

THE EYES and EARS

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



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50 Years later and we're there...Canberra



Some of our blokes at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Canberra – L-R - Ged Carroll, George Lane, Allen Morley, Spike Chase (rear), Bob Billiard, Ron Mason (rear), Grahame Dignam, John Blake (rear), Bert Blink, John Vickary (Rear) and Joe Librizzi. (Missing Stan Briggs - talking to Tony Abbott)

...then we get going with some of Ged Carroll's memorable photos...using one of his captions to describe one photo in particular – you guess which one?



“two old soldiers” – “Spike” Chase and George Lane. (at left)



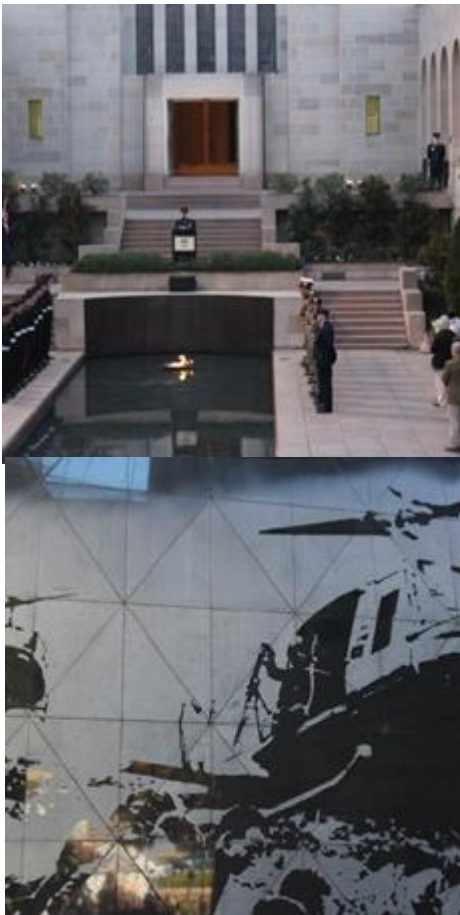
John Vickary and John Blake



**The Memorial
and the image on wall of war memorial**

**The wreaths on the Memorial Wall
Stone of Remembrance**





Reading names of 521 killed in Vietnam



Vietnam memorial

...then there are more photos...



Canberra Committee meeting - Joe Librizzi, Ron Mason (standing), Spike Chase, George Lane, Ray Smith, Grahame Dignam, Geoff Jebb, Ged Carroll (standing) and Stan Briggs.

Grahame Dignam welcomes Joe Librizzi as the newest member of 131 Locators Association – watched by Ron Mason





The ensemble at dinner at The Pavilion Dinner



The Pioneers at dinner - Ron Mason, Ray Smith, Andrew Opie, George Lane, Spike Chase and Ged Carroll.



L to R George Lane, Ray Smith, "Spike" Chase, Ged Carroll and Ron Mason.



Then there was lunch with George Lane, Margaret Mason and Ged Carroll at the Pavilion Hotel.

Allen Morley covers the events with the following...

Events around the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan

Canberra in August does probably not have the perfect climate for celebrating the half century since the Battle of Long Tan. However, the location had been set and the associated events set down. The Australian War Memorial and Government had set out a program over two days for this anniversary.

So 131 Veterans wandered in from around the country; from Perth in the west (Joe Librizzi), from Cairns in the north (John Vickary), Stan Briggs from Rockhampton area, from Adelaide (John Blake) and even from the wilds of Tasmania (Ray Smith) they came. Plus, others who arrived from Victoria and NSW.

Our event activities commenced with a 131 Committee meeting. We talked about the program for the next two days, the progress of the Association and welcomed Joe Librizzi (69-70) as our newest member.

The War Memorial's traditional Last Post ceremony on August 17th was special. With two VC recipients present, a significant number of current and ex-military Kiwis attending, together with a plethora of grey-haired Vietnam Veterans, this promised to be something quite different from the norm. We heard the story of Private Ken Grant from D Coy, killed at Long Tan, and the level of emotion was palpable. John Schuman and Hugh McDonald performed the Vietnam 'anthem', *I was only 19* to a hushed audience. The full moon rising high in the east of the Canberra sky was an unexpected addition to this sombre occasion.

That night our 131 members retired in small groups for dinner, some social lubricant and the telling of tall tales and memories of our Detachment times 50 or so years ago. A select group of our Pioneers attended a special event at the Great Hall of Parliament House.

