

THE EYES and EARS

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A picture is worth a thousand words...



"...and in the morning we will remember them."

. ANZAC Day, 2016 – Catafalque Party Dawn service - Enoggera.

Thanks to John Blake this poignant moment is captured (in the photo above) and is a true reflection of what ANZAC Day commences with and reflects upon. It does make you pause for that crucial moment and remember.

Tamworth – a late entry, but a great photo - **Wally Franklin** leads Anzac Day march in TAMWORTH, NSW – Photo supplied by the Northern Daily News (04.05.16)



. UNIFORMS – Just to continue with things “eccentric”, Ed thought the following was worth exploring.

OK “they” took us out of “civvie” street and got us onto transport to some out of the way places, so I guess they were obligated to clothe us amongst other things (there is a list too long to reproduce) during the next two years.

Anyway, let’s start with uniform types - seasons, occasions – whatever, we had a selection and that went for footwear as well. A lot of it depended where you were and what you were doing at the time, I guess.

For starters in Recruit Training I remember the line up at the Q Store and the quiz started with “what size are you?” or you were looked at, sized up by the “professional outfitter” and told to “move on” after getting all sorts of attire put over your outstretched arms. Let me think, there were shirts, pants, belts, singlets, socks (they were the easiest to fit), hats and, for the lack of a better term, “underwear”.

Ed – I’d have hated to be in an accident (I don’t mean a bowel AD either) and have the medical staff at some hospital get my outer clothes off and be confronted with this conglomeration! Like something out of the “Beverly Hillbillies”.

“LONG JOHNS” (well, it was April in Singleton for me – mornings/evenings a trifle cold – (check out the photo on the right).

Three of the blokes in the photo are a bit of a mystery – the two on the right are yours truly and Leigh Hemming. The first bloke’s name from the left was Pat ? and I say “was” as he was killed in a motor car accident between Singleton and Sydney one weekend. The bloke with the pipe – I have no idea, then there is Barry? – he went off to Scheyville.



Then there’s this photo (at left), now that we are onto underwear and a couple of pyjama clad blokes, of these four prime “charleys”, at left – don’t know the first bloke, then there’s Ian Finlay, Jim Menz and Barry Nugent (ALL fine NCO material) – I guess this is Holsworthy (don’t ask me where I dug the photo up from).

It's all curious - blokes taking photos of blokes in underwear – where does this come from? Was it part of the selection criteria for 131?

It's as bad as blokes taking photos of blokes in showers or on the crapper! There are a few of those in our archives!

...I'm going to continue on with this slightly out of left field subject and have a look at the Great (or not so Great) Coat next month. If anyone wants to add to this "underwear" bit or anything else "Uniforms/clothing for the wearing there of" send it in.

. **The Australian War Museum (AWM) collection** – the photo was sent in by **Ernie Newbold** from the AWM Collection. The description is below the photo. We'll add more of these edition by edition.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

COM/68/1037/VN

COM/68/1037/VN

Maker	Combe, David Reginald Place made: Phuoc Tuy Province, Vietnam, 1968
Description	Phuoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam. 1968-12. Commander of the Australian Forces in Vietnam (AFV) Major General A. L. MacDonald of Canberra, ACT (centre), and 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF) Commander, Brigadier C. M. I. Pearson of Canberra, ACT (left), examine a captured Viet Cong machine gun held by the Commanding Officer of the 131st Divisional Locating Battery, Captain Phil Perrin of Holsworthy, NSW. The machine gun was captured by troops during Operation Capital, a reconnaissance in force in northern areas of the Phuoc Tuy Province.

Mail Call...

. **"School - what's your memory like..."** was an article in March's *Eyes & Ears* and here's some more memories – and this one includes a "HORSE"

Howard Young - "G'day, Paul, sorry, but I do not have any photos of my school years, but my memories of those distant days are quite sharp.

I was seven years old when I was first captured for school, at several small one-teacher jobs, in sequence, at Middle Kalang, on the south arm of the Bellinger River, Mid North Coast, NSW.

By the time I was nine, I had experienced three different Middle Kalang schools, they were very transient, and as the family eldest, found myself in charge of the family school transport, a testy, bad tempered, old half draught horse named "Creamy Kitty".

