstructing the radar. Assisting as non-radar specialists were Vic Danko, Ernie Newbold, Grahame Dignam, Ken Woodbine and Allen Morley.

We now have to work with the The National Vietnam Veterans Museum, Phillip Island and find the best way for transportation.



Round up the usual suspects - l to r Grahame Dignam, Vic Danko, Ian Amos, Gordon Malcolm, Ken Woodbine, Bob Billiards, Ernie Newbold. Allen Morley was absent in the Heritage toilet

Cheers
Allen"

. Officer Commanding (OC) – Recollections of the Tour with Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery, Royal Australian Artillery (RAA).

The series of OC's Recollections continues. These are not official documentations, but memory scratching exercises the Association has asked for to add another dimension other than the factual Reports recorded in the Australian War Memorial (AWM).

This is the sixth in the series and is from **Brian Kennedy**, who was the Det's OC from 27th August, 1969 to 27th August, 1970. Brian did an earlier stint with 3rd Battalion RAR from 2nd March to 11th March, 1965.

Recollections of Brian Kennedy OC 1ATF Det 131 Div Loc Bty 27th Aug 1969 to 27th Aug 1970

Disclaimer

Trying to remember events of 45 years ago would try anyone's brain so I must beg some latitude for errors. Most of us remember events as they impact ourselves, not how others see things. Eye witnesses are generally poor witnesses on the details. Since I returned I have only met three past members of the unit so my memory for names is pretty well shot. For that I apologise. I follow the format requested by Graham Dignam.

I enlisted in the ARA in Feb 1960 and after the normal recruit training was allotted to infantry and posted to 3RAR. In 1962 I attended OCS Portsea and opted for artillery. After YO training at the School of Arty in 1963, I was sent to 111 LAA Bty, where I remained until Jan 1967, (this included 2 years in Malaysia deployed at RAAF Base Butterworth).

Next I went to AGWTU at Woomera for 2 years.

In Jan 1969, I was posted to 131 Div Loc Bty and attended the Regimental Officers Gunnery and the Arty Int courses at the School of Arty. I was then supposed to work up with 4 Fd Regt for deployment to SVN in early 1970. That training would have seen me go to Shoalwater Bay and attend the BE course at Canungra. But I missed those as Tony Eaton had to RTA on emergency grounds and I was told that I would move as soon as Canberra agreed to my not having to go on the BE course. I believe my previous service in 3RAR both at Enoggera and also detached to them on the Thai-Malay border in 1964 helped there. So, I left about a week later. My family and I had just moved into a married quarter at Holsworthy village. I could only wish them good luck.

I went to SVN as a one for one replacement. We had a stopover in Darwin to refuel. I remember the International bar was open and as I had been made the OC for the flight, I spent my time trying to keep the mob together. It was a bit like herding cats. But no one went missing. The next stop was Singapore where a plane load of supposed young male civilians all wearing khaki trousers and black GP boots with civilian shirts and short haircuts went to breakfast. I have no idea what happened to that shirt.

Next stop was Saigon. I had passed through there in Mar 1965, when on my fortnight observer tour from Malaysia to II Corps in the highlands (most ARA officers in Malaysia did this tour; as did many ARES officers later) and I could not believe my eyes at Tan Son Nui. The number of planes and the equipment was awesome compared to four years before. It was like going from Bankstown airport to Kingsford Smith on steroids. I was impressed. Then we all set off towards Nui Dat or Vung Tau on several C123 Provider aircraft; sitting strapped on the floor as I recall it.

The detachment was in good shape considering it appeared to be strewn all over Phuoc Tuy province and up as far as Long Binh, where one of the radars was still in the anti-mortar anti-rocket belt. I was told it had been there for some

time as I recall. I also found a US Army white light/infrared searchlight from the 5/2 Arty perched on top of the LP on Nui Dat Hill.

My first business was to meet my officers and NCOs as there was no handover, Tony Eaton was already home in Australia. All were experienced in country so that made it easier. The sections were under the watchful eyes of my officers: Survey under Andrew Overall, soon to be replaced by Michael Boyle, and Radar under Paul Tys. George Addison seemed to be the king of the sound rangers. The unit was coordinated by the BSM Alan "Clacker" Cleasby, soon to be replaced by Geoff McCauley, together with a lance jack in the orderly room (who, like Radar, seemed to know where everyone was and when they would come back to base). As I remember the Q store was basically a self-service arrangement; you went in and took what you needed and the storeman put in for another one. There were several people I knew from Malaya, Jim Ritchie and Lofty Hayes come to mind. Soon my driver was replaced by Ned Webb, another old acquaintance from 111 Bty; on that basis, I gave him his first stripe. The regulars of the old 111 Bty had been scattered to the four winds as junior and senior NCOs to all parts of the Corps on our return in 1966. My biggest problem was that since I had not been part of the workup with 4 Fd Regt I had never seen, let alone worked in, an Arty Tac HQ. This caused some concern both to me and the other officers rostered there. I had to learn quickly but was not really regarded as part of their team, for they all had trained together in Australia and had now been on operations for some 6 months. I therefore did a lot of late night shifts to learn the trade. I gravitated into friendship with the US Marine Corps officer in the air and naval gunfire liaison detachment, Ken Phipps, and the 1 Fd Regt doctor, Ian Elder. We were not really seen as part of the regiment and so we formed a trio like something out of MASH.