August 18th arrived with typical Canberra winter weather -minus 2C and frost on the ground. However, the 7am *Stand To Service* saw all of our number in attendance. Governor-General and Vietnam Veteran, Peter Cosgrove spoke especially well and captured the Veteran mood exactly. It was a little ominous for this retired Gunner, when the band played *Abide With Me* as Sir Peter moved to the Stone of Remembrance; that was the music the band played as the *RMS Titanic* went down in 1912, so the hope was that no disaster would befall this ceremony.

Following the closure of the ceremony, we trudged across the crunchy grass of Reid Oval for a welcome Vietnam Veterans BBQ breakfast served by the local Lions Club. Even through significant leather shoe soles the cold of the ground was unfortunately pretty obvious.

From Reid Oval it was off to ANZAC Parade to the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial for the National Service of Commemoration. Two APCs were parked on the road. One of which had been at Long Tan, the other at *FSB Coral*. The crowd gathered quite quickly and sat in the warm sun awaiting the arrival of dignitaries. There were an array of presenters, including Vietnam Veterans from all Services, the Governor-General and the Prime Minister. Just before the beginning of proceedings an RAAF Hercules flew above ANZAC Avenue, reminding those in the "secondi" group of our number of the mind numbing flight from Darwin to Vung Tau more than 49 years ago. General (Retd) Cosgrove spoke of his own time in SVN, and the antagonism and spite shown by demonstrators toward Vietnam Veterans and the very negative attitude of the RSL at that time. John Schumann rendered "*I was only 19*" for an audience who could understand the words and implications of the song's message.

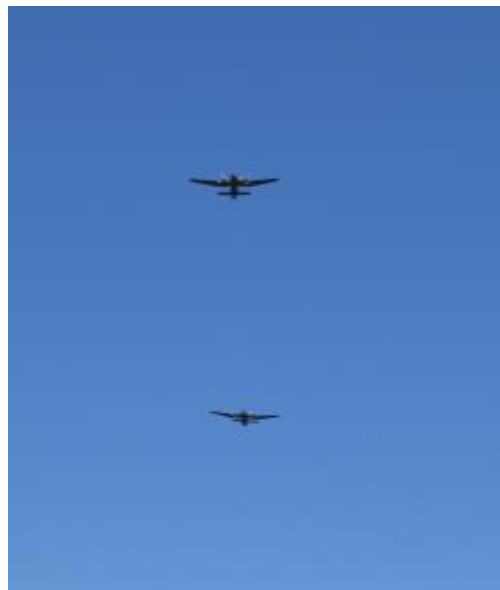
As a finale, from above Parliament House came in succession a DC-3, two Caribous, a Huey, a Sioux chopper and a Cessna O-2 *Bird Dog*, reminding all of the aircraft that were part of everyday life in SVN. We had been told that a USAF B-52 was flying in from Guam as part of the display. But Bob Billiards had been in touch with his American contacts and so we had two B-52s carry out two flyovers. Following the end of the ceremony there was time for a group photo, and then all disappeared into the inner parts of Canberra.

Seven pm saw the 131ers wander in for a pre-dinner drink and further catch-up, to be followed by a buffet meal. One unexpected guest was **Andrew Opie** who chatted and compared notes with the Pioneers. The overall chatter continued unabated until the bar was closed at 10pm. The drinking skills of our group have suffered over time, so the bar bill was not too expensive. Farewells were made and the room slowly emptied.

The verdict was that the two day's activities had been enjoyed, friendships had been continued and Detachment 131 still had an active presence.



The plaque remains in place, but could do with some toothbrush and “Brasso” work



Two Caribou flyover the ceremony



An APC that was part of the Battle of Long Tan

“Red Gum” did us proud with a great rendition of *“I was only 19”*



David Dougherty reports in from Bowral — “Hi Paul, I have attached a couple of photos from the service held at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Bowral. At the commencement of the service 2 Squirrel helicopters from HMAS Albatross performed a flyover, then part way into the service, unannounced, a Caribou did a fly past and then returned for a second pass. The Caribou to me was the most moving part of the service, the sound and sight having more impact than any speech.





The guard was formed by The Army Parachute School and the band was the Highland Pipes & Drums.

This is the link to an article in the Southern Highland News that includes a series of photos.

<http://www.southernhighlandnews.com.au/story/4106321/photos-vietnam-veterans-day-memorial/?cs=262#slide=1>

Regards, David”

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

This is the **second** in a series of OC's Recollections we are running 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 Museum (AWM).

The Recollection is from **Barry Campton**, (who hails from Launceston in Tasmania) was the Det's OC from 13th August 1966 to 28th April, 1967 – he, however, did a quick prior recce trip from the 14th to the 22nd July, 1963.

“Barry Campton – OC Det 131 Div Loc Bty SVN 1966-67

My army experience began in 1954 when I became a national service soldier at Brighton Camp in Tasmania. After completion of this Training the requirement was to attend at a CMF unit (Army Reserve) for a period of time. I then continued on as a CMF gunner achieving the rank of Sgt. I saw the light and in 1959 applied for training at OCS Portsea where I graduated in 1960.

Several postings including Malaya had me arriving at 131 Battery at North Fort as the Survey Officer. This unit was a combined Regular/CMF unit. From there postings included IG and SI on Locating Wing as well as a stint at Holsworthy in 131 Bty and 30 Gun Loc Bty.

In 1966, whilst BK at 132 Loc Bty the posting to Det 131 DLB in SVN to replace Jim Townley was raised.

Preparation as an individual replacement was easy. I boarded an Air France flight on 10 Aug flew via Manila. On the flight was Maj Gen Gurner who was the army's senior medical man. He made me an honorary aide and we attended a cocktail party at the embassy. Continued on to Saigon when the champagne lifestyle ended.

Arrived at Nui Dat on 12 Aug 66. A couple of nights later woke to find myself enduring some shrapnel flying around the area.

The next morning Jim Townley and I conducted crater analysis and recorded that the mortars had been in a straight line when fired. Also the details of a 70mm mountain gun were recorded. This information was passed up the line and some action was taken. Of course the next day was Long Tan.

There were no problems in the hand over as Jim had done a great job in deploying the equipment.

Some of the notable characters included

“The Rat”, a replacement Sgt (in 7 Oct 66 out 30 Apr 67) I can't remember who he replaced. Not sure how he got the name “Rat” but I can guess.

.a L/BDR was Karl Doehrmann with a strong accent who was not allowed to transmit on the radio. Someone on high suggested that because of his strong accent it would jeopardise security. He was wounded during the pre-Long Tan saga. Karl progressed to make Major and sadly passed away in 2009.

.a lofty person, “Lofty” Hayes a tower of strength - pun intended.

and many people who made the experience a thoroughly professional one.

More spring to mind now, “Big” Al Thomson, “Shorty” Gow, Bill Findlay, Ian Board, Peter Saddler, Andrew Opie, Graham O'Toole, Alan Campbell, Fred Lennon and Don Simmons. All very experienced and well trained which made the initial deployment so successful.

The saga of the ANKPQ radars was foremost in our minds and we did have some moments when we had to sell the benefits to senior officers. The RAEME did all in their power to keep them operational to the point that Jim Townley and Bill Prenter (RAEME) travelled to Da Nang in search of spare parts.

An operation on Long Son Island (check spelling) was quite interesting as this saw the radars tracking over longer distances sometimes with success.

Trips to Vung Tau for the day were taken infrequently just to get away for some peace and quiet. An R&R visit to Hong Kong was very welcome.

Being a unit attached to the Task Force was difficult. As well as running our own Q Store and Orderly Room with none of the usual staff BSM etc. and being OC and Duty Officer in Arty Tac was not an efficient system.

With trepidation I approached Lt Col Don Begg, CO of 1 Fd Regt, to see if he could take 131DLB under command; he did.

My return to Australia on 29 Apr 67 was difficult. After landing in Darwin via a C130, we transferred to a civilian airline, which landed at the facilities area of Mascot Airport. No members of the public were allowed to see us!

No provision was made for the onward travel for those soldiers travelling interstate. Due to administrative oversight, some had to pay their own fare. I think no one cared in the movement organisation because they assumed that everyone was going to Holsworthy for processing.

After SVN postings include:

OC AGWTU at Woomera,

Staff College,

Russell offices where I selected discharge in 1980.

Major Barry Campton."

More great archival stuff – we head off with Warwick Hamilton in the next edition.

. Uniforms – Back in *May's Eyes & Ears* we saw the commencement of this bit of insane nostalgia and here we go again with a bit more.

Anyway, I digress, I never did get a "frock" coat with my polyesters! Got the obligatory "Bomber" jacket with the winter uniform though.

The following is the "Greatcoat" (not sure if that's a fitting description, though I guess doing Guard Duty at Holsworthy on a late July night it might have been very apt!) – with an extract from the AWM, though I've changed the photo – more updated (below right).

The other ranks greatcoat: **Australian Army – Description**

Other ranks khaki wool double breasted greatcoat with shoulder straps secured by two large plastic buttons. There are two pairs of holes in the shoulder straps, possibly from badges that have been removed. The coat tapers to a single breasted cut below the waist. Cuffs have been folded deeply and stitched in place. The front of the coat is secured by two pairs of four large khaki plastic buttons angled towards the centre (six are missing). Sloping inset pockets with straight flaps are positioned on both sides. Two ferrous hook and eye closures secure the coat at the throat. The left side seam has a small opening in it for a bayonet with an internal pointed buttoned flap. Two welt pockets have been inserted inside the left front: the upper one is vertical, and the lower one horizontal. The pockets are lined with cotton drill. Along the left inside front are three plastic buttons to secure the coat. Two fabric tabs with pointed ends have been attached to the inside left facing on the lower half of the coat. These fasten with corresponding buttons on the right front. The rear of the coat has an inverted box pleat to the waist and an adjustable self-fabric belt with four plastic buttons (one missing) which is worn around the back. There is a single placketed back vent 560mm long with two concealed buttons (missing). The coat is half lined with polished brown cotton twill with a long inverted pleat from the neck to the top of the vent. The sleeves are fully lined with the same material. A maker's label is stitched to the rear lining under the collar with: 'C.G.C.F/AUSTRALIA/1930/D (broad arrow) D' printed in black ink. A smaller label underneath has REGIMENTAL NUMBER / NAME printed in black ink and PLACE handwritten in red capital letters."



Ed - I think Vic Danko still has his greatcoat and possibly a helmet stashed away somewhere? Maybe he needed it when he went back to teaching in some god forsaken frozen hole in NSW when he was discharged and the heater in the V-dub wasn't all that efficient.

Has anyone else got any oddities with regards to "things military paraphernalia" that they'd like to share?

Let's see what we can come up with next month.

Ernie Newbold replying to an entirely unrelated subject (my getting inquisitive as to why he had an early start to a trip he'd taken) digressed onto "things uniform" which is relevant to this current subject -

"G'day Paul, for the last eight or nine years I have been going to the Maitland Caravan, Camping, 4WD and Outdoor living show, held annually at the Maitland Showground (just down the road a bit from Singleton).

50 years ago we were enjoying the Army's hospitality at Singleton's 3RTB.

For the first few years I drove up there and back for the day but for the last three of four years I have been going by train (free travel on the ex-soldiers pass). I caught the 5.28am train from Strathfield and arrived at Maitland at around 08.30am in time to walk to the Showground for the 09.00am opening.

It is good to have someone else to do the driving, especially at the end of the day and it is a great train trip to boot, especially alongside the Hawkesbury River and Brisbane Water. An interesting day out with lots to see and at very little cost.

Talking about Singleton and your mention in the *E&Es* of Q-Store issued uniforms do you remember that we were issued with WWII type web belts in khaki that we had to convert to black using Raven Oil and Kiwi boot polish, the same with the white sandshoes that had to be changed to black.

What about the gaiters? Some recruits had trouble wearing them correctly, with some on the wrong legs and some on back to front, much to the NCO's amusement and concern, at least Boots GP fixed that problem later on.

Regards, Ernie."

. 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.



Nui Dat, South Vietnam. 1968-10. A photographic darkroom was one of the facilities provided for Australian troops by the Australian Overseas Forces Fund. It was located at the 131st Divisional Locating Battery, Royal Australian Artillery (RAA), at the 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF) Base. **Gunner Bob Wilson of Frankston, Vic (left), shows Gunner Peter McKie of Ainslie, ACT, the finished print of a bare-chested soldier.**

Ed – Who's the "bare-chested" soldier??

Mail Call...

David Doughty sent the following interesting article in - "I don't know whether you subscribe to *Wartime* but in another article "To Save a Village" namely Binh Ba there is reference to Lt. Brian Sullivan who received the MC at this engagement.

CITATION: SECOND LIEUTENANT BRIAN SULLIVAN

Army Number: 2783093 **Substantive Rank:** Second lieutenant **Christian Name:** Brian John **Surname:** SULLIVAN
Honour or Award: MC

Second lieutenant Brian Sullivan graduated from the Officer Training Unit, Scheyville, on 22 July 1966 and was allotted to the Royal Australian Armoured Corps. He joined C Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment in South Vietnam on 5 August 1968, and B Squadron on 11 February 1969.

On 6 June 1969, Second Lieutenant Sullivan, Troop Commander, I Troop B Squadron, was supporting D Company, 5th Battalion 'The Royal Australian Regiment. On arrival at Binh Ba Village, Phuoc Tui Province, the company group immediately encountered heavy, sustained anti-tank and small arms fire from strong elements of a North Vietnamese Regiment. Counter action by the force involved sweeps through the village with armour leading, followed by a detailed search by infantry supported by armour. House to house fighting developed.

In the face of constant anti-tank rocket fire, Second Lieutenant Sullivan showed no hesitation in leading the Australian assault into the village. He and his troop were constantly required to destroy enemy strong points and retaliate to heavy enemy fire. Throughout heavy fighting for more than two hours, Second Lieutenant Sullivan's tanks bore the brunt of the action. Countless rockets were fired at Second Lieutenant Sullivan's tank. One wounded him. Despite this,

and penetration by rockets of three other tanks with subsequent casualties, he and his Troop continued to fight with aggression.

His cool leadership and gallantry were an inspiration to all on that day. He paved the way for the remainder of the force to defeat the enemy.

On many other occasions Second lieutenant Sullivan displayed the same attributes. His performance throughout 1969 was characterised by cheerfulness, conscientiousness, and courage. His attitude and conduct demands great admiration and reflects considerable credit upon himself, his Regiment and the Australian Army.

Later he also received a MID, was recommended for a 2nd MC. and awarded the Medal for Gallantry.

The reason that this is of interest to me is that he is a second cousin, unfortunately he died in 2005.

Regards, David Dougherty”

Rieny Nieuwenhof got together with a few of the “Class of SVN 1970-71” and shares a photo and story - “Hi Dicko,

Here is a photo of a mini-reunion of former 131 Locators who served in SVN during 1970 -1971. We gathered at Wauchope , northern NSW, where Jo lives. Many stories shared, lies told and many laughs. It was great to catch up with the guys and their wives. Hospitality at Jo's was fantastic. Rieny”

They are L-R

Mike Butler, Jo Molenkamp, Peter Saint, Les Falkai, John Jaggard and myself.



Vic Danko sends in a report to **Ernie Newbold** of a recent trip to the Far North – “Hi Ernie,

This is just for your library? Within a short ferry ride of Thursday Island, there is Horn Island. Little known Horn Island in 1943 had an airstrip. Briefly, had the Japanese taken Horn Island they could have flown bombers to Melbourne!! Horn Island was heavily bombed by the Japanese. Its population at that time was both US and Aus air men and our ground troops.

If the island had fallen ... the ground troops created tunnels under the airstrip and mined these such that it could not have been rebuilt.

Six guys volunteered to stay behind (if needed) to ensure that the mines worked!!

Regards, Vic”



Tony Goldsmith responds to an article in last month's *Eyes & Ears* -

"Hi Paul,

Just caught up with July *E&E*.

Yes - plenty of grime and mud and I may be confused with the poor soul - although Chris does not think so.

Cheers

Tony"



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



NNSW Branch COFFS REUNION 2016

WHEN – 30th September 2016 – 3rd October 2016

WHERE – CEX Group (Coffs Harbour Ex-Services Club)

PROGRAM

FRIDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER

1700 MEET AND GREET

SATURDAY 1ST OCTOBER

1000 BREAKFAST

1100 BUS PICKUP COFFS TO BELLINGEN

VISIT TO BELLINGEN YELLOW SHED AND OLD BUTTER FACTORY

LUNCH AT BELLINGEN GOLF CLUB

1730 PARADE TO CENOTAPH

1800 PRE-DINNER DRINKS

1900 REGIMENTAL DINNER (DRESS: MEN, JACKET & TIE WITH MINIATURES, LADIES AFTER 5)

MUSIC AND DANCING

SUNDAY 2ND OCTOBER

BREAKFAST OWN ARRANGEMENTS

0830 BUS PICK UP COFFS TO BOWRAVILLE

VISIT TO BOWRAVILLE EX-SERVICES MUSEUM

LUNCH AT BOWRAVILLE EX-SERVICES CLUB

1600 RETURN TO COFFS HARBOUR

1800 BUFFET DINNER

MONDAY 3RD OCTOBER

1000 FAREWELL BREAKFAST

For further information please contact:

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PLEASE NOTE:

- Please supply any photos you may want to put on the photo board.
- If you have any special dietary requirements, please also let us know.

