

THE EYES and EARS

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1969 + and Sound Ranging has settled in...



We need to thank the following blokes whose photos have been used in the following - **Paul Angell, Mike Butler, Richard Chaplin, Michael Quinlan, Peter Ravelje, John Stanford and Graham Williams**

The base changes had been made and then technology changes took over –

Sound Ranging had a comic side to it!



The Q Store (above) in 1970 looked pretty good



The old trusty Rover still looked OK, though driving in certain circumstances was still hazardous!



Bravo Radar looked pretty neat and tidy.

Michael Quinlan down in "The Hole"





Privacy was still an issue – however, sometimes, there's just none when you just gotta go!
Not great during a Fire Mission as I recall!

Operations were still in full swing – here are the blokes at Dihn Co...



Above - a dunny with a view and Richard Chaplin, at left, trying to look somewhat rested!!

...still at Dihn Co...



...then there was some rec time...



...whoa the screen! – no more wandering off to the middle of nowhere for a movie!



...then while out at Chui Chan Ed thought this photo was poignant – it's the Long Tan Survey point.

John Stanford gets down to some nitty-gritty with the following – “Paul, One two photos to offer for your latest endeavours, hope they are useful.

This was taken at the radar lines, then next to 101 Fd Bty, opposite Battery HQ.
Members are from L to R **Bill Edwards, Les Robinson, Lofty Hayes, Stan Patterson and John Stanford.**



Other photo shows **Col West and John Stanford** making maximum use of the 'radar spa'.

The water tank was acquired from the Yanks at Bien Hoa and somehow transported back to Nui Dat. The with the help of an immersion heater from the Bty Q Store and a friendly Engineer water truck driver we had absolute luxury.

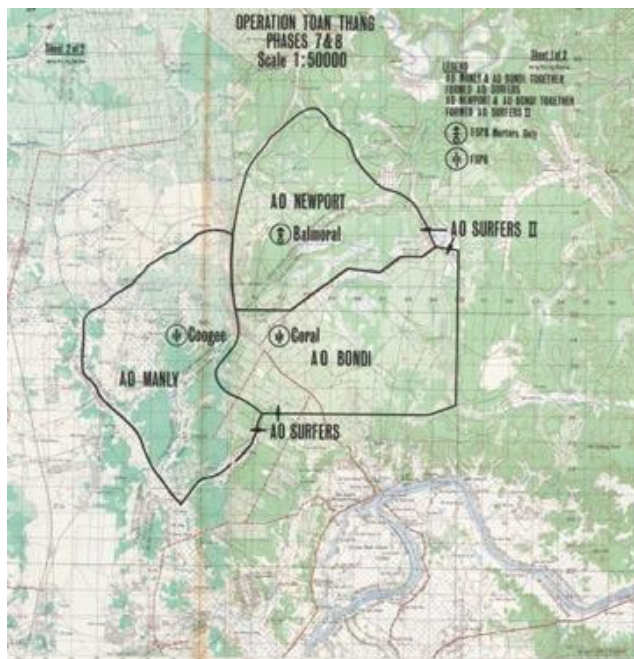
Regards

John Stanford

PS Keep up the good work!”

Ed – the Spa addition was not part of our package!

. Insights and Recollections from Geoff Jebb who served with the Detachment in South Vietnam from 1968 to 1969 as WO2 in the Survey section.



This is the second in this series, which Geoff has meticulously covered not only in word but some great photos. These insights/recollections are recorded on the Surveyors' website and now on the Associations website. This collection covers activities including Operations and other movements undertaken by others in the company of Geoff.

These Insights/Recollections, like others we have recorded, are not official documentations, but very succinct recordings which add another dimension other than the factual Reports recorded in the Australian War Memorial (AWM).

Survey for FSB Coral & Coogee May 68 - AO Surfers FSB deployment after the Battle on the 12th May.