Out of the blue one day I was told to report to the 1ATF Deputy Comd. He informed me that the CO of either 3RAR or 8RAR was complaining of a dismantled tower lying on the ground in his area. I confirmed that it was ours but explained that we didn't have enough high tensile bolts to erect it. He asked where it came from; I explained that a previous OC had liberated it from the US Army. I was ordered to give it back. I then asked if I should return the other one as well; he asked where the other one was, I informed him that presently it was being used as the control tower at Luscombe Field. He ended the audience with an order that involved sex and travel.

The port of Vung Tau was the main shopping area for equipment not normally available through the ordnance system. Air conditioners, cement and other novelties were just sitting there waiting for their new owners. The USMC sometimes provided the means and personnel. Ken Phipps and I would drive to Vungers with his gunnery sergeant, where we would brief him and hop out. Gunny Vincent would then enter the docks with Jeep and trailer, giving a casual black power salute to the US Navy guards. He would return the same way after his shopping. Easy.

As we sat at the end of the runway in our Qantas freedom bird my survey sergeant, Karl Doehrmann, whose year was also up, turned and said to me "We will have to have another war, skipper!" Since we had not even left the ground from this one yet I asked him why. I knew that Karl had been in the Hitler Youth and after the Americans caught him for the second time in uniform they prudently kept him and didn't send him home to his mother again. Karl replied to my query; "I have been to two wars now and I would just like to be on the winning side one time".

On the way, up to SVN I sat next to an infantry officer, Peter Shilston, who I knew from tactics courses at JTC. Peter was to be the next Staff Captain Admin at AFV in Saigon. He was not pleased at this career move. A year and a day later we caught the same plane home. This time he was sporting sunnies, a Training Team green beret and an MC. It seems he did not make much as a Staff Captain but was a very good Montagnard battalion commander.

During my time the radars were deactivated. Nui Dat was not mortared or rocketed in my year although the Horseshoe and Dat Do were, along with Hoa Long. The re-jig of the detachment saw some radar and arty int operators meshed and together we attended a US Army course in Vung Tau to learn the provision, use and deployment of unattended ground sensors. We were to be given seismic, acoustic and magnetic sensors to employ in strings in the 1ATF AO. I believe the equipment was developed for use along the DMZ and the Ho Chi Minh trail. The position for the base station for the area leading from the Warbies and Hat Dich to Hoa Long was obvious and the Nui Dat Hill LP gained another use.

When Paul Tys was replaced by Greg Tommasi, Greg was swapped for 4 Fd Regt's survey sergeant, John Brewer. John ran the surveillance program and was awarded an MID as a result of some fine work in laying out the strings with the 1ATF D&E PI providing security. Not all operations went exactly to plan as it was done in the opposition's backyard with a relatively small force.

During my time the 1ATF HQ only deployed tactically twice to FSBs Barbara, near Binh Ba, and Bond, on the route towards Xuyen Moc. Both were to be reasonably non-eventful.

I found that the unit was unusual in that the surveyors (mainly post-uni maths national servicemen) didn't talk much to the radar operators nor the arty int guys and the drivers stuck to their own kind as well. The RAEME workshop guys, under Graeme Leslie, were almost left to their own devices. My solution was barbeques and beer. I used to go out with Ken Phipps when the US and Australian naval gunfire ships came on line and after we briefed the officers we would present them with the odd captured AK47 for their ward room. When asked if there was anything we wanted we would just give them our list; the list always started with 2 boxes of 76 lb weight of frozen New York cut steak. This eventually culminated in THE CONCERT. The old boozier was transformed from the tin shed, that it really was, into a friendlier bar and cinema complex; mainly due to the efforts of George Addison, who was a closet chippie, and Marcus, the resident bartender and projectionist. I promised that we would try and arrange to get some nurses; I think we eventually got 3 Aussie nurses from Vungers as special guests, together with the Huey crew who provided their transport for the day. Some from the Fd Regt Q staff were invited, since they had the freezer and cool room to store the steaks and excess beer. I believe there was also the engineer who provided and installed the ceiling fans and

other odds and sods who we had conned for equipment during the refurbishment. There would also have been the engineer who bored out the hole for the new women's toilet; a first in Nui Dat.

For some time, the boozer was rebuilt using labourers as came to hand and the band practised. The acts were fine tuned. The steak and beer chilled and the day finally arrived. The guests flew in only to be hijacked by the Fd Regt 2IC, Don Quinn, for lunch with him. Eventually the honoured guests arrived.

