

# THE EYES and EARS

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



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**A bit of history has been discovered!!!  
It's taken almost 49 years to uncover Vol 1 No IX!**

Far East  
Edition  
Vol 1 No IX

THE EYES AND EARS

'The Human Interest Magazine'

Regd in London  
for transmissio  
by Hippie.  
15 Sept 1967

**This** all started with Barry Guzder sending Grahame Dignam the following email –

"Hi Digs, Don't know if this will make the next *E&Es* but it's a good reminder of days gone by! Regards Barry G."  
Grahame copied the email to Ed who followed up with Barry as to where the hell did he discover this and here's his response – "Hi Paul, I had it with all my other Vietnam paraphernalia on returning to Oz in '68. Put it all away and year and half later sailed to U.K. So mum looked after all that military stuff till I returned in '75. Just took it all in a box to new house in '78. Went thru box in 2013, found it and put it into 'Tracks of the Dragon'. Showed book to friends at bushfire brigade and **out it fell!**  
Regards, Barry."

**Ed** - Bloody amazing "**out it fell**", but we are ever so thankful as it now means that Vol 1 No 11 is the only missing issue. Is there anyone else who can perform some magic and produce it?

Here's Barry's now archived issue -

Far East  
Edition

Vol 1 No IX

# THE EYES AND EARS

Regd in London  
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15 Sept 1967

'The Human Interest Magazine'

C.A.T. In keeping with the times (e.g., S.M.E.R.S.H., Y.M.C.A., S.P.E.C.T.R.E., etc.), Arty Int has come up with "C.A.T."; not to be outdone by Hollywood, C.A.T (Crater Analysis Team) is a highly trained team of specialists, as we'll endeavour to explain:- Sgt TREV WAGHORN is the Linguist and leader of the death-defying team. Chief Hole-poker is Geoff BLACKWELL, armed only with 5 feet of bamboo. AL ADAMS is in charge of the technical measurements side; his only aid being 3 yards of pink string. The 4th member of the team is PAUL 'Funnyface' DICKSON, who is the group's sig. and Pink String Assistant. C.A.T is also in keeping with the Army's new confusion tactics....."So Allies and VC alike", he warned, "The confusion has only started --wait till we get into full swing". \*\*\*\*\*

BAR-B-QUE BRIEFING. The Social 'Coup de Grace' has been struck by the Detachment. Outshining all others as the most socially acceptable group of guys in the Task Force (with one or two minor exceptions, but we wont count them), the OC agreed -on behalf of everyone ofcourse- to entertain the members of "The Melbourne Show" to a quiet barbeque lunch on the 29th September on the 'Lawn' and in the Rec Room.

On e the Committee is able to gather again, some details shall be arranged and everyone shall be informed.

P.S. The main stars are PattiMcGRATH and the STRANGERS.

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The Boss.

They're Here: Much to the surprise of the Detachment, unexpectedly the expected Rec's arrived and were greeted with rather flushed faces. But after their identity was discovered, they were given a tour of our installations. It was lucky they bought their Hutchies as it gets pretty wet here at night.\*\*\*\*\*

Report On Op Ainslie. 32A and 31C moved into position on the morning of the 4th and were fully operational by midday. Conditions were very poor with rain and wind trying hard to disrupt setting up procedures.

31C was quick to become operational and had an excellent vantage point, observation-wise but not so good sound wise as they were directly above 2 large generators, which kept up a constant hum all day and well into the evening making sound-detection also impossible.

32A have been doing some fine tracking and have produced excellent results in tracking our own mortars. There was excitement in the camp one occasion when an enemy mortar appeared on the time base, however it was a bad track and had to be abandoned.

After surveying both the gun batteries, the survey section under the command of L/Bdr Bruce Irvine have set up a very comfortable LP on the perimeter of the FSB. Although inexperienced in this field the boys are doing a reasonably good job and are becoming more accurate as they adjust to the area.

\*\*\*\*\*

From War Corresp. Des Spencer

A GOOD DEED. Overnight Arty Tac, through the foresight of the Co of 4 Fd Rgt has become foster parent of two Vietnamese families. The plan is to make their homes the "Toorak Suburb" of the hamlet, as neither families have husbands/fathers to care or provide for them. ....contd.

T.E.E. proudly presents Lt Col R G GARDNER its first W.H.A.M-AWARD and places him in the running for father of the year.

Footnote:- The latter award can only be entered into or won by married men.

\*\*\*\*\*

RTA BLUES: The newly-weds checked into their hotel room rather early, and retired for the night. An hour later the young bride asked, "How about it George?" George did not answer. Another hour elapsed and the bride asked again....."How about it George?"; Still no reply. The time flew by, and as the dawn was breaking, the bride asked again rather sharply, "George! how about it", ..... "How about what?", George finally answered, "How about going to sleep!".

\*\*\*\*\*

R&R DEPT: Paul 'Dicko' Dickson returned from 'Swingin' Singapore, with his head in a sling and a wallet full of moss. Graham Dignam waltzed in on cloud 9 from HONKERS and no one has been able to tune into his wavelength yet. R&R is hell!

\*\*\*\*\*

OOZ-OO: (In 31D) This hearty little group is led by Bdr Des (Spence-Baby) Spencer. Des was one of the original 'Jay' boys, but is now retired to the lap of luxury with our American Cousins and is getting quite a bang out of it.

John "Maverick" Blake is out to have a free all-expence paid G.I. paid R & R. This is being made possible by his business concern, The Casino Australiane.

Pete "Tubes" Fletcher, of surfing fame, is having his first try in an LP and he's having a Goddam Time.

Barry "The Arab" Guzder went on R & R the most frustrated member of the group. We all thought he'd return cured but he's twice as bad. He's now planning a partnership with Ruby of the Angel Bar in Hong Kong.

Nick "Muscles" Proskurin of 31A fame, is a new recruit to the LP but needs no breaking-in, as he's an old hand at the game.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Abbey,

Freinds of mine and myself are still unable to diagnose the nervous disorder of a certain Survey Officer, who habitually belts himself on the head with his hand. Could you offer a solution to this?

Ron Evans

Dear Ron,

This habit is a lot cheaper than alcoholism and no doubt has the same results. Maybe you and your freinds should try it too.

\*\*\*\*\*

Abbey.

Quotable Quotes.

.....Well the first thing I'll do when I get home is sandbag Mum's back verandah.....

Ross Gunnell

\*\*\*\*\*

The Light Side

A woman walked into a bar and was carrying a duck under her arm. The local drunk saw her and asked, "Say there, what are you doing with that pig?"

"That's not a pig, stupid", she said coldly. "That's a duck!"  
"I was talking to the duck", the drunk retorted.

OK, let's go looking for Vol 1 No IX...someone must have one ferreted away somewhere??

## **. Officer Commanding (OC) – Recollections of the Tour of Duty with Detachment 131**

### **Divisional Locating Battery, Royal Australian Artillery (RAA).**

This is the first in a series of OC's Recollections we are going to run in *Eyes & Ears*. 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).

We start off with **Jim Townley**, who was the Detachment's OC from 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1966 to 18<sup>th</sup> Aug 1966 – mind you he did do two other quick stints to SVN – with 103 Fd Bty 14<sup>th</sup> June – 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1963 and then with Headquarters, Australian Force Vietnam 30<sup>th</sup> April 1970 – 28<sup>th</sup> May 1970.

#### **“James Townley**

**Disclaimer** - These recollections cover events that took place about 50 years ago. I have never been a keeper of diaries or records, so I am relying on an imperfect memory. Please allow for this when you come across errors or omissions.

#### **Early Days in 131 Div Loc Bty**

I got some idea of things in Vietnam in 1963. I was then in Malaysia with 103 Fd Bty, as part of 28 Commonwealth Brigade. The officer training syllabus in 103 Fd Bty included Bernard Fall's book "Street Without Joy" and Graham Greene's "The Quiet American". The Australian officers in the brigade were also rotated through Vietnam a couple at a time for a week or ten days. My stint was with Barry Campton (also then with 103 Fd Bty) with US advisers in Pleiku and Kontum in the Central Highlands.

I joined 131 Div Loc Bty in early 1965 as an ACBO (Assistant Counter Bombardment Officer). This was before we adopted the UK term "Artillery Intelligence". With the benefit of 50 years of hindsight, I now think that the change was probably a mistake in our Australian / South East Asian context. However, that's another story.

131 Div Loc Bty was then an integrated ARA / CMF unit commanded by Major Pat Gowans. The ARA component consisting of Bty HQ and about one third of the battery were stationed at North Head (North Fort and the ARMCO in fact). The remainder, the CMF component, were at a depot on Pittwater Road. The ARA component, other than BHQ, consisted of a CB Section, a radar troop, a survey troop and a RAEME Wskp. At this stage, it was pretty clear that we would be in Vietnam in the not too distant future, because in early 1965, 1 RAR, supported by 105 Fd Bty had been deployed there. Although what was to become Det 131 Div Loc Bty had not then been formed, a lot of preliminary work was initiated by Pat Gowans, including identification and coding of stores, compiling ledgers and earmarking personnel for the detachment.

At the end of 1965 or the beginning of 1966, the ARA component of 131 Div Loc Bty relocated to Holsworthy and shared barracks with 1 Fd Regt. The CMF component remained at Pittwater Road and became 133 Div Loc Bty.

#### **Preparations Prior to Departure**

I think it must have been sometime in March that we were warned for deployment to Vietnam. Things then got pretty busy, and I can't remember much of the detail of what went on except for our pre-deployment medical which I do remember was conducted in the middle of the night at the Camp Hospital at Ingleburn.

I can only recall one pre-deployment exercise with HQ 1 TF and Tac HQ 1 Fd Regt, up the Colo-Putty Range. In hindsight, our immediate preparation was all a bit once over lightly, but we didn't have a lot of time given that HMAS Sydney, which took our equipment, was to sail about mid- April and the equipment had to be readied for a couple of weeks at sea on an open flight deck. It was also necessary to grant pre-embarkation leave of a week. It was really due to the preliminary administrative work, initiated by Pat Gowans, that we managed to squeeze it all in.

During this period also, the Detachment was formally raised, consisting of an Artillery Intelligence section, two Listening Posts, a radar section of two radar detachments, a survey section a small admin section of a WO2 and (maybe) a clerk and a Q clerk cum storeman. Also raised at the same time was the Det 131 Div Loc Bty Wskp commanded by WO1 Bill Prenter.

#### **Deployment to Vung Tau and Nui Dat (Operation Hardihood)**

The detachment's deployment to our Vung Tau staging area was split between air and sea. I went with a small advance party, including WO2 Frank Perry, our Detachment Sergeant Major, and all our equipment on HMAS Sydney in about the second week of April 1966. It must have been about then, because I can remember an ANZAC Day dawn service somewhere up in the Coral Sea. It was pretty moving as we were about to go on operations, and we already had other Australian units on operations in Vietnam and in Borneo.

Training on a very crowded ship was limited to small arms shooting and PT. There was little or no scope for any work on equipment, which of course had been heavily greased up for sea travel.

On arrival in Vung Tau Harbour, the ship was visited by General Westmoreland, the American force commander. He arrived in a highly polished Huey with a couple of equally highly polished aides. We all looked very shabby by comparison. Australian greens and jungle hat do not lend themselves to stylishness.

Unloading began that day, over the side into barges. My own vehicle with my party and me in it was hoisted over by crane about midnight; not a comfortable feeling. However, we survived the experience and arrived at a landing slip to set out for our staging area somewhere on the outskirts of Vung Tau out past the airfield. I should add at this stage that our knowledge of what was going on and what to expect was not good. The only map I had was a 1:1 000 000 Michelin Road map of Vietnam, containing not a lot of detail. It goes without saying of course that there were no guides to get us to the staging area. All there was, was a cheerful wave and the dreaded words "you can't miss it" from an MCO corporal at the top of the slipway. I had unhappy thoughts of taking a wrong turn and ending up in Hanoi. We did find the staging area, however, and flopped, only to be awakened at dawn by a lot of shouting and the sight of a couple of hundred black pyjama clad armed Vietnamese on the road nearby. As I said we really didn't have

too good a grasp on the situation, so I thought our end was nigh. Fortunately, they turned out to be trainees from a nearby training depot and, at that stage at least, on the government's side.

After about a week or so (I am a bit hazy on the details), a second advance party led by Andrew Opie, the radar section commander, arrived by air from Sydney, courtesy of QANTAS, RAAF Caribous and USAF C123s. Finally, again a little later, the main body of the detachment arrived, also by air, led by Peter Sadler, the Survey Section commander. The main work in this period was the degreasing of equipment and getting it back into operating order. From the staging area we deployed to the feature that became known as "Nui Dat". Again, I can't recall the actual date of our deployment from Vung Tau to Nui Dat, but it was by air and road. The area of what was to become the 1 ATF base was secured for the 1 ATF deployment by 173 (US) Airborne Brigade, which included 1 RAR and 105 Fd Bty.

### **Nui Dat Deployment and Operations**

The Task Force Commander's orders before we left Vung Tau had included the areas within the Nui Dat perimeter to be occupied by each unit and a general outline of his concept for immediate operations. This was to establish defensive positions and then for the infantry battalions to begin aggressive patrolling to clear out to gun range (9000 metres).

The Arty Int party deployed to Nui Dat by Huey with Tac HQ 1 Fd Regt as part of the task force headquarters. The rest of the detachment deployed by road with the main body of 1 Fd Regt in a protected convoy.

On arrival, Andrew Opie deployed the two radars, one ("A" commanded by Sgt Don Simmons) in the vicinity of 103 Fd Bty, and the other ("B" commanded by Sgt Fred Lennon) in the vicinity of 105 Fd Bty. Sgt Bill Finlay set up the Arty Int office with Tac HQ 1 Fd Regt. The two Listening Posts commanded by Bdrs Al Thomson and Dave Doyle went to the two infantry battalions. The Survey Section provided the link between the Topographical Survey Troop and the regimental survey section of 1 Fd Regt to place the guns and radars on theatre grid. (By now, we had something more than Michelin road maps to work on.) WO1 Bill Prenter deployed the Workshop co-located with the 1 Fd Regt LAD. I won't attempt to go through the ensuing days and weeks in detail, but rather pick out some highlights that I think I can remember.

Because the red laterite soil around the base did not lend itself to sandbag filling, especially when wet, runs were made to Vung Tau with the resupply convoys for a bit of time off and also to collect trailer loads of sand for sandbagging. It was on one of these runs that the detachment suffered its first casualty, when Gnr Tom Checkley sadly lost his life in a road accident.

Our personal equipment on deployment had included steel helmets. We never wore them and I guess somewhere around Nui Dat there is a deep hole with several thousand steel pots in it. I remember leaving mine at home in my married quarter at Holsworthy, so, embarrassingly, had to go back for it as we drove from Holsworthy to Garden Island. It was all in vain, as it got stolen on board HMAS Sydney anyway. Why I don't know as they were hardly an attractive souvenir item.

Likewise, with camouflage nets. In the absence of enemy air, these provided privacy screens. There must be a big pit full of them somewhere as well because they were the old cord and hessian type ones which, aside from being very smelly and weighing a ton (several tons when wet), were pretty much indestructible.

This was also the time of no mail. We got sporadic deliveries from home, but none of our letters got through. This caused a deal of distress as might be expected. The situation got a lot of publicity in Australian newspapers, one of which I seem to remember launched a "punch a postie" campaign. In the event, it wasn't the posties' fault. Mail from Vietnam to Australia was routed through Hawaii, where someone eventually found a shed full of it that no one had known what to do with.

Because the TF commander's concept of operations at this stage was all about clearing out to gun range from Nui Dat, there was no artillery deployment away from the area. Consequently, there was no call for survey to be carried forward. This must have been a very boring time for the survey section and I have always felt uncomfortable about this. Eventually, I think, Peter Saddler arranged for his surveyors to help out on radar detachments and LPs.

### **Equipment and Processes**

Aside from landrovers, radios, theodolites and tellurometers our major equipment was our AN/KPQ1 radars, originally developed for the USMC. They were probably late 1950s technology, as the RAA introduced them in the early 60s. They needed a ready and reliable supply of spare parts to keep them running, (think first generation 1960s TV set reliability as a yardstick). We deployed with three radars, two for mortar locating and one in the Workshop detachment. Without going into a lot of technical detail, which I am certainly not qualified to do, they had certain characteristics which governed how we operated.

We had deployed with a 90-day scaling of spare parts, by which the supply chain from Australia was to have been set up. Whether it was or not, I don't know, but I do know that in rather less than 90 days' problems of keeping the radars "on the air" through lack of spares became acute. We knew of a USMC unit at Da Nang who were equipped with AN/KPQ1s. So with the help of the staff at HQ AFV in Saigon, Bill Prenter and I headed off to Da Nang to do some begging. When we got there we were told that the unit concerned had been shipped back to the US as their AN/KPQ1s had been totally unsuccessful at locating mortars. Fortunately for us, they had left behind all their spares boxed for shipment, which the HQ AFV staff very kindly bought and shipped down to us. I would like to be able to report that this solved all our problems, but regrettably, it was not so. It did however lessen them.

The second defining characteristic was that when it was operating, to locate a mortar the AN/KPQ 1 needed to track a bomb in flight for about 10 seconds having first been directed where to search by information from the LPs. Given terrain masking limitations, the likelihood of getting a ten second track on a 60mm mortar, with which the local VC were reputedly armed, was pretty slim.

The unreliability of the AN/KPQ1s and their probable difficulties with 60 mm mortars meant we needed a "Plan B". Our Intelligence assessment was that we faced an enemy, who was unlikely to have any technological way of directing his mortar fire. We reckoned that he would probably limit his firing positions to natural features that he could find at night and orient by compass or by marks made during a day recon. Based on this, Bill Finlay and the Arty Int section pored over maps to identify likely creek junctions, track junctions and so on, out to 60 mm and then 82 mm mortar range. I can't remember if we did 120mm mortar range as well. We then grouped these targets by locality, allocated a nickname to each group of targets and then produced an AB545 fire plan for 1 Fd Regt including the attached US 155 mm battery. (The original Fire Plan "Cracker Barrel").

In the event, all this work paid off during the mortar attack on the TF base in August that preceded Long Tan. The TF was attacked by 82 mm mortars and an old Japanese 70 mm howitzer left over from WW2. Based on mortreps and locreps, the appropriate targets were engaged. After action reports, quoted by Ernie Chamberlain in his translation of the unit history of D445, record body parts and bloody dressings in the areas shelled by counter battery fire. The 70 mm howitzer story is interesting. It was identified from an unexploded projectile found on the road outside the 1 Fd Regt Adjutant's tent. The shell had gouged a rubber tree to which his tent was tied. The shell had failed to explode because the fuse had not been screwed completely in. As I was not about to handle it to measure it, the shell was identified from photographs sent to the Captured Materiel Exploitation Centre.

### **Personalities**

I was very fortunate to have Peter Sadler and Andrew Opie as officers in the detachment. That the calibre of the NCOs was also high can be judged by their success in later careers. It is probably unfair to single out individuals, but some do stick in the mind even after 50 years. Last I heard of them (some time ago now):

Bill Prenter was commissioned, commanded the LAD of 8/12 Mdm Regt and became a wing SI at the RAEME Training Centre.

Graham O'Toole became the WO1 Regimental Master Gunner at the Directorate of Artillery in Canberra.

Fred Lennon, Bill Finlay, Alan Campbell and Dave Doyle all did Gunnery Staff courses at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, and became AIGs at North Head. Alan was later commissioned.

Keith Deans became a PTI, transferred to the Medical Corps when they took over PT and I think became RSM of the School of Army Health.

Don Simmons became a Pastor.

Karl Doehrmann became our second casualty when he was wounded in the mortar attack on Nui Dat. He was also commissioned later.

I have vivid recollections of Al Thomson. Somehow or other he seemed to have an endless supply of jokes and huge black evil smelling cigars as well as a .45 pistol which I never wanted to know how he came by.

I couldn't close without a fond mention of my batman, Ralph Pearce. Sadly, I never did find out what happened to him in later life, but I'll bet it would have been interesting.

### **RTA**

I left Vietnam in August on posting to a Gunnery Staff Course at Larkhill, via a week in Sydney to collect my family and sell our elderly Holden.

I handed over to Barry Campton, whose recollections I guess come next."

**Ed** – from the start it does make you read and absorb with some fear and trepidation with Jim's account of the "Pioneers" preparation and introduction to what was and continued to be a very serious affair. Peter Sadler passed in 2008. Jim has been advised of Ralph Pearce's passing, but sadly there is no record of this date.

**As** a post script Ed hounded Jim for a bit of prior-SVN/post-SVN info and he supplied the following amazing bio (for someone who doesn't keep diaries), in detail, on what else his career entailed –

### **Before and After...**

I graduated from RMC Duntroon into the RAA in December 1960 and joined 103 Field Battery of 4<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment at Wacol about Easter 1961. The battery was due to go to Malaya (as it was then) at the end of 1961. Before that however, our major exercise was Exercise Tropic Holiday Mount Paluma / Hidden Valley area out from Townsville. My everlasting memory of this exercise was the five day drive to and from in 2.5 ton Studebakers towing our 25 pounders in convoy at a stately 45 miles per two hours, and being checked for time intervals by the CO with a stop-watch. For the "singlies" of the battery, our trip to Malaya was aboard an Italian migrant ship MV Flaminia. We boarded her in Sydney having travelled down overnight from Brisbane on a troop train, or at least three or four carriages which if I remember correctly were detached from the rest of the train somewhere in Sydney and shunted directly to the dock where we boarded. We sailed late because some of the VIPs who had come to farewell us were loath to leave the hospitality of the Captain's reception for them (or at least so the story went at the time). We got a gun salute from the School of Artillery as we exited the Heads.

About 12 or so days later we docked in Singapore and the next day were bussed up to Malacca and Camp Terendak, which would be our home for the next two years. Camp Terendak, the base of 28<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Brigade, which consisted of: an infantry battalion from each of Australia (2RAR), New Zealand and the UK; an integrated field regiment (26Regiment RA) of two British batteries and ourselves; and integrated engineer, signals, transport, ordnance, military police and medical sub-units. It was a busy two years with exercises at battery, regimental, battalion and brigade level, and live firing at Assahan range. However, it wasn't so busy that I couldn't manage a quick trip by RNZAF back to Australia to get married to Wendy and then return to Malacca by sea.

Very early in the piece we changed from an eight gun, two troop battery to a six gun battery, and re-equipped from 25 pounders to 105 mm L5s. We also learned to deploy in a variety of fixed wing aircraft ranging from Beverley heavy transports to single engine Pioneers, a variety of RAF and RN helicopters, and assault boats, all of which required the guns to be stripped and carried in pieces. Incidentally, we used all of these deployment methods at one time or another on exercises. At the end of 1963, the battery returned to Holsworthy and joined 1<sup>st</sup> Field Regiment.

After a year in 1st field Regiment, I was posted to 131<sup>st</sup> Divisional Locating Battery at North Head. I won't cover that again as I already did so in my "OC's Recollections", except to recall that the battery was given the job of inducting the first intake of National servicemen at Moore Park barracks in Sydney. Two things struck me about that exercise: the first was how composed the inductees were faced with the prospect of having two years taken out of their lives with little or no recourse; the second was the very professional banners being displayed by the Save our Sons movement - probably the start of the Vietnam War protest movement.

After leaving SVN, I went to England for 18 months to do a Gunnery Staff Course, followed by six months as an instructor in Germany. Then back to North Head to be the Senior Instructor of Locating Wing, once again back at North Fort. Here I was privileged to work with a virtual "Who's Who" of locating artillery. As well as IGs Barry Campton and John Jansen, the AIGs at various times included Norm McManus, Geoff Jebb, Bill Liddell, Kevin Salter, Harry Webster, Alan Cleasby and Fred Lennon.

For the rest of my time in the Army until I retired in 1994, I was fortunate enough to spend most of my time in artillery postings, including stints in the Directorate of Artillery as a major, a lieutenant colonel and finally as a colonel as Director, when Graham O'Toole (ex 131 Bty) was the Regimental Master Gunner. I was also lucky enough to be the Battery Commander of 106<sup>th</sup> Field Battery in 4<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment in Townsville and then in 28<sup>th</sup> ANZUK Field Regiment in Singapore. I was doubly lucky in that Bill Gallagher was the BSM, and I had served with Bill in Malaya in 103 Field Battery. We were in Singapore when Mr Whitlam became Prime Minister and the National Servicemen in the battery were given the option of leaving immediately. Most chose to stay. A couple of years later I became the Commanding Officer of 1<sup>st</sup> Field Regiment in Wacol, where I was again fortunate to have as RSM, Rex Taylor who sadly died a couple of years ago and Gerry Berson who also had been in 103 Field Battery.

My non-artillery postings were as an exchange officer with the US Army at Fort Hood, Texas, as Director of Combat Development at Army Office, Canberra, as Commander of the 5<sup>th</sup> Military District in Perth, as Commandant of the Command and Staff College at Queenscliff in Victoria, and as Director General of Operations and Plans at Army Office. I also had postings as a student at Queenscliff, and at the Joint Services Staff College in Canberra and at the Royal College of Defence Studies in London.

Since leaving the army, I completed a degree in International Relations at Deakin University. I also chaired the Conditions of Service Committee at the National Headquarters of the RSL and represented the RSL at hearings of Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal. These days my main interests are golf and grandchildren.

**It is just so good to be able to archive this information and it's only the first in the series.  
Next month we get to know Barry Campton.**

**. The Australian War Memorial (AWM) collection** – this is a continuation of the collection that was forwarded by **Ernie Newbold** from the AWM Collection. The description is below the photo. We'll add more of these edition by edition.



Nui Dat, South Vietnam. 1966. Radar equipment for locating and detecting enemy artillery positions, used by 131<sup>st</sup> Divisional Locating Battery, Royal Australian Artillery, 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Task Force (1ATF).

**ID number EKN/66/0064/VN Date made 1966**

Ed – OK who's the Locator??

. **Ed** – I was sent the following link by a couple of readers and after browsing the contents (here's the link if anyone is interested - <https://www.awm.gov.au/wartime/>) and as I was closing it up I had the strangest feeling that the face on the front cover reminded me of someone? The "grunt" on the front cover reminded me of Tony Goldsmith.



Let's see if Tony thinks so? OK put a bit of "camo" or grime on his face might do it!



**Mail Call...**



**Warwick Hamilton** is recovering steadily from an extremely serious illness and breaks his silence with some fantastic news with regards to his health which has been kept very low key...

"In Jan this year, after an annual medical, out of the blue I was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia and rushed off to hospital. A course of low dose chemotherapy over a long period (2 years) was started. After the first set of this I developed a rampant fungal lung infection which resulted in me having to have my lower left lung lobe removed; a successful operation I'm pleased to say. In all I was in hospital for 2 months. I'm back home, slowly replacing the 15 Kg I lost, working hard to regain my strength and fitness, and improving every day.

**The good news is that I am now officially in remission from the leukaemia!!**

The doctors think that this pretty rapid recovery is because I was diagnosed early and was very fit. I now just have to get strong and fit again. I'll still be on a maintenance course of chemo for probably another 18 months but now I don't have to go to the hospital 4 times a week, so, while there are still some restrictions, Kate and I can begin to have a life again!

Moral of this story...keep fit! Warwick"

**Kevin Salter** sent in the following Facebook link of the AWM's which Ed copied the following text (the photos are worth clicking on the link to have a look at) as the last paragraph (highlighted in bold) does give statistics of KIA's and wounded of our blokes, the Kiwis and the then enemy.

Subject: Photos 1ATF Nui Dat, Vietnam 1966 to 1971

[https://www.facebook.com/battleoflongtan/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=10153858414803375](https://www.facebook.com/battleoflongtan/photos/?tab=album&album_id=10153858414803375)

### **1ATF Nui Dat, Vietnam 1966 to 1971**

Here is part one of a two part Photo Album containing lots of photos of the 1st Australian Task Force at Nui Dat in Phuoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam, between 24 May 1966 and 16 October 1971.

Once Phuoc Tuy in South Vietnam had been selected as the provincial site for the 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF), a location for its base had to be chosen. There were three possibilities: Ba Ria, Phuoc Tuy's capital; the port of Vung Tau; and an area in the province's central region known as Nui Dat, Vietnamese for 'small hill'.

Nui Dat was an ideal location for the new Australian Task Force base. It was on a main highway, Route 2, approximately 30 kilometres from the port of Vung Tau which was the new Australian logistic support base. Nui Dat was some distance from Phuoc Tuy's provincial capital, Ba Ria, and was sufficiently isolated to enable the Australians to manage their own operations. However, the area around Nui Dat had been a well-known Viet Cong stronghold and many of the residents in nearby villages had family members in the Viet Cong. Removed from population centres but

close to Viet Cong base areas, Nui Dat was considered ideal for the type of counter-insurgency warfare that Australians waged in Phuoc Tuy.

Its location in the centre of the province meant that Nui Dat was in the middle of Viet Cong territory. Therefore, security was of prime importance. The villages nearest Nui Dat – Long Tan and Long Phuoc – were both considered Viet Cong strongholds and the Australian task force's first commander, Brigadier O.D. Jackson, with the agreement of the Province Chief, had the people and livestock of the two villages forcibly resettled. The removal of the local people from the vicinity meant that the chances of the Viet Cong gathering information about the base and the movement of Australian troops were significantly reduced. However, attempts to win the support of Phuoc Tuy's people were compromised by the decision to remove people from their homes without compensation.

The base was established by members of the United States 173rd Airborne, the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR) and the newly arrived 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (5RAR) on 24 May 1966. This effort was called 'Operation Hardihood'. More details here - <http://bit.ly/1TXKQUO>

The first soldiers to occupy it lived in tents and worked to establish defences. Every soldier at Nui Dat had a fighting pit. Elevated bunkers, manned 24 hours a day, were constructed around the base's perimeter which was further defended by wire obstacles and belts of anti-personnel mines. Vegetation was cleared from a 500-metre wide area outside the wire to provide fields of fire and a clear view of approaching Viet Cong.

At its peak the base at Nui Dat was home to some 5,000 Australian, New Zealand, and American personnel, but for much of the time most of them were deployed on operations outside the base.

Most Australian units and individual soldiers served in Vietnam for a 12-month tour of duty but most combat soldiers saw little of Nui Dat. The Australian style of counter-insurgency operations kept troops away from the base for long periods and many men only returned for a few days between 'ops'.

After ten years of war every Australian infantry battalion except 8RAR and 9RAR had served two tours of duty in Vietnam. The Australian withdrawal effectively commenced in November 1970. As a consequence of the overall US strategy of Vietnamization and with the Australian government keen to reduce its own commitment to the war, 8 RAR was not replaced at the end of its tour of duty. 1 ATF was again reduced to just two infantry battalions, albeit with significant armour, artillery and aviation support remaining. One of the New Zealand infantry companies—W Company—was also withdrawn at this time.

Australian combat forces were further reduced during 1971 as part of a phased withdrawal. The Battle of Nui Le on 21 September proved to be the last major battle fought by Australian and New Zealand forces in the war, and resulted in five Australians being killed and 30 wounded. Meanwhile, the New Zealand SAS troop was withdrawn in February and the artillery battery in May. Finally, on 16 October Australian forces handed over control of the base at Nui Dat to South Vietnamese forces, while 4 RAR, the last Australian infantry battalion in South Vietnam, sailed for Australia on board HMAS Sydney on 9 December 1971. V Company and the New Zealand medical team were also withdrawn at this time. Meanwhile, D Company, 4 RAR with an assault pioneer and mortar section and a detachment of APCs remained in Vung Tau to protect the task force headquarters and 1 ALSG until the final withdrawal of stores and equipment could be completed, finally returning to Australia on 12 March 1972.

**Between June 1966 and December 1971, 1 ATF recorded at least 3,370 Viet Cong killed, the majority in Phuoc Tuy, while an unknown number were wounded. Total Australian casualties during the Vietnam War were 521 killed and 3,025 wounded, the bulk of which were sustained by 1 ATF. New Zealand casualties during the war were 37 killed and 187 wounded.**

**David Dougherty** thought the following may be of interest – “Hi Paul,

The attached article I thought, particularly the last paragraph may be of interest as it could stir up a few responses from both sides ie. Regs & Nashos.

#### **‘Article from WARTIME Issue 75 Winter 2016**

##### **NASHOS: VIETNAM**

##### **“Nashos”**

The National Service Act 1964 required all 20-year-old males selected by a birthdate ballot to serve in the army for 24 months of continuous service (reduced to 18 months in 1971), followed by three years in the reserve. An amendment in May 1965 meant that conscripts could be obliged to serve overseas, and in March 1966 Prime Minister Harold Holt announced that National Servicemen would be sent to Vietnam to join units of the Australian Regular Army.

Between 1964 and the end of the scheme in 1972, 804,286 Australian 20-year-old males registered for National Service. After excluding those not selected by birthdate, exempted, deferred or rejected as unfit, 63,740 (8 per cent) were called up. Fewer than 25 per cent of those, 15,381, served in Vietnam, where they constituted up to 50 per cent of army units and 200 died in or as a result of service in Vietnam.

National Service proved divisive, both socially and politically. The scheme enabled the rapid expansion of the army during the Vietnam War, but public debate over sending conscripted men to fight in Vietnam aroused intense passions, particularly after the first "nasho" casualties were reported in 1966. The process of "selective conscription" was marred by the infamous ballot of birthdates drawn from a lottery barrel. That "lottery of death", as opponents called it, seemed manifestly inequitable since it selected less than one in three of those who registered. Moreover, the 20-year-old men involved were unable to vote against it, the voting age being 21.

A young man who registered for national service had a **one in 12 chance of being called up, a one in 50 chance of being sent to Vietnam and a one in 4,000 chance of being killed there.**

Yet those odds in the lottery seemed to deter few young men. Contrary to popular perceptions at the time, and the prominent publicity afforded to dissenters and conscientious objectors, the levels of compliance were surprisingly high.

The scheme was a selective process to provide the army only young men of the highest fitness and aptitude for training. Regular army officers, from the most senior to battalion and company commanders, consistently remarked upon the outstanding quality of the national servicemen. One officer observed that the nashos were "more mature, less rattled, less enthusiastic and more stolid, than the general run-of-the-mill Regular recruit... [They] think of nothing but the 'number of days to go', hate saluting, treat you on your merits rather than your rank, are less impressed in general - but work well and take to the jungle like naturals."

For more information, see the appendix in the official history volume by Peter Edwards, *A nation at war, or on the Memorial's website: [www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/viet\\_app/](http://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/viet_app/)* WARTIME ISSUE 75 | 51'

**Allen Morley** – Ed thought about "from the frying pan into the fire" might be appropriate for this piece that Allen sent in – "Paul, Who called the cook a bastard ...They all get caught out eventually. Allen"

## Vietnam vets take aim at 'cooked-up commander'

**ANDREW FAULKNER**

VIETNAM veterans are demanding the resignation of a newly elected RSL board member because they say he falsely claimed to command an infantry platoon but he was only the company cook.

But South Australian mayor and RSL board member Tony Flaherty said the campaign against him is "fabricated" and vowed to fight the allegations in court.

The issue will be sent to an RSL tribunal, might force another RSL election and will

probably end up in court. The complainants say Mr Flaherty falsely claimed in board election material that he served in a "platoon commander role" with C Company's 8 Platoon in Vietnam.

"It's a shame that it's progressed to this because he was a very popular catering sergeant," former 8 Platoon commander Lieutenant Chris Sinclair (retired) said.

"But to say that he was platoon commander of my platoon is false."

Retired Major David Rankine, who commanded C Com-

pany and was awarded a Military Cross for gallantry, said Mr Flaherty was "a sergeant cook and a good one".

Mr Flaherty said he had engaged lawyers.

"I'm the mayor of the local district and the president of the (Two Wells) RSL," he said. "I've spent my whole life working with cancer patients for 25 years and in the prison system. I wouldn't tell a lie. I'm not the type of bloke that tells lies."

He said he commanded a composite platoon that was formed as a "blocking force" in Vietnam.

SUNDAY JULY 3 2016

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



Last gasp reminder for the  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan Ceremonies  
and Reunion Dinner in Canberra ACT  
on the 17/18<sup>th</sup> August.

If you act TO-DAY you will still be accommodated as the  
**RSVP is 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2016.** Email [sectreas131locators@gmail.com](mailto:sectreas131locators@gmail.com)  
or call Grahame on Mob 0437 361 602 and he will add you  
to the list and then all you have to do is BE THERE!

**Ron Mason** sent the following information regarding the VVA Remembrance Day in **Melbourne**...

### VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION

#### **Vietnam Veterans Day Remembrance Ceremony Thursday 18th August 2016 Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance**

0930 – 1030hrs **Gunfire Breakfast** - Behind Police Memorial.

1030hrs - Marchers Form up at Police Memorial, St Kilda Rd

1100hrs - March Step Off followed by Official Commemoration Service.

1215hrs - Formalities conclude - "Brew Truck" behind Shrine Flags.

**Enquiries** to VVAA Vic State Office VV Day Coordinator Maurie Benson Telephone 0417 588 886 Email: office@vvaavic.org.au

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY is a day for all to re-member and commemorate lives lost during Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War 1962 - 1975 and those who continue to suffer as a result of the War.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan will be commemorated with a special VV Day service at the Melbourne Shrine. All Vietnam veterans, families and friends are invited to attend.

**Steve Boutlis** sends in the following information on what's happening the VVA Remembrance Day on the **Sunshine Coast**... "Hi, Dicko. The Vietnam Veterans Sunshine Coast will be commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan with an **"almost-dawn" ceremony and breakfast at the War Dogs Memorial** just above the ocean at Alexandra Headland, then a mid-morning short march and ceremony at the RSL Memorial at Cotton Tree Park, followed by a luncheon at the Maroochy RSL until 1600 hours. Whilst the day will have many solemn moments, it is anticipated that there will be many lies told and will be at times hilarious with lots of camaraderie enjoyed by the vets. I hope that all of our mates will have a memorable and enjoyable day. Cheers, Boots."

**Peter Dealy** lets us know what happening in his neck of the woods - **Goulburn Valley VVA** are holding a Service on **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August at the Shepparton Memorial Park**. March starts from Shepparton RSL at 10.30 followed by 11.00 Service. Speaker is John Methven, very well known for his work in the early days of VVA and with establishing the National Vietnam Museum at Philip Island. All welcome. Cheers, Peter Dealy President GVVVA.

**Terry Erbs** lets us know what's happening in **Brisbane** – "The commemoration service for the Battle of Long Tan will be held at **6RAR, Gallipoli Barracks Enoggera, commencing at 3.15pm** Thursday, 18th August. Due to DVA and 6RAR association planning, we may only attend the commemoration service as observers and are not invited to the official afternoon tea afterwards. However, 20th STA Regiment have kindly invited veteran locators back for drinks at the Menz Club following the commemoration service. For those who would like to attend there will be the usual security issues entering Gallipoli Barracks, consequently names must be provided to the Regiment as soon as possible. For those who wish to attend, please email me and I'll compile list for 20th STA Regiment. Terry Erbs"

#### **Some of the blokes going to Canberra sent in emails –**

**John Blake** – "Paul, I am going. My first, and would love to see as many as I can. John"

**"stan briggs** is going to Canberra for the long tan day" - that was the email - don't you just love Stan!

**Ed – Have a great time wherever you are on the 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**. A NEW SERIES comes to life...hopefully!!**

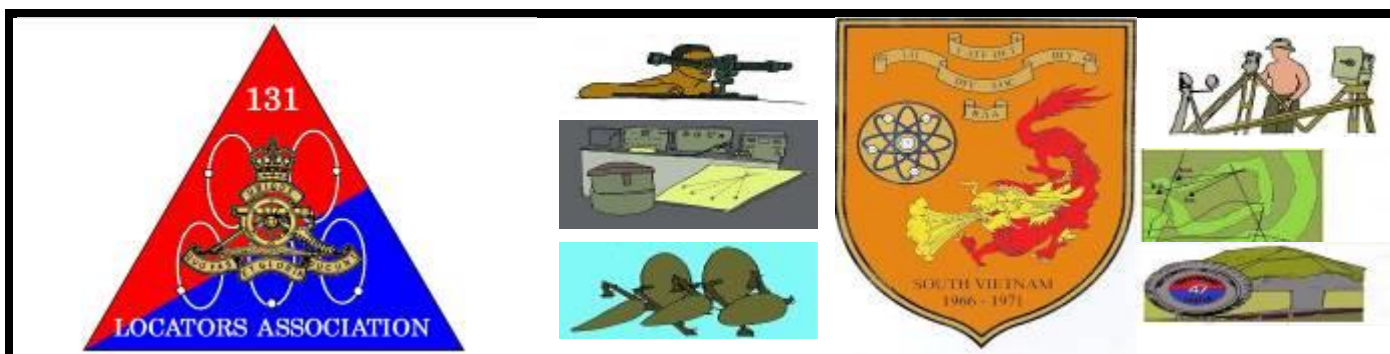


Ok, yes there are some of you out there who still do, or who have packed up at some time and wandered off to camp grounds / caravan parks or some spot/s that requires carting everything for ever how long.

Well, this has come to life with some correspondence I've had with **Michael Quinlan**, whom I hounded once I saw his Locator Profile and what he was up to when he sent it in! He is a bit of an avid wanderer. I'm not giving secrets away now, but you'll get the idea when you see his Profile.

Now, I think I was instilled with the camping "bug" at a fairly early age with the family (no, it didn't start with the army,

Hear from you soon - not to drop too many names, but yes **Ernie** and **Warwick** you both have run up numerous kilometres in traversing the countryside taking in some of what nature has to offer!!



Regional Representatives: ACT – Bert Blink, Qld – Terry Erbs, SA - Geoff Blackwell,  
Vic (Melb) – Alan Adams, WA - Barry Guzder  
<http://www.131locators.org.au>

Email [sectreas131locators@gmail.com](mailto:sectreas131locators@gmail.com) to check. Grahame"

## Allen

**You're all welcome**



**Attendees were:** Allen Morley, Grahame Dignam, Ernest Newbold, George Lane, Ian Amos, Gordon Malcolm, Bert Blink, Nick Proskurin, Ged Carroll, and Vic Danko.

**Welcome** - Chairman President, Allen Morley opened the meeting at 11.05 AM. He remembered our comrade, Hans Weber, who passed away on 12 July 2016 after a long illness. Allen also thanked those who had travelled some distance to join us to-day when we remember the 100 year Anniversary of the Battle of Fromelles and the horrific losses suffered by Australia in that conflict.

**Financial Membership is currently ...142 plus Associates 2, Affiliates 7 Total 151. Lapsed 12 members**

#### Presidents report.

Allen advised that

- He had finally received a cheque from VVPP Granville for our portion of the DVA Grant approved by the Minister on 11 April 2016.
- He had attended the LSTAA meeting and had nominated for the Jnr. Vice President position and was elected.
- We should begin thinking about the next milestone being the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the departure of May 1967 SVN travel group.

#### Public Officer Report.

Vic advised that he had been approached via email requesting we register various versions on the "131 Locators" domain name that would operate in the Peoples Republic of China. Otherwise local Chinese entities could register and use those names. Research indicated that this was a scam attempting to secure funds from us for unnecessary internet domain names that we would never use. Vic replied in vigorous terms indicating that we were not interested in proceeding along those lines.

#### Arrangements for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Battle of Long Tan event Canberra August 2016

- The VIP invitations have been sent.
- The invitations to the original 131 DLB Association committee have been sent.
- We have been in contact with **Mrs. Eileen Sadler** widow of **Major Peter Sadler** who we have invited to join some of our activities while we were in Canberra for this event.

The **Guessing Competition draw** was undertaken with the assistance of Club Duty Manager Ms Kathy Hampsey who conducted the draw on our behalf. (See attached). The winner of the Noosa package is **Koen Alexander** of Collingwood Vic. Who is holder of ticket/envelope #70 and these details appear on the 131 Locators and the LSTAA websites

**General Business** - Nick Proskurin produced an example of a name tag that could be adopted. The size is acceptable and the design needs to be developed.

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

#### . Birthdays in the Battery...August –

| August | Name                | Regt No | YOB  | In SVN      | Out SVN    | Comments     |
|--------|---------------------|---------|------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| 1      | PHILLIP ROSS        | 3794468 | 1947 | 06 05 1969  | 30 04 1970 |              |
| 1      | JOSEPH LOSIAK       | 218302  | 1950 | 04 11 1969  | 05 11 1970 |              |
| 1      | JOHN LUCAS          | 3796256 | 1948 | 20 02 1970  | 11 02 1971 |              |
| 2      | JOHN GREENAWAY      | 3790617 | 1946 | 24 10 1967  | 22 10 1968 |              |
| 3      | LES SMITHLESTER     | 1201202 | 1949 | 23 09 1968  | 24 09 1969 |              |
| 3      | MICHAEL BUTLER      | 3796958 | 1948 | 04 06 1970  | 09 06 1971 |              |
| 3      | GRAHAM GREENLAND    | 2792441 | 1948 | 15 04 1970  | 29 07 1970 | † 17.11.14   |
| 4      | ANDREW OVERALL Lt.  | 235330  | 1946 | 22 02 1969  | 21 02 1970 |              |
| 7      | MARTY VAN DRIEL     | 38954   | 1944 | 27 11 1967  | 13 03 1968 | † 08.08.98   |
| 7      | RANDALL JONES       | 2788775 | 1947 | 29 01 1969  | 28 11 1969 |              |
| 8      | ARTHUR LUXFORD Sgt. | 212803  | 1939 | 20 01 1969  | 28 01 1970 | † 01.01.08   |
| 8      | EDWIN LEWIS Sgt.    | 53909   | 1935 | 18 03 1970  | 11 03 1971 | † 26.08.92   |
| 9      | TERRY WELSH         | 4721779 | 1949 | 03 03 1971  | 29 06 1971 | 131          |
|        | " "                 |         |      | 30 06 1971  | 30 10 1971 | 12 Fd REGT   |
| 9      | GARRY GRIMWOOD      | 2795771 | 1949 | 24 03 1971  | 01 07 1971 | 131          |
|        | " "                 |         |      | 01 07 1971  | 18 11 1971 | 12 Fd Regt.  |
| 12     | ALAN THOMSON        | 42308   | 1937 | 20 05 1966  | 22 06 1967 |              |
| 13     | BRIAN HACKETT       | 2783449 | 1945 | 03 01 1967  | 12 12 1967 |              |
| 13     | STAN BRIGGS         | 1731999 | 1945 | 27 11 1967  | 17 09 1968 |              |
| 13     | BOB BRUCE           | 4718049 | 1945 | 11 06 1967  | 13 12 1967 |              |
| 15     | JOHN POLLOCK        | 53860   | 1939 | {17 04 1967 | 24 05 1967 | 131          |
|        | " "                 |         |      | {05 02 1971 | 07 04 1971 | 12 Fd REGT   |
| 15     | KEVIN TAYLOR        | 2791357 | 1945 | 29 07 1969  | 23 07 1970 |              |
| 15     | NORMAN McMANUS WO2  | 26202   | 1924 | 09 11 1970  | 19 08 1971 |              |
| 17     | PIERRE GOSS         | 213990  | 1936 | 24 03 1969  | 25 03 1970 | † 06.08.2011 |

|    |                    |         |      |            |            |                   |
|----|--------------------|---------|------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| 20 | PETER BINNS        | 356367  | 1947 | 27 11 1967 | 19 11 1968 |                   |
| 21 | NORMAN JONES       | 5717611 | 1950 | 04 05 1971 | 01 12 1971 | 12 Fd Regt / AACC |
| 22 | JOHN VICKARY       | 1732218 | 1945 | 04 05 1967 | 30 01 1968 |                   |
| 22 | STUART SPORN       | 4718471 | 1945 | 04 05 1967 | 30 01 1968 |                   |
| 22 | ANTHONY COUTTS     | 1733291 | 1946 | 29 01 1968 | 21 01 1969 | † 1988            |
| 23 | ROBERT ETHERINGTON | 66962   | 1946 | 04 11 1969 | 19 11 1970 |                   |
| 24 | JOHAN MOLENCAMP    | 2795074 | 1948 | 03 03 1971 | 30 06 1971 | 131               |
|    | " "                |         |      | 02 07 1971 | 09 08 1971 | 12 Fd REGT        |
| 25 | LES FROST          | 215230  | 1945 | 22 04 1966 | 28 04 1967 | † 26.03.14        |
| 25 | KENNETH JONES      | 2786931 | 1946 | 27 11 1967 | 26 11 1968 |                   |
| 25 | COLIN WEST         |         | 1947 | 20 01 1969 | 21 01 1970 |                   |
| 26 | MAX TROYNAR        | 3790244 | 1945 | 05 05 1967 | 30 01 1968 |                   |
| 26 | STANLEY PATTERSON  | 38451   | 1947 | 29 01 1969 | 28 11 1969 |                   |
| 27 | LAWRENCE FARR      | 1734257 | 1947 | 27 08 1969 | 25 02 1970 | † 2009            |
| 27 | KEN PIESLEY        | 2787174 | 1946 | 27 11 1967 | 19 11 1968 |                   |
| 27 | GORDON MALCOLM     | 2785906 | 1946 | 26 09 1967 | 17 09 1968 |                   |
| 27 | PETER WHITAKER     | 2786848 | 1946 | 27 11 1967 | 19 11 1968 |                   |
| 27 | PETER CREEDON      | 2790207 | 1947 | 31 01 1969 | 28 01 1970 |                   |
| 27 | GRANT PERRINS      | 1734509 | 1947 | 27 11 1969 | 04 06 1970 |                   |
| 28 | DAVID PIMM         | 215746  | 1946 | 17 04 1967 | 23 04 1968 | RAEME             |
| 29 | TIM FORD Capt.     | 235300  | 1945 | 19 08 1970 | 05 08 1971 |                   |
| 31 | STEPHEN PALMER     | 18820   | 1946 | 12 04 1968 | 30 04 1969 | RAEME † 03.12.72  |

**Ed** – What, 10 blokes not highlighted – c'mon fellas where the hell are they!!

**. Locator Profiles** – we've struck some sort of "pay-dirt", as we sent out some 73 "Incomplete" Locator Profile emails, after last month's *Eyes & Ears*, and have had a hearty response – there is a "Locator God" out there somewhere! We received responses from 10 blokes – we're impressed. So we now we'll continue to get them despatched. So c'mon fellas and let's keep the Tellurometer



**. Located...**

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

**.Vale**

| <u>Name</u>          | <u>Regt No</u> | <u>Rank</u> | <u>In SVN</u> | <u>Out SVN</u> | <u>DOB</u> | <u>DOD</u> |
|----------------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|------------|------------|
| Weber, Hans Reinhard | 3789591        | Gnr         | 05.05.67      | 02.04.68       | 10.12.45   | 12.07.16   |



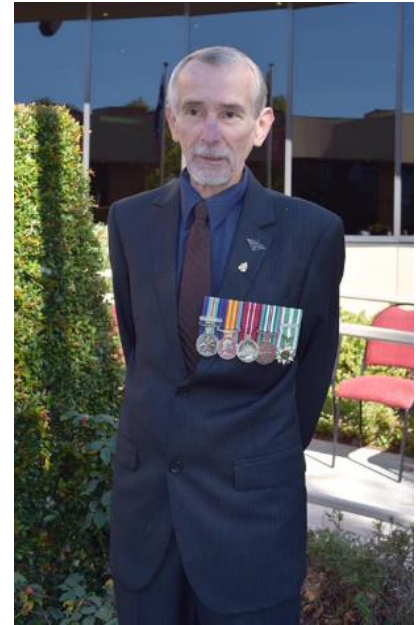
Hans with the late mate Geoff Wood. Hans wrote to us with information on Geoff's passing at the time.



Above - Coffs Reunion 2009 with great mate Stuart Sporn



At Coffs with John Vickary, Stuart Sporn and Ian Amos. (above)



Pete Ravelje's photo at Coffs 2009

**Ian Amos** – “Hi Dicko,  
Very sad to learn of Han's death. Mesothelioma is such a terrible disease. I only met him once since Vietnam at one of the Coffs reunions.  
Attached is the only photo I have with Hans in it. This picture dates around October/November 1967. Lots of other interesting faces/heads/bodies there too. Ian’



The photo L to R: Steve Boutlis (side on), Hans, Ian Amos, Geoff Holden and Bob Billiard.

**Allen Morley** – “Hans has ceased suffering from one of the worst and most painful cancers of them all. I will remember him as a happy go lucky Victorian country boy. RIP Hans. Allen”

## May He Rest In Peace



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

So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the Eyes & Ears regularly you could bite the bullet and email Grahame [Dignam:sectreas131locators@gmail.com](mailto: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

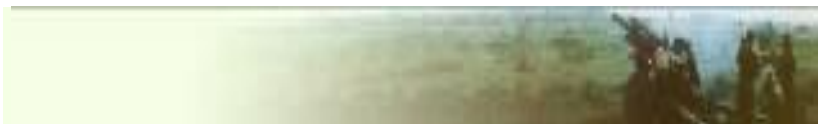
"A/c Name: 131 Locators Association Inc. Bank: Westpac, Kingsgrove NSW BSB No: 032 166 A/c No: 264133"

**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](http://www.australianartilleryassociation.com)



[www.artilleryhistory.org](http://www.artilleryhistory.org)



**Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia**  
Honour the dead, but fight like hell for the living

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

#### . VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE <http://www.dva.gov.au/Pages/home.aspx> <http://www.dva.gov.au/Pages/home.aspx>

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](http://www.at-ease.dva.gov.au)

#### . 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 83<sup>rd</sup> Artillery...



Dedicated to the men of the 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery who served in Vietnam from 1966-1971. We left Fort Sill in October 1966 for Vietnam. We originally were at Bear Cat, Nui Dat and Xuan Loc. We later were in many other locations in Vietnam. We also welcome our Australian and New Zealand Allies to whom we owe so much. It is also dedicated to those members of the 1/83rd who did not return. We will never forget their sacrifice. Website: <http://www.1stbn83rdartyvietnam.com>



The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association  
<http://www.mzaa.org.nz/>

Editor contact email: [three-zero@hotmail.com](mailto:three-zero@hotmail.com) Ed – Paul 'Dicko' Dickson

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