I flew in with the Regimental Recce party around midmorning of the 12th. With Major Murtagh and Capt Brooks we moved through the bush to the proposed FSB positions. Looking at where the FSBs were to be located, I ascertained

the survey would be reasonably straight forward. My intention was to call my surveyors forward from staging point at Bearcat when ready. Things did not turn out as intended. There was great pressure to move men and material into this operational zone and FSB survey was lost to mounting defensive concerns borne from deployment problems! My recollection is only handing over map resections to 102 Fd Bty and 161 Fd Bty when they eventually arrived that afternoon to their disjointed positions. I spent the night of the 12th with the Kiwis. In the aftermath of that night, surveyors waiting at Bearcat were flown back to Nui Dat and I managed a ride back on the afternoon of the 13th. The Surveyors and myself were called forward on the morning of 15th May. The eventual survey presented no problems. The weather was fine, FSBs Coral and Coogee were about 4000 metres apart and astride a common dirt road which provided a clear path for traversing. FSB Balmoral was not included as it had no artillery, only mortars. A Bty 2/35 US Regt was co-located at Coral about 300 metres south of 102 Bty. The task was completed by mid-afternoon and the Surveyors returned to Nui Dat.

On the 16th May the CO (Jack Kelly) tested the survey with a Regt practice fire mission. 161 Bty and 102 Bty fell together, but the US A Bty was somewhere else. A furious CO got on the blower and we were all told to return and sort things out. On the 16th we were back at FSB Coral. A discussion with the BC solved the problem. Despite assurances at the time, they didn't have a clue as to what was required and promptly binned their BP and carried on as before with no change of grid. They didn't like the idea of re-setting up and having to amend their recorded data, but when it was suggested we discuss the matter with the CO they played ball and when the survey was re-tested, all was well. There was no re-survey and we were back at Nui Dat that same afternoon.

Towards the end of May, Surveyors again visited AO Surfers to place in a BP for FSB Balmoral. Our tanks had beefed up the old mortar position so they were coordinated with the guns of FSB Coogee and FSB Coral.



Rough panorama shot of 102 Bty position FSB Coral 15th May 1968. Photo courtesy Geoff Jebb.

. RADAR dismantling – the day had come to get “the old girl” dismantled and re-packed ready for her move to the

National Vietnam Veterans Museum on Phillip Island. Graham Dignam forwarded these pics and a few well-chosen words - “My pics from “Moving day”



Bob Billiards showing the Radar guys how a long lever can undo 50 years of binding together!





When do you think WD-40 was invented and by whom?

Answer: WD-40 was developed in 1953 by [Norman Larsen](#), founder of the Rocket Chemical Company, in [San Diego, California](#). "WD-40" is abbreviated from the term "Water Displacement, 40th formula", suggesting it was the result of Larsen's 40th attempt to create the product.

When you have oiled it and located the correct screws these arms move really easily!"



. **"Forgotten/Unsure of Names"** – Ed, while surfing albums etc looking for photos with the late Jim Lockhart in them was wandering through Graeme Owen's Album/s and discovered a few snaps with "Unknowns" in them, so thought let's try our hand at trying to make them "Knowns".

Graham Owens sent in this response – "Hey Paul, I think you will find the mystery man in Graeme Owens photo at right is Stewart McAlpine"

Ed – One mystery solved!



...now to the next one...

Here's the second in the series of "Unknowns" this time...



OK here we go – left to right - **Denis Malloy, ??, Me (Paul Angel) and Stan Todkill.**

Anyone got any clues – the dog tags being small doesn't help?



. We continue in the outback...



Paul and Helen Dickson - 90 Days “camping” (read – “some of the time” – see below somewhere) in the USA and Canada...

In 2007, we were out of Aus for 10 months and during that time we flew into Las Vegas, yes Las Vegas, on what could be called the start of a three month “return to childhood” escapade, no, not a gambling trip, though what we went entering into was somewhat of a gamble as we had no set plan other than “have tent must travel”! Over the years, we had done a lot of driving on short holidays through the US as it is easily done because there are many good roads going in all directions. Not like home to some degree.

First up a bit of an explanation and our definition of camping – yes, we had a tent, but, where we camped had to have water, electricity, wifi and of course great bathroom/toilet facilities! Mind you we did spend several nights in hotels as we miscalculated the northern winter a bit, especially where we ventured off to.

