

THE EYES and EARS

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Here's a bit of how it ALL started!



Bravo Radar Lines...
The "living" quarters for the Bravo blokes.

This is the start of, hopefully, a three-part series showing where it all began, some progress, then how we looked some 5+ years later...

We're starting at the beginning with some great photos from **Ray Smith**, who is one of our "Pioneers". Ray was with Bravo Radar along with a bunch of blokes you'll discover as this pictorial continues... (Gee, the galv iron around the tents must have made them feel really secure?)

Here are the Radar blokes at it -



Now the CP Base hole has been dug...



...it's got to be filled in, so Lofty Hayes and Ray Smith get into it...



...and the "workers" keep filling it!

The caption for this photo Ray calls "workers" - maybe? Anyway, where the hell do all these pieces go?





It's not quite cooked yet... "Baldy" Nairn (obscured), Ron Mason, Bob and Lawrie Gallop.

It's starting to look serious...



Ahh, that's starting to look more like it!

Now that looks more like a CP!





Frank Halliday making the CP “bomb” proof.



Ron Mason (at right) has a quizzical look –
“Where’s the start button?”
Then (below) grabs a well-earned smoko!



Ron Mason (below) hard at it when it was all done...



The sandbagging is done – that’s music to
our ears!
Well for three of us – Laurie Sawyer,
“Lofty” Hayes and Ron Mason.



Above is Bravo Radar in all its glory.

The conditions were pretty “basic” ...



Lawrie Sawyer (at left) recording a message for home...

The surroundings pretty “sparse” as below...



...the “Yanks” gave us some security...with a couple of “heavy” SP’s below



...and there was time for a laugh...



... as seen with Ron Mason, Lawrie Sawyer, Lofty Hayes - part of the team at Bravo radar

...and a time to relax...



With Lorrae Desmond
(above)



Dinah Lee and the group on stage in the
middle

...But, best of all came when we were
RTA'ing – couldn't come soon enough!

Ed on behalf of ALL of us, I thank Ray for the
photos giving us the ability, some 50 years
later, to re-live and experience our meagre
beginnings. Paul



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

This is the last in the series of OC's Recollections we have been 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).

The series comes to a completion with **Tim Ford**, who was the Det's OC from August 20th, 1970 to August 5th, 1971. After **Jim Townley** basically turned the lights on in May 1966, Tim turned them off some 5 plus years later.

Comments by Tim Ford on his time as OC Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA South Vietnam Aug 1970- Aug 1971.

I graduated as a LT into the RAA from RMC Duntroon in December 1966 along with 3 other graduates (Ahearn, Armstrong, McWilliam) and attended the 1967 Young Officers' Course at the School of Artillery, which I left early to enter the 3rd Year of Electrical Engineering at Sydney University. Following completing of that degree in November 1968, I was posted to 19 Composite Regiment and 131 Div Loc Bty located at Holsworthy as a Radar Section Commander (AN/KPQ1 Radar).

In early 1969 I attended a Gun Position Officer's Course at North Head and was then posted as the GPO of 103 Medium Battery RAA (equipped with the 5.5in gun) also part of 19 Composite Regiment. My period there included the normal busy schedule of School of Artillery supporting activities on Holsworthy Range before I was seconded for 6 months as GPO of a Trials Battery evaluating the next 105mm Gun to be chosen by the Australian Army. In late 1969 I returned to 131 Div Loc Bty on promotion to Captain as the TFAIO. Over the next 9 months I undertook a wide range of courses, exercises and preparations prior to deployment to SVN in late 1970. This included Artillery Intelligence and other courses at Locating Wing North Fort, Army exercises at Shoalwater Bay and the all ranks battle readiness course at Canungra. (Incidentally, I got married in August 1969 but my wife Chris did not see much of me at home for the 12 months before I deployed to SVN).

I travelled to South Vietnam in mid-August 1970 on a QANTAS charter aircraft contracted to Defence along with about 130 other reinforcements. I remember a refuelling stopover for several hours in Singapore where we were ordered to wear white civilian shirts (with our poly trousers!) – not sure if this was for security or a Government of Singapore regulation? We landed in Tan Son Nhut airport in Saigon and were accommodated in transit lines for one night before deploying to Nui Dat via a RAAF Caribou aircraft (“Wallaby Airlines”) the next day. As the Task Force Artillery Intelligence Officer (TFAIO), as well as OC Det 131 DLB, I was accommodated in the Field Regiment lines (then 4th Fd Regt RAA commanded by LTCOL Brian “Bushy” Forward). I soon came to realize that 4th Fd Regt were a very professional outfit.

I arrived in Nui Dat at a time of considerable change. I received no handover from the previous OC (Brian Kennedy) who had returned to Australia a few days earlier for health reasons. The overall tactical situation was relatively quiet due to previous strong ATF operations that had driven most of the North Vietnamese regular forces from Phuoc Tuy Province. The focus of IATF operations was on strengthening the local Vietnamese forces to resist the remaining “Viet Cong” cadres.

By August 1970, a decision to downsize the Detachment 131 had already been made. The AN/KPQ1 radars had left in June and the sound ranging cross base was due to close in October 1970. This was part of a general reduction in 1 ATF confirmed by the non-replacement of one infantry battalion in November, followed by advice that Det 131 Div Loc Bty would completely close and return to Australia from late July 1971.