As I remember it; the program listed the band as "The Rumbled Threeskins". The boys wanted to add another member to the band but I put my foot down on that because of the name. A special crowd favourite was "Petey" McCann, a humble magician of note who did an impersonation of Tommy Cooper where the tricks all went horribly wrong. I knew as soon as he started with his first trick that I was going to have to write off the Mickey Mouse watch he placed in his silk handkerchief which he then beat to death with a hammer, you could hear the pieces rattling.

Like most of the unit, when not on night duty there were movies and movies and then for a change, more movies. It could be a bit surreal when watching college football as over the top of the screen a Shadow or Spooky fired down into the Long Hais or the Warbies.

I also was tutored in the finer points of NFL and baseball by Ken Phipps, if we were both off duty on Sunday afternoons we would watch the replays on Armed Forces TV; I still watch those sports today. 1969 was the year the New York Mets won the World Series even though they sometimes found it hard to accomplish the small things, like catching the ball.

I believe that the saddest part about arrival at Mascot was the casual way that men, who had been in harm's way only hours before, were treated as surplus to any military need any more and were paid, and then discharged or sent on leave with a rail ticket home in uniform in what was, by then, a hostile environment. They deserved better.

Ed – I was late (Christmas Eve mind you!!) in getting to Brian to "hound" him for Post-SVN/Army activities and got this great response –

At great expense on Christmas Eve I tend the following:

I left SVN after a year and a day there in charge with mixed emotions, both joy and jubilation. I returned to my wife and family. Well, I returned to my 3 children as my wife went to hospital the next day and my children didn't know me. My youngest was only 4 months old when I left. Not a good start. I was posted to 111Bty in 16 Regt at Woodside in SA and immediately had an argument with the Housing Officer who wanted to give me a house in Elizabeth and for me to commute daily. I was allowed to live in Woodside.

After 2 years, I had regularly been to Darwin on exercises so I asked to be posted there as I thought if I was to be in Darwin for half the year I might as well have my family there too. So I was the BK of 121 Bty for 2 years.

One day I received a phone call from Canberra tell me that I was to go to RMCS. I went home to tell my wife, who had been a British Army Nursing Officer whom I had met in Malaya years earlier, the good news. I would meet my mother in law. That was an error.

We arrived in 1974 and I did the course in '74 and '75 and then after a post graduate course in advanced ballistics we all went to Eskmeals Proof Range in Cumbria for 1976 to learn the proof business.

My return was to P&E Graytown in Victoria, where I stayed for 3 years as the OC of Port Wakefield and resigned and left an opening there. This was a great time as I was the OC for the longest time in one posting in my Army career.

Eventually I was posted as CO of 4 AQAU in Adelaide with part of the unit in Perth. I enjoyed that as well.

I received a posting order to 2 AQAU in Sydney and just couldn't see myself driving down Parramatta Road to go to work each day so I resigned and got a job as the Executive Assistant to the State Minister of Agriculture and Forests. When we lost the election, I was without a job but was still in the Army Reserve. As was my wife who had been CMF full-time duty at Puckapunyal as the emergency sister at 3 Camp Hospital, but was now helping do the recruit medicals at Keswick for 2 nights a week. So, for two years I did about 100 days a year as a DS at Tac 5 courses around Australia. This was a bit boring so I asked the other instructors at 4 Trg Group to look out for a job for me.

Within a few weeks I was the 2IC at Yatala Labour Prison, the high security prison in Adelaide. A year later I was the General Manager. I stayed there until 1989 when I was asked to go to the Corrections Head Office during a restructuring of the Department. I redid the prison organisations and the departmental staffing and had the fortune to be the departmental representative on one appeals board and also to be the union representative on yet another. I then led a team who wrote all the duties of correctional officers in Task Outlines in accordance with the findings of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. This was to formalise both the day to day tasks in prisons and to formalise training of recruits.

Eventually I was sent to Business Services to overcome a legislative matter, where I stayed until 2000, when I retired. During this we privatised the Mt Gambier Prison and then privatised prisoner transport and movement as well as in-court management for the state. This centralised duty previously undertaken by Corrections, Police, Family and Community Services and the Sherriff's Department as well as monitoring the placed contracts. It was then while reviewing prisoner health that I fell off my twig and as a result I became TPI.

My wife died in 2006 and I lived alone until this year when I had a stroke as asked to be placed in a rest home. Here I've learnt to walk again, with help and have settled in.

Ed – Post SVN created another world for most of us, and Brian's conclusion is certainly no exception.

The sentiments expressed by Brian on his return and exiting from Mascot are shared by us ALL.

. Terry Erbs reports on what looks like a great St Barbara's Day at 20 STA Enoggera...

On a typically hot humid Brisbane summer's day, 20th STA Regiment formally paraded on St. Barbara's Day to farewell long serving and respected Locators, Major Russ Hamsey and RSM Sean Voss.



Lt Col Peter Grant, Major Russ Hamsey & RSM Sean Voss.

For the parade and to honour both Locators, Major Russ Hamsey was Reviewing Officer and RSM Sean Voss was Principal Guest while Lt Col Peter Grant was Host Officer.



Before a very large appreciative crowd of family, friends and guests, who were able to sit in the welcome shade, the Regiment under the command of Parade Commander Major Geoff Meekan and RSM Ian Carmichael paraded the Queen's Banner, which was carried by Lt Forner.



The Champion Soldier award (above), sponsored by LSTAA, was then presented by Terry Erbs President SEQLD to BDR Michael Jackson 132 UAV BTY.



Following the parade the CO, in front of family and friends, pinned the stripes on newly promoted OR's and announced various awards including the Champion Battery, which was CSS Bty.

Afterwards everybody headed for the shade of the Checkley Annex and much needed refreshments at the James Menz Club. A well-organized family day with many activities kept the children occupied while everybody enjoyed the generous barbeque and cool drinks while a band kept up lively music.

Russ, who is currently S7 (Trg and Stds) and before that 2 IC of the Regiment, does ultimately plan to retire but not before a final deployment to the Middle East followed by Long Service Leave with a long family holiday.

However, Sean, after a long and distinguished service as a Locator and at the apex of his career, has been posted as RSM of the Queensland University Regiment will continue in the service.



. Allen Morley sends a note of farewell to **Lt Col Peter Grant, CO 20STA Regiment** for the imminent retirement of two of our close Locators – **Russel Hamsey** and **Sean Voss**...

"Hello Peter

I am writing on behalf of 131 Locators Association regarding the imminent retirement of Russ Hamsey and Sean Voss from service with 20STA.

Over the past several years we have enjoyed interacting with both Russ and Sean as we got to know the Regiment better. A few mutually advantageous tasks undertaken would not have been possible without their very positive and willing involvement.

Would you please pass on our very best wishes to Russ and Sean as they leave for the outside world. I am positive that their contributions at 20STA have been significant and rewarding, both personally and professionally. The restored AN-KPQ/1 and the brass plaques at Gallipoli Barracks provide strong physical mementoes of their inputs and the important links between this Association and 20STA.

I regret that I will be unable to attend this weekend's celebratory event in recognition of their contributions.

Best wishes

Allen Morley

President

131 Locators Association"



. More things - Recruit Training...At Singleton, like all other RTB's, there was a Mess Hall. Singleton was a bit of a show piece (fairly new) when my lot, 4th Intake, descended on it.

Now, I actually had to go and have a look at where the word "mess" came from. I can see where it could have come from after being in a Mess Kitchen after meals ("meals" - interesting interpretation too) were served, then in the Hall after the food had been consumed. Hey, didn't the toasters get a workout!

However, the root of "mess" is the Old French "mes" - meaning "portion of food" with the original sense being "a course of a meal put on the table". So, I guess, we can blame the French.

Anyway, this brings me to Mess Duty. No, I wasn't the first to have done it and certainly not the last. It all happened on some sort of a roster system, like bloody guard duty later in Holsworthy. I always remember the breakfast I did and the serving of eggs (maybe not hot, but plenty warm enough!), where with good aim you could make sure that one or portions thereof, managed to get placed on the bloke's being served hand or better still his wrist!

I also remember seeing the stove top afterwards with the parts of the eggs hanging from underneath like stalactites! We used to have the eggs after they were fried sit on pieces of bread – that was new to me too! (Another "proof reader", Allen Morley, informs me that the bread was to soak up the excess fat – another reason why I'm not keen to go back for a mess breakfast!!!)

Then, of course there was "dixie bashing". Not a great job after a hot meal had been over-cooked! Actually, where did the word "dixie" come from as I can understand the "bashing" bit? Anyone got any ideas?

I'm not sure why I ate the food in Recruit Training ever again after that.

However, I take my slouch hat/beret off to the "tucker manipulators" (kinder word the more common one rhyming with "tucker") they worked under some pretty not favourable (or should I say "flavourable") conditions.

See you next month hopefully with some other rubbish. Hey, you can also add something if you like!

. We continue in the outback...



Michael and Helen Quinlan continue on with their very special “Quinlan Odyssey” ...

Friday 27th May 2016. We left Geraldton after now travelling 9,500 km from Sydney and headed 200 km north to Kalbarri National Park. We travel at around 105 km/hr so the trip only took a few hours. The National Park like all throughout our beautiful country was targeted for its spectacular geology, gorges and wildlife. We walked for several hours along prepared tracks to experience this unique beauty. (We rather liked this cartoon in a Queensland newspaper as we have seen many hundreds of caravans on the road).



Moving north we stayed at Carnarvon and experienced a very well presented Space Museum which is on the site of the Radio Telescope built by the US for their Apollo Space missions. By this time the temperature was heating up (around 35 degrees) so it was shorts, t shirt and sandals time - just the right dress for a holiday. At right is one of the telescopes.



We then set sail for Karratha, bypassing the beautiful Coral Bay and Monkey Mia which we had seen on a previous trip. The 500 km trip was uneventful, however in Karratha / Dampier we wanted to see the “Red Dog” memorial and the famed North West Shelf gas processing plant. We were not disappointed by either, however in the local pub a schooner cost \$8!!



Heading North again we travelled only 190 km to Port Hedland where we went on an escorted BHP Iron Ore loading facility tour and were gobsmacked by the sheer size of the facility. The day was hot but the beer was cold. The picture at right depicts a loader which is operated by a controller in Perth many 100's of kms away!



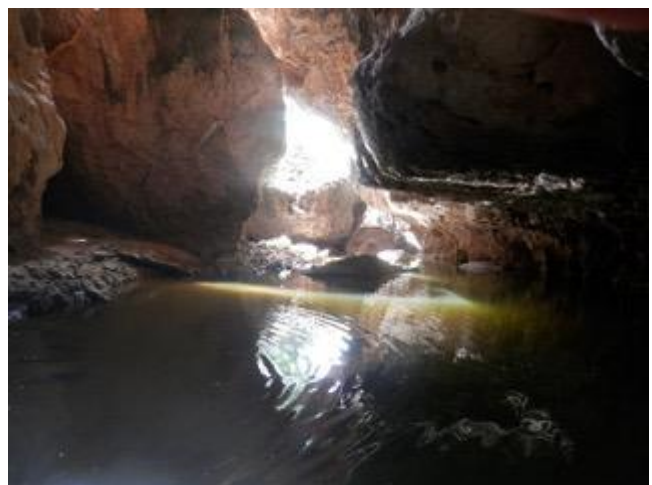
From Port Hedland we then moved north 280 km to Broome staying at Cable Beach caravan park @ \$55 per night (definitely the highest price we had paid so far on our journey) and took a tour to Cape Leveque. We had been to Broome before but not to the Cape It was a full 12 - hour day over very rough roads and essentially for \$250 each not really worth the effort. Watching the sun set over Cable Beach and enjoying a beer or two made the memory wane.

One of our objectives this trip was to experience the Horizontal Waterfalls which was available via a guided tour from Derby 145 kms away, so off to Derby. After a 40 minute sea plane ride, we arrived at the staging point / floating motel and then off to see the famed Horizontal falls, and yes it was worth the trip and yes we stayed overnight on the floating motel to have another go at traversing the falls in a high-powered speed boat the following morning. An amazing experience!



Another of our key objectives was to traverse the Gibb River Road which is a rough dirt road cutting the Kimberly Region in half north south for 600 odd kms. So off we headed after letting the tyres down in the SUV and caravan to 30psi down from 45psi.

Our first stop was Tunnel Creek, at left, then on to Windjana Gorge.



Both of these well known features were worth the visit. In the Gorge, I have never seen an accumulation of so many fresh water crocodiles in one spot - we counted 20 in one pool alone.

We then travelled on to Silent Grove NP home of the famous and beautiful Bell Gorge. We average about 13 litres / 100km and by the time we struck the Imintji roadhouse we filled the tank with diesel at \$2.05 cpl. We took a side track to visit yet another gorge, Barnett Gorge then off to Home Valley Station, however as luck would have it we put a sharp stone through one of our car tyres. We carry two spares and expect something like this to happen. The down side is the spares are on the car's roof and weigh about 40kg each, a real bugger of a job to get one down then onto the affected wheel. However, on we went after many friendly travellers offered their help.

We had traversed several rivers which weren't too deep but we had to cross 100 metres of the Pentecost River which was flowing quite quickly but thankfully only half a metre deep, we did this with ease.

After passing through El Questro we motored on to Kununurra expecting something to have been shaken off the car or van, fortunately there was no damage not even a stone chip. We had the ruined tyre replaced for \$500 then off to Darwin.



A typical river crossing and a good part of the Gibb River



Mail Call...

. **Ernie Newbold** responding with "editing corrections" etc for *Eyes and Ears* (as he does every month) couldn't resist the photo he discovered (re-discovered no doubt) – "G'day Paul,
Now on a slightly different note, a photo taken at Nui Dat 49 years ago, seasonally topical. Regards,
Ernie'

Ed – It raises a point, not being in SVN for the occasion – what was Christmas dinner like? Did the Officers serve meals?? What was on the menu? Another question has arisen as to the origin of the flag – does anyone know/remember what flag it was??



. **Russ Hamsey** responded to an “inquisitive” type email from **Ed** as to what’s news (I’d heard a rumour about his departing 20STA which is confirmed by both Terry Erbs and Allen Morley in previous articles above) –

“Paul,

I am not going too far. I am deploying to the Middle East one last time. I will be away for 7 months and then I will take my long service leave. After 32 years (4 years on ops) of being an Army wife, I owe her six months in Paris. She has transferred that into 8 months travelling around the world carrying a backpack. After that, retirement. However, in the Regular Army we are automatically transferred to the Reserve and I already have a number of offers, most of which keep me very close to the Regt.

Finally, Terry Erbs has made me promise to become the President of the SEQ Branch of the LSTAA. My wife fears that my other wife (the Regt) will always feature in my life - she is right.