Here we go...

It was our intention to head south first, do a bit of a u-turn and then get over to the Rockies and criss-cross those going north with a few diversions.

It was ANZAC Day eve, coincidental, when we landed in Las Vegas and over the next day or so we hired a car, bought a tent and quite a bit of camping stuff, and one of our best buys was a multi entry pass for the National Parks – of which we ended up doing heaps. Then it was off south east getting onto Route 66 into Arizona,



which is an amazing nostalgic drive. We passed heaps of Harleys on their way to a three-day rally in Laughlin. Hackberry, which basically is a servo-cum gift shop full of old memorabilia relating to the 50's and 60's – old red and white Chevy Corvette out the front at the old gas pumps etc



and inside was insane with bar set-ups, old seats etc – really very good and obviously, a real fly trap for the enthusiast or mugs like us!

We drove through Sedona and ended up at a camp ground called "The Deadhorse Ranch State Park" – great place to camp. Later that night we realised what we were doing, at this stage was all about - it was just so pleasant to take in the stars in the cool high desert air and finally finish off with a warm cocoa.

When we finally left Arizona, we headed towards Utah and Monument Valley. The sight from about 5 miles out was absolutely mind blowing just to see these massive rock formations rising from the ground.



Our location was close to a place called 4 Corners – the only spot in the US where four states (Utah/Colorado/New Mexico/Arizona) connect.

What a scene to wake up to with the sun filtering through between the gorge entry, which frames the giant monoliths down the valley.

Next month we keep going – hope you can tag along?



Mail Call...

. An email from Ed - "Morning ALL - **Bob Billiards, Ross Gunnell, Bert Blink, Barry Guzder, Grahame Dignam, Ron Evans and Nick Proskurin,**

While starting to go for a wander through '67 SVN era photos (well the blokes' albums I have archived), I stumbled over the attached (see below) in Bob B's collection - just simply called "welcome home 1987".

You all looked so good - very 2016/17 with the trendy face hair on some of you! I didn't know you smoked Bert? Only two medals too - just as well you all hung around!

I guess the photo is taken in Elizabeth St beside Hyde Park? Any idea on who took the photo? It's a classic photo of a day that shouldn't be forgotten. Paul"



Above is the photo that was circulated and they are from left – Bob Billiards, Joanne in front of Ross Gunnell, Bert Blink, Barry Guzder, Grahame Dignam, Ron Evans and Nick Proskurin. Welcome Home Parade, Sydney 1987.

...**Bob B responds** - "Paul, it was taken by Cathy (Bob's wife) and it is on the corner of Bathurst and Elizabeth Streets in Sydney. The little one that is holding my hand and avoiding Bert's cigarette is our youngest daughter Joanne and her stroller is just in the shot. What a great and emotional day. I couldn't stop the tears a couple of times in George St where the old WWII diggers were standing clapping and wearing their well-deserved gongs. Bob"

... **Barry G's response** –

"Thanks, Dicko, bloody hell have we aged!!
Printed it for posterity. Barry."

Then here they are (at right) 17 1/2 years later on ANZAC Day in 2005 with Geoff Blackwell added.

From Left – **Barry Guzder, Bert Blink, Nick Proskurin, Ron Evans, Geoff Blackwell, Bob Billiards and Grahame Dignam.**

What's different – Bert doesn't have a ciggie, the facial hairs are missing, no Joanne and decidedly more medals!



. **Mess Hall Mystery solved** –
thanks, Al Adams – **somebody had to have a photo** – After scouring the archives **Ed** found the following amongst **Al Adams'** collection and they do the old joint justice...



Lunch queue at Nui Dat

. **Netanya Resort, Noosa Heads...** Now you all must remember the lucky prize of a trip to Netanya Resort in Noosa Heads – kindly organised by **Vic Danko**. Well this is how it turned out –

Bert Blink submitted his daughter and son in law's names and they won the prize and here is their response to the trip -

"Hi Bert,

Here are photos of Liz and I at Noosa:

<https://koenalexander.smugmug.com/2017/Holidays/20170211-Noosa/> (note that they are not in chronological order yet - they came from 4 devices, with different time setting).