The Detachment was still busy. There were two Listening Posts (LPs) manned on SAS Hill and at the Horseshoe (31A and 31B), which monitored the surrounding area and reported any firings, lights and unusual movement at night back to the Arty Int Office that operated alongside the Arty Tac HQ or Fire Support Coordination Centre (FSCC). The Artillery and TF duty officers combined these with reports from other OPs and Forward Observers to monitor and build up the picture of activity in the IATF AO. The Arty Int section was also called upon at times for crater analysis (at least once to confirm from where “friendly fire” had originated).

The TFAIO was one of the Duty Officers in Arty Tac normally rotating with two other officers from HQ Bty. Arty Tac was a Fire Support Coordination Centre (FSCC) with its attached Artillery Intelligence cell located next to the Task Force Operations Room – all in a (smoke filled) Bunker adjacent to TFHQ. A duty period started at 1600 hrs with a shift until midnight then a second shift from 0800 -1800 hrs (including a handover and evening Commander’s briefing) then on duty again from midnight to 0900 hrs (including the morning brief). There would then be a break from the Duty Officer roster until starting the cycle again at 1600 hrs the following day. So, it was normally only during this day and a half when not on Arty Tac duty that the TFAIO could concentrate on Detachment issues, administration and leadership. The two LTs and the DSM therefore coordinated most of the daily routine and activities of the Detachment. The Survey section was busy continuing to update current Bearing Pickets (BPs) and to establish theatre grid for the Regiment in new Fire Support Bases (FSBs), often supporting operations at the extremities of the 1ATF Area of Operations. The survey to fix these distant FSBs was often done by simultaneous fixation by helicopter (airborne control) with survey parties taking observations with theodolites and tellurometers from known fixed points and at the FSB. This was followed by frantic calculations and “independent checks” by the section normally using the Curta calculator in the old Sound Ranging bunker before transmitting the final fixation data to the gun line. (There were no computers in those days)

In addition, from normal duties, the Arty Int Section was also involved in some testing of Ground Surveillance Radars and how they might be used – with a US detachment deployed adjacent to 31B at the Horseshoe for some of the year. In May 1971, The Detachment again hosted a visit by an EVA detachment from the School of Artillery that spent several weeks in country calibrating 12 Fd Regt’s guns.

During this period the Detachment was also operating a new sensor “duffle bag” section with its Command Post on SAS Hill. This new capability involved the laying and monitoring of strings of unattended ground sensors (UGS) (seismic, magnetic, acoustic and infra-red) to collect data on enemy movement. Amongst other methods, the sensors had been used successfully around local villages to monitor movement during curfew and to carry out subsequent operations against local Viet Cong. Any “spare capacity” in the Detachment was being used to rapidly develop the associated skills.

There was still plenty of activity throughout this year with 24-hour Task Force operations to support. This required our members to get out and around the AO by helicopter and landrover. I remember several trips to FSBs and a couple of operations deploying UGS strings plus, when not on duty in Arty Tac, periodic visits to the Horseshoe Base to check up on our LP out there with 7 RAR either travelling via the back route or around via Dat Do. Sadly, these operations included some Detachment casualties when a Survey landrover ran over a land mine injuring four Detachment members with two, Sergeant Dave Doyle and Gnr Peter Mackie, being medevac’d back to Australia.

The planned closure and return of stores to Australia also added its interesting aspects. The Q account had to convert from a fairly “forgiving” operational system (E2C) back to peacetime accounting where every item needed to be physically sighted and counted. During this process, items of equipment were found that had previously been “written off”, others emerged that were not Australian issue and some critical items could not to be found at all! We undertook some “clever” solutions to balance the books. The unit regimental funds’ assets in the “James Menz Club” also needed to be transferred back to Holsworthy (although some believed the proceeds should all be drunk in SVN) and decisions made about the accumulated paraphernalia collected during almost 6 years of operations. There were also the normal numbers of minor incidents of discipline that needed to be tackled to ensure that the high reputation of the Locators was assured.

A number of characters come to mind including the LTs, Mick Boyle, Jeff Evans and Greg Tommasi, the DSMs Geoff McAuley and Norm McManus, some strong NCOs such as Kevin Browning and Tony Turner plus plenty of young, bright and excitable national servicemen.

The end of my tour saw the closure of the Detachment with most members apart from the Survey section and those accompanying stores home to Australia departing by early August. Jeff Evans, Kev Browning, Tony Turner and about 6 from the Survey section were transferred to 12 Fd Regt to boost up their survey parties.

On my return to Sydney I went on leave and then onto my next posting as a staff officer in the Directorate of Artillery in Canberra. The strange thing was, and I am sure it would not happen now, that there was no arrangement or request that I return to Holsworthy to oversee the return of the Detachment stores or ensure that the records and history of the Detachment was appropriately received in 131 Div Loc Bty. I therefore, never really had the opportunity to reminisce over my time in SVN until the belated "Welcome Home" reconciliation parade in Sydney and the Detachment "get together" at North Head in October 1987.

I remained in the Army for a further 33 years busy in a wide range of appointments in Australia and overseas including as 2IC 1 Fd Regt (1978/79), CO 4th Fd Regt (1984/5), and Director of Artillery (1987/88).

Tim Ford

Nov 2014

...Tim Ford - Other Experiences - Paul Dickson has asked if I would expand on my OC Det 131 Div Loc Bty recollections with some of my other army experiences. I am happy to do so. Some of my other gunner appointments I have already mentioned in my original recollections but I also served the Gunners as the SO3 (Captain) Equipment in the DRA (The Directorate RAA) in Canberra in 1971/72 in Russell Offices Canberra. This was an interesting first exposure to AHQ staff procedures and fun working under such notables as "Bones" Bertram, Mick Crawford, John McPherson and others, including learning much from Jeff Jebb and even "Crash" Kennedy. During that period, I did the 8 week Regimental Officers Gunnery Course (ROG's) at the School of Artillery at North Head. Following that posting I was fortunate enough to be chosen to attend the Gunnery Staff Course (no 11) at Larkhill (RSA) in England followed by an attachment to the RA Gunnery Training Establishment in Hohn, West Germany. All in all a great background for my subsequent Gunner postings as 2ic 1 Field Regt RAA at Wacol in 1978/79 (Jim Townley and Keith Hall as COs, Gerry Berson as RSM), and CO 4th Field Regt RAA in Townsville in 1984-85. This regiment was part of the 3 Brigade "Ready Deployment Force (RDF)" at short "notice to move" and we were pretty sharp - thanks to some great operators in the regiment such as my trio of BSMS, Peter Smith, Peter Bruce, Chris Jobson and RSM "Blue" Bellis. We conducted numerous exercises on High Range and Shoalwater Bay during which a detachment of 131DLB often joined us to add their skills to the gunner picture. My other Gunner appointments were as DARTY (the title had changed and the Directorate was now located further away from the core in Campbell Park offices - my successor Bob McEvoy moved the Directorate even further away to be collocated with the School at North Head). After retirement, I was again honoured to have a gunner appointment as the RAA Reprehensive Colonel Commandant for 7 years from 2005 -2012. Now I continue to support the Regiment as the Chair of the RAA Historical Company whose core purpose is **to promote the significance of Australia's Artillery, its history and heritage.**

Needless to say, I have had a few other Army "experiences" along the way. I had several grueling staff postings in Canberra as MA to the CGS, Director Plans (Army), Director Defence Programs in HQ ADF, and Director General

Force Development (Field)- Brigadier in HQ ADF overseeing Army equipment proposals. But my last couple of postings in Australia gave me great pleasure as Chief of Staff Land Headquarters in Sydney, followed by two year plus Commander 1st Division in Brisbane with five brigades "under command". In these roles I saw the full spectrum of gunners training and influencing the way the Army and the ADF have developed- including the RISTA concept (Reconnaissance, Information, Surveillance and Target Acquisition) leading to the UAV squadrons.

Finally, after Brisbane, I was privileged to spend my last 5 years overseas on UN postings- firstly as Head of Mission UNTSO from 1998-2000 based in Jerusalem with UNMOs deployed on the Golan Heights, In Syria, Lebanon and the Sinai - again seeing Australian Army including gunners deployed in the observer groups and in the MFO. This was followed by some missions for the UN in Africa followed by 2 years based in New York as the UN Military Adviser in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. In that role I visited and advised all the UN missions around the world including in Africa, Europe and the Middle East and closer to home in Timor Leste. This was again an opportunity to see contributions from many nations to international peace and security and very favorably compare the performance of our Australian contingents -young Australian men and women, military, police and civilian - all performing well in often very difficult situations. This is the reason that I am now still very engaged in getting an Australian Peacekeeping Memorial built on Anzac Parade in Canberra. I am pleased to report that construction has started and the Memorial will be dedicated on 14 September 2017!

Good shooting! Ubique. Tim



Myself and Jeff Evans in SVN with an UGS

At right - Self as MILAD in UNMEE

And below - Self as Co 4 Fd Regt 25th Anniversary Parade



Ed – It is with much regret that this series is finished (however, it is a good point as the war ended!), but we'd like to thank Jim, Barry, Warwick, Phil, Tony, Brian and Tim for their "Recollections" and adding another dimension to our collective experiences. It just seems to strengthen our ties.

N.B – Watch this space for more Recollections to come.

. Bernard "Barny" Erica (late) – the following article was extracted online from an article by Julia Medew in the Sydney Morning Herald and it was thought that the subject needed airing as it expands positively on "forms of palliative care" –

'Doctor who prescribes lethal drugs to dying patients 'not a risk to public'

A Melbourne doctor who has given scores of sick people a lethal drug has won a fight against the medical board, with a tribunal ruling his practise is consistent with other forms of palliative care.

In an extraordinary decision that could set a precedent for other doctors wanting to help patients die, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal has ruled Dr Rodney Syme does not pose a risk to the public, even though he has given about 170 people a drug that they used to end their own lives.

In January, the Medical Board of Australia took urgent action against Dr Syme after it was told he was planning to give Nembutal to Bernard Erica, a 71-year-old Brighton man who was dying of tongue and lung cancer. Mr Erica had sought Dr Syme's help because he wanted to die at home and have control over his own death.

Upon learning of this, the board ordered Dr Syme not to "engage in the provision of any form of medical care, or any professional conduct in his capacity as a medical practitioner that has the primary purpose of ending a person's life". The order was made on the basis that Dr Syme, an 81-year-old urologist and vice-president of Dying with Dignity, posed a serious risk to people, including Mr Erica.



Above, Dr Rodney Syme (left) and Bernard Erica, who is dying of cancer. Photo: Penny Stephens

But Dr Syme challenged this in VCAT last month, arguing that his provision of Nembutal to people with intolerable suffering was not done with the primary intention of ending their life, but rather to relieve suffering and to give people control over their death.

His lawyers argued that this was consistent with the doctrine of "double effect" in medicine which permits doctors to administer drugs or other treatments to relieve symptoms even if there is a secondary consequence of hastening death. Dr Syme told the tribunal he had counselled about 1700 people with terminal illnesses or intolerable suffering over many years, and had provided about 10 per cent of them with Nembutal. He estimated about 40 per cent of them actually took the drug to end their life, and that all of them benefited from knowing they had the option.

Two palliative care specialists backed Dr Syme in the hearing, indicating that it was only their understanding of current law that kept them from doing what Dr Syme does. One said that if it was legal to prescribe Nembutal, a drug used to put animals down, he would do so for some people.

After hearing evidence from Dr Syme, Mr Erica, and the two palliative care experts, the tribunal ruled that Dr Syme's intentions were consistent with the Australian Medical Association's advice to doctors that all patients have a right to receive relief from pain and suffering even where that may shorten their life.

It also said that Dr Syme's provision of Nembutal to patients he deems to be rational was analogous to the process of terminal sedation where a mixture of opioids and sedatives are used at the end of life. This is sometimes done by palliative care doctors and is not considered to be physician assisted death or euthanasia.

The tribunal said it accepted Dr Syme's "frank and comprehensive evidence" and said he demonstrated extensive and relevant experience and expertise in counselling terminally ill patients; was relevantly informed about palliative care; and knew when to refer people to psychiatric care. The tribunal accepted Dr Syme's evidence that when promising or actually providing Nembutal, his intention was not for the primary purpose of ending that person's life, and that if they do ingest it, it is a secondary consequence consistent with the double effect.

"In the tribunal's view, consistent with the opinions of both experts, the choice of a rational patient who elects to end their life rather than endure intolerable suffering and an uncertain death by means of other palliative care options, is not a death which can be described as harmful for the patient," it said.

"In the tribunal's view, on the evidence there is no basis to form a reasonable belief that Dr Syme poses a serious risk to persons."

It overturned the order on Dr Syme's medical registration. Dr Syme welcomed the finding and said it "completely vindicated" his work. He urged Victorian MPs to read the judgment ahead of a conscience vote on an assisted death law for Victoria due to take place next year.



Dr Rodney Syme is vice-president of Dying with Dignity.
Photo: Simon Schluter

If you are troubled by this report, you can call Lifeline on 131 114 or beyondblue on 1300 224 636."

. More things - Recruit Training...At Singleton, like all other RTB's there are numerous memories (here we go again), that over the years have, thankfully, have dissipated and the following is one of those, which happened about midway through Recruit Training...the stroll back to base from a place called...

"Heart-break Hill"

It was, so we were lead to believe, part of all soldiers training, in the late 1960's, that all new recruits were to carry out a 20-mile Route-March. This one was from Hedon-Greta, near Maitland, to Singleton Army Camp. The march formed part of the requirements needed to complete Recruit Training. In order to progress to Corp's Training, we had to successfully finish this march in 8 hours. I don't think I ever marched/strode for 8 hours almost flatout during the next 20 odd months, let alone ever again! Yes, I made it hobbling in with a couple of blood-soaked socks. Then spent the next few days in bloody thongs! This was another reason for when they called for volunteers for the infantry to take a step forward, I took 3 back! I must admit that Dad had advised me to do so. I was not always keen on taking orders/advice from the "old boy", but I gladly followed his instructions to the "t" this time. I must admit that the water, apples and bananas along the way were heartily devoured.



The pic, above left, is of the line-up for the possible "last supper". Then the above right photo has **Leigh Hemming** on the left "hoeing-in" and myself side-on (at right) digging in to some possible "road kill" before the "stroll". The bloke looking over my shoulders is **David Hodgetts**, who did volunteer for the "Grunts" by taking a step forward and ended up with 2RAR. Footnote: David made it home in one piece. We actually reconnected, again, last year.

Was this march replicated later and also at "Pucka"?

Allen Morley – (instant response) – There was NO such march/stroll at Pucka in my time!

. We continue in the outback...



Michael and Helen Quinlan continue on with their very special “Quinlan Odyssey” ...
Tales from a Locator’s recent Caravan Saga - Part 3

Friday 17th June saw us stop at Gregory National Park for a wander through the park and picked up a good sample of Boab Tree nuts. (The Boab is similar in shape to a bottle tree). The nuts are carved on the outside by local aborigines as shown at right.



We then continued on to Timber Creek Caravan Park for the night. The river behind the Timber Creek caravan is alive with fresh water crocs and during the late afternoon the owners feed them to the delight of we travellers.



We have now travelled over 12,500 kms since leaving Sydney and decided to go east to Katherine for a three day “do nothing” rest. That we did... except beside us in the Caravan Park were a group of very inebriated “Aussies”. They would start drinking at 10am and progressively get louder and louder. I told them to pi... off but this only fuelled their determination to destroy our rest days.

The beauty of just “camping”

Tuesday 22 June was our arrival date in Darwin where we intended to stay for a week and meet up with a few of our family and friends. One of our highlights was to visit the “Humptydoo” Pub and have three mini hamburgers, one with crocodile meat, one buffalo and one barramundi - quite a treat in a pretty rough pub. Darwin is a great city with loads of attractions for the visitor, this would be the third/fourth time we have visited. The shadow of Cyclone Tracy stills hangs heavily in the air however and is cleverly re-enacted in the Darwin Museum. We took the opportunity to have our car serviced and as usual we were at their \$ mercy!! Just as an aside we went to the Caravan Show and saw a caravan we liked with all the trimmings, a Bailey “Rangefinder”. This was a mistake as the benefits of this new van was like a creeping glacier!! (We later sold our van after returning to Sydney and are now in possession of our new van, a Bailey “Rangefinder Comet”)

Tuesday 28 June, we left Darwin and headed back down south to Katherine, then to the never to be forgotten Daly Waters Pub. Lots of flies and a daytime temp of around 30 degrees and a great show at night, every night!! Heading further east we were aiming for the little town of Borroloola which is situated on the Gulf and at the end of 100 km dirt road.

On the way, we stopped at the “Organ Pipes” an unusual ancient rock formation which was absolutely fabulous.

A few Organ Pipes



The “Savannah Way”, a dirt road following the shores of the Gulf was closed due to flooding so we backtracked to the Three Ways then onto Mt Isa. Mt Isa was celebrating “Nadoc” Week so we joined in the celebrations of music, dance and craft staying there for three days.

I am a keen fishing devotee and was eager to get to Karumba so on we went via Cloncurry and Normanton then booked into a Karumba caravan park for a week. Yes, lots of good fish were caught and consumed with local seafood. There is little else to do in Karumba, however we enjoyed the sunshine and rest. The birdlife there was spectacular together with a large abundance of small wallabies which were a pain travelling back at night from a restaurant meal.

A hungry Jabiru at Karumba



After leaving Karumba we set off east to the Atherton Tablelands via some very flat and featureless landscapes to one of our favourite towns Mareeba.

Flat Flat Flat!!

Mareeba has the best home grown coffee in Australia and we have driven now 17,000kms just for a visit to “Coffeeworks” and many cups of their fine coffee. The weather is now fine and relatively mild due to the elevation of about 1000 metres. Down from Mareeba due east is also a great place, Port Douglas, which has been refined especially for the tourist.

We decided to drive down the steep escarpment with caravan and car brake pads/discs overheating, however we safely arrived on the Coast and our first view of the Pacific Ocean for several months. We stayed a few days and did all the normal grey nomad tourist activities.

From Port Douglas, it is a short drive up to The Daintree and Point Tribulation so off we went for a day’s entertainment and walking through lush tropical vegetation.



The following day we “popped” down to Cairns and back. Nothing has changed in Cairns which is suffering from a dearth of tourists. It is now Saturday 17th July, so back we went to Mareeba grunting up the range to stay a week at a great caravan park (lots of room per site and very clean amenities). The rest of our trip was uneventful; we went inland a little then headed South to arrive back home on Friday 7th August.

We had travelled 21,300 km of which 2,000km was dirt roads, consumed 1600 litres of diesel and spent a little of the kids’ inheritance. We kept in touch with everyone via a laptop and a Telstra wireless modem plus mobile phones.

On the way, we kept up communication with truckies (an endless source of local information) via a UHF two way on Channel 40. For safety reasons while travelling I would start driving then my wife Helen would take over and I would finish off... easy!! We now have a new caravan which will be "blooded" visiting the many excellent Queensland National Parks in July this year for 6 weeks.

Ed – Now if that doesn't inspire you to get out and breathe a bit of fresh air, I don't know what will? Michael and Helen are true pros at the major stuff, but have (or get) tent will travel should be a 2017 and beyond motto!
OK we're now looking for more travel experiences, be they on board a cruise liner, plane trip somewhere, trip to visit the kids or whatever, send something in please?

Mail Call...

. Peter Suckling sent the following in with regards to the story in last month's *Eyes & Ears* about the dismantling of the ANKPQ1 at North Fort -

"Paul,

Interesting to read of the deployment to Mornington museum of the AN.KPQ,1 and brought back memories of the arrival of the first one at North Head in 62 or 63 when I was in the Radar Troop at the school and we were more engaged in air defence Radar and the 3.7, Predictors, and other heavy AA gear to worry about the new "toy". We duly unpacked it all and I did manage to acquire some of the packing crates from which I made a very sturdy coffee table. One sorry aspect is that I will be at Mornington in early March for the A Bty, Viet Nam reunion well before the Radar gets there.

Keep up the good work. And let me know if I am currently financial.

Regards Peter"

. David Negus sent in the following email -

"Thx Paul,

Great job, as usual.

Just a question I have been wondering about, relating to the monthly birthday listing, what is the key to the colours, red, yellow and white?

Best regards for the new year.

David Negus"

...**Ed** responded and has added the definitions below this month's Birthday listing -

"David,

The colours - well some time ago I used to put the key below the birthday list, now you might have prompted me to do it again. Anyway, here we go -

Red – members; Yellow - located Locators; White - not located Locators; Black - passed Locators; Blue - honorary Locators.

I will do a story, in E&Es, to follow up this from this email - kick off 2017 with a "Locator Hunt" once more.

Have a great 2017. Paul"

Ed continues – this correspondence has promoted me to produce the following information. In the past, we have had some pretty successful programmes in "Locating Locators", but I still bleat on every month about the number of "white" background names that are still listed. Well, as of now, there are still **134** Locators not located!! Yes, I realise some of the blokes may not want contact, but it would be handy to know that they are still with us somewhere or whatever the situation may be. So, maybe with your help we may be able to put some more colour into the Birthday Excel spread sheet.

. Ernie Newbold sent the following after the "Radar Operation" at North Fort.

Ed thought it was a classic of a by-gone era where even the dunnies had a "chain of command"!

"G'day Paul,

Certain parts of North Head / North Fort / School of Artillery are now declared as having "heritage value".

See photo (at right) taken during the recent "dismantle-pack-up" visit, at first I thought that it provided an unnecessary instruction, but realised that people of our generation would know what the chain was for, therefore, it must be to inform the current generations who may not be familiar with this device.

Regards, Ernie."

Ed – I'm wondering why the photo shows three chains??



. **Allen Morley** thought the following was an appropriate thought as it's about 51 years, +/- a month or 3, since we were on our way to RTA with QF to a fabulous welcome back into Sydney – not!
I remember two of us helping the late Mick Campbell across the tarmac and up the stairs being scrutinised by ever watchful staff for any signs of unsteadiness (read inebriation!) – luckily we made it as there were no breath-test kits around.

New Year Nostalgia

A smell or a taste or a word or an observation can take you back in time. I experienced a déjà vu moment on New Year's Day at Sydney International Airport. As I drove along there on short final for landing and directly in front of me was a Qantas jet that I initially thought was a 707. Why, because it was painted in the Qantas 1960s livery! Then I saw that two engines must have fallen off before I finally recognised exactly what aircraft it was. See the picture at right to see what I saw.



Most of our readers would remember that lovely moment at Tan Son Nhut airport Saigon when boarding the Qantas Boeing 707 for RTA in the 1960s. Sure the tail has a different logo to the 2017 model, but otherwise the colours are the same. And the 707 in the picture has the correct number of engines too. And I think that I can see Dicko getting ready to board.

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

. **A final 50th year anniversary reunion** will be held in Adelaide over the ANZAC **50 Years** DAY week and the **First Replacement Group** departure date is the excuse. **May 1967 - 2017**

To allow the Association organising committee to make final arrangements for accommodation and Dinners etc. we need a **FIRM** expressions of interest and numbers ASAP so we can screw the best deal.

The venue is a proven tourist attraction so you can easily convince yourself that you need to be there. So far, **Geoff Blackwell**, our SA State Rep, local identity and raconteur, has proposed the following as an itinerary to be fine-tuned when we have numbers.

A preliminary itinerary would be:

Saturday 22nd/Sunday 23rd: Arrivals.

1800hr: Meet and greet with a meal at Geoff's Largs North house (33 Afric Street)

Monday 24: 1000hr: Bus trip to the Barossa, winery tour and a Late Afternoon Garden Party at Geoff's Angaston house (38 Moculta Road.)

1900hr: 131 Dinner, venue to be arranged

Tuesday 25: Dawn service at the Semaphore War Memorial (on the beach), gunfire breakfast at the Semaphore RSL, (200m up the road) and to the city by train, (short walk up Semaphore road), for the city march.

1900: Alternative 131 Dinner, venue to be arranged

Wednesday 26: Free Day. Optional fishing trip at North Haven, (weather permitting). Others return home

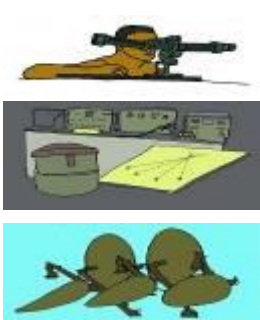
A further itinerary will be arranged for those wishing to stay until the May 4th anniversary.

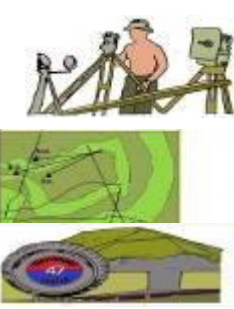
Final numbers are required by 28 Feb 2017 - All responses can go to

sectreas131locators@gmail.com

Think about it a little bit then - DO IT NOW!!!!





Committee members:
 President – Allen Morley, Vice President – Bert Blink, Treasurer/Secretary – Grahame Dignam,
 Public Officer – Victor Danko, Webmaster – Bob Billiards, Research Officer – Ernie Newbold,
 Designs and Development Officer – Nick Proskurin, Eyes & Ears Editor – Paul Dickson
 General members – Ian Amos, Ged Carroll, George Lane.
 Regional Representatives: ACT – Bert Blink, Qld – Terry Erbs, SA - Geoff Blackwell,
 Vic (Melb) – Alan Adams, WA - Barry Guzder
<http://www.131locators.org.au>

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

Email sectreas131locators@gmail.com to check.

Grahame"

. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 21st February, 2017 at 1100hrs

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

. **Pertinent Points** – as advised in December, there was no meeting held in January.

Presidential perambulations

It seems that I have officially joined the aged club. Where they don't say, you fell over, rather you had a fall. Technically I guess that is the same thing, but the latter has different connotations with advancing years.

Before Christmas I was gardening in our backyard, which is steep and rocky. I took an accidental and unintended swallow dive and landed on my right shoulder. Nothing seemed to be broken on first inspection, but it swelled up quickly and hurt like hell. Our dog Bess came to give me sympathy and a face lick.

No-one else was home, so I drove to the GP for first aid. The doctor suggested that I may have broken something so sent me off to Emergency at the local hospital. The service there was pretty good, and after an inspection and x-ray I waited for the results. No bone breaks fortunately, just a dislocation. But no pain relief was offered. Finally, a physio came to fit me with a sling.

I had to return to the hospital two weeks later for another inspection. But being that old timer referred to above, I looked for Outpatients Department. Wrong terminology: it is now the Ambulatory Care Centre. Some bureaucrat must have been promoted over that nomenclature change.

I'm glad you asked. My shoulder is now only painful at times, but I have a permanent lump at the top of my shoulder. The medico told me it was a standard rugby injury and in future I could take my shirt off with the best of those from the rugby world. And the doctors keep telling me how lucky I was that no bone break occurred.

Regards

Allen

. 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...February –

First up - **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Frank Osborne for the 16th January – we finally got something sorted out!!

Date	Name	Regt No	YOB	In SVN	Out SVN	Comments
1	JIM MENZ	38838	1946	10 10 1967	18 02 1968	† 18.02.68 KIA
2	ROGER McDONNELL	2784019	1945	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	

3	ROBERT GIBSON	2787361	1947	29 01 1968	07 02 1969	
3	EDWARD HENSON	2788331	1947	16 09 1968	27 08 1969	
4	OLAF ASMANIS	3796272	1947	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	
5	IAN YERBURY Capt.	43129	1944	{05 05 1967	05 03 1968	131 † 1989
	" "			{05 02 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd REGT
5	RICHARD FLAVELL	3791902	1945	23 09 1968	04 06 1969	
5	GEORGE CLARK	2412252	1947	{20 01 1969	21 01 1970	
	" "			{09 01 1967	27 09 1967	1 ARU/131
5	STEPHEN HALL	4720327	1948	27 11 1969	13 08 1970	
6	MICK HABBen	3788307	1945	05 05 1967	20 12 1967	
7	LINDSAY BLACK Sgt.	213794	1940	30 04 1970	04 08 1970	131 † 2009
	" "			05 08 1970	12 03 1971	4 Fd REGT
8	ROBERT RAMSAY	2788108	1947	16 09 1968	27 08 1969	
8	IAN CAMPBELL	3798378	1949	10 02 1971	07 06 1971	131
	" "			07 06 1971	30 10 1971	12 Fd REGT
9	GEOFF WOOD	2783898	1945	04 05 1967	13 12 1967	† 26.04.07
9	CHRIS ARMShAW	2781291	1945	04 05 1966	27 10 1966	† 10.02.70
9	GARY WORRALL	43796	1945	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	
9	NEVILLE HASTINGS	1730813	1945	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	
10	ERIC WILLIAMS	1735449	1948	13 02 1970	04 02 1971	
10	GRAHAME SMITH	2792939	1947	30 05 1970	26 05 1971	
11	DENNIS MALLOY	3795057	1948	22 07 1969	16 07 1970	
12	ROSS GUNNELL	5714499	1945	05 05 1967	27 09 1967	
12	LEIGH BAKER	3789657	1945	10 06 1967	23 04 1968	
12	ANTHONY SHELDRAKE	5716358	1948	04 11 1969	13 08 1970	
14	ERNEST NEWBOLD	2783771	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
14	KEVIN HEENAN	3794777	1948	27 11 1969	13 08 1970	
14	MARCUS ROBINSON	2791229	1948	20 01 1970	13 08 1970	
16	DAMIAN McMANUS	3787689	1945	20 05 1966	29 05 1967	
16	LUIGI LANERA	3795443	1947	25 11 1969	12 11 1970	RAEME
16	TERENCE HUNT	3792120	1947	19 02 1968	21 02 1969	
17	ADRIAN SPENCER	3794631	1948	28 10 1969	13 08 1970	
18	TERENCE McMANUS	44277	1950	30 05 1970	09 10 1970	
21	WILLIS (BILL) WIGHT 2Lt.	39136	1945	12 01 1967	23 04 1968	
23	GEOFFREY JEBB WO2	24660	1930	12 04 1968	16 04 1969	
23	GRAEME SALTER	3792618	1947	16 09 1968	27 08 1969	
23	GRAEME JENNION	3796241	1947	24 03 1970	04 03 1971	
24	GREG GREEN	2784565	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
24	ALBERT JACKA	39856	1950	16 12 1969	11 03 1971	AACC
27	DONALD PERRY WO2	38675	1936	15 04 1970	19 11 1970	
28	NORBERT KROLL	218285	1948	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	
28	BRIAN MITCHELL	2412582	1949	14 03 1968	26 03 1969	
28	KIM MCGRATH	2795249	1950	N/A	N/A	

*Above colour background coding explanation – Red – financail Locator, Yellow – located Locator, Black – passed Locator, Blue – honorary Member, White – NOT Located Locator.

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

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

. **Located...**

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

. 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>
Perry, Frantz (Frank) John	36026	WO2	22.04.66	05.09.66	19.11.32	17.10.16

Jim Townley - 36026 Frantz John Perry was on the HMAS Sydney advance party in April 1966. My memory is that he joined 131 when we were at Holsworthy almost immediately before our departure. Again, my memory is that he came to us from the trials unit at Woomera. I think he came as a sergeant and was promoted to WO2. Again, from memory, he had been a radar tracking operator at Woomera. I am afraid I lost track of him completely after SVN. Jim

<u>Name</u>	<u>Regt No</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>In SVN</u>	<u>Out SVN</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>DOD</u>
Lockart, James Douglas	6709144	Bdr	04.06.69	12.02.70	05.06.47	00.04.14

...Grahame Dignam forwarded the following –

“Barry Guzder, in Perth, has received the note below from Jim's widow, now, Mrs Glenda Deutscher. After a bit of investigating I found that you all (the blokes he forwarded this email to) served with Jim in SVN at the same time and I'm hoping one of you may be able help out a lady while remembering an old mate.”

“Dear Barry,

I have just read the summer edition of Vetaffairs and found your notice of the reunion of members of 131 Div Loc Battery and wondered if, as a result of the reunion, you may be able to help me out.

My Late husband James Douglas Lockhart was a National Serviceman and served in Vietnam in that unit from 4/06/1969 to 21/02/1970. I have attached a copy of his military record.

Jim passed away in April of 2014 and only ever had two photographs of himself in Vietnam and I would very much like to have others as that period of his life defined in many ways the man I loved.

I have attached the two photos which I have and would be grateful if anyone from Div Loc Battery 131 remembered Jim and have any photographs of him that they would be happy to share with me.

Glenda.”



Jim (at right) with ever faithful fag and Russ Jackson on the Tellurometer and Graeme Owens writing home to his Mum.



Jim working the new PIM machine with Graeme Owen still writing the letter home.



131 Beer Garden - Unknown, Randall Jones, Kevin Browning, Russell Jackson, Jim, unknown, Jeff Schaefer, John Henshaw, unknown, Brett Rainsford and Peter Creedon.

Unknown, Russell Jackson, Mick Delaney, Jim Merchant, Jim, kneeling - sergeant?



Jim and Peter Larkin



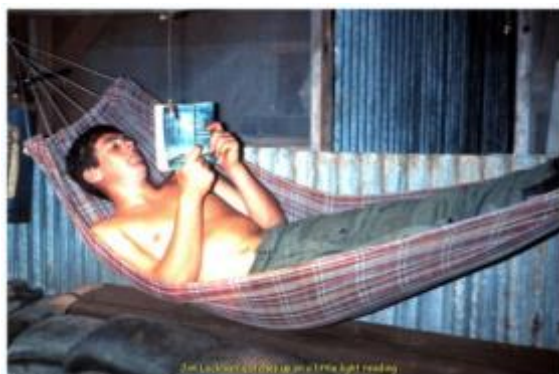
Facing the camera - Ivan Mills, Kevin Browning, Jeff Schafer and Jim. Waiting for a chopper to take them to a FSB.



At right, Jim with Peter Larkin and Rick Mahoney



Pete Ravelje sent the one on the left with Jim at the end of "Laurie Farr's ciggie"



Jim just relaxing.



...a ps, as Grahame Dignam had been in contact with Jim's widow Glenda she sent in the following –

"Hi Grahame

Thank you so much for your email and for the wonderful photographs of Jim and his Vietnam mates. The photos are very precious to me and I know that his extended family will also love to have copies.

I am on a camping trip and have limited Internet access but when I arrive home in a few days I will write a little about Jim's life and send it to you. I love reunions and their shared stories.

Until then

Kind regards

Glenda"

May He rest in Peace



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

So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the Eyes & Ears regularly you could bite the bullet

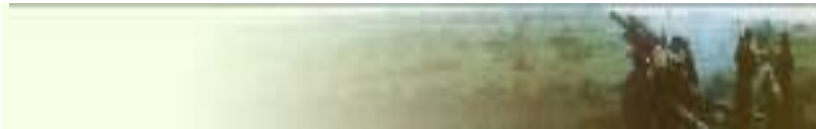
and email Grahame [Dignam:sectreas131locators@gmail.com](mailto:sectreas131locators@gmail.com) and he could forward you the relevant forms to join - Memberships are available for 1 year or longer deposit a DONATION direct (add your name) to the associations account at "A/c Name: 131 Locators Association 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



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



www.artilleryhistory.org



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

Website link - <http://www.dva.gov.au/Pages/home.aspx>

. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE

The Dept of Veteran's Affairs has launched a new mental health initiative to assist veteran's experiencing the affects of mental illness and their families. Providing information and fact sheets about understanding mental illness, links and contact information for accessing support, and online resources for health professionals, this website focuses on helping veterans identify early warning signs of mental illness to effectively manage their mental illness and seek treatment. For more info or to access, please visit www.at-ease.dva.gov.au

. 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery...



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



The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association

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

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

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