RSVP deadline no later than 20th September

. Hopefully we can get this kick-started NEXT MONTH????



All we've got to do now is to get tapping on the old keyboard, then add some photos and then send it in!

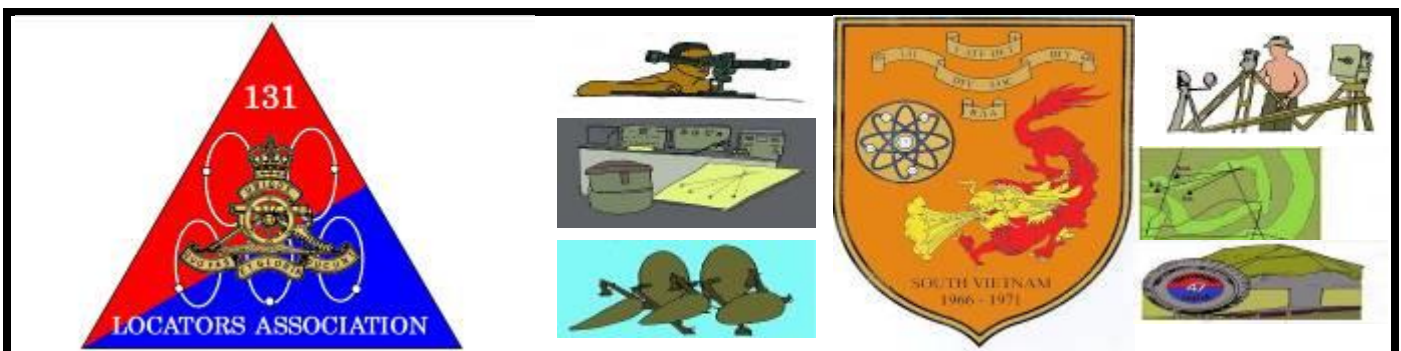
Just a refresher – yes, there are some of you out there who still do, or who have packed up at some time and wandered off to camp grounds / caravan parks or some spot/s that requires carting everything for ever how long. Well, this has come to life with some correspondence I've had with **Michael Quinlan**, 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, but I had good grounding about "not touching tent sides when it was raining") and my wife and I did a 3-month stint in the US back in 2007 - it was fantastic.

So here's the go. I would like to run your stories, complete with some photos in *E&Es* over the months ahead. As I said to Michael there is no need to rush as July (as you can see) is chockers and August might follow suit with Long Tan activity. However, it's thinking caps on and compilation time.

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!!

So start your keyboard tapping and photo scanning!



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>

Presidential perambulations

The southern states of Australia will go into post-AFL season hibernation at the end of September. It is likely that the northern states will do likewise as far as the NRL is concerned. The newspaper and TV columnists will do their stories in advance of the finals, but never do they revisit their predictions just in case they are found to be wrong. Personally, after living in Sydney since 1976, I have attended Aussie Rules matches and even Rugby Union games. But never a Rugby League match. I am hoping to keep this record intact in the coming years.

And our newly minted Federal Parliament will seek to fill some of that void. What with a possible plebiscite on same-gender 'marriage' in the new year, that should take us back to re-establish the football void. Fremantle Council has decided to cancel fireworks on Australia Day, to avoid upsetting certain sensitivities. They even want to change the date, again to avoid upsetting a minority. Seems that noisy minorities get what they are after because politicians lack the guts to reinstall some balance.

The visit of some of our number to Canberra to honour the 50th Anniversary of the battle of Long Tan was successful. Overall the turnout was less than we had hoped for, but those who did attend helped to continue the Detachment 131 story. Thanks Fellas.

Cheers
Allen

. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 20th September, 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 more than welcome, in fact the more the merrier or more meaningful.

. Pertinent Points – extracted from the 131 Locators Association Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 17th August, 2016 at 1100hrs at the **Pavillion on Northbourne, Atrium Bar, Dickson ACT**

Welcome Chairman, **Allen Morley** opened the meeting at 11.30 AM.