The story below is for 131, it contains a link with photos without us, just hotel and nature and food, because who wants to see other people on holidays.

Rest assured that we have, justifiably, given Netanya rave reviews on Facebook, Tripadvisor and*<https://koenalexander.smugmug.com/2017/Holidays/131-Noosa/>

Thanks to the 131-prize give-away we had a lovely stay in Netanya Noosa.

We weren't too sure what we were getting on our trip but excited about visiting a place we hadn't been to before. We were wonderfully surprised that Netanya had given us such a great room with a beach and pool view! The variety of places to eat and visit were awesome so we had plenty to choose from. We booked the boathouse for our anniversary dinner and had a great sunset trip down the river to get there - we were nicely surprised by the lovely timing as others getting on a boat behind us had paid specifically for this tour and it was just part of our journey to get to dinner.

The service was amazing and were really pleased that our credit allowed us to order the seafood tower! It was huge. We had a perfect view of a beautiful moon rise and then a lovely walk along the boardwalk before returning to our area for a cocktail.

We then could relax on the Sunday and take a walk along the coastline into the national park and have a cooling swim. We had a wonderful beachside lunch and then relaxed at our apartment with a book and a swim.

We booked ourselves a guided tour through the Mapleton national park and saw lots of birds and beautiful tropical forest with some fabulous views as well. We toasted ourselves to the effort of a 17km walk with a truly divine experience at Locale. Best part of all was it was literally across the road from the hotel and we could limp home to our wonderful bed.

Then sadly it was all done but we certainly would recommend the hotel to anyone who asked and we hope to be back soon: <http://www.netanyanoosa.com/>.

Thanks for putting up the option for the raffle - it was delightful.

Those who like to live vicariously through other people's holiday photos, see this link: <https://koenalexander.smugmug.com/2017/Holidays/131-Noosa/>

Beware! You will be jealous.

Cheers,

The Koens"

. Transport discussion emails arising from photos in last month's E&Es...

"Morning ALL, I've been corresponding with Brookey (Warwick Brooker) about Survey info for E&Es and he mentions that he was a driver, but can't remember if there was a vehicle (Rover and trailer) secure parking area/s. I wonder where he parked the Rover after using it - hopefully he took the keys out?? Any ideas?? Paul"

...now come the responses...



Ernie Newbold – "G'day Paul, if you have a look at the top of the first page on any recent "Eyes & Ears" you will see a photo of the Detachment Transport Office. It is the tent with the Landrover bar-tread tyre enclosing a circular sign that says "Transport 47 Office". As I recall it was close to the Orderly Room / Q-Store and was near where the vehicles were parked when not being used. Regards, Ernie."

...and this response followed – "Thanks "early riser" Ernie, I've included Warwick (Brooker) in the response (save me writing another email to him).

Now, that sounds logical. It now begs a question - was Barry Bonser in charge of the "vehicle pool"? If not, then, who was?"

...here comes Ernie...

"G'day Paul, I'm sure that Bdr Barry Bonser was in charge of the vehicle pool when we were there, of course things changed as personnel were rotated through different locations and tours of duty. What was where when we were there may not have been the case for those that followed in our footsteps later on. Regards, Ernie."

...Warwick "Brookey" Brooker gets into it – "Thanks Ernie & Paul, That's it then. Ernie, you and I arrived together and returned about the same time (you three weeks earlier than me). I didn't drop you at the airstrip, as I was out at FSBs Harrison & Anderson (Op Coburg) until, sadly, Jimmy Menz and Marty Van Driel took over from Ken Woodbine and me. Ken had to go back out to Anderson the following day, while I prepared for RTA. However, I did take Paul to the airstrip in December (see photo at right).

Dicko, we didn't use keys. Too easy to lose! When I went into Ba Ria on laundry runs, I think I used to remove the rotor from the distributor when I parked the Land Rover. Brookey"

...now here comes Pete "Tube" Fletcher - G'day Paul, To the best of my knowledge when Barry left no-one replaced him as Transport NCO.

When I was promoted to Lance Bombardier Warwick ("Blue Leader") asked me to look after transport as well as continue with my driver Batman duties with him.



I'm not sure who replaced me when I came home in December '67. Hopefully this sheds some light on the matter. Regards, Fletch."

...and now more bloody questions...

"1. Were all our vehicles in a transport compound?

2. Petrol - in Nui Dat and out, say Vung Tau, if you needed petrol did you need someone's authority or could you just rock into a depot and get fuel? I remember going to Vungers twice - once on a Sunday and another to take one of the blokes down to the prison, but don't remember refuelling. Those bloody sandbagged floors in the Rovers must have increased fuel consumption.

3. Repairs/maintenance - did our RAEME blokes do it or did it go to a centre?"

...and it goes on ...

"Morning ALL, I've been corresponding with Brookey (Warwick Brooker) about Survey info for E&Es and he mentions that he was a driver, but can't remember if there was a vehicle (Rover and trailer) secure parking area/s. I wonder where he parked the Rover after using it - hopefully he took the keys out?? Any ideas??"

...first from Brookey...

"Paul, I can't remember the refuelling point. I assume there was one at the RAEME compound. Might have carried jerrycans while out on ops. Can't remember.

Servicing and repairs were done at the RAEME compound. I damaged my vehicle once while on an op. A steering rod bent when a tree branch jammed between the two rods. They didn't have a new rod and couldn't repair it; so it remained bent, with a wobble in the steering for the remainder of my time there. Brookey"

...then Fletch...

"Paul,

To the best of my knowledge-

1. All vehicles were returned to the Orderly Room 'Q' Store area compound by nightfall for security.

2. Vehicles were fuelled up prior to leaving Nui Dat for trips to Vung Tau, Baria and operations outside the wire etc. Fuel log book was signed off by the responsible driver as well as the fuel resupply person in charge at the refuelling point.

3. Repairs and maintenance were carried out by our RAEME bloke with the driver assisting with the basic services. I don't recall a specific centre for servicing. Perhaps major repairs may have gone away to a centre - not sure. I don't recall refuelling at Vung Tau on any of my trips which were quite a few.

Hope this helps. Fletch.'

Let's hope that these communications have shed some light on whatever the hell was being discussed??

. Bob Billiards, as the Association's Webmaster, produces monthly stats on the web's activity and this month he duly notes some unusual activity occurring from a foreign speaking (well not foreign to Vic Danko or Nick Proskurin and we don't think it's their relations) country namely Russia. Now, Bob isn't one to raise an alarm, but on mentioning it got a response from Barry Guzder which went like this -

"It's the Trump regime! "The Ruskies" know we were so successful in SVN they want the KGB to keep check of us. I wonder what Nick P did when he was in the big R? Baz"

"The Ruskies" - more than the "Mexicans"!!

Locales (Top 25)		
Locales		Pages
Australia	au	3,205
Russian Federation	ru	990
Mexico	mx	341
France	fr	240
United States	us	184
Great Britain	gb	108
Chile	cl	80
Netherlands	nl	70
China	cn	64
Germany	de	44
Poland	pl	40
Ukraine	ua	24
Spain	es	23
India	in	18
Canada	ca	15
Thailand	th	14
Vietnam	vn	11
Hong Kong	hk	9
South Korea	kr	9
Sweden	se	8
Ireland	ie	8
Brazil	br	7
Tunisia	tn	6
Czech Republic	cz	6
Philippines	ph	6
Others		55

. Oddities - Ed - this article was in last month's *Eyes & Ears* - "I was cogitating the other day while checking out the fluff in my navel and God knows why...blah blah" (see last month's edition) ...

...and we got some interesting responses...