In terms of helping you guys - remember I am the most selfish individual you know. My help to you guys has ultimately been about making 20 STA Regt better. Our young soldiers have a much better idea of who they are after meeting you guys. You are a reflection of your history and after ANZAC Day the reflection is strong and proud.

Take care mon vieux

Russ Hamsey

RW HAMSEY

MAJ, S7 (Trg and Stds), 20 STA Regt, Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera, QLD’

. **Ernie Newbold**, while on “Radar Reduction” duty at North Fort took a couple of photos of the Paver in the vicinity – “G’day, The photos attached, taken today at the North Fort Memorial Walk showing our Flagstone / paver. Regards, Ernie.”



Ed – thanks Ernie. What a great setting. I haven’t seen it.

. **Peter Pioro** responds to the article sent in by **Allen Morley** in last month’s *Eyes & Ears*...

“Paul,

I am writing in response to the article in the Newsletter that deals with the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

There is no doubt the qualifying period was 181 days set by the Republic of Vietnam Government.

I know several Veterans who did not reach the magic number but, myself and others do not think of them in a lesser way to those who did. (One could argue doing 200 days makes you lesser than doing 365)

Whatever the days one served it was service to Australia and all are proud of it.

It is regretful the qualifying period cannot be reviewed however, we did not win the war and the Republic of Vietnam does not exist.

As for buying medals and wearing them when one is not entitled to do so makes the situation even worse.

Therefore, wearing them on the right side is not on at any time and will place the individual on the “Wana Be” hit list.

I sympathise with Ashley Blewer and the comments by Allen Morley but it is now part of history.

Regards,

Peter Pioro”

...**Ed** got back to **Peter** with a general email and he responded with a great and interesting email...



"Paul,

I feel 100% that is still breathing.

Since getting through to TPI in 2008 I have worked as Welfare and Pension Officer helping all who ask. The biggest problem is that many put down their aches and pains as getting old. However, it has its beginning in service. Korean Veteran (79) who never claimed, who I was asked to see as a Welfare case went straight to EDA which gave his wife War Widow and Gold Card. (He died 3 months after getting EDA) If we can catch more of those who are too proud or simply just plod along that would be good.

Today I still do both but mostly pensions for Woonona Bulli RSL Sub-Branch and Vietnam Veterans Illawarra Sub-Branch.

For myself I have had 2 spinal surgeries and a recent stint in hospital for a "procedure". The procedure did not work. So, one gets on with life as there is someone around the corner who is worse.

Hope you are well and enjoying retirement. All the best for Christmas and New Year.

Regards, Peter Pioro"

...then Ed responded to this one with...

"Peter,

I found your email thoroughly interesting and you raise a subject, which I hope most of our lot are aware of, though you never know as there are still a heap of blokes who we don't have contact with. Of course, some of these may not be with us, but it'd be great to know that they are still around and find out at least a bit about their health.

Maybe, by reading your email, it might spur some action if the need is there. Paul"

. Chris Bouilly sent in the following, which he'd received from a mate of his and I thought it was worth a run.

The system is really quite simple...

The Australian way is always the simplest way, otherwise it would encroach on drinking time – see, it's quite simple really. A friend once told me he didn't understand the military system. Dumb civilian, I said to myself, but openly I said, "The system is really quite simple."

You see, all people in the Army are soldiers, all privates are soldiers, but not all soldiers are privates. Some are officers who are commissioned, but some are officers who are not commissioned. Obviously if every private was called private it would be confusing, so some privates are called things like trooper, driver, gunner, crafts-men, sapper or signaller. Not all of the drivers actually drive because some of them cook, but we don't call them cooks, for that matter, not all drivers are called drivers – some of them are privates or gunners. Gunners as I'm sure you know are the blokes that fire guns, unless of course they are drivers or signallers in which case we call them gunners rather than drivers or signallers just to make it clearer. All gunners belong to the artillery, except that in the infantry we have gunners who are called privates because they fire a different sort of gun, for the same reason we call our drivers and signallers private as well.

A Lance Corporal is called Corporal, unless he is a Lance Bombardier then we call him Bombardier to distinguish him from a full Bombardier, who is just like a Corporal. All other ranks are called by their rank for the sake of simplicity except that Staff Sergeants are called Staff, but they are not on the staff, some Warrant Officers, who are not officers, are called Sergeant Major although they are not Sergeants or Majors. Some Warrant Officers are called Mister which is the same thing that we call some officers but they are not Warrant Officers. A Lieutenant is also called Mister because they are subalterns, but we always write their rank as Lieutenant or Second Lieutenant, and second comes before first.

When we talk about groups of soldiers there obviously has to be clear distinction. We call them Officers and Soldiers although we know that officers are soldiers too, sometimes we talk about officers and other ranks which is the same as calling them soldiers. I guess it is easiest when we talk about rank and file which is all the troops on parade except the officers and some of the NCOs - - and a few of the privates – and the term is used whether everyone is on parade or not.

A large unit is called a battalion, unless it is a regiment but sometimes a regiment is much bigger than a battalion and then it has nothing to do with the other sort of regiment. Sub units are called companies unless they are squadrons or troops or batteries for that matter. That is not radio batteries and don't confuse this type of troop with the type who are soldiers but not officers.

Mostly the Army is divided into Corps as well as units, not the sort of Corps which is a couple of divisions but the sort which tells you straight away what trade each man performs, whether he is a tradesman or not. The Infantry Corps has all the infantrymen for example and the Artillery Corps has all the gunners. Both these Corps also have signallers and drivers except those who are in the Signals or Transport Corps. In fact, the Signals Corps is not a service at all because it is an Arm. Arms do all the fighting, although Signals don't have to fight too much, rather like the Engineers who are also an Arm but they don't fight too much either.

So, you see, it's really quite simple.

. Ian Campbell sent the following Vale section in after last month's *Eyes & Ears* –

"Hi Dicko, I missed the Australian Story about "Barney" Erica you included in *E&E's* back in February.

I did find it on the internet at this address and I include it for your or others info.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQfP69Nh_d0&list=PLZTMdq7eTVG_dw6t4eOb2wZm0hg2LMNkU&index=35

Regards...Ian"

. **Robyn Millett** – her connection with us was when **Joe Librizzi** included her in an ANZAC Day photo earlier this year and she has been back in contact -

“Hi Joe/Paul,

I did this interview for the Vietnam Vets recently and thought you might be interested. Sorry it's taken me so long to forward you something substantial.

Cheers,

Robyn Millett (Go go dancer)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lhgl5km6EfK&index=5&list=PLN7NVCaLHQ06TIWGo6haQnR5iGwLayQw7>”

...then Ed followed up for more info -

“Hi Paul & Joe,

The link shows all 12 who were interviewed of 6 mins each. You asked how this video came about, well, Richard Williams, President of Vietnam Vets WA asked me and a few others to share our experiences and it's going into schools. His introduction explains more.

Paul, you asked about my pre SVN - I used to teach Physical Culture in Sydney for about 10 years in my late teens, from babies up to grandmas to about 3 clubs/week. I was on various TV shows as a teenager, Brian Henderson's Bandstand, Johnny O'Keefe, Showcase 66 with Gordon Boyd, Dave Allen Show, Mavis Brampston, etc and we won 1st place in the South Street Eisteddfod in Ballarat. My husband, (the guitar player in our Pinky & Lee Review group) had done 3 a month's tour of Vietnam and when asked to go again, he said not without me as a dancer. I would go to sleep and dream up all the routines - get up at 2, 3 am play the music and write down the routines. Since returning from Vietnam the marriage didn't work out and I ended up in Perth. Since 1999 I've been an instructor for Prime Movers (people in their prime, moving to music) teaching people over 50 exercises and dance movements. I have 3 classes/week of about 60-70 people in each class and I am a volunteer to a not for profit organisation - we only get petrol money, but keeps me fit as I am now 70.

Enjoy, Cheers, Robyn”

Ed – I reckon that's fantastic story.

Notice Board...hey! see what's coming up?

. **Jim Dickson**, yes, brother of **Ed**, (ex SVN Vet – '71/'72 – RAAF) noted the following in the VETAFFAIRS Summer Edition 2016 and sent it in.

Maybe we can help **Baz** get a few Locators together.

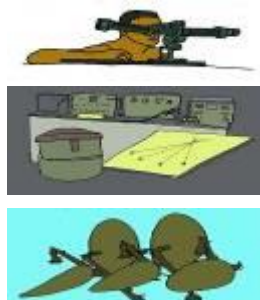
131 Divisional Locating Battery, Vietnam

Seeking 131 Div. Loc Bty Vietnam Locators RAA, for a unique WA reunion this year at a lunch/dinner gathering.

Contact: Barry Guzder

☎ (08) 9295 1749 or 0420 927 139

✉ guzder@aapt.net.au



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>

A few well chosen words of wisdom from the Sec/Treas - "If you have had a busy year, now is the time to check your 131 Locators Assn membership is current. Email sectreas131locators@gmail.com to check. Grahame"

Presidential perambulations

Now that your Christmas is over I wonder what you did with your extra day in 2016. Remember it was a leap year, as was the one where the fourth, fifth and six Nasho intakes occurred. Does your memory go back that far? Aviation buff, Bob Billiards sent me an email with lots of pics from the 2016 Oshkosh Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Air show. Not only are the photos superb, there is a bucket of nostalgia too. We may well say, 'Only in America', but one part of the program hit home to me what makes a country great. **American Airlines flew an Honor Flight of Vietnam Veterans from Washington DC to the Wisconsin EAA air show location.**



The large welcoming crowd, demonstrated their respect for the Veterans' service (Viewing a thread - EAA Oshkosh 2016).

Never happen in Australia unfortunately.