My two young brothers perched behind me, having done their share of catching and saddling our reluctant mount. The road or track was bare red dirt, mud in the wet.

Having started school at seven, and now aged nine, I was quite an experienced pupil, holding my family position with pride, in a school now numbering some nine or ten students.

So there you have it, horse and dirt road, photos do exist, of other kids at different schools, some even three to a horse. I have seen such photos, perhaps someone else may be able to help you.

Cheers, Howard Young, aged jockey."

David Dougherty got in touch with – “Hi Paul,

If I had known my report on school was going to take up so much space I would have cut it shorter to be more in line with the others. I also thought that Graham was going to put together an article on the SR Section rather than mine input being used directly, but have no problems that it was used as is.

We might have to put a guard on Pablo, he was supposed to have finished his tour of action back on the 17/9/1968.

I have attached part of an article out of the current *Wartime*, Issue 74, that refers to sound ranging and “flash spotting” which obviously was the equivalent of our LPs. This refers to an article in issue 51 for more detail and I have scanned this into word format. I do not know whether it is suitable for inclusion in *Eyes and Ears* but it does link 131's history to WW1 and may be of interest not only to us “in the know” but the other sections of 131. If it is suitable in whole or part it is noted that copyright is held and approval to reproduce it would be required.

Thanks for your effort with the magazine, David'

Part of article from AWM *WARTIME* Issue 74

BRITISH INTELLIGENCE; THE SOMME - COLLECTING INTELLIGENCE

Front-line sources were the cornerstone of the intelligence system directed against the German army. At the most basic level, the British used binoculars and telescopes to observe their enemy's comings and goings. In 1916 these observation systems were not particularly sophisticated, and much of the work was delegated to units rotating through the front rather than to specially trained observers. Since 1914, German artillery had been monitored by flash-spotters who triangulated gun positions by watching for their fire; in early 1916 this system had been standardised across the BEF front. Complementing this work were sound-rangers who located German guns through the noise of their firing (see *Wartime* Issue 51). This system took a significant step forward in 1916 with the introduction of a new microphone that allowed better filtering of background noise. All these methods of collecting intelligence were passive and relied on the Germans revealing themselves through their activity, but as the war went on, the Germans became adept at camouflaging themselves from both observation and flash-spotting.

More proactively, the British captured enemy soldiers, either in trench raids or during larger attacks. Some Germans would also oblige the British by deserting, but their numbers were always low. To obtain and then exploit the information that could be gathered from these soldiers, the BEF had developed simple interrogation systems. Before 1916 the number of captives was fairly low, so it was possible to subject a large proportion of them to questioning by German-speaking intelligence officers. However, during the battle of the Somme the number of Germans to be interrogated increased dramatically during attacks, and the system was overwhelmed. Collecting stations known as “cages” were established close behind the front. Here hundreds of German soldiers could be searched, questioned briefly by German-speaking non-commissioned officers, and prisoners of particular interest could be passed on to the experienced interrogators. By rummaging through prisoners' clothing, the British also found large quantities of documents. Some of these, such as marked maps or written orders, were used immediately to inform tactical decisions. Diaries and letters were subjected to closer examination to reveal information about morale or even about conditions on the German home front. Individually, a prisoner or his papers were rarely very revealing, but collectively these snippets could provide useful insight into the German army.

Article from AWM *WARTIME* Issue 51

LAWRENCE BRAGG AND SOUND-RANGING

A brilliant Australian played a crucial but unrecognised role in the Great War By John Jenkin

Author - John Jenkin is Emeritus Scholar, La Trobe University, Melbourne, and author of *William and Lawrence Bragg*, father and son (Oxford University Press, 2008).

In 1884 a quiet, modest student from rural Cumbria in England graduated with first-class honours in the most famous and competitive examination in Britain, the Mathematical Tripos at Cambridge. When he was unable to find a college fellowship or a suitable job, William Henry- Bragg pursued his growing love of physics with experimental work in the Cavendish Laboratory. His foresight was rewarded the following year when he was appointed to the combined professorship of mathematics and physics at the University of Adelaide. He was just 23 years old, but the university's gamble on him was to pay handsome dividends.

On his very first day in Adelaide, William Bragg was taken to meet the only other notable scientist in the colony, Charles Todd, his wife, Alice, and their six children. He quickly fell in love with their third daughter, Gwendoline, whom he married three years later. They had two sons, William Lawrence and Robert Charles and a daughter, Gwendy. William Lawrence later took to calling himself Lawrence to distinguish himself from his father. In this period William Bragg matured to become the university's most talented teacher and Adelaide's most respected public figure, captivating large audiences with his public lectures on the newly discovered X-rays and radio. He began serious research in 1904 and quickly became a world



figure with his studies of alpha-particles from radioactive decay and his suggestion that X-rays and gamma-rays were particles rather than waves, as most scientists believed.

Lawrence was a carbon copy of his father: quiet, reserved and exceptionally talented in mathematics. He entered Adelaide University at the age of 15 and graduated at the end of 1908 with first-class honours in mathematics, most of his instruction coming from his father. Within weeks the family sailed for England. His father had finally accepted the inevitable offer to return home, and Lawrence would go to Trinity College, Cambridge.

Their new world was overturned in 1912 when news arrived from Germany that X-rays had been diffracted, apparently proving that they were waves, not particles. Father and son dropped everything and created two new fields of science, X-ray spectroscopy and X-ray crystallography; they dominated the latter for the next 50 years. With it, scientists would discover the arrangement of atoms inside materials of all kinds: from the simplest, NaCl or common salt, to moon rocks and then DNA.

But just as their collaboration was peaking, their research stalled with their involvement in the Great War: William to attempt (unsuccessfully) to detect German submarines by listening underwater for the sound of their engines, Robert to die on Gallipoli, and Lawrence to undertake a special scientific assignment in Flanders.

The French had several undeveloped schemes to detect the positions of the devastating but unseen German artillery by recording the sound of their firing; Lawrence was asked to see if he could make one scheme work in practice. He bravely decided to pursue the most accurate but most complicated plan. At each major location along the front, six microphones were ultimately placed close to the trenches, each connected to one string of a six-string electrometer at the rear. When a German gun fired, the sound would reach each microphone at a different time, depending on how far it was from the gun, and its string would vibrate briefly. When a gun fired, a forward observer would start a motion-picture camera, which photographed the electrometer and its strings. Figure 1 shows a section of film used to record a German howitzer firing, the report reaching the first microphone nearly a second earlier than the last microphone. Using the known speed of sound, the timing for each string could be converted into distance over the ground.

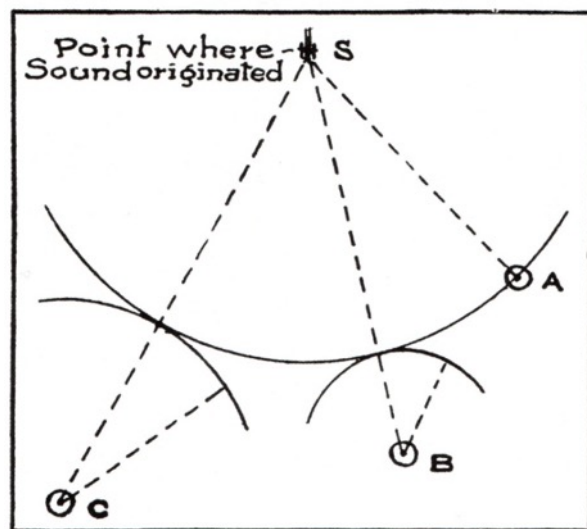
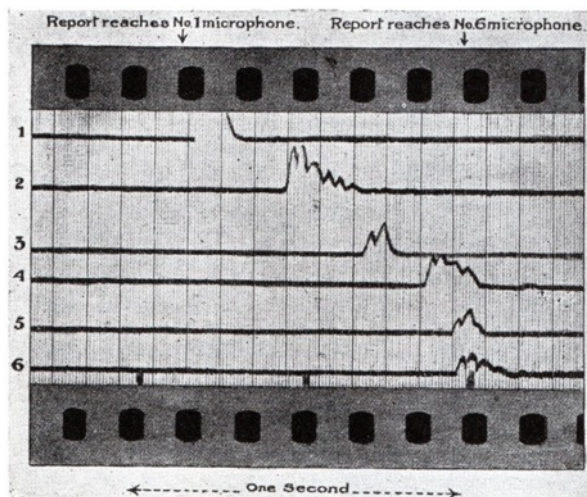
Figure 2 is a simple diagram of the sound-ranging method. The sound reached microphone A first (number 1 in Figure 1), followed by the microphones more distant from the gun. On a map, a circle was drawn around the position of each microphone, the radius of the circle being the distance calculated from the time the sound took to reach that microphone. These data should have enabled a large circle to be drawn, passing through A and touching all the other circles, the centre of this circle revealing the position of the gun. But the mathematics involved was very difficult, and it became necessary to develop a simpler method. Lawrence Bragg was able to show that the centre could be found with sufficient accuracy by using six cords stretched across the map, one for each microphone. Their intersection then marked the position of the gun (dashed lines in Figure 2).

Initially there were severe difficulties. The wires connecting the microphones to the recorder were vulnerable, the wind sometimes blew the sound away, and the early carbon microphones easily picked up the useless sound of the shell as it passed overhead but failed to record the sound of the gun. Conditions were often atrocious, and the early maps were inaccurate.

Lawrence persisted, month after dreadful month, close to the front. His brother and his dearest friend were killed elsewhere. Another telegram arrived to say that he and his father had been awarded the 1915 Nobel Prize in physics, but he allowed himself only one bottle of wine provided by the local cure. And then the breakthrough came; it would change the war.

Lawrence noticed that he was lifted off the toilet if he was sitting there when a six-inch gun fired close by; and one of his new staff, Corporal Tucker, noticed that as he lay on his camp bed a jet of cold air blew across his face, coming in through a hole in their hut. Bragg realised that the gun's sound wave had a very low frequency but was also of high pressure, and this suggested a new kind of microphone. Tucker was a physicist and had been working in London on the cooling of fine wires by air currents. In the new design, an electrically heated wire was stretched across a hole in a rum jar or an ammunition box. The gun's sound wave cooled the wire and changed its resistance, which was picked up on the film at the recording station.

Lawrence recalled later: "I will never forget the thrill of seeing the first record, in which the shell-wave hardly made the galvanometer string quiver, while the gun-wave gave an enormous kick. The real success of our sound-ranging dated from that day." It was June 1916, and by September all his sections along the front were using them. Other problems



were steadily overcome or minimised. Attempts by the other combatants on both sides to develop a similar system were distinctly inferior.

After a bitter winter, hostilities resumed in early 1917, a period Trevor Wilson has called "the killing time". In his major study, *The Myriad Faces of war* (1986), Wilson wrote:

If one thing had changed markedly ... it was the quantity and effectiveness of artillery fire ... not least in suppressing the artillery of the enemy ... This was consequent on the development by scientists, mathematicians, and gunners of such devices as flash-spotting and sound-ranging, the latter one of the most potent factors in the development of counter-battery work towards the excellence it eventually attained.

By 1918 Lawrence Bragg's sound-ranging had improved further. When German troops returned from the Eastern Front they made major advances but became overstretched, however, and the battle turned for the last time. Wilson wrote:

On 8 August two-thirds of British shells were directed at the German artillery ... With devastating effects, the British gunners unleashed an unregistered bombardment on enemy batteries ... the Amiens battle opened, despite poor visibility, with British shells falling with deadly precision upon the enemy's carefully concealed artillery pieces.



At left: Australian gunners of the 2nd Siege Battery in action near Voormezele in September 1917. AWM E00694

One of Wilson's students, Jackson Hughes, concluded that 'the Royal Artillery ... proved to be the decisive force in dislodging the German armies from the Hindenburg line'.

Lawrence Bragg's men and equipment had finally triumphed. He would return to academic life, and at only 28 he had a daunting record: Adelaide BA, Cambridge BA, MA, and Trinity College lectureship and fellowship; the Barnard (USA) and Italian Medals and the Nobel Prize; articles and a book on X-ray crystallography with his father; military commissions to the rank of Major, Officer Commanding British sound-ranging, MC, OBE, and three times Mentioned in Despatches. He would be appointed Professor of Physics at Manchester and then Cambridge, both in succession to Ernest Rutherford, and conclude his career at the Royal Institution in London. His Cambridge staff would win a number of Nobel Prizes, not least Crick and Watson for the structure of DNA.

The shy but hugely talented Australian youth was now a mature, confident and assertive man of major significance. But he had been very close to the trenches in the notorious Ypres salient for 18 months, and had driven along the front many, many times thereafter. He saw everything and missed very little. Few participants came away unscathed; even fewer understood shell shock or how to handle it. One of Lawrence's daughters told me she sometimes woke in the night to hear her father's anguish. He could be like a volcano, she said, threatening to erupt at any moment, finally exploding in a rage, and then falling into a period of deep remorse.

Perhaps the flash-spotters, sound-rangers and other support troops have not received adequate recognition; certainly Lawrence Bragg's contribution has never been adequately acknowledged, partly because sound ranging remained secret for decades, partly because earlier historians neglected the role of the guns, and partly because he was "a colonial". In Australia his extraordinary life in science and in war is also largely unknown. This should change.

Brian "Killa" Killworth sent the following in – "Hi Dicko Sorry I didn't get to catch you in Enoggera; it seems to have been a good one!

I have some mates who were on APC's at Coral and are keen to get an accurate account of the events as they unfolded. I mentioned that you through your newsletter did just that; Dicko, could you kindly forward that particular issue?

Congratulations once again for the dedication you continually show in getting such a very professional article on the "streets". Your efforts certainly don't go unnoticed or unappreciated!

Cheers, Brian (Killa)"

...Ed replied – "Killa, Attached is the edition you are looking for - *Eyes & Ears* Vol 3 No 18, May 2010.

Yes the whole 3 days in Brisbane were an absolute revelation for me to put a heap of names and faces together for blokes I had been in touch with and had never met. All the events went well.

I sent Barny a birthday wish and he responded - it's great to keep that thread alive too.

Take care and keep in touch. Dicko."

. **Allen Morley** took the time to write to the Minister of Vet Affairs to confirm that the funds were supplied were used in accordance with our request –

April 29, 2016
The Hon Dan Tehan
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

131 Locators Association is a group of Vietnam War veterans working together to provide links, assistance and activities for those who served with Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery in South Vietnam from 1966-1971 (www.131locators.org.au).

The Association recently received a grant from DVA under the Vietnam War Grants program. Unfortunately, it was not as much as we asked for to cover the planned events. However, it did enable us to take on a modified program over the Anzac Day weekend.

Our first Detachment soldiers (we call them the Pioneers) left for South Vietnam on May 4th, 1966. That is 50 years ago next week. The first reinforcement group left Australia on May 4th, 1967, or only 49 years ago next week. The major reason for bringing the events forward was that the Regiment was due to depart on an exercise after Anzac Day. We thought that 10 days in 50 years was not really a significant gap in our history.

For some time, we have been communicating and cooperating with 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment based in Enoggera, Queensland. The Regiment had its genesis in 131 Div Loc Battery, hence the link was a logical one. We were for some time planning what could be done to celebrate this important anniversary. The solution we came up with was to celebrate it with the Regiment, with their agreement. The events planned around the weekend were the basis for our Grant application. Our purpose was to link with soldiers from 20 STA to compare notes on service - the majority of the Detachment were National Servicemen - history and communication. In our day there was no internet, email, digital cameras or GPS, all of which would have made our life so much easier.

The Anzac weekend for us comprised:

- . a dinner to begin the mingling and communication on the Friday night
- . a Commemoration ceremony on the Saturday morning where the full Regiment paraded with our Veterans. A restored AN-KPQ/1 radar (a photo attached), which had operated in Nui Dat at the time of the Battle of Long Tan, was handed over to the Regiment. Also unveiled was a plaque listing the names of all who served in the Detachment - a total of 476 soldiers - and a plaque recognising the Detachment's service in South Vietnam, which is similar to one we placed at the Australian War Memorial in 2012. We then were invited to inspect the Regiment's equipment and materials, an activity that emphasised changes over time
- . on Anzac day we attended a Dawn Service at the Regiment's HQ, laid a wreath and then retired for a traditional Gunfire breakfast. Later in the morning we marched as a group of old and new Veterans and soldiers in Brisbane, and then hydrated at the Stock Exchange Hotel.

The events were a resounding success for all involved. The Officers and men of 20STA were accommodating of our needs, welcoming, interested in our history and involved as the current day generation. Lt Colonel Grant's team at 20 STA could not have done more for us. It felt as if we were truly at home with the Regiment. Several of our teary-eyed veterans expressed a forlorn interest in signing up for service again after this brief time with the Regiment.

Minister, the purpose of this note is principally two fold. To thank you for the grant. The second was to demonstrate the success of our project in bringing the soldiers of the 1960s with those of the 21st century, and showing that basic soldiering has in fact changed little from the time of our Pioneers' service. I have copied this note to the Minister for Defence so as to illustrate how positive and hard working today's soldiers are.

Sincerely
Allen Morley
President



Our symbolic Lund mascot

...the following is the response...



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

PDMS Ref: MC16-001262

Mr Allen Morley
awmorley@optusnet.com.au

Dear Mr Morley

Thank you for your email of 29 April 2016 to the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Dan Tehan MP, regarding the grant recently approved under the Vietnam War Commemorative Grants category of the *Saluting Their Service* (STS) Commemorations Program for the 131 Locators Association. The Minister has asked that I respond on his behalf.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs commends the efforts of the 131 Locators Association for completing the project. We are pleased the *Saluting Their Service* (STS) Commemorations Program has benefitted the Association by raising awareness and commemorating the involvement, service and sacrifice of the 131 Divisional Locating Battery Detachment.

Thank you for taking the time to write to the Minister.

Yours sincerely

Tim Evans
Assistant Secretary
Commemorations Branch
10 /05/2016

GPO Box 9998 Canberra ACT 2601 Telephone 133 254 Regional 1800 555 254 Internet www.dva.gov.au

Saluting Their Service

. **Allen Morley** the ever-opportunist sent in a very keen observance – “I was wandering down Chapel Street, South Yarra last weekend and thought I had found the annex for the 20STA club at Ennogerger. Their club named in honour of the late Jimmy Menz, with a southern addition. But what a disappointment. 'Twas only a mens' clothing shop. Am”



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



August 2016 in Canberra – Vietnam Veteran's Day Not to be missed

50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.
Function Great Hall Parliament House.

The formal programme will be something like:

- Arrive whenever - Tues PM / Wed AM 16th /17th August free
- Wed noon 17th August - 131 Locators meeting then lunch either at the Pavilion or Ainslie football club bistro
- Wed Evening 17th – Those attending the Great Hall and the rest informal dinner and camaraderie TBA
- Thu 18th - Formal events available all day – find the events at <https://www.awm.gov.au/events/honouring-vietnam-veterans/>
- Thursday 7.00 PM 50th Anniversary Reunion Dinner Pavilion Motel (deposit of \$50PH required paid to Association Account).
- Friday depart or go for a wander – have a good look through the AWM.

The Pavilion has provided a quote for rooms and Dinner and they have a sister Motel the ARIA immediately adjacent. The Reunion Dinner will be at the Pav. on the evening of 18th August.
[https://www.wotif.com/Hotel-Search?#&destination=Northern Canberra, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory,](https://www.wotif.com/Hotel-Search?#&destination=Northern+Canberra,+Canberra,+Australian+Capital+Territory,Australia&startDate=16/08/2016&endDate=19/08/2016®ionId=6052178&latLong=-35.266175,149.139923&adults=2)

[Australia&startDate=16/08/2016&endDate=19/08/2016®ionId=6052178&latLong=-35.266175,149.139923&adults=2.](https://www.wotif.com/Hotel-Search?#&destination=Northern+Canberra,+Canberra,+Australian+Capital+Territory,Australia&startDate=16/08/2016&endDate=19/08/2016®ionId=6052178&latLong=-35.266175,149.139923&adults=2)

Vietnam Veteran's Day Service Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Det 131 DLB Commemorative Dinner.

Now we need to know your intentions so as we can organize numbers etc...

RSVP by 2nd August, 2016

direct to:

Grahame Dignam – Secretary / Treasurer sectreas131locators@gmail.com

131 Locators Association Inc. Website http://www.131locators.org.au/about/131_locators.html

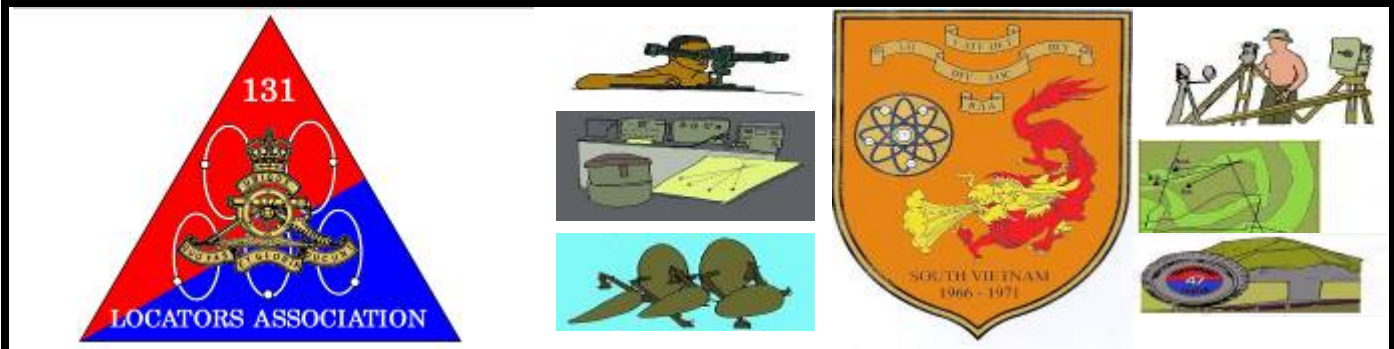
A \$50 deposit is required and can be made direct to sectreas131locators@gmail.com, supported by your name as follows :

Direct deposit: 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

Mail to: Secretary/Treasurer, 131Locators Association, 8 Darling St. ABBOTSBURY NSW 2176



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

Following the success of the 50th Anniversary events in Brisbane last month I have found some time to get back to work on my family tree. I haven't done a lot in recent times so it was exciting to get back into this trawl through history. So far I am back six generations on both arms of my father's side. Back to 1770, which is both the name of a town in Far North Queensland and the time, of course, of Cook's discovery of the great south land. Pretty moving stuff for me. It reminds me a bit of our project last year to Locate a Locator. That had mixed success, although we did manage to find some of our previously unlocated locators. Turn over a few rocks and there they are, in both cases.

Interestingly, there is now some initial interest in celebrating on May 4th in 2017. That is the 50th anniversary of the date that the Secondi (a new group name) departed for SVN from Mascot airport in 1967. There has been a suggestion that the celebrations take place in Adelaide, but no decision has been made at this stage.

The events around Vietnam Veterans' Day – and the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan - in August this year are starting to be revealed. Our Canberra scout, Bert Blink, has a program identified, ending in a dinner at the Pavilion hotel on August 18th. All Detachment personnel are encouraged to attend where possible. So please keep an eye out for more information if you are able to attend.

Some of our Sydney-based Gunners are planning to attend a 'ramp' ceremony at Richmond Air Force base on June 2nd. The 32 soldiers being repatriated from Terendak Cemetery in Malaysia (formerly Malaya) and one from Kranji War Cemetery, Singapore, will be returned home. Our own Gunner Tom Checkley will be among their number, although his final destination will be England. Please think of Tom on that day.



The Terendak Military Cemetery, Malaysia

Regards
 Allen



. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 21st June, 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, 16th February, 2016 at 1105hrs...

Attendees were: Allen Morley, Grahame Dignam, Ernest Newbold, George Lane, Ian Amos, Gordon Malcolm, Bert Blink, Terry Westerway, Nick Proskurin, Des McGuigan, Merv Nairn, Ged Carroll.

Financial Membership is currently ...138, plus Associates 2, Affiliates 8. **Total 148.** Lapsed 13 members

Presidents report.

Allen advised that -

. He had written to Dan Tehan, Minister for Vet Affairs re the repatriation of the body of Tom Checkley. He was advised the flight would arrive at Richmond on 2 June 2016 and we have requested that a number of our Members be able to attend the Ramp ceremony and pay their last respects to Tom before his remains are sent on to the UK to his final resting place.

. Allen had also written separately to the Minister to thank him for the assistance of the reduced Grant to stage the Anzac Weekend events. He remarked on the goodwill, shared experiences and the positive effects on, we the veterans, and the current Military cohort and the strengthened bonds created. Allen advised that he had received a reply from Tim Evans, Commemorations Branch of the Vet Affairs thanking us for taking the time to forward our advices.

General Business.

. 50th Anniversary Battle of Long Tan.

Bert Blink has a quote from the Pavilion hotel covering Accommodation, a Ceremonial Dinner on 18/8/2016 including a Buffet and Drinks Package. We have been given estimated room rates for the period ranging from \$145pn to \$245pn. Accommodation is also available at the Aria hotel part of the Capitol hotel group (range \$155 - \$255pn) When booking please mention 131 Locators Ceremonial Dinner.

RSVP for the dinner particularly is Friday 22nd July. A \$50 deposit to cover the dinner and some other expenses is required. Costs for accommodation and travel are at each individual's expense.

. Geelong Paver

Allen has been advised by Rieny the Rep, from Geelong & District V V , that the Geelong paver would be laid in their Memorial Park <http://geelongvietnamvets.com/> on 27/6.

. North Fort Radar

Ron Mason provided information via email relating to the North Fort AN/kpq-1 radar and the choices we need to make. Essentially the Australian War Memorial is swamped with offers of donations and has put in place a screening process to evaluate exhibits it will accept. Your Association needs to work through that process to establish how it will proceed in regards the placement of the Radar. We will advise developments..

. A Guessing competition.

An email will be circulated as an announcement/reminder to the wider locating family of the opportunity. If you have purchased tickets please excuse as it's hard to segregate - much easier to aggregate. (You may buy more tickets if you wish).

. Sec/Treas running cost reimbursement.

The Treasurer submitted details of the yearly running costs (ink postage, copy paper etc) totaling \$299.00 for consideration and payment if deemed appropriate.

Allen Morley supported the proposal and raised the issue of a replacement Laptop due to issues experienced during the QLD reunion Dinner (The existing Asus which is 7+ years old used by the Sec/Treas. runs Windows 7 while the club had windows 10 AV system installed).

The motion to purchase a new laptop up to the \$900 value and repay \$299.00 to G Dignam was passed unanimously.

. 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...June –

June	Name	Regt No	YOB	SVN In	SVN out	Comments
1	GEOFFREY SULLIVAN	3798292	1949	02 12 1970	03 05 1971	131
	" "			03 05 1971	20 10 1971	12 Fd Regt.
3	ALLAN MACLEAN Capt.	32203	1928	24 05 1967	28 06 1967	RAEME
5	PETER DEALY	3411983	1947	18 02 1968	21 02 1969	
5	JAMES LOCKHART	6709144	1947	03 06 1969	21 02 1970	
5	VITO CICCOLELLA	2791669	1947	16 12 1969	17 12 1970	
6	JOHN I'ANSON	2787424	1945	12 04 1968	16 04 1969	
7	BRUCE IRVINE	2783695	1945	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
8	EDWIN FIELD Sgt.	242577	1934	22 04 1966	31 07 1966	† 20.07.96
10	KEITH WHITE	2783029	1945	17 04 1967	13 12 1967	AACC
12	IAN AMOS	2785676	1945	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
12	LAWRENCE SAWYER	3787393	1945	04 05 1966	03 03 1967	
14	PAUL BUSS	2781443	1945	22 04 1966	28 04 1967	† 28.09.11
15	KARL DOEHRMANN Sgt.	38119	1933	{20 05 1966 {28 01 1970	29 04 1967 27 08 1970	† 10.08.09
15	EDWARD WEBB	29964	1941	27 01 1970	21 01 1971	
16	RALPH PEARCE	214806	1945	22 04 1966	30 04 1967	† Unknown
18	ROGER WHITTAKER	2184592	1949	19 08 1970	05 08 1971	† Unknown
20	JOHN CHILTON	215855	1946	09 12 1968	03 12 1969	
23	WILLIAM PRENTER WO1	64258	1933	22 04 1966	07 06 1967	† RAEME 01.10.97
	" "			20 08 1970	09 06 1971	4 Fd Regt
25	PAUL BUTCHER	3411454	1946	01 04 1969	25 03 1970	
26	LINDSAY MEAD	3790714	1945	27 03 1968	26 04 1968	
26	GERRY CARROLL	2781311	1945	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	
28	BARRY COLLINS	2793213	1948	20 08 1970	20 08 1970	131
	" "			20 08 1970	07 03 1971	4 Fd Regt.
	" "			08 03 1971	09 06 1971	12 Fd Regt.

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](http://www.artillerysurveyors131.com.au/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 this 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



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

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