Graham Williams - "Hey Paul, I think you will find the mystery man in Graeme Owens photo is Stewart McAlpine - (see article earlier in this edition with reference to "Forgotten/Unsure of Names"). However, in respect to High School

sweethearts and people still living in the same area as school, I have a different outlook. No one I knew in my time in high school married childhood friends or sweethearts from the same area. In fact, the majority of school mates, footy and surfing friends I hung out with, had girlfriends far, far away. I lived in Haberfield Sydney until 1973 (National Service 1968/69 and discharged 1970). Prior to National Service my local friend's girlfriends came from Doonside, Terrigal, Booker Bay, Munmorah, Canberra, Newcastle and other places as far flung from Haberfield and Leichhardt as one could get. The only one in Sydney lived in Carlton. I returned from Vietnam to find everybody else married bar

one and of course myself. None of my friends had married any of the above in my absence so all wives were total strangers to me. However, my friend Eddy did marry his girl from Carlton.

As for still living in the same area, again only one of over a dozen. Six, including myself, moved to the Gold Coast in the mid-seventies, two to the Coffs Harbour area with others moving to Brisbane, Tewantin near Noosa, Newcastle, Tamworth, with the remainder surprisingly all in N.S.W. We are still all regularly in touch.

Going on recent Sydney house prices most are probably kicking themselves now. I can recall myself bidding on a house in O'Connor St, Haberfield in 1972 as a losing bidder. Knocked down then for \$72,000. The very same house sold several years ago for \$2.8 mill. Go figure. Didn't make much difference in my case as by 1975 I could not handle Sydney at all moving North instead. These days still love the joint of course but only for 5 days or less at a time and then it's "get out of Dodge" time for me.... ah, memories eh?

That's my contribution for what it's worth mate. Must again congratulate you on your editorial skills Paul. Each Edition seems to up the ante so well done. I for one look forward to my monthly read.

Cheers, Graham Williams."

David Dougherty reflects on the same subject – "Hi Paul, I offer the following in relation to your "navel gazing ponderings" and also ask "is the navel fluff home grown?"

I don't know whether or not this will be a 131 record but here we go. At the grand old age of 15 I started going out with a girl from school despite fierce opposition from her father. Further, at the time she was the girlfriend of one of my best friends and remarkably he remained one. At the age of 21 years and 16 days I married her, she then being 20. We had 4 weeks of married life before nearly 13 months of enforced separation, I was made a member of Detachment 131 Div. Loc. Bty. After that not insignificant interruption we recommenced life together. This led to 2 children and subsequently 3 grandchildren, and also finally acceptance by her father. For the next 20 years, we lived not only at Cronulla where we grew up and met but also only a few doors from her parents. Subsequently we moved to near Mittagong so the first part of your question has not been answered. However, to answer the question that you left unasked, yes, we are still together after 55 years this year.

I also know of two other marriages from our year at school, one being Geoff Amos and Pam Helme, Geoff being Ian's brother. Though without Ian's knowledge I would refrain from mentioning this.

Regards, David"

. Barry Guzder gets in touch with regards to what looks like a great Reunion he organised in WA –

"Here is a photo of the 131 (WA) reunion on 15th March.



The "old" diggers in photos are (left to right) - **Chris Chapple, Alan Robb, Peter Suckling Ralph Mitchell, Neville Davis, Gordon Williams, Bob Pelham, John Lochore, Peter Hopper, Martin Krantjes, Ross Gunnell, Laurie Gallop, Me and Joe Librizzi** in front.

David Cornell? (went to loo). Neil McNeil came but went early. Great afternoon and we are planning a dinner with the wives! Baz'.

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

Dedication of the ANKPQ-1 Radar A-12 & Shelter at Gallipoli Barracks, 1400hr Thursday 25 May 2017



The 131 Locators Association with support from the DVA, unveiled two bronze plaques commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Detachment's deployment to South Vietnam, one plaque naming all members who served in SVN 66/71.



Through the efforts of the Regiment and Keith Ayliffe BEM, the restored radar now stands proudly in front of HQ, 20th STA Regiment RAA, Gallipoli Barracks.

All Locators are encouraged to attend the Regimental parade, when the restored radar and completed shelter with storyboards will be dedicated. For those attending the Gunner Dinner on Saturday 27th May, plan to arrive a day or two early and attend the dedication too. Those attending please email name and car rego so base entry can be organised.

Terry Erbs
President SE Qld Branch LSTAA
Terry.erbs@gmail.com Mob: 0403 500 642



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

A quarter of the year passed already and I am still wondering exactly where it went. After a lovely hot summer in Sydney, we have been inundated by almost continuous rain in early autumn. We have had rain on 21 of the first 24 March days. It is a Sydney thing.

Now moving ahead, a year or so, I note that the Sir John Monash Centre in the Somme region of France, near Villers-Bretonneux, is due to open in April 2018. The Centre is being built behind the Australian National Memorial, which commemorates and lists by name the more than 10,700 Australians who died in France in WW1 and have no known grave. The Memorial still shows bullet scars suffered from German forces during the Second World War.

I am aware that some of our readers lost relatives in the Western Front of WW1 during the 1916-1918 period. So, I am suggesting at this time that maybe a tour could be arranged for April 2018 for those with a personal or historic interest in the area/era. Maybe even Anzac Day in France/Belgium? If you do have an interest why not drop me an email indicating that interest - locators131@y7mail.com

The North Fort Radar – A13 – is now on its way to the National Vietnam Veterans Museum on Phillip Island. That would not have been possible without the effort of a group of former 131 radar blokes plus other former locators who pitched in to separate, pack and ensure all the bits were there. Thanks fellas. Allen

. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 18th April, 2017 at 1100hrs

Venue: **To be confirmed** - You're all welcome

. **Pertinent Points** – extracted from the 131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 21st March, 2017 at 1105hrs...

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

Financial Membership is currently ...**127**, plus Associates **2**, Affiliates **7**. Total **136**.
Lapsed **25** members

Presidents report.

. Allen advised that the “spirit of Anzac” exhibition will open in Sydney Convention centre in April 2017 and would be worth a visit.

. The John Monash Centre will open in France in April 2018 which may require a trip.

. The North Fort Radar was collected and is in transit to the NVV Museum Phillip Island.

. Anzac Day – arrangements for 131 DLB marchers in Sydney see Public Officers report below.

. Photo Album Project – pictures covering 1968-70 are particularly required showing locations, establishments, FSB's, where soldiers worked, the equipment used.

. 2018 ANZAC Day in Marysville, Vic to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the death of Jim Menz

Public Officer Report.

Vic has sent his apologies for this meeting but has arranged a booking for **12 at ZEST Restaurant** for those attending the **2017 Sydney Anzac Day march**.

Adelaide reunion.... 50th Anniversary May 1967 reunion in Adelaide ANZAC DAY 2017. The numbers for the attendees are changing: Geoff and Sally, Bob and Cathy, Chris and Vanessa Bouilly, John and maybe Kristy Blake, Ric Marques, Vic Danko, G Dignam with the prospect of meeting up with a few more locals on the day.

General Business

Photo Album project. This major undertaking will represent all Locators who served in SVN and to achieve its aim we require the help of all vets. Unlike the photos that appear in Eyes & Ears which are reduced in size, we will require BEST POSSIBLE QUALITY photos that will make the final cut. This project will represent the entire period of 131's involvement in the SVN conflict and will be a heritage item so each photo will need a full description.

The committee is requesting the BEST pictures you have of Orderly Rm, Tpt Office. RAEME and Radar and LP sites (showing different modifications over time): Equipment used- Bearing Boards, Sound Ranging, Sensors etc. incl. details of how, when, where and why. (Radar. Starlight scopes, firearms, Transport modes {vehicular, airlift by chopper}: Aircraft used for deployments to FSBs and in close support roles birdogs, etc

Pics of the US Arty guns in support units 1/83rd and 2/35th: pics of liaison with ARVN personnel and positions.

