

THE EYES and EARS

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It's 50 years since the Tet Offensive began...30th January, 1968...



This is how Australia heard about it via the press headlines on the 30th and 31st of January 1968.

...the memory still remains.

The following was extracted from *Eyes & Ears* in Vol 4 No 1 January, 2011, once more at this very appropriate time, and asked Locators to recall memories of where they were in **January – February, 1968...**

. Tet Offensive – timeline...

29 January 1968 Communist forces in South Vietnam launch what becomes known as the Tet Offensive, with concentrated attacks against every major city and regional centre. Although Tet costs the Communists 45-50,000 troops, it sows serious doubt in the minds of the Australian and American people and leads to major changes in government policy towards the conflict in South Vietnam.

01 February 1968 Tet comes to Baria, the capital of Phuoc Tuy province. A Company of 3 RAR and a troop of APCs fight a savage 24-hour battle to clear the town.

. **Paul Dickson** – it's interesting to reflect, and I am no historian or expert, but the 29th January, 1968 actually saw the commencement of the war we won. From what I can glean that by the end of May the North Vietnamese Army never mounted an all-out attack again. Simply as I see it we had some major activities on our fledgling force in 1966, including Long Tan, and then in 1967 we consolidated our strengths and built a foundation that established ourselves for the onslaught in '68 and beyond.

. **Barry Guzder** always comes in with an honest reply – “Hi Dicko! Well I think I remember Tet. I was down at 31D with the yanks when the shit hit the fan, started reporting firing, flares etc and then started to take incoming. Think I reported something to Bert Blink at Arty Tac. I rang Billiards down at the hooch to get some ammo up to the LP. He came what I thought was a long time later (abused him) then he told that the fire was so intense that he had been stranded down at the artillery director post! Anyway, we both survived but he might have some more insight. Regards 5714500 B. Guzder (P.S. Keep up the good work for all us Locators)”

. **Allen Morley** – “Hi Paul I was newly returned to Australia by one day when Tet began on January 31, 1968.

For me it was no more stand-tos. No more saluting and wearing greens (for a couple of weeks anyway). No more carrying an M-16 everywhere. No more long-drop 'hygiene' facilities. No more piddling little shower from a canvas bag. No more sleeping on a stretcher. No more sandbagged tent. No more ration pack Wednesdays in the mess. No more laundry runs. No more prickly heat.

I vaguely remember reading the papers about the Tet offensive when back in Melbourne, but I was pretty desensitised about news from Vietnam. Cheers Allen”

. **Bob King** has an interesting twist –



“Hi Paul - My memory of TET? I left Nui Dat the day before it started on R&R to Singapore. When the leave was over we went back to the hotel to wait our trip back to Viet Nam and we were advised that the country was closed to all air traffic, due to the conflict. We were taken to the British base in Singapore and were able to access more money from our pay book. We stayed 2 or 3 days then we flew back into Viet



Nam landing at Tan Son Nhut Air Base. The pictures attached show an air strike on the Hobo Woods. Arriving back at Nui Dat I was sent out to FSB Andersen on Operation Coburg. Regards, Bob.”

. **Warwick Brooker** sent in the following, which originally was a bit longer than what follows, however Ed used a bit of cutting and pasting to put a piece together for the “Coming Home etc” article below. Anyway the following are Brookey's reminiscences of his close shave with Tet...”G'day Dicko,

I can't remember the exact dates, but I was in Taipei for five days over the post-Christmas (67) / New Year (68) period. Not much to tell apart from bars, sight-seeing (yes, I actually went on a guided tour to get some culture!), more bars, bargain hunting, restaurants, bars again and a massive hangover on the morning Pam Am returned us to South Vietnam. I was the only Oz on the flight to Taipei (the flight back was too hazy to remember) and I may have received some special treatment to the Aussie eye fillet, probably the only Australian export beef I've ever tasted or ever will taste. It spoilt me for life.

I can't say the same for the Taiwanese food and beer, but one has to make do in unfortunate situations like that.

On the morning of our departure, we artillerymen were very subdued, as we'd lost our mate Jimmy the day before. Also, Tan Son Nhat Airport had come under mortar/rocket attack early that morning – I guess many of us have a photo of a decapitated Hercules on the tarmac – and we half expected to be returning to Nui Dat. Our Qantas 707 would have turned back to Oz, but fortunately (for us) didn't have sufficient fuel to do so.



Photo courtesy of Bruce Irvine

So, we departed Vietnam pretty much as scheduled and arrived back in Sydney at the 'normal' time – around midnight. Brookey”

I was stationed at the LP 31D stationed at “A” Battery 1st/83rd Artillery compound just south of 1ATF after starting my stay in South Vietnam (12th Sep 1967) at the expense of the Australian Government. My first operation was a 6 week one north of the task force somewhere in Xa Tui Tic. We completed that operation in December and spent a very uneventful time for the rest of December and January around the task force base. I had organised my R&R to commence early in February and on the night of 31st January the TET offensive started.

. **Phil Perrin** – The following is an extract from Phil's OC's Recollections – “Courtesy of a QANTAS 707, on 29 Jan 1968, myself and 7 other DLB individuals departed Sydney for SVN via Darwin and Singapore (where we were told to not look like soldiers!!). We touched down at Tan Son Nhut airport late that same day and were accommodated at Camp Alpha until the next day when Wallaby airlines flew our 8 personnel to Luscombe airfield Nui Dat. At this time, Task Force HQ (fwd) was operating at FSB Anderson where I went to meet up with the CO 4FLD Regt. Capt Hamilton came back to Nui Dat for handover activities which were completed by 31 Jan/12 Feb. I sent Sgt Brian Ruddick to FSB Anderson while I familiarized with the unit and Nui Dat dispositions and Arty Tac...a steep learning curve. To celebrate our arrival, the enemy put on a brilliant display called 1968 Tet offensive and infiltrated Baria. This required a reaction force of infantry and APC's to clear the town street by street with artillery illumination for most of the night. At FSB Anderson, a strong second wave of attacks began and locator Jim Menz was KIA and Marty Van Driel was seriously wounded”

. **Bob Billiards** recounts his memories from another piece of correspondence – “I remember being on my shift, but not what time, just that it was dark and I was probably listening to Armed Forces Radio to keep awake and break the monotony of nothing happening anywhere. There then seemed to be a lot of action down south and we got word that Baria and the US Engineers south of us were being hit. I think that I turned off the radio and listened to what was happening, and watching “Puff” streaming down the red ribbons. At some stage I heard a strange sound like a rocket being fired from the Hoa Long area and then the sound of something going overhead towards the north. After about three of these went overhead and there being no big bang, I decided to call up Arty Tac by LL and speak with the duty officer. Don't know who it was, but was explaining the noise and the sound of something flying overhead. I then noticed that there were mortar rounds landing around the bypass road and heading in towards our outer perimeter. My question to the duty officer was “Is someone firing DF around our position?” the response was that there were no Guns or Mortars being fired by friendly forces. “OK then we are being mortared, I will hang up and try to get a location” LP 31A was called and they could see the secondaries, but couldn't see or hear the primaries.

There was a lull in the rounds landing and I could only just hear the mortars being fired from out towards the Warburtons (the hills to our west) and since I could only just hear them, I presumed they were at max range and gave the distance as 6K's or something like that. I then went below to the US post as our LP at that stage had no overhead protection and I had done my job. 161 battery (Kiwis – best field battery at 1ATF) returned fire in super-fast time, maybe 2 minutes and the incoming stopped. The last batches of incoming rounds were very near the guard post on the opposite corner to us, but didn't reach the compound. The infantry found 3 base plates in the area where the mortars were fired from and it appears that the VC may have lined up the target along the tree line in the plantation.

That morning Arty Int sent out a crater analysis party of which I went along as part of the protection party and during their placing sticks in the holes, measuring the angles and picking up the tail fins, I was contacted on our radio to be informed that there was a largish group of VCs heading in our direction from the Baria area. We finalised the job and headed back to the 1/83rd compound. I can't even remember how we got out there i.e. by vehicle or foot. I think it may have been by foot as we were hoping to get back before any unfriendly forces spotted us. Fortunately, I had Pablo (Stan Briggs) near me so I knew that there was someone who could shoot straight! But then the next incident might show that my faith was ill founded.

The next night (I think it was the next night) Behram Guzder was on the 2200hrs to 0200hrs shift and sometime after midnight someone outside of the perimeter and in a tree to his left, fired a good burst of automatic fire at the LP. I imagine that Barry said "shit" and pulled his head in for once! Lucky that it wasn't an RPG! One of the passing rounds ricocheted off a bearing board nail, a great conversation piece for several weeks afterwards. Pablo and I headed down to the LP to ensure that Barry was OK. He gave us the location of the tree from where the shots emanated. For some reason, I had a magazine of tracer for the SLR and suggested to Pablo that I would fire a couple of tracer rounds into the tree area and hopefully draw fire to Barry again and then Pablo would offload some automatic fire from his Colt AR15. One shot and he stopped firing, the usual problem of a casing stuck in the breach. Not having a muzzle loading gun, we had nothing to push the round out. We waited with our mate Barry until sunrise as he wanted us all to go together if there was a major attack.

I haven't a photo of the nail, but here is one of the LP layout. I think that the nail that was bent was either the 2800 or 2900 and would have taken off Barry's nose if he didn't disappear into the seat.

I did get on R&R in March.

Downside was that the 1/83rd OR's bar ran out of Bud and Schlitz and only has Millers!! Mess ran out of chocolate and strawberry milk!!



. "A Sappers' War" - Page 68 (told by Allan Rantall) – Menz, James

"On 18 February, it was 3 Troops turn to provide the standing patrol, but the Vietcong launched a mortar attack on the tree at the same time as they mortared the FSB. Lance Corporal John Garrett and Sapper Allan Pattison and David Steen were killed.

"After the attack, which was in the early hours of the morning, I left our shell scrape to check on the surrounding area for casualties, "remembers Allan. "I came across an Artillery digger who had taken a direct mortar hit. It turned out that he was an old schoolmate of mine from Alexandra. We had actually flown into country on the same flight. James Menz was his name, and he had only just

...Some points continue -

The following are extracted from Wikipedia -

- . In late January, 1968, during the lunar new year (or "Tet") holiday, North Vietnamese and communist Viet Cong forces launched a coordinated attack against a number of targets in South Vietnam.
- . The Tet Offensive (Vietnamese: Sự kiện Tết Mậu Thân 1968, or Tổng tiến công và nổi dậy Tết Mậu Thân) was one of the largest military campaigns of the Vietnam War, launched on January 30, 1968, by forces of the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese People's Army of Vietnam.
- . Militarily, Tet was decidedly an Allied victory, but psychologically and politically, it was a disaster. The offensive was a crushing military defeat for the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese, but the size and scope of the communist attacks had caught the American and South Vietnamese allies completely by surprise.
- . The number of enemy dead had climbed to more than 58,000. More than 14,000 South Vietnamese men, women and children also had died. Of all the battles that together are known as the Tet offensive, the longest, bloodiest and most destructive was fought over Hue, in central Vietnam.
- . However, on January 30, 1968, the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese launched their massive Tet Offensive all across South Vietnam. It was the first day of Tet–Vietnam's lunar new year and most important holiday—and many South Vietnamese soldiers, expecting an unofficial truce, had gone home.
- . What is a Tet? - Tết or Vietnamese New Year, is the most important celebration in Vietnamese culture. The word is a shortened form of Tết Nguyên Đán, which is Sino-Vietnamese for "Feast of the First Morning of the First Day".

It's great to be able to retell these memories as if it was yesterday and not a while longer.

. Insights and Recollections -

This is the fifth in the series pertaining to Fire Support Bases (FSBs).

After some 49 years, we are hoping to gather Recollections and perhaps Insights from members of the Detachment who were involved, in some way or another in FSB and other events. We anticipate hoping that these memories will help to broaden our understanding and give us greater insights into the Detachment's involvement in South Vietnam and in this case some lead-up memories undispersed.

These Insights/Recollections are not based on official documentations, but memories which add another dimension other than the factual Reports recorded in the Australian War Memorial (AWM).

Insights and Recollections by **Phil Mulgrew** and other Memories of that era.

I'm responding to your request for more 131 members who were at FSB Coral in May 1968 - I went up from Nui Dat with the second resupply convoy to Coral. I had been in country for about three weeks. I remember I was on 31C close to the 105mm guns. I shared LP duties with John l'Anson, Mickey Bohl, and others, but their names escape me. Peter Dealy had a shell scrape near mine. Most of the drama was over by the time of that convoy run, but a couple of mortars bombardments lobbed into the FSB in the following days livened things up. I can't remember the trip back to the Dat after every one closed up shop at Coral, but I think I went back to 31A on Nui Dat Hill or to the still under construction 31D at the A battery 2/35th Artillery Battalion.

Phil Mulgrew 68/69 – served in LP's at Alpha, Bravo and Delta during his time in SVN.

The series continues next month with more Insights and Recollections and we hope to continue it further, so if you would care to contribute, please send your Insights and Recollections – Paul Dickson at - 131eyesandears@gmail.com

Here's the next in the "Unknown" series...

This photo was extracted from deep in the bowels of **John Blake's** archives – yes, it's long before the name "Jim Menz" was added to the establishment.



The 3 blokes in front shouldn't be that hard to i.d., but the real test will be the other 3?

C'mon – take a guess?



"Unknowns" - Here's some responses to last month's "tester" and "tester" ...



KEN OSBORNE – "Dear Paul, just to confirm the names on page 8 of the latest *Eyes and Ears* as per paragraph 2 Back row **Ian Amos, Mick Luff, Lionel Outen, Doc Halliday, Chris Bouilly and John Vicary** and front row **Roger Long, Tom King, Frank Ipsa and finally Graham Richardson**"



Stuart Sporn – here's his take on the photo – "The bloke on the rear row (second from Left) unidentified by Ian Amos is **Mick Luff** of the undefeated Bravo Buffaloes volley ball team. He was RTA shortly after this was taken so Ian may not have met him."

. Oddities – we continue on with what is considered some deviations from the norm in life, well if you call "Military Life" the norm, whatever that means!

Holsworthy - Was the place all that secure?

Have a ponder over this - On entering and leaving Holsworthy Barracks, say just to go the carpark, out for the night (I'm amazed how I got back some nights – forget the "driving" bit!) or go to the beach over the weekend - did we have to sign out (did you tell whoever that it was only for the evening or "hey, see you Monday!") and sign back in? Were visitors allowed to come in to say "g'day", no nothing more, just "g'day" – I think **Bob "Woofers" Bruce** (wherever the hell he is!)

and **Rob Retrot** could answer that – I'm sure I've seen a photo showing "Invitees" (Who did own the Vauxhall whatever model it was you were all sprawled over?).

Anyway, if memory serves me correctly it wasn't all that hard, for anyone, to go for a wander over the playing field and just saunter off or for that matter anyone could just saunter back in. It wasn't as though it was Stalag 13 or something similar with guard posts, high barbed wire etc.

Yes, I remember doing guard duty and yes, there was a bayonet on the SLR, but I have a feeling that the magazine was empty.

So, let's surmise that we encountered an intruder (not that I ever did) and after putting your cigarette out, we possibly said "Halt!" – what did come after that? What if he/she didn't obey the command, did we just relight our cigarette? I couldn't really imagine stabbing them to death with the bayonet or similarly clubbing them to death with the butt of the SLR. I remember guard duty nights were cold, so sitting in someone's car wasn't always the best spot to encounter anyone anyway!

However, the shame of it all is that I don't have a photo to scratch my head about it – maybe someone can oblige? There's got to be a photo somewhere of the entry guard post/gate/ office setup? Wasn't it used for a temporary "slammer"? Plus, if anyone can fill in some of my blanks, please do so?

Interesting miscellaneous information – National Service (NS) Intakes 1965 – 1972

Note 1 - Intakes all started on a Wednesday.

Note 2 – From 1966 Intakes were January/February, April, July & September.

Note 3 – 63,735 NS soldiers served in the Australian Army?

Note 4 – There were 16 NS Ballots the first on the 10/03/1965 and the last on 22/09/1972.

Note 5 – The 1st Intake started on 30/06/1965 & the last Intake were discharged on the 07/12/1972.

. Dicko - A Conversation – at a Christmas party, last year, I was talking to a mate (**Mike Pumphrey**) over here who had done two tours of SVN. His first tour was in '67 with the US Infantry and a second in the '70's as an Army helicopter pilot. He made an interesting point as a 21-year-old infanteer (this was his first tour) - he felt as though he was doing a "worthwhile task" (that was the general consensus at the time as we would all be aware of), but by the time he returned for his second tour, the public mood had changed and he felt that the wind had gone out of the effort – basically the flame that had been lit in the US had gone out of the exercise and it was widely recognised that they were fighting a losing battle – he did not have the heart that he did have on the first tour. Not that he didn't fear for his safety in '67 (he was wounded in action), but he was far more cautious for his life the second time around. There was a general lack of discipline etc based on "what the hell are we doing here?" and this was filtering down.

Lives were lost earlier on, but were now being wasted.

I asked Mike to send me an email with some details -

Mike Pumphrey's email – "Hi Paul, I arrived in Vietnam on Dec 3, 1967, as an infantry rifle platoon leader with the Third Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division. I was a platoon leader until Aug 27, 1968 when I was wounded in action/hospitalized/shipped back to the US. I was a 2nd Lt when I arrived, a 1st Lt when wounded. Our base camp was Phuoc Vinh 20-30 miles north of Bien Hoa but we were seldom there and moved all over Vietnam, including the northern highlands and down to the Cu Chi area, where I was wounded.

My second tour was as a helicopter platoon leader with D troop, 3/5 Cav, 101st Airborne Division. I went over in late 1971 and returned to the US in July '72. My tour was shortened because the US was pulling out most of the combat assets and was sending people that had at least 6 months in country back to the US. I was a captain at this time. Initially we were stationed at Quang Tri but the unit moved south to just outside of Phu Bai and then again to Da Nang. Mike"

Mike, during our conversation mentioned the colour of tracer – us using red and the other mob using green! **Bob Billiards** above in "TET" and watching "Puff" streaming down the red ribbons, bought this to mind.

Regarding all of this I wonder about our situation and guess earlier on we were on a search and destroy - confrontational and protective missions and wonder did this change into the '70's with the ATF?

The feeling back in Australia had become much more anti and in your face. I remember, personally, that I did not openly discuss with strangers that I had been in SVN. Coming back to the civilian workforce, in my case coming back to the Commonwealth Bank (likewise with **Grahame Dignam**), I was treated very well and even attended a re-hab type course in Sydney with a group of other blokes.

I also guess the feeling of camaraderie still existed later on, but was there a feeling of "Why are we still here?"

I'd be interested in comments?

Mail Call...

. Mail to Paul Dickson/Ed/Dicko – An important note to ALL. Could you please refrain from using my old email address – three-zero@hotmail.com I've had troubles with it in the past and hence moved to

131eyesandears@gmail.com

So, could you please address all your mail to this Gmail address. Luckily, I managed to discover about 80 emails – the last couple dealing with Martin Kryntjes.

Paul

131eyesandears@gmail.com

December's Eyes & Ears responses...

Bill Taggart (US 1st/83rd) – “Thanks for the update Paul. I am happy to see that the Long Tan Cross is now in a proper place where it can be viewed, honored and preserved. Lest We Forget! Bill”

Warwick “Brookey” Brooker – “Thanks again, Dicko. Best wishes to you and Helen.” Brookey

Allen Morley – “Hi Paul, I have read Dec *E&E* and as always, enjoyed the news.

I am amazed that Lt Col no 15 in the birthday list was born in 1838. He must have outlived all his contemporaries and family. That's a Reg officer for you! Cheers, Allen” ...and I had to respond – “Hey that would have only made him 174 when he left the Locallery! Paul”

...**Dicko** - I just had to add part of an email from Ken Osborne as it flows on from Allen Morley's especially my reply below – **Ken Osborne** – “...Also noticed that my name and status as to membership was not in the January birthday list, that is Ken Osborne 48543 dob 16 Jan 1937, apart from that a good read, so keep up the good work, regards Ken Osborne and have a happy and prosperous new year.”

Dicko's response – “Ken, good to hear from you. Let's see how you go with the names - looks ok.

My apologies re: omitting you from January's birthday list - Happy Birthday - hope you had a good one? It's in there now for next year.

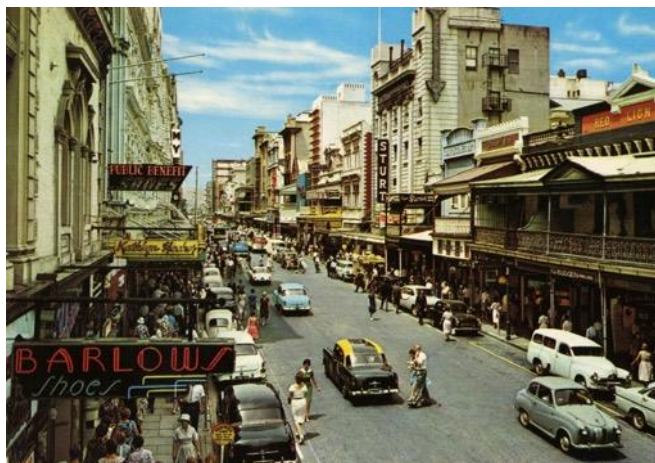
At least I didn't have your birthdate in the 1800's like the late Lt Col George Staziker!! Paul”

Peter Saint – “Thanks Paul, all the best for 2018. Regards, Peter Saint”

Ken Foster – “Thanks Paul, a great magazine. All the best for 2018”

...and another one from Ken –

“Dear Paul, I checked out the photo of Adelaide in the last *Eyes and Ears* and it is Rundle Street in Adelaide, I used to be a copy boy for the newspaper “The News” years ago and the names of some of the businesses are quite familiar to me “Barlows” were a shoe shop, Myers Emporium on left sign half hidden and the Red Lion hotel on the right where I had some drinks on the first-floor balcony in the sixties. Photo would have been taken after the trolley bus overhead lines were removed. So again, all the best, regards Ken Osborne.”



. Alan Robb – the following is extracted from Alan's response to **Martin Kryntjes' Vale** later in this edition -

“I am ok, still doing my grain harvesting in the Central Wheatbelt each year, maybe the 2018 harvest will be my last but while the body holds out I still enjoy going back to catch up with my farming mates of 50+years. The guy I help out actually worked for me for a couple of years after he left school, I go back on the terms of “all care, no responsibility”, joking of course. The rest of the year is spent on my hobby style cattle farm at Margaret River with the odd trip away. Alan.”

. **Al Adams** – “Hi Paul, it was good to catch up, even though it was short. Hope you both arrived back home safely and ready for 2018. I meant to say there was a notice in the Vet Affairs newspaper as attached. You may already know, or if Hilton Holloway is on your register. Do you have contact with Errol Oates or Hilton? I spoke to Leigh (Hemming) a couple of days before Christmas and he had just got back from hospital, he had been treated for a lung infection. He sounded in good spirits and was having ongoing treatment. Cheers, Al”

...**Dicko decided to get “Edventurous”** – on Wednesday 3rd Jan, I decided to take a punt and call Errol Oates on his mobile and Bingo!

“Hi Paul, it was great to take your call yesterday. Firstly, my details.

Gunner Errol Oates (1736643) / Artillery Surveyor. HQ Bty 12 Fd Regiment.

Job: worked in “Arty Tac” giving air and ground clearance to Australian & US Artillery.

In country: 1971- Returned home by Hercules in late October. (Hilton was on the same flight.)

Why were you searching for Hilton? Was he just on your missing persons list? Do you have many others?

I will contact Hilton later today, and forward on your newsletter.

Regards, Errol Oates”

...**here’s an email from Hilton...**

“Hi Paul,

Errol Oates passed on your email.

I have tried to apply online to join the Association but it keeps saying I haven't completed all the fields in the form. If you would arrange to have a form emailed to me I can completed it, scan it and email it back.

My service details are:

Gunner Hilton Holloway (1736606) - nickname: "Holly", Artillery Surveyor. 131 Div Loc Bty, Vietnam service: 16/12/1970 - 26/10/1971, Army service: 22/04/1970 - 09/12/1971

Please let me know if you need any further info. Cheers, Hilton”

. **George Lane** – “Dicko I spent Christmas & New Year with my son in Brisbane and we were at Cleveland Newsagent to check my Powerball result when my son Matt was approached by a Gentleman who asked if the man he was with was a Locator. Matt told him the man was his Father and he was with the 131 Locators Association. I returned to Matt and the man introduced himself as **Peter Binns** & served in 67 – 68 in Vietnam. It is funny how it happened because Peter caught sight of my Association cap and chased us to the Newsagent. Peter and I talked about some of the Pioneers he knew (**Late Lofty Hayes**) and a couple of others. I put him onto the website and wished him well. Just goes to show if you advertise someone will find you. George Lane.”

...**Dicko dropped Peter a line to check on the “Lane-encounter” and this came back –**

Peter Binns – “Hi Paul. Yes, it’s a small world and if George wasn’t wearing his Locators hat we would have passed like ships in the night. Had a good chat with him and his son Matthew about the unit.

Yes, I’m well Paul and the bloody years seem to be going quicker too.

All the best for coming year

Cheers, Pete”

...**then Pete added this** – “Hi Paul. Some trivia for *Eyes and Ears* – the B/w Photo at right taken of **Bob King and I** December 1967

and the coloured pic below when I caught up with **Bob** for chat in 2017. Cheers, Pete”



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Contact: Kevin Heyward
① 0455 235 241
✉ kevheyward@hotmail.com

Seeking Gnr Hilton HOLLOWAY (1736606)
Artillery Surveyor with HQ Battery 12th Fd Regiment & 131 Div Loc Bty Vietnam 16/12/1970 – 26/10/1971.
Contact: Errol Oates
① 0412 425 943
✉ ejoates@bigpond.net.au

Commonwealth Ceasefire Monitoring Force Rhodesia
Seeking those who served with the Force from December 1979 to March 1980.

Looking for those who Kapooka between 18 Ju Sept 1972. One or two f National Servicemen b were regulars. Contact 37 Schooten St, Warrar or via number below.
Contact: Leonard May:
① 0400 605 486

Seeking information Arnold KEMP DFM, 'Liberators'
Bill flew with Arnold o Darwin between April the end of WWII ferryin and he is writing a sto includes the events of days. Bill has lost his t log book and would be



. **Terry Erbs** – “G’day Paul,

Thought the “Olds & Bolds” might like to read in “*Eyes & Ears*” about what the present-day Locators are doing!!! Back in the day I don’t remember any inspirational awards for Locator’s, - the modern army is very strong on personal development, achievement and responsibility!

So, here’s an article for publication, with a couple of photos, about Bdr. Greg Armstrong 20th STA Regiment’s “Soldier of the Year”.

20th STA Regiment’s Soldier of the Year 2017

In front of a large gathering of family and friends 20th STA Regiment paraded in their hangar due to wet weather at Gallipoli Barracks Enoggera. During the parade, newly promoted members had new rank badges put on uniforms by proud family. Next, awards and commendations were proudly presented by the CO Lt. Col. Peter Grant to a number of members of the Regiment. Then I had the pleasure of presenting to the “Soldier of the Year”, BDR Greg Armstrong, a signed copy of “Tracks of the Dragon” and a mounted model of the UAV “Shadow 200” of behalf of the LSTAA



Bdr. Greg Armstrong, Lt.Col. Peter Grant and Terry Erbs President SE Qld LSTAA

Reading Greg’s long list of achievements, you can appreciate why he’s fittingly 20th STA Regiment’s “Soldier of the Year”

Greg, was promoted to Bombardier in 2016 and has achieved the unit distinction of “Soldier of the Year” for the year 2017. In his primary role as a Mission Commander (MC) he produced an exemplary performance as a TUAS MC. He was one of the MCs during Exercise “Griffin Guns”; pioneering the Laser Target Designation SOP for Australian SH200 TUAS. Greg was integral to months of lead-up dry rehearsals with ARH “Tiger” pilots to refine procedures prior to successfully co-ordinating the sensor-shooter orchestration between the two platforms. [laser aboard UAV illuminates target for suitable types of munitions, such as Hellfire missiles fired by Tiger helicopters].

As a member of the 20th STA Regiment recruitment team, Greg has mentored and educated over 600 school age children who have visited the Regiment as part of the Defence Work Experience Program. The Program covers Defence Force Recruiting, Women in Defence and Australian and Torres Strait Island initiatives. He was also lead NCO for these programs, interacting directly with the attendees, overseeing the coordination of the visitors as well as ensuring the simulators and Command Post were manned and properly briefed.

The time and effort that Greg expended in support of the recruitment activities within the Regiment enhanced his ability to support external recruitment activities including the Avalon Air-show and Albany Creek Primary School where he continued to influence interested individuals in Army Unmanned Aerial Systems. His ability to impart technical information at multiple levels enhanced the positive engagements during these events to the wider community.

Greg’s representational role has been significant, showing a genuine capacity for work that isn’t normally required of his rank or position. This was formally noted in numerous performance reports and informally in comments made by senior members of the battery and regiment on many occasions. Greg is an exceptional NCO, a proud member of 20th STA Regiment and who has taken on more responsibility and performed at an excellent standard continuously throughout the past year.



Lt. Col. Peter Grant, BDR Greg Armstrong, Terry Erbs & RSM David Nutini

After next local LSTAA committee meeting in early Feb 2018, we'll circulate the details of the planned Locator's reunion in Brisbane on Friday & Saturday 12/13th October 2018. Could everyone please "save reunion date" into their busy diary!!! Cheers Terry"



Mail Out

I started this in September, 2017 and have decided to continue running down the alphabet of names and sending some emails to blokes in general to say g'day and just to generally keep in touch. A lot of the blokes I've never met, so it's just to keep some connection alive. Plus, it's good to keep in touch, even sporadically, it may help to avoid any unpleasant unforeseen surprises.

Mail In - Here are the responses...

Nick Armstrong – "Hello Paul. You will have to remind me where "Here" is? I seem to be OK, although I was diagnosed with Atrial Fibrillation, following my annual medical examination for my Heavy Vehicle, and Bus Licence, last May. I now have a Cardiac Pacemaker fitted. No one told me about bodies wearing out in stages. It is embarrassing going to the Chemist to collect a bag of pills now. The pacemaker comes with blood thinners and pills to steady my heart rate. I also have medication for high blood pressure, medication for prostate reduction, and medication for Cholesterol reduction. Being retired is a full-time job, just dealing with medical matters!

I haven't done any earth-moving work for about three years, but I still do occasional relief school bus driving. Since retiring, I have joined the local Country Fire Service, which mostly isn't too stressful. I did not do any truck driving, last harvest. The farmer I usually drive for, did not plant a crop this year. While the rainfall was eventually quite reasonable, it was so late starting, it was too late for him to sow.



I enjoy getting out on Boston Bay, when possible, and the weather is pleasant. The picture is taken at the ramp where I usually launch. It is about ten minutes' drive from home, and always very sheltered, with no tidal surge.

I am planning a trip to UK in April. It will be a three-week trip to revisit where I grew up 60 years ago. My brother in law will travel with me. We will leave Adelaide on 25th April, and leave Heathrow to return home on 17th May. We are booked on the nonstop QANTAS flight from Perth to London. 17 hrs! My son and my nephew are both interested in hearing about the experience. Cheers for now. Nick"

John Bayford – "Hi Paul. Glad to hear that all is well with you. Where are you staying now?

I am living at Cape Schanck and have four wonderful golf courses within golf cart distance. It gets very cold here in the middle of winter so we spend August in Port Douglas.

Apart from the odd niggling injuries I am well and playing some nice golf. The golfing community here are great people and we spend a lot of time with them.

We have two boys and they along with the wives and grand-children stay with us on birthdays, Xmas, Easter etc. Thank you for your efforts with E&Es. Cheers, John'

Paul Butcher – "Hi Dicko, wishing you good health and happiness for the New Year, nice of you to touch base, always eager to read the newsletters, a picture of **Tom King** last issue provoked a range of good memories of him at the school of Arty. Regards mate ...Butch"

Peter Bruce – "Hello Paul. Happy new year to you. Mate, we are in the middle of moving house at the moment. Big day is Friday this week. I'll get back to you in more detail later. Best wishes, Peter"

Kevin Thornton – "Hi Paul. Attached is a Locator's Profile of myself and what I have been doing. Everything is okay, hope to catch up with the other members in the future. I have moved house and my new address is: 23 John Hall Drive, Taree, NSW 2430. Regards, Kevin Thornton"

Mike Butler – "Hi Paul. Thanks for the note.

Not a lot going on at the moment - just getting through the hot weather. Had 42 last week!!!

We took our caravan over to WA in Aug/Sept/Oct last year - had a great time. Came back and had our gathering in Portarlington in November with Rieny, Pete Saint, Les Falkai, John Jaggard and partners. I noted that Rieny had sent you an article for the Eyes and Ears. We had a great time and we met two others from 131 who reside in Geelong.

Went down to the museum on Phillip Island with a mate from Box Hill RSL who is taking some tours around from Probus etc. I thought I might do a couple and show some support. Saw the radar sitting outside - not sure what's happening with it though.

Have been socialising with a couple of close friends from Box Hill - one was with 131 for a very short time (Bill Waterman) but was then transferred to A Battery towards the end in 1971 - the other was an MP who got the Military Medal.

Doing a bit of exercise on my bike recently and pottering in the garden.
Spent a reasonably quiet Xmas with kids and grandkids - if that's possible!!
Not going anywhere in the next couple of months as daughter is expecting first child. Don't normally go far in summer anyway - too hot for us and I don't like the threat of bushfires.
Anyway, all the best for now. Mike Butler"

John Browne - Hi Paul, nothing much to report here mate. The weather has been a bit how do ya do, with some super-hot days.

Xmas was a bit slow with daughter now living in the UK, so mum and I had a slow one.
Keep in touch, Brownny"

Edward "Spike" Chase - "Hi Paul. Still going mate, been bloody hot here over Christmas & now. Guess that's the price we pay to live in Qld. Saw **George Lane** over Christmas, he was up to see his Son. Had a couple of Barbies with him & family. Not much else happening apart from a few games of Golf each week. It's good to wake up each day on the right side of the grass.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in October. All the best to everybody. Spike."

Alan Chesterton - "Hi Paul. Thank you for your email, good to hear you are well, I am going good now after a work place injury just on 12 months ago, we moved to Quirindi 3 years ago from Grafton, I am a sub branch member here, it gets very hot in summer and cold in winter but we cope. Regards Alan."

Don Chalmers - "Hi Paul, thanks for not giving up on me. My memory must not be too bad since I was able to track down your previous message, since I remembered that you lived in Mexico these days, and that is why you are wandering through autumn.... We've had rather strange weather here in Melbourne. Some heavy rain followed by some coolish days for summertime, and then a scorcher or two with bushfires, then cool and cloudy. Up and down.

I'm not up to much these days, but got out to see "The Greatest Showman" today with my sisters and some friends for my birthday next week. 73. I haven't gotten around to go to any of 131's reunions for several years, since it seems that I don't like being bossed around by lance bombardier's any more. After all, I am "a piper too", and prefer to do my own thing. These days I appear online as myself at LinkedIn, where I do some blogging on interfaith and equality issues.

My daughter and son-in-law visited from Queensland again this year with 3 of their 4 children, plus one exchange student, ranging from 14 to 18 nearly. Fortunately, they stayed for about 5 days with my former wife and her new husband. The oldest one is at Uni. My youngest son's children are aged nearly 3 to 7. He's realized his big mistake and had the snip after they had 3 boys. So, no more are on the cards.

I am glad to read about other guys in 131, so thanks for all that you do. I'm amazed that so many seem to have slipped through the net, and "disappeared". I did bump into one from recruit training though quite a few years ago from Puckapunyal 11th intake. He had been in B Company, whilst I was in A. I think we had both served our cookhouse duties in the same week. I've lost touch with him since. He had been one of the last of the stolen generation, originally from Alice Springs, then Adelaide, and eventually (after Natio) drifted back to Alice, but liked to come to the city a couple of times a year. I haven't yet visited Alice, but did make it to Uluru last November 12 months ago. It had rained right up to the week I landed, so the spring flowers were all out. A definite bonus!

That's all for now; thanks again! Don"

Charles Brewer - "Hi Paul, Charles here, from a wonderful Coffs Harbour! We've been enjoying some exceptional weather - it really is a great place to live. So much cooler than Sydney...did you hear about Penrith last week, at 48.3 C? It was a record. We used to live in the Parramatta area - Dundas - so really pleased not to be there! Miss the Regimental occasions with 7Fd Regt Assoc though.

For us - really enjoyed all our family here over Christmas. Brisbane family daughter Kath with Barton, + Zoe 15 and Lily 11. Lovely young ladies. And here, our son Mike with Libby, and now Eliana just 2, and Neeson 6 months.

I should know - but exactly, where are you? Sounds cold...so, thinking about your health issues, and what I do (Helen has a craft business part-time, with sales on EBay and some local markets): maybe we can help you stay healthier Paul - mean that.

As we age - well hey - we need all the help that we can get, don't we? Way too many Vietnam Vets struggle - lots of cellular damage, on top of just getting older.

Lots of good info on our site... <https://www.purecolostrum.com.au>

Just the opening "What's in Colostrum" says heaps. Certainly, will help you keep away from a cold Paul. It's been 11yrs now since Helen and I had flu shots - just don't need them. (This is not a recommendation - it's our choice). And that blood test sounds good news too.

So, we fit things around to suit us more now - all part-time, and family too.

Good to chat - Ubique! Charles and Helen."

John Chilton - "Hi Paul, thanks for the email, very much appreciated. All is going well with me. I have been doing a lot of travelling. Did an African tour and cruised from South Africa to Venice. Great trip.

Lost my best mate in June. Gunner Sidney O'Rourke. He served in the 551 LTAA BTY in New Guinea for 2 years. He had a Good innings as Ritchie would say, 94 years young. Will miss him at the Dawn Service this year.

I'm off to Longreach by train in March and then to the United Kingdom in July with one of my mates. So, I am keeping quite busy Paul.

In November would like to come down to the School and have a look, and then go to Rookwood. I arranged for a plaque at Rookwood for Sidney and a paver at the School. Will bring Sidney's Son, Neale with me.

That's enough about me Paul. How are you going? They must keep you flat out with the Newsletter and all the other projects that you are involved with. It is good to hear that you are still finding 131 Members after all these years. I will try to come to the next Bty function and catch up.

A lot of the boys from 68/69, my time, have not been located or have not come forward.

Thanks again for keeping in touch Paul. Look after yourself and God Bless. Hope to see you soon. John Chilton."

David Bahler (NZ Vet) – "Hi Paul, thanks for your email.

All's good with me though I have taken a slightly different direction having 'retired' in Aug 2016. Found that I'm not suited to retirement so took a job as an operations director for a security firm for about 6 months and finished that in April last year and having been driving buses since and am about to transition into the Operations Manager for the firm I work for. I resigned as Editor of our newsletter last year as I knew I wouldn't have a lot of free time learning the ropes. The RNZA appointed a new editor but we haven't seen anything from him as yet. Not sure what is going on there. I guess they will sort themselves out eventually.

I still have contact with some of the blokes in the regular force Regiment and one of my mates has just been appointed Master Gunner – a huge honour for him. The modern army is so very different to how it was when you and I served in the 60/70s.

I recall one of our BSM's, who was an ex All Black, being sent to SVN to sort out the men of 161 Bty, who were mostly from other Corps to make up numbers. Seems the other Corps used the opportunity to send their misfits and riff raff to us. Well Tiny (the BSM) went over there and soon had them all sorted. His method, I'm told, was to take the offending Gunner to the rear of the ablution block in Nui Dat and use him as a punch bag until said Gunner saw the error of his ways.

Tiny was my RSM when I was attached to a TF Regiment in the mid-70s and he was a formidable man and even now, in his 90s and me in my mid 60s, he still calls me 'boy'.

Nowadays, seems to me, an offending Gunner would be politely asked to do whatever and there would certainly be no verbal or physical abuse. First time I saw this in effect my jaw dropped!! Couldn't believe it. Don't think it ever did us any harm and I certainly remember shouting at my troopies when I was a Sgt.

I always watch for any news about Mexico and the shenanigans with trump and his wall. Just can't believe that man is POTUS.

Anyways, must get on. Take care and thanks for the contact. Cheers David B"

Dave Crowther - Hi Paul, good to hear from you. