

THE EYES and EARS

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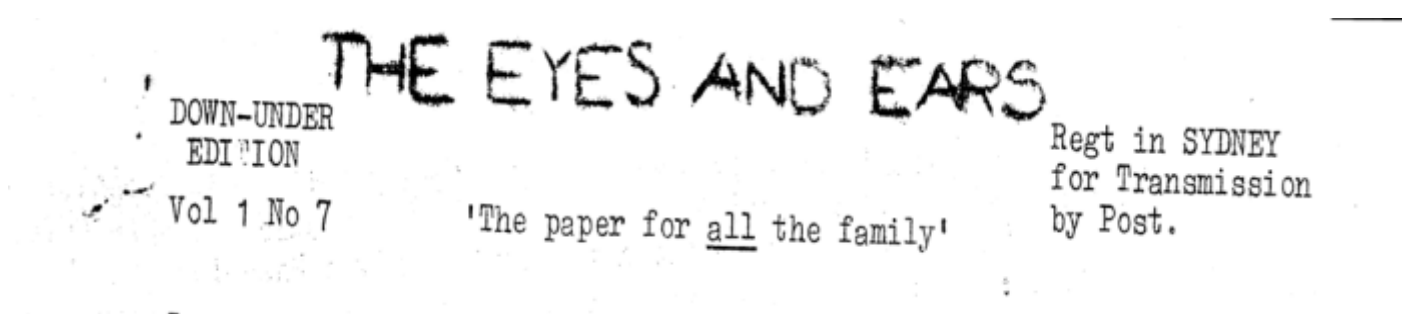
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Eureka! The final “missing” edition of *Eyes and Ears* has been unearthed! Volume 1 No 7 - 1967



. Now another remarkable find...

This is the last of the SVN '67 series of *Eyes & Ears* that has finally come to life. It's a very clear edition – amazing! This one originated via **Joe Kaplan** handing over to the blokes in the Association and then no one really realising what it was.

However, it's been unearthed, so to say, and it's on the web.

This one is also light-hearted mumbo jumbo, but does mention quite a few “in/famous” names – it's frighteningly funny to re-read again -

Local News:

A pat on the back goes to our trio of linguists, Sgt Trev Waghorn, Bdr Pete Hopper and L/Bdr Vic Danko, for work they have done in the last few 'Search and Cordon' Operations. They played an integral part in Australia's new "Confusion Tactics".

World News:

'Confucious Denounced'

Chinese peasants have denounced Confucious as the spokesman of the exploiting classes, according to an official report from China.

Home News:

1. In an attempt to reduce an NS/ARA percentage from its current 99:1, the battery received 14 new ARA Soldiers the other day. Pity only one was eligible (age wise) for service overseas.
2. L/Bdr Menz looks like being Bdr Poustie's replacement.
3. Bdr Uren seems to be attracted back to NUI DAT, he should be swapping with Bdr Bonser.

R&R to Australia;

The following is an extract from an official communique published in Canberra and released to The Daily Mirror, King Cross Whisper and Tom Thumb simultaneously.

"It is our attempt today to clear up a hangover and the mysteries and rumours associated with the availability of Australian R&R to the Australian Fighting Man.

"At all times keeping in mind the welfare and happiness of the Australian Digger and in an effort to give everybody the opportunity of having R&R in Australia, we have proposed the following plan; - Cancel all RTA for 1967-8-9. We believe that this move will almost certainly guarantee R&R for all our men in Saigon.

And in conclusion (Hic) I'de like to take this opportunity to thank all the fellows at the Dept for ignoring my NS Registration.
Andrew Jones M.L.R.

WHO's WHO:

31'C'

L/Bdr Vic 'Rocky' Danko is the Sunray of the Engineers Barber Shop LP. Following his recent jaunts into the local villages, Vic has decided to give up his civic carrier in order to teach the local HOA LONG kids in the finer arts of sandbag filling etc.. Maybe he would be of some assistance in the 'Boys Brigade' too!

Bob 'Woofers' Bruce has certainly been a keen liaison man in the battery, the Rec Room and other constructions and we owe a lot to his 'Taking ways'.

Terry 'Spider' Bruce is certainly the 'Digger with a difference' in the group. All Terry's ideas seem to differ drastically with those of the Army.....Don't worry mate, You're only a Nasho!

'Pappy' Gault is beleived to be cutting short his stay in VIETERS because his sox need darning and his wife is a better cook anyway.

Bob 'Four Pot' King - the rec of the group, was a camera fanatic but lately has been showing talents as the "Dean Martin" of the group.

Opportunity Knocks:

The recent announcement concerning the cancellation of RTA for all members of 1ATF has started a land boom in the surrounding areas. TEE's Real Estate Rep brings you the following suggestion:

"Be one of the first to take advantage of the newly opened 'BARIA-BELLEVUE ESTATE', which offers fully developed housing sites at the most reasonable prices. Take note of the young family advantages-.... Modern up to date markets, first class schools, reliable mini-bus service and a safe airconditioned bunker system. All these only a grenade's throw away from your front door.

Why miss out ? Inquire at your Orderly Room for an appointment with our rep next time he visits your area or phone BARIA 41 and ask for "Charlie".Our Motto:

"Your investment is guaranteed never to go wrong:

"It pays for protection from the Viet Cong!"

Young Love.

The pretty young school teacher was concerned about one of her 11 year old students. Taking him aside after class one day, she asked, "Paul, why has your school work been poor lately?", "I can't concentrate", replied the lad, "I'm afraid I've fallen in love"."Is that so?" said the teacher holding back an urge to smile,"And with whom?";He answered, "With you", "But Paul", exclaimed the secretly pleased young lady, "Don't you see how silly that is? It's true that I would like a husband of my own some day; but I don't want a child!" "Oh, don't worry", said Paul reassuringly, "I'll be careful!"

Rec Room Rumours;

With the introduction of the raffle on payday the Battery Entertainment fund looks like having a healthy beginning. The aim of the fund is to give you, the every dayman-about-town, a more sophisticated selection of cultural entertainment.

Our Rec Room will host such shows as: The Broadway smash Hit play "The King and I" featuring Mickey Rooney and Mrs Miller . The New York Philharmonic Orchestra playing Mozart and vice versa. The Rolling Stones "On Pot"

The stage version of "Ben Hur" with the original cast of 1,000's. Naturally there will always be people who will scoff and say this is impossible, but the entertainment committee has'nt failed yet.

These shows, and many more, can be yours if you support our Fund-Raising drives. *****

.....And always remember--He who laughs last, laughs last.

That now completes the South Vietnam collection of Eyes and Ears and it's only taken 49 years to get it ALL together – the wait was worth it! Thanks to all the rel-Locators!

. Officers Commanding (OC) – Recollections of their Tours with Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery, Royal Australian Artillery (RAA).

This is the third in the 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 Memorial (AWM).

This recollection is from **Warwick Hamilton**, who was the Det's OC from 17th April 1967 to 12th February 1968.

OC's Recollections – Capt W R HAMILTON 17 Apr 67 – 12 Feb 68

Introduction

I joined 131 Bty on 1 Sep 66 having come from being a Radar and Locating Instructor at the School of Artillery, however my 'Vietnam experience' really started in Feb/Mar 67 when, together with a frighteningly young looking Gnr Danko, we attended the 2/67 Colloquial Vietnamese Language Course. Fortunately, a number of others destined for the Det attended similar courses.

Being a tonal language it was challenging and fraught with danger, eg: sometime later at Nui Dat a Padre approached me wanting to go to a church in Baria and sought the Vietnamese for 'church'. It is *nhà thờ* - note the downward accent on the last 'o'. Unfortunately, the word *nhà thổ* (different accent) means 'brothel'. You can guess what happened!!!

It was only at Holsworthy that I discovered the method of replacement for the Det, and its' very high percentage of National Servicemen. Little did I understand what this was to mean...

SVN General

First impression: Shock. I didn't fully realise that most ordinary Vietnamese workers wore black pyjamas and conical hats. Sound familiar?

Subsequent impressions from my personal diary: replacement issues, equipment problems/challenges; amazing flexibility, adaptability and resourcefulness shown by all elements; acceptance of responsibility (well usually...) at all levels; the repeated use of the word 'tired' to describe myself; and reoccurring references to getting a haircut?

More Specifically (Roughly in chronological order and no names mentioned to protect the innocent/guilty/both unless germane to the story.)

Right from the beginning the individual replacement of members created a challenge, primarily in coordinating departure/arrival timings. eg: in May 67 the bulk of the new survey section arrived, but the previous Survey Officer and NCO's had already departed. The handover/briefing was successfully conducted by GNR Endicott.

The first couple of months saw a number of 'firsts'.

On Op COOPAROO Survey developed a novel and effective way of providing a fix to a Fire Support Base (FSB) surrounded by tall trees. Two tethered meteorological balloons raised above the canopy to allow remote observation. 6 new arrivals allowed creation of LP4 in 1/83rd US artillery area.

The first of our two NEW radars arrived.

The sites for the Q store and Rec Room were prepared

The first rains started...and Alpha radar was flooded

I flew my first FAC mission with our US pilots (the Jade crew)

And, gulp, I heard my first charge!

The Det was in full swing.

Op PADDINGTON (Jun 67) was interesting. The first deployment TF HQ and Arty Tac (forward). Somehow the Arty Tac chopper (Chalk 6) landed first, well ahead of our infantry protection company. Somehow we also ended up right on the perimeter as dusk fell. Scary. Then there was a roar and a crashing through the bush (more scary) and a section of US M48 tanks appeared. Not lost, just not sure where they were. So with quick talking, and the offer of slouch hats all round, the M48's formed a defensive position around us.

PADDINGTON also saw the first calling and adjustment of a CLOSE Defensive Fire by one of our LP, and Survey managed to provide provisional Theatre Grid to 4 Batteries by 2200 on day one. The Radars and Crater Analysis teams also provided accurate PROVEN locations. Great work all around.

The surveyors had problems with the US Artillery in establishing exactly what their requirement was. Subsequently, after a very successful liaison visit to the US Survey Section HQ in Long Binh everything was sorted out. Simply a case of two countries being separated by a common language!

Jul 67 saw the first thoughts about a Det emblem. It took quite a while to finalise but it was worth the effort. Well done team. Bet no one thought that nearly 50 years later it would still be around. Logically the idea of a plaque followed shortly after.

Warwick's Scary Moment No?: After a long and tiring shift in Arty Tac I awake at about 2400 to find a snake comfortably ensconced in bed with me (at least 17 m long it was!!). Don't know who was most surprised, but the poor snake lost (later identified as a harmless 1m long something).

Embarrassing Moment No ? : An unnamed Survey Officer, newly promoted Chief Clerk and driver reported that their vehicle had broken down and that they would have to overnight in Vung Tau. Ha! Rubbish! Etc etc. Two days later I had to contact said Chief Clerk advising that I was stranded in Saigon as my return aircraft had gone U/S. Had to eat my words!!

In Aug 67 reports emerged of the use of 140 and 122mm rockets in II Corps, potentially heading our way. Self, Arty Int Sgt and a certain Gnr Ernie (Name withheld), who for the visit was temporarily labelled 'Senior Technical Weapons Analyst' or some such thing, visited the US Combined Materiel Exploitation Centre (CMEC) at Tan Son Nhut seeking more information. Highly successful and the start of a valuable exchange of technical data and publications.

As a result, I was appointed Project Manager DARMA (Defence Against Rocket and Mortar Attacks). Wow! Little did I know what was to happen later.

What does not show in any Operational Report is that the "Three Musketeers" brought back to Nui Dat an example of an RPG2, a 140mm (1.2m long and about 32 Kg) and a 122mm rocket (2.8m long and about 40 kg). An unnamed TFAIO convinced the Caribou pilot they were harmless, but in fact said TFAIO had merely removed the nose fuzes and placed them in his pack. These WERE later rendered inert. These were the start of our shell/fragment collection and data repository.

Problems with logical personnel replacement continued. What was very interesting was that some Det members might have to Return to Australia (RTA) before a proper handover, but almost to a man their preference was to stay on for a smooth transition. I think this really said something about the group.

Giving orders to a detachment of predominantly "smart" Nasho's was always fun, and I found the 'considered discussion/coercion/group therapy session' method usually worked. This was always to the disbelief/incredulity of any senior officers' close by.

Some of our equipment requests were also viewed scathingly. Eg: Why did we need several sets of tree climbing irons? Answer: So the surveyors could place their tellurometers in tall trees. Request denied...but we got around that. By now the Det was producing good, VERIFIED, results in all areas. LPs were welcomed in previously non-believer areas, and crater analysis was slowly being accepted as being something other than a "black" art.

Sep 67 saw a lot of deployment by everyone, including I think our first radar into a Fire Support Base (FSB). The surveyors showed their flexibility by forming additional LPs AND by becoming civil surveyors marking out housing blocks for the new "resettlement village" of Ap Suoi Nghe.

Arty Int produced an instruction on 'The Rocket Threat' – a brilliant document (later to be proven accurate), but I fear no one read it, and I can't even find a copy.

This month also produced a social coup. The Rec hut had been officially opened the previous month thanks to builders Gnr's Roger McDonnell and Bill Thomas, and a cast of many others who provided support, labour, expertise and, sometimes unknowingly, material. So we were able to host the visiting entertainers 'The Melbourne Show' who performed at Luscombe Bowl before being rapidly whisked away to a BBQ at the Rec Room. Certainly no names will be mentioned except that a certain (numberless) Field Regt was miffed that we gazumped them.

Interestingly I note that my Operational Report for this month states that the Det health was good '...with no cases of VD at all.' Hmmm. Does this mean...

Warwick's Scary AND Embarrassing Moment No?: Decided to spring a surprise inspection on Nui Dat LP. I'm sure the bush telegraph signalled by 'other means' that this was happening, however on arrival the site was a shambles with stuff everywhere. LP commander said that it was immaculate until this 'bloody great monkey' came and wrecked it. Now the Nui Dat monkeys are small, so the LP got short shrift and two hours to fix it. On return the mess was different but the excuse the same. In good OC fashion I blew the mandatory fuse, issued rockets and dire threats all around and promised to return shortly!!

On the narrow track down from the top, where the jungle comes right up to the sides of the road, onto the passenger side of my stripped down Landover leapt ...this 'bloody great monkey', bare fangs and all. In fact, I'm sure it actually thumped its chest too. It then disappeared back into the jungle.

Once I was over the shock, embarrassment set in, and I just drove back down, told no one, and never did return for the inspection.

Scary Insight No?: Op KENMORE. Arty Tac again moved forward, this time in APCs. Apart from the inherent confusion in being closed down and not feeling in control I learnt that 7.62 and 12.7 mm rounds, when fired at right angles to an M113's aluminium armour, go straight through. Another Hmmm!

Oct 67 saw a most important event – we gained a TV for the Rec room.

Another milestone was that after some trials we had the first lift of a radar and Det by CH47 Chinook.

An 'Ingenuity' Moment. We had been formally requesting an upgrade to our telephone and radio equipment for ever, with the usual response. No one really understood how spread we were, even in base. A nameless technical member of the Det was in Vung Tau idly wandering through the equipment rubbish tip (as you do) when he spotted some of the better telephone wire we needed, some junked switchboards, stuff to make our own tall aerials etc. So, after a quick raid on said tip, we vastly improved our telephone and radio communications.

Nov 67 could be called Artillery Intelligence month. We had tracked the movement of the relatively new RPG 7 and bigger rockets down from the North and anticipated the imminent arrival of the RPG 7. A pamphlet was prepared and distributed around all the Task Force and the Logistic Support Group in Vung Tau on the characteristics, probable use, preventative measures and safety if a fired but unexploded rocket was found. The safety aspect was DO NOT TOUCH as the rocket has a piezoelectric fuse which, when armed after firing, is most susceptible to movement and changes in temperature.

27 Nov saw the first confirmed use of an RPG 7 in our area.

30 Nov saw a 7 RAR vehicle bounce to a halt outside Arty Tac and my name was called. The 7 RAR guys brought in an unexploded RPG 7 because they had heard that I, by name, wanted it.

Warwick's VERY Scary Moment No?: TF HQ and Arty Tac were cleared. An unnamed and serenely calm TFAIO borrowed a shifting spanner from aforesaid 7 RAR truck and defused the rocket. Fortunately, I did know what was where and how the fusing system worked.

Immediately gave another round of briefings on the RPG 7, using shorter words, and a brand new and very graphic movie from our friends at the CMEC.

Our project to collect, make inert (now very big on my agenda), sectionalise, photograph and document as many of our own, US, other Free World Forces, SVN and VC/NVA projectiles and fragments was now well under way and producing results and good feedback from others. A lot of great work by the Det and the many others who were conned, I mean encouraged, to assist. It even included the RNZEME Workshop and the RAN Clearance Diving Team in Vung Tau.

This project was ongoing when I left.

To assist in our understanding and interpretation of some of the more exotic sensors being used by the US I attended a 3 day G2(Air) Orientation Course in Saigon. Great value and recommended for future OC.

An ARVN post to our South was mortared and Sgt Waghorn and party went to perform a crater analysis and fragment identification. The ARVN soldiers had already collected all the bits to sell as scrap metal. The team was able to identify 60mm mortars though, and Sgt W in his best colloquial Vietnamese (he had been trained) gave Lesson No 1 in crater analysis etc – we need the bits, so don't nick them. Lots of nods.

Two days later a similar event at the same post. Sgt W and team arrived. A smiling Post Commander presented them with a sandbag full of all the bits. Lesson No 2 – don't touch, leave them in place.

Pleasingly this seemed to work for subsequent mortaring and yielded good results including identifying the use of RPG 7.

28 Nov 67. 15 replacements arrive unannounced. Just when I thought we had the rotations organised.

Dec 67 saw the Projectile Project continue apace. People can see its value and we are asked for more presentations on it, RPG 7, and the bigger rockets.

24 Dec 67 a Xmas Party was held. Small numbers as most were on duty. On Xmas day I distributed 'Diddy Bags' to the Det in the TF area, and a disguised unnamed Lt dressed as Santa did the same for the Horseshoe contingent. Everyone guessed who it was though; perhaps a Wight Xmas after all! (Sorry, couldn't resist)

Jan – Feb 68. Little did the Det know what was in store, indeed I don't think anyone else did either. ALL Det members training and expertise was to be put to the test, and found sound.

The Det's reputation for successful and accurate work had obviously spread well beyond the TF, as I was requested to go to the US Marines in 1 Corps and the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) from 20-26 Jan 68 as they were trying to set up and coordinate their locating effort.

The WORST advice given to Warwick: From my Marine contact officer in 12th Marine Regt, 'You're lucky, it's been really quiet here.'

Well, for the first time in months, every major base installation I visited was mortared; at Con Thien outpost we had about 250 rounds incoming in the 24 hours I was there (The Marines thought I was mad collecting and trying to identify fragment during each lull, but I was able to identify and later confirm 120mm mortar, 130mm and 152mm howitzer rounds); at Gio Linh post we were gassed, yes gassed, but fortunately, through identification of the canisters it was *only* US made CS (Tear) gas; on the Qua Viet river the Marine landing craft next to mine was mined; and I managed to make it onto one of the last aircraft out of Khe Sahn before the major attack started.

Other than that things went well, and the Det's advice and experience was well received. The crater analysis and fragment identification was found fascinating even though one senior Marine said 'We haven't done that since World War I.' I learnt a lot about NVA artillery tactics which was to pay off a few days later back South.

On reflection, the action against 1 Corps were probably a sneaky build-up (eg: registration of targets, feint attacks) for the TET offensive a few days later.

Best Advice Given to Warwick: At the DMZ, day 1. 'I think you had better have this flak jacket and steel helmet'

While I was holidaying up North the Det showed how good it was individually and collectively, deploying on 24 Jan 68 out of the ATF area on Op COBURG, with less than 24 hours' notice, this was to counter a real rocket and ground attack threat against the Binh Hoa-Long Binh major base areas. Distance meant there were to be two independent Arty Tac and locating functions operating, joined by secure radio telephone. A record number of LP were deployed, 31A to 31G, with everyone, and I mean everyone, in the Det manning these and other functions sometimes as well as their normal.

Arriving back at Nui Dat I find all this happening and that my job as Project Manager DARMA is suddenly very real. To my amazement on 30 Jan 68 my replacement Capt Phil Perrin and replacement Arty Int Sgt Ruddick walked into Arty Tac (Rear). My RTA had already been cancelled, as had Sgt W's so now we could properly man Arty Tac (Fwd) and (Rear). Poor Phil didn't get much of a briefing though as the First TET offensive started that night and I was whisked forward to take charge of Counter Battery (CB) fire, and given access to the Corps Artillery Net – 24 Regts /Bns worth of big guns– Whew!

The detachment, both Forward and Rear performed really well during this period and established locating and artillery intelligence as a really meaningful asset. A great compliment to everybody.

The TET offensive really slowed after 6 Feb 68, though Op Coburg continued till 1 Mar 68. Phil and Ruddick came forward and we were able to do a better handover in place with them and other replacements. I made it back to Nui Dat and the first thing I did was...you guessed...had a haircut!

Most importantly though, the Det plaques arrived.

12 Feb, after one last shift in Arty Tac, I packed up my plaque and set off to RTA, leaving the Det in good hands.

Final Musings

When I first learnt of my posting to the Det a number of people (nameless of course), said such as 'a weird bunch', 'too many Nashos', 'never be able to get things to work', 'all individuals', etc, etc. I am proud to say all these were true, and that is what made the Det the unique, cohesive and efficient unit that it became.

I don't know that many outside the Det understood how we worked, but they did understand our results.

Thinking back, I don't believe I ever categorised anyone as Nasho or Reg, as RAEME or Surveyor or bottlewasher.

We were all '131', and I am privileged to have been the OC.

Footnote

On arriving at the big silver bird to take us back to the Land of Oz I found myself Draft Conducting Officer. This meant the hopeless task of trying to control in flight exuberance (Failed) and making sure everyone left the plane (Passed), except for a minor hiccup when flight attendants found live 'souvenirs' in a seat pocket. Needless to say I was delayed though everyone else had left.

Meanwhile, in the terminal my wife was waiting, waiting. Some of the Det explained that I was actually on the plane and must have been delayed. At last emerging to a sorely missed hug I saw tears in her eyes. 'No need to cry' said I. Answer: 'But you're standing on my foot!!!'

Welcome home Warwick.

Ed hounded Warwick, like all the other OC's, for some "before and afterwards" information and this arrived in the form of his "Locator Profile", by which time most of you may have read, but I have included the "before and after" for those of you who may not have had the privilege or luck to have scoured it...

Battery/s Activity/s (Bty/s served in, Sections of Bty/s worked in, locations, dates etc):

1957-60. Royal Military College, Duntroon

1961-62. After graduating, the next two years were spent at RMIT Melbourne completing my electronics degree.

During the 1961-62 summer break, as a member of the Army modern pentathlon team, and to avoid having to re-join the army proper for that period, I completed the Victoria Mounted Police basic training course, including peak hour point duty at Flinders St Station in full Army Light Horse uniform – not bad for a city boy from Leichhardt!

1963. Off to 111 LAA Bty Holsworthy to learn to become a Lt again.

1964. After a hurried preparation of 111 Bty for operational service in Malaysia I was left behind to clean up the mess. As a thank you I was posted to the School of Artillery as Radar Troop Commander/ instructor. Here I first met some of the troops who would later be part of the Det, SVN.

1966. 131 Div Loc Bty Holsworthy in preparation for SVN. This was my introduction to the eclectic group of National Servicemen who would form the Det.

Apr 67 – Feb 68. Privileged to be OC Det 131 Div Loc Bty, SVN. More details at in the OC's reports section of the Det website.

1968-69. Back to the School of Artillery as Instructor Locating.

1969-70. Posted to The Royal Military College of Science, UK, on the Guided Weapons course. This added Aeronautics to my post nominals.

1970-72. Materiel Branch, AHQ Melbourne for a very short time till someone found out I was supposed to know about guided weapons and I was sent to Darwin for 2 years (1971-72) to create and command the UK Rapier surface to air missile hot/wet Trials Unit, including the final test firings. This posting was 'interesting' to say the least, and a great success.

1973. Materiel Branch, Army HQ, Canberra as a Staff Officer something or other technical.

1974. I was a student again, this time at the Army Command and Staff College, Fort Queenscliff, Vic for a year.

1975-76. Dept. of Defence Canberra to work for the Chief Defence Scientist. Welcome to the upper levels of bureaucracy; really fascinating, and lots of travel to Defence Science establishments I didn't know existed.

1977-78. Posted to the UK again as the Rapier Project Officer, responsible for the building and delivery of the system for Australia. At the risk of sounding smug, it was delivered on time and on budget!!

1979-80. In a surprising display of Army logic I was then posted to command 16 Air Defence Regiment, Woodside to oversee the delivery, commissioning and introduction of the Rapier system, including creating two new batteries and a super high tech workshop, all to be operational in 2 years. A challenging but really fulfilling job.

1981-82. Posted back to the Command and Staff College as a Directing Staff (instructor). Two very busy years, including raising the National award winning Fort Queenscliff Museum in my (and many others) spare time. Originally an open gun emplacement in 1860, the Fort was constructed in 1881-2 and is the largest walled fort in Australia, complete with a dry moat. We managed to recover and restore many of the guns used there including a rare 8 inch 'disappearing' gun. The Fort was brought back to near original state, which included removal of 100 years of good thick military painting over everything, researching the original paint design, type and signage, and clearing out the overgrown and filled in moat (which yielded many historically significant finds). Prisoners from Pentridge Gaol, with their armed guard, provided additional labour; on a horticultural work experience basis of course. The end of 1981 saw the official opening by the Governor General, and a weekend celebration of the Fort's centenary. In all quite a posting!

1983-89. Back to Canberra, to the Directorate of Logistic Operations, developing contingency plans for 'what if' situations. I even had to implement one of our plans when, on a liaison visit to New Guinea, there was a mud slide in Lae, and I was thrown in to coordinate the Army response. That was a salutary exercise, particularly experiencing where we had not quite got it right!

I stayed in Logistic Operations moving to other really interesting challenges, including, as a simple Artillery officer, disposing of obsolete stores in the Ordnance system. No Ordnance officer would touch it! ('If we get rid of it what happens if we need it' syndrome). Oldest find was hundreds of spare guy ropes for bell tents from the Boer War. Included were Centurion tanks and over 100,000 .303 in rifles. I managed to actually sell these at quite a profit, but the system had a hernia trying to work out what to do with the money!

In Jan 1989 my wife died of a massive heart attack while on holiday in Bali with my 12 year old daughter. This altered my life dramatically, now becoming a single parent with my daughter and 15 year old son. The Army 'family' was fantastic, and I held on till Nov 89 when I retired.

Who were you in the service with: Apart from the remarkable members of Det 131, with over 32 years in the Army the others are really too numerous to individually mention.

Last Rank: Lt Col

What did you do after the army:

1990-2008. To a lot of peoples surprise I then created a special events company, Events Unlimited. Well, I did come from a theatrical family (why is that not a surprise to a few of you) and had the project management skills from the Army! This did very well and won several awards nationally and internationally, for shows ranging from a few hundred to about 50,000 people. In 1996 I moved the company complete to Sydney as that was my main client base. During this time I met my lovely partner Kate. In Sydney I added 'International' to the company name as we had a number of overseas jobs

In 2002, I was asked to help teach the new event management course at Brookvale TAFE. For a long time I had thought that the events industry needed proper training so I said yes. This grew from a small part time teaching role to full time (and running the company as well). Additionally, I became a part time lecturer at University of Technology,

Sydney. The Department of Education, in their wisdom, decided I needed another post nominal so in 2005 I completed the Graduate Diploma in VET (Vocational Education and Training, nothing to do with non-human animals). 2008. This frenetic working style continued till June when Kate presented me with a one way ticket to Europe and a choice: keep working or come and have fun. I retired! Best decision I didn't have to make! 2008-14. Europe for 3 years living in apartments, back to Oz for a short break in 2011, which turned into 19 months driving around Australia in a Prado and living in a small dome tent with a swag, then back to Europe for 2013. 2014. We moved back into our house in Lane Cove mid-2014, but the travel bug was still there and we spent a lot of 2014-15 wandering Australia catching up with friends. Travelling was suddenly curtailed in Jan 2016 when I was diagnosed with Leukaemia and ended up with an infection which required the removal of half my left lung. I am now in remission and slowly regaining my strength, so travelling is not written off, just delayed a bit.

Anything else of interest:

I enjoy the theatre and have long been involved in acting, producing, and directing many amateur and pro-am productions. Some fun highlights were playing Frank N Furter in the 'Rocky Horror Show', and having to learn to do a jazz dance routine *on roller skates* for 'They Shoot Horses Don't They'. I was at Army Office in Canberra and, since I had never roller skated, I thought it would be a good idea to wear them all day to get used to them. Most people were bemused at me in rolling around HQ in uniform until I managed to crash into my General. After picking ourselves up from the floor he merely commented 'Which show are you in now Warwick?'

A have always been interested in cars, and particularly 3 wheelers. I used to have 3 Messerschmitt's but am now down to one, a 1957 version. I have included a photo for those who drive common cars and don't know what one is! Kate and I enjoy travelling, bush walking and sailing (racing and cruising), but these are on hold just at present.

Ed – now that's a marginally different "soldier's" life – thanks Warwick.

A footnote: Warwick and Bob Billiards could stage an "Oddities" Vintage Car Show!

Do you reckon the "Oddities" match their personas?



Goggomobil Dart v's Messerschmitt



Next month the series continues with Phil Perrin's Recollections

. 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.

Then there's the tie, which I thought was novel let alone innovative – a fringe on both ends, no confusion whether or not it was back to front! I tied mine with a "Windsor" knot, not the usual way, I must have gotten away with though.

The old boots were classics (good for tap dancing with the toe piece and heel) – I remember getting bloody enormous blisters on the way back, on the forced march, from Greta. In thongs for a few days after that!





However, then I couldn't wait for a pair of GP's (our Recruit Training Sergeant (Hank Snow – ex SVN Vet Infantry) had a pair and I thought that they were just too cool, plus as I thought it was a sign that you had made it – no more gaiters with those bloody brass buckles you had to polish!! Hey don't forget the shoe cleaning gear – I still have two brushes to this day! Then we even got sandshoes. I can't remember getting normal lace up black leather shoes though?



Whilst on the subject of boots – our “youngsters”, 20 STA Regiment, I noted wear RM Williams on parade – very fashionable and the girls have slightly raised heels!

Now back to the story - the “Yanks” had some different gear in SVN – there was a bit of bartering going on with “hats giggle”/berets being traded for their boots with the canvas sides – even I had a pair of those up to some time ago – good for heavy yard work, especially if it was wet.

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.

. **“Things reminiscent”** – As a continuation from last and this month's “Uniforms” I got to thinking about recruit training once more – it was a fun nightmare. Actually, getting the clothing reminded me of the “getting inoculated” procedure where needles were inserted in both arms simultaneously and the needle section left in and the body swapped for another dose of something! Plus, the haircuts were pretty unspectacular and on reflection they may have been done by shearers! Let's see what we can dig up for next month with regards to these subjects?

. **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, Vietnam. 1966. Some of the sophisticated equipment in use by Australians at their Task Force base is shown in operation by Corporal Geoff Thwaites of Frankston, Vic, a soldier of 131st Divisional Locating Battery, Royal Australian Artillery (RAA). It is a tellurometer, an electronic device which measures distances accurately to within two inches of 40 miles.

Ed – Geoff was in our RAEME Section



. Here's the first...



Michael and Helen Quinlan bought this whole thought to life through Michael's Locator Profile and the following is the start to a "Quinlan Odyssey" ...

Tales from a Locator's recent Caravan Saga
Michael & Helen Quinlan - SVN 68/69 Reg No 6850450

We set sail from Sydney this year on the 24th April, 2016 spent the night at Bulahdelah. The following morning, ANZAC Day, we attended a very well attended and dignified Dawn Service. Then off on our trip. We wanted to go to Birdsville then down the "Track" to Marree.

Then it started to rain and the dusty roads turned to mud and empty river beds turned into torrents of raging water. We were lucky to get out and in our flight down to Broken Hill along sealed roads we forded several of these menacing fast flowing rivers.



Our caravan is pretty simple, an 18 foot Coromal "Off Roader Pop Top" pulled by a VW Touareg. Plenty of solar cells keep the two large AGM batteries full most of the time. A diesel space heater means we can free camp anywhere and keep warm while watching TV either from an aerial or satellite dish. I love a camp fire and in the foreground is a 9 kg gas bottle with its top cut off and suitably modified for a "burner". We cook everything above the ashes, my favourite is the simple potato wrapped in foil and spiked with a piece of fencing wire and suspended above the coals for about 35 mins.

Just outside Broken Hill on a back road a truck with its load uncovered delivered a large projectile which hit the passenger's side window leaving the usual tell-tale star. Bum!! We had windscreen cover for one window a year so we motored on regardless expecting a few more unwanted presents from ore trucks and the like.

Crossing the Nullarbor took us the usual three days; on the last night we camped on a spur which gave us these views along the Great Australian Bight.

Just beautifully magnificent!!

We then passed up through the Goldfields via Kalgoorlie and then on to the coast at Geraldton.



Pictured at left is a war memorial dedicated to HMAS Sydney on Geraldton's highest hill overlooking the city. A very professionally done monument. After Geraldton we moved north along the West Coast to Port Hedland and witnessed BHP's massive iron ore loading facility and the 2.9 km long trains feeding the port from ore mined throughout the Pilbara.

Let's see what next month brings!

So here's a reminder - 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!

Grahame Dignam comes up with a real find –

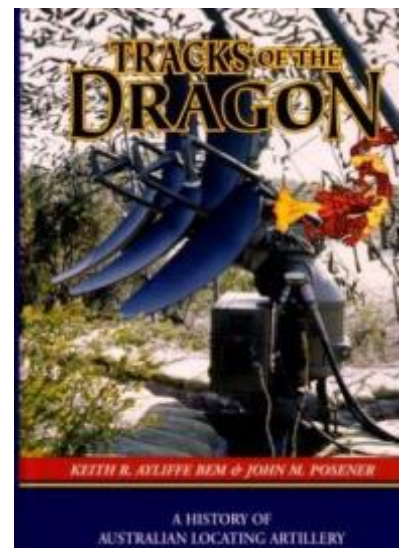
"After being asked if we had any copies of "Tracks of the Dragon" available, I tried Google and stumbled onto the goldmine.

The original publisher had copies and when pushed said he could certainly supply 10 and probably had more in storage". I snapped up the ten."

The cost per copy is \$35 each plus \$8.25 postage if required. A small number will be available at the Coffs reunion.

Please contact the Sec/Treas (mob 0437361602) or email me at sectreas131locators@gmail.com to confirm your copy."

Grahame"



Mail Call...

George Lane sent in the following – and “Spike” Chase adds a few words as the origin of the article...

“It’s a little local paper called The Cudal News, it’s from my brother’s country town & comes out monthly. They only have a population of about 400 people but the paper is sent to all the people who have moved away from the town so is widely read.

Just in case you didn’t realise that’s George & I in Vung Tau 1966 & Canberra 2016. “Spike” “

Vietnam War

Mick Chase called into Cudal on his way to Canberra where he met up with mates from the Vietnam War.

Photograph below is George Lane and Mick Chase in Vietnam and on the right is Mick and George in Canberra.



Between 1965 & 1972 approximately 800,000+ 20 year old men registered for national service, of these more than 63,000 had their birthdays drawn in the ballot for national service with over 19,000 serving in Vietnam. Our unit, 131 Divisional Locating Battery sent a detachment, 1/3 of the battery, consisting of two radar sets & back up of listening posts, survey & artillery intelligence sections. Mainly our unit was used for mortar location although we were involved in all sorts of duties especially the survey section. Initially out of the first intake of national service 20 soldiers were sent to 131 Divisional Locating Battery of those most went to Vietnam with the advance party for the first task force & are now referred to as the “pioneers”.

We were probably the smallest unit in the task force having no more than a hundred troops in country at any one time. We were as far as I know the only unit ever to have a higher ratio of national servicemen to regular soldiers, I think at one time approximately 60% Nashos to 40% regulars but we really were all one army.

Mick Chase

Rob Wilson sheds some light on the following article which appeared in August's *Eyes & Ears* –

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??



"The editor,
You asked who the bare chested soldier was in the dark room...oddly enough,
the photo being scrutinised by Pete was one of him at Coral.
Bob"

...then Bob responds to a reply from Ed...

"Hi Paul

All is well, power plant is ok but suspension and body work is a bit ordinary.
Had a look through my photos and found the one that Pete and I were looking at.
Not sure if he is still on the fags. Wasn't last time we caught up
Bob"

Ed – thanks Bob for being an investigative *Eyes & Ears* reader.



Bob Billiards sent in a collection of great images he took or had taken (as per the last and I assume by Kathy) of the 18th August ceremony at the Vietnam Memorial in Canberra...



Sir Peter is a fitting GG.



The array of hats not only remember Australians, but our Kiwi and US comrades.



Stan and Bob create a great memory too.

Ron Mason sends us some follow-up info and photos from the activities in Canberra last month –
 “Hello Dicko, Use any of these photos from Canberra if you wish. Keep up the good work. Ron Mason”



Lunch after August Locator's Meeting in Canberra
 L to R: Bob Billiards, Joe Librizzi, Stan Briggs, Grahame Dignam, George Lane, Ged Carroll, Spike Chase and John Bake on the right.



Also Ray Smith, Bert Blink, Mary Blink, John Blake, John Vickary, Ron Mason. AWOL (at bar?) Allen Morley.



Pioneers at Parliament Great Hall Reception:
 Ron Mason, George Lane, Spike Chase, Ged Carroll and Ray Smith.

At right: Pioneers at Locator's Reunion Dinner
 Seated: Ron Mason, Ray Smith, George Lane, Spike Chase
 Standing: Andrew Opie, Ged Carroll



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

BACK TO MUSEUM DAY



50th Anniversary Battle of Long Tan

Saturday 5 November 2016
11am - 6pm

Vietnam Veterans and their families are invited to take part in this commemorative day. Formalities in the morning with guest speaker followed by an afternoon of great entertainment.

- Plenty of food and drinks
- See the exhibits in the Museum
- Free entry
- Catch up with friends

Live music featuring:



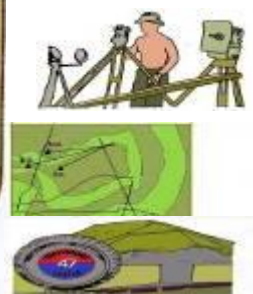
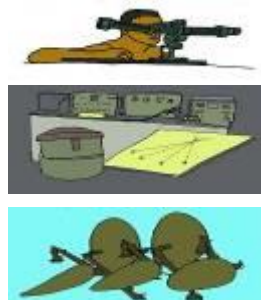
Russell Morris



Wendy Stapleton

and more...

National Vietnam Veterans Museum
25 Veterans Drive, Newhaven, 3925
Ph: 03 5956 6400 | www.vietnamvetsmuseum.org



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

I am currently in soggy Auckland helping my daughter out over school holidays. It has rained for the past two days, but the sun is trying to make its way through the clouds this morning.

New Zealand is an interesting country. Quaint in many respects but advanced in others. The cost of living is higher than in many parts of Australia. And the comparable job salaries are generally lower over here. House prices, especially in the larger cities are surprisingly high, and Auckland real estate is crazy. It is even worse than Sydney. Their newspapers are amusingly parochial as well, with one report today in Auckland's main paper citing a charge against a Chinese student for a car crash where one of the passenger's horse was killed. Though there was no mention if it was a passenger or in a horse float.

Integration seems to work better here too. But today's *New Zealand Herald* refers on its front page to Pakeha (white people) and Pasifika (Pacific Islanders), which in this PC world seems to be a tad unusual. At the moment the Kiwis are trying to have their former Prime Minister, Helen Clark, appointed as secretary-General of the United Nations. Nevertheless, that seems unlikely to happen.

Drivers here are demonic. They seem to hate pedestrians and heaven help the walkers who dare to challenge any vehicular right of way. However, drivers will often let drivers in a side street into the lane of traffic even if it slows down traffic flow. Turn signals seem to be at the driver's discretion, but that is certainly not exclusive to Kiwis.

And I am here for another week! Then, like Bob Billiards, I off to the USA for a reunion with 1st/83rd Battery of the US Army, which served at Nui Dat at the same time Bob and I were holidaying there.

Cheers

Allen

. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 18th October, 2016 at 1100hrs

Venue: Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club, 26 Humphries Rd., Canley Heights Ph (02) 9604 9975 and for directions - <http://www.canleyheightsrsl.com.au/contact-us/>

You're all welcome

. Pertinent Points – extracted from the 131 Locators Association Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 20th September, 2016 at 1105hrs...

Attendees were: Grahame Dignam, Ernest Newbold, George Lane, Ian Amos, Gordon Malcolm, Bert Blink, Nick Proskurin, Des McGuigan

Welcome: Chairman, Bert Blink opened the meeting at 11.04 AM. and thanked those who travelled long distances to be present.



Financial Membership is currently Financial Membership is current 142, plus Associates 2, Affiliates 9
Total 153 Lapsed 12 members

Presidents report.

Allen advised that -

A proposed 50th anniversary Reunion in Adelaide for the May 4 1967 tour party should be investigated. We will develop the event with Geoff Blackwell and advise the next meeting.

Name Badges. Allen Morley expressed a preference for Executive style name badges in addition to those previously designed for re-unions.

He and the Sec/Treas had received an Invitation to 20STA Birthday Dinner in at Gallipoli Barracks Enoggera QLD on 6th October 2016 however he had declined. He moved that travel costs of the Secretary be covered if he chose to attend.

Date for the **Annual General Meeting - 15 November 2016** has been nominated for that meeting to be immediately followed by an ordinary General Meeting.

Arrangements for **50th Anniversary reunion of the departure of the 1st Reo party to SVN on 4 May 1967**

A list of guests will be compiled to join us for the occasion.

Negotiations will be conducted with the SA rep to firm up plans

Publicity will follow once commitments are made.

General Business

National Vietnam Veterans Museum Phillip Island will hold an OPEN DAY on November 5th 2016.

Secretary/Treasurer advised that as he had committed to the Coffs Harbour reunion event family commitments would not allow him to travel to Qld to celebrate the 210STA birthday Dinner.

A discussion on our community involvement resulted in 2 suggestion

1. Ern Newbold suggested that we donate an amount to allow the 20STA soldiers to benefit from an amenity provided by 20STA Regiment in our Association Name. The amenity would be an award or reward generally available to all OR's. This will be investigated.

2. Gordon Malcolm suggested that our Association sponsor an award named "The Jim Menz Book prize" to students attending the local school where Jim grew up and the family still lives.

Both suggestions will be developed and a report will be made to the Association.

. 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...October –

October	Name	Regt No	YOB	In SVN	Out SVN	Comments
1	IAN BRIGNELL	2789405	1946	20 01 1969	21 01 1970	
2	TERRY BRUCE	2783213	1945	05 05 1967	30 01 1968	
2	PETER TEATHER	3790242	1945	12 04 1968	06 08 1968	
2	LESLIE ROBINSON	217662	1949	09 12 1968	28 11 1969	
4	LEIGH HEMMING	1732039	1945	04 05 1967	11 12 1967	
4	MIKE LUFF	2783725	1945	02 01 1967	27 09 1967	
4	DAVID LAHORE	3791183	1945	02 09 1968	04 03 1969	
5	JAMES MERCHANT	2788817	1945	18 12 1968	28 11 1969	
7	GARY CHILLINGSWORTH	313477	1951	29 11 1970	05 08 1971	
8	JOHN O'NEILL	243505	1949	09 11 1970	11 11 1970	
9	BRIAN SMYTHE	1201484	1946	02 09 1968	03 12 1969	
10	BRIAN KENNEDY Capt.	213488	1942	02 03 1965	11 03 1965	3 RAR
	" "			26 08 1969	27 08 1970	131
10	PAUL DICKSON	1732012	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
10	BARRY BONSER	37661	1941	03 01 1967	27 09 1967	† 03.09.98
11	PAUL JONES	216324	1946	22 04 1966	30 04 1967	† 09.09.68
11	JEFFREY EVANS Maj	3789164	1945	10 02 1971	02 06 1971	131 † 23.12.11
	" "			02 06 1971	02 11 1971	12 Fd Regt.
12	ALAN CLEASBY WO2	36053	1937	02 12 1968	10 12 1969	131
	" " "			11 06 1972	20 11 1972	AATTV
12	BARRY FOUNTAIN	3798485	1949	03 03 1971	20 08 1971	131
	" "			21 08 1971	30 10 1971	12 Fd Regt.
13	PETER SALI	1735560	1948	24 02 1970	18 02 1971	
13	DENNIS AVERY	4720906	1948	19 08 1970	09 06 1971	4 Fd Regt.
14	ANTHONY DODDS	16776	1944	04 05 1967	02 04 1968	
14	NORMAN LINDROOS	3410957	1939	20 05 1968	24 05 1969	
14	PETER McGANN	55672	1950	27 11 1969	19 11 1970	
16	WILLIAM THOMAS	16727	1944	{07 01 1967	19 03 1967	1ARU
	" "			{20 03 1967	26 09 1967	
17	TORIN WHITE	218372	1945	21 02 1969	25 02 1970	
18	HELMUT LEMPA	38120	1946	20 05 1966	06 12 1966	† Unknown
18	ARTHUR JUX "TED"	2792371	1948	29 04 1970	18 03 1971	
19	IAN FINLAY	2412363	1948	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
20	ROBERT HARRIS Sgt.	213514	1942	10 02 1971	29 07 1971	
23	JOHN VITKOVSKY	4718271	1945	02 03 1967	12 03 1968	
23	NORMAN BULLEN	214545	1944	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	
22	IAN BOARD	213879	1943	22 04 1966	11 12 1966	
25	MICHAEL DELANEY	2789205	1947	17 02 1969	28 11 1969	† 17.02.13
28	MICHAEL BOHL	1411182	1948	08 02 1968	17 12 1968	† 15.06.93
28	DAVID DOYLE Sgt.	17760	1943	{22 04 1966	11 12 1966	
	" "			{24 09 1970	08 02 1971	
28	IAN MURLEY	38503	1946	12 04 1968	23 04 1969	
28	PAUL TYS Lt.	235362	1946	17 03 1969	18 03 1970	
29	JAMES "ZEKE" RITCHIE Sgt.	2411899	1940	21 05 1969	09 04 1970	
29	PETER LARKIN	3793067	1946	08 11 1968	19 11 1969	
30	GRAHAM O'TOOLE	61497	1943	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	

Ed – 10 blokes not highlighted is still not good enough – c'mon someone has to know at least one of these blokes??

. Locator Profiles – we’ve received 140 and we’ve sent out 140. Ed – 150 sounds like a great new target!

. 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>
McPherson, Maxwell Duncan	3795560	Gnr	28.11.69	05.11.70	19.07.47	19.05.16



Photo at right - L to R - ?? RAEME guy, Les Connell, Dave Negus, Dave Riley, Chris Chapple with Max in front

Richard Chaplin – (also sent in this photo on the right and refers to it) - “Hi Paul, I am sure Max Macpherson is pictured here at Front Right. The four guys behind him are (from left to right) Les Connel (deceased), Dave Negus, Dave Reilly, and Chris Chapple (with empty Johnny Walker bottle). I don’t know the name of the person in Left Hand front corner. I can recall Max as a friendly and easy going guy. Sad to hear of his passing. Regards, Richard Chaplin”

Max took the photo (at right) in A & B Radar lines around Xmas 1969. Information from Max and gaps filled in by Graham Williams Names commencing from front left: Norbert Kroll, Ian Brignell, Herb Andrew, Colin West, Peter Bennett standing. (Behind Norbert) Peter Meaney, Bert Jacka (Partly obscured), Grant Perrins, Les Connell, Stan Patterson (watch)?, Peter Bremner, Bill Edward Missing believed to be working - John Stanford, Phil Ross, David Dodd, Graham Williams, Zeke Ritchie, Paul Butcher and Mal Musgrave



Dave Negus, a RAEME guy, Dave Reilly, me and Mac. Very sorry to receive the news. Chris”

Pete Ravelje – “G’day Paul, Wow what a shock to hear of Max’s passing. So sorry to hear the bad news. This is Max and myself on ANZAC Day 2010 when we stayed with Paul Angell. Pete”



Chris Chapple –

“I knew this guy; he was in my tent at the Dat. A truly great locator well fed by his family back home who used to send him lots of food parcels. My supply was not so good and Max always used to share his with me. He also taught me how to play cards and “Goosebury Hill” on guitar (I am still practicing!). I am sure he is the one on the right in this pic, taken in the RAEME Hut on the eve of me and the others meeting the “silverbird” for the trip back home. Others in the pic, from left, Les Connell (Dec’d),



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.

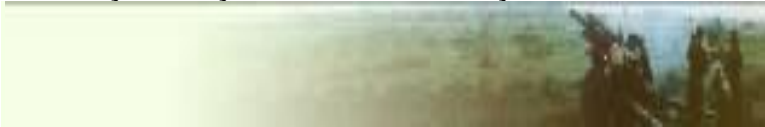
So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the Eyes & Ears regularly you could bite the bullet and email Grahame [Dignam:sectreas131locators@gmail.com](mailto:sectreas131locators@gmail.com) and he could forward you the relevant forms to join - Memberships are available for 1 year or longer deposit a DONATION direct (add your name) to the associations account at "A/c Name: 131 Locators Association Inc. Bank: Westpac, Kingsgrove NSW BSB No: 032 166 A/c No: 264133"

Hope we hear from you?

Website: <http://www.131locators.org.au>

. Other related sites...

. Artillery Surveyors 131 Div Loc Bty...



ARTILLERY SURVEYORS 131 DIV LOC BTY

"Elements of 131 came wandering in from the bush" (A quote whose origins are lost, yet the sentiments expressed will not be lost on many who served with 131 Div Loc Bty SVN.)

This website seeks to make contact with the Artillery Surveyors of 131 Div Loc Bty. We welcome your relevant contributions of photos, insights and observances so we might endeavour to expand 131 Artillery Surveying Vietnam record, beyond this window. Please use the [contacts page](#) for details: <http://www.artillerysurveyors131.com.au/>
<http://www.artillerysurveyors131.com.au/operations/coburg.html>



LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION

The Eyes And Ears Of The Battlefield <http://www.locatingartillery.org>



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

www.artilleryhistory.org



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

. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE Website link - <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



. 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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