He congratulated and thanked those who travelled from Far North Qld, WA, SA, and Vic to be present. Representation from most states in the Commonwealth, well done.

Attendees were: Allen Morley, Grahame Dignam, George Lane, Ged Carroll, Spike Chase, Ray Smith, Stan Briggs, Joe Librizzi, Geoff Jebb, Ron Mason and Bert Blink .

Apologies: Paul Dickson, Jim Fitzgerald, Vic Danko, Merv Nairn, Ernest Newbold, Bob Billiards, Gordon Malcolm, Ian Amos, Nick Proskurin and Des McGuigan

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

Presidents report.

Allen expressed his appreciation to the:

- Representation of 131 Veterans and partners. Ron and Margaret Mason, Bert and Mary Blink, George Lane, Ged Carroll, Spike Chase, Ray Smith and partner at the reception in the Great Hall of Parliament House on Wednesday evening 17th August 216..
- He confirmed the agenda we had circulated previously detailing the events that were available namely the Remembrance Service Anzac Parade Memorial 1000Hrs and the main event being the 50th Anniversary reunion Dinner at the Pavilion 1900 for 1930Hrs
- Allen also thanked Bert for coordinating the event on the Associations behalf and being "our man on the ground" in the ACT. Also for stimulating interest around the event among the local veteran community.

General Business

Ron raised the issue of the placement of the North Fort Radar. He confirmed that the Philip Island Museum is still most interested in displaying it and is awaiting final Accreditation which will clear any hurdles that may bar the move there. Then we need to clear any obstacles from our end and instigate the move.

The museum will have an Open Day in November 2016 – actual date TBA.

. web Performance...

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

. Birthdays in the Battery...September –

Sept	Name	Regt No	DOB	In SVN	Out SVN	Comments
1	ERIC THOMPSON Sgt.	44153	1948	18 02 1968	18 02 1969	
	" "			13 05 1971	04 06 1971	VISIT
2	PHILIP MULGREW	3411756	1948	29 04 1968	07 05 1969	
3	MILLS BUCKLEY	16950	1937	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	† 02.04.07
3	PETER SAINT	45033	1949	04 11 1970	29 07 1971	
6	JOHN DELLACA	3791355	1945	29 01 1968	28 01 1969	
7	STEVE BOUTLIS	3787962	1945	02 01 1967	27 09 1967	
7	GARY BESTER	3411737	1948	08 01 1968	03 12 1968	
7	IVAN MILLS S/Sgt.	213051	1934	31 01 1969	05 11 1969	
8	WILLIAM EDWARD	2789911	1947	21 02 1969	21 02 1970	
12	BARRY NUGENT	1411039	1945	03 01 1967	12 12 1967	

50 Years
April 1966 - April 2016



The Memories Remain
1966 - 1971

12	LARRY BRIDGE	2786506	1946	15 03 1968	18 03 1969	
12	PHILIP JOHNS	4719086	1946	16 09 1968	18 03 1969	
12	STEVEN VOSS	1735605	1948	29 04 1970	18 03 1971	
12	KEVIN GEOGHEGAN	219351	1951	16 12 1970	02 06 1971	131
	" "			02 06 1971	23 12 1971	HQ AFV
13	VICTOR CLAXTON	4410991	1948	17 01 1968	23 12 1968	
14	MERV DART	37821	1942	03 01 1967	09 01 1968	† 2001
14	FRANK IPSA	3786657	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
14	RUSSELL HEWITT	2792435	1948	03 06 1970	04 03 1971	
16	FRANK PEPPER	216683	1948	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	† 27.12.89
16	RONALD DEAN	215527	1944	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	
16	BRIAN BLACK	2786469	1946	27 11 1967	26 11 1968	† 18.01.11
16	ALLEN WHEATLEY	2790305	1947	16 09 1969	04 06 1970	
17	JOHN BLAKE	1731550	1945	04 05 1967	13 12 1967	
17	BARRY GUZDER	5714500	1945	10 06 1967	21 05 1968	
17	MAURICE ARCH	43350	1937	02 01 1967	14 11 1967	
17	ERNEST GALLOWAY	216708	1948	08 01 1968	22 04 1968	
18	BOB WILSON	3791425	1946	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
18	JIM LAWLER Sgt.	28523	1936	18 12 1967	03 12 1968	
19	ROBERT DAVID GOW	61644	1944	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	
19	HUBERT ANDREWS	2790121	1947	21 02 1969	21 02 1970	
19	WESLEY HINDMARSH	2791313	1947	30 09 1969	13 08 1970	
19	PHILLIP WAPSHOT	3793468	1947	27 11 1969	18 03 1970	
21	GARRY LEPLAW	217182	1948	05 02 1968	11 02 1969	† 06.12.83
22	IAN BUBB	2792358	1948	13 05 1970	11 03 1971	RAEME
23	GREGORY TOMMASI 2Lt.	3791966	1946	10 03 1970	25 08 1970	131
	" "			25 08 1970	11 03 1971	4 Fd Regt.
	GORDON CAMPBELL GUNN	16915	1944	11.03.69	11.03.70	† 23.09.13
24	BOB. BILLIARDS	2785702	1946	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
24	GEOFFREY CARTHEW	2793339	1949	03 06 1970	09 06 1971	
26	KEN. McNAMARA	2783740	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
26	JOHN DAVIES Sgt.	29351	1937	07 10 1966	30 04 1967	† 2004
26	RONALD BOALER	130230	1948	20 02 1970	11 02 1971	
28	LEONARD WALKER	3798942	1949	16 12 1970	30 06 1971	Det 131 † Unknown
	" "			30 06 1971	30 10 1971	12 Fd Regt.