On behalf of your Association's Committee I extend to all readers of *Eyes and Ears* our best wishes to all Vietnam Veterans and the hope for a great 2017. May your aches and pains get no worse.

Allen.

. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 21st February, 2017 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, 13th December, 2016 at 1105hrs...

Attendees were: Grahame Dignam, Ernest Newbold, George Lane, Gordon Malcolm, Nick Proskurin, and Bob Billiards.

Chairman, Grahame Dignam, opened the meeting at 11.05 AM. and thanked those who were present. The chairman advised that Mr. Morley's absence which was due to personal misfortune and he will be back better and brighter in the New Year.

Recent Correspondence (uncirculated) included: A note of thanks from Ron Mason to the Committee for their work on acquiring and arranging for the display of the AN/KPQ-1 radar at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum Phillip Island. And seasons greeting for Christmas and the New Year.

Financial Membership is currently ...140, plus Associates 2, Affiliates 7. **Total 149.** Lapsed 12 members

Presidents report.

No presidents report due to Allen's absence.

However, Radar scans...Latest information is:

Transport to the Museum will be arranged by them

We will need to prepare the unit for pickup so another work day will be required and still another day to supervise dispatch.

The museum will arrange for further clean up and repaint once colour designation is supplied.

An unveiling will be arranged later in 2017 on a day TBA.

Arrangements for 50th Anniversary May 1967 reunion in Adelaide ANZAC DAY 2017

A request for expressions of interest will go out in mid January as first advice with a follow up included in the End January edition of *Eyes & Ears*.



A list of events including day trips to wineries proposed for the period will be included as well as suggested accommodation if required.

Depending on numbers, a bus may be required to move people between venues.

General Business

Photo Album project. This major undertaking will represent all Locators who served in SVN and to achieve its aim we require the help of all vets. Unlike the photos that appear in *Eyes & Ears* which are reduced in size, we will require **BEST POSSIBLE QUALITY** photos that will make the final cut. This project will represent the entire period of 131's involvement in the SVN conflict and will be a heritage item so each photo will need a full description.

The committee is requesting the **BEST pictures you have of Orderly Rm, Tpt Office. Raeme and Radar and LP sites (showing different modifications over time): Equipment used- Bearing Boards, Sound Ranging, Sensors etc. incl. details of how, when, where and why. (Radar. Starlight scopes, firearms, Transport modes {vehicular, airlift by chopper}: Aircraft used for deployments to FSBs and in close support roles bird dogs, etc Pics of the US Arty guns in support units 1/83rd and 2/35th: pics of liaison with ARVN personnel and positions. We will be looking for help from Personnel from each year/Corp to help with names and position identifications to ensure accuracy.**

We need YOUR INPUT!

Memorial Pavers for Jim Menz and Tom Checkley.

Gordon Malcolm suggested we arrange for the pavers to be laid at Geelong and Seymour memorial walks to commemorate those 2 departed soldiers. (Pavers already have been placed in the North Fort Memorial walk). The idea met with unanimous approval. Sec/Treas to follow up.

. web Performance...

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

. Birthdays in the Battery...January –

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

19	PETER FIELDEN	3797872	1949	25 11 1970	12 08 1971	
21	PETER SUCKING SGT	55141	1943	05.02.1971	15.11.1971	
22	KEVIN BROWNING Sgt	217743	1948	16 09 1968	24 09 1969	131
	" "			05 04 1971	29 06 1971	131
	" "			30 06 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd REGT.
22	MICHAEL BARLOW	2792252	1949	19 08 1970	11 03 1971	4 Fd Regt.
23	DONALD CHALMERS	3793171	1945	01 07 1969	03 12 1969	
	IAN "Scotty" McNICOL	216327	1945	{12 09 1967	17 09 1968	131
	" "			{09 04 1970	02 05 1970	VISIT
24	TERENCE ERBS	3791713	1947	28 10 1968	04 06 1969	
24	DAVID NEGUS	3794728	1947	24 02 1970	13 08 1970	
25	WALLY FRANKLIN	1411285	1949	29 01 1968	28 01 1969	
26	RAY HUTCHINSON	37669	1940	17 04 1967	02 04 1968	
26	GEOFFREY TODD	54254	1943	18 12 1967	10 12 1968	
27	ALAN ADAMS	3788792	1945	04 05 1967	27 09 1967	
28	ROBIN TORRISI	1735572	1948	20 08 1970	12 03 1971	
29	PETER MACKIE	2184557	1949	20 08 1970	08 02 1971	
30	ALAN McDONALD	511355	1947	05 12 1967	03 12 1968	
31	COLIN GORDON	16975	1945	15 03 1968	26 03 1969	† 28.03.10

Ed – 8 blokes not highlighted is looking decidedly better, but still not acceptable! Ok, let's get into it and actively get out there locating a few more!

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received 131 and we've sent out 131. Ed – how long is it going to take to get to 135?

. **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



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

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



The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association

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

Editor contact email: 131eyesandears@gmail.com Ed – Paul 'Dicko' Dickson

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