We will be looking for help from Personnel from each year/Corp to help with names and position identifications to ensure accuracy. **We need YOUR INPUT!**

. 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...April –

April	Names	Regt No	YOB	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	DES SPENCER	3787905	1945	03 01 1967	13 12 1967	
1	IAN MORRIS Capt.	243062	1941	10 03 1970	09 07 1970	RAEME
	" "			09 07 1970	11 03 1971	106 Fd Wkshp
2	HILTON HOLLOWAY	1736606	1949	16 12 1970	03 05 1971	131
	" "			03 05 1971	26 10 1971	12 Fd Regt.
4	KEVIN MAKER	2251507	1949	26 08 1969	13 08 1970	
4	WILLIAM LAUGHLIN	2788465	1945	13 01 1969	27 08 1969	
7	JOHN McFADDEN	2783243	1945	04 05 1967	27 09 1967	
7	DAVID MARTIN	2781662	1945	22 04 1966	29 04 1967	
8	RICHARD BRISTOW	1733143	1945	12 04 1968	16 04 1969	
8	LEON DJATSCHENKO	312532	1949	26 08 1969	13 08 1970	
9	TERRENCE MYERS	217798	1950	08 05 1969	30 04 1970	
11	MICHAEL McDONNELL	2781377	1945	04 05 1966	11 04 1967	
11	TERRENCE FOX	1200934	1949	08 07 1968	02 07 1969	
12	KEVIN BEVANS	3798316	1949	10 02 1971	07 06 1971	131
	" "			07 06 1971	02 11 1971	12 Fd Regt
15	Martins Van De Nieuwenhof	3798241	1947	10 02 1971	05 08 1971	
19	RON ROYAL WO2	23552	1929	02 03 1967	20 02 1968	† 01.05.02
19	PETER CLARKE	3792212	1947	11 11 1968	27 08 1969	
19	BARRY DYSON	3795956	1947	03 06 1970	04 03 1971	
20	ANTHONY TURNER	1202849	1946	27 01 1971	30 06 1971	131
	" "			01 07 1971	15 11 1971	12 Fd Regt.
21	JEFFREY BASSFORD	2792419	1949	29 04 1970	14 04 1971	
21	NEVILLE DAVIS	5716997	1949	11 02 1971	12 08 1971	
22	BARRY CAMPTON Capt.	61270	1937	{14 07 1963	22 07 1963	
	" "			{13 08 1966	28 04 1967	
22	MARK SZYPULSKI	313270	1951	19 08 1970	17 03 1971	4 & 12 Fd Regt.
	" "			18 03 1971	29 07 1971	131
23	MURRAY SMALE	5411587	1948	27 11 1967	20 08 1968	
24	JOHANNES LAS	3792338	1947	23 09 1968	18 06 1969	
25	KEVIN BANKS	3794366	1948	27 11 1969	04 06 1970	
25	QUENTIN KNIGHT	2412578	1949	09 12 1968	24 09 1969	
26	GRAHAME DIGNAM	2784745	1946	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
26	WILLIAM CROWTHER	215416	1946	22 04 1966	02 11 1966	
27	GERALD YOUNG Maj.	311460	1926	{06 03 1967	04 04 1967	RAEME
	" "			{25 05 1967	22 06 1967	RAEME
28	GARY LOVELL	218160	1950	08 05 1969	30 04 1970	
29	RON MASON	3787154	1945	04 05 1966	03 03 1967	
29	KEVIN THORNTON	2781420	1945	04 05 1966	02 02 1967	
29	BERNARD ERICA	3787334	1945	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	† 23.11.16
29	PETER FUHRMANN	3789807	1946	21 06 1967	02 04 1968	
30	IAN McMILLAN	215117	1945	15 07 1970	09 09 1970	

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

Ed – 10 blokes not highlighted is still looking a bit “how’s your father” and NOT really acceptable! Ok, we want to see a vast improvement before this lot get another year older!!

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

. Located...

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



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

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



"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...

STAA members in Sydney will parade in Sydney on Anzac Day, behind the 131 banner and marchers. All are welcome to join us at lunch. Please advise your attendance via locators131@y7mail.com or 0411962510



LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION

The Eyes and Ears of The Battlefield



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

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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