Ed – 9 blokes not highlighted looks ok, but work still needs to be done! So let's keep the Eyes & Ears open for that chance of locating one of them.

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received 141 (one more than last month!) and we've sent out 137. Ed – I'll get more out next week once this edition is out there.

. 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

"Dear Fellow Gunners

It is with a heavy heart that I advise the death of Don Donkin at 9am this morning (Saturday 30 July 2016). The Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery has lost another Gunner of Distinction.

Warrant Officer Class One

DWB (Don) DONKIN MBE (1929-612)

Donald Wellow Baldwin Donkin was born on 3 January 1929 at Marrickville, NSW. He attended school at Christian Brothers College, Manly till 14 years of age then worked as a hotel night clerk.

Don enlisted in the Army in 1947 and served with the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces (BCOF) in Japan. Returning to Australia, he joined the Regular Army and served as a sergeant in Korea during 1953-54.

In late 1954, Don became an artillery battery sergeant major and in 1963, one of the early members of the Australian

Army Training Team Vietnam. His service at Khe Sahn led to his being appointed a Member of the British Empire and awarded the US Bronze Star and US Air Medal (Army).

A career highlight in 1968 was carrying the Australian flag in Paris for the 50th anniversary of the Armistice.

WO1 Donkin returned to Vietnam in 1970 as an artillery regimental sergeant major (RSM). His last six years in the Army were spent as the RSM of the School of Artillery at Manly 1973-79. He discharged in 1980.

Don married Moira in 1951 and they had two sons and two daughters. After leaving the Army, he worked on the NSW Repatriation Review Board then as a protocol officer for the state premier during Australia's Bi-Centenary celebrations. He finally retired in 1989. Sadly, Moira predeceased him in 2013.

Messages of condolence may be forwarded to son Major Chris Donkin RAA (Retd) at

chrisdonkin@bigpond.com.

Vale Warrant Officer Class One Don Donkin MBE - BCOF Gunner, Korea infantryman, Vietnam Training Team leader, Artillery RSM and passionate Manly Sea Eagles supporter; a gentleman Gunner of Distinction gone to the Great Gun Park Up Above after 87 years of service to his country.

A more detailed tribute will be submitted for publication on the RAAHC website.

Ubique

Arthur

ARTHUR BURKE OAM

arthurburke@bigpond.com Colonel (Retired) Queensland Member Royal Australian Artillery History Sub Committee"

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.

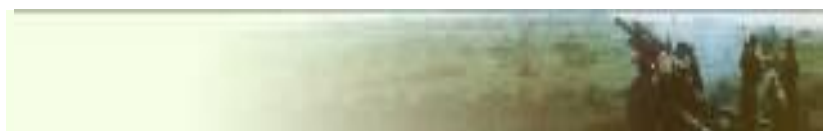
So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the Eyes & Ears regularly you could bite the bullet and email Grahame Dignam.sectreas131locators@gmail.com and he could forward you the relevant forms to join - Memberships are available for 1 year or longer deposit a DONATION direct (add your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



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

www.artilleryhistory.org



Website link - <http://www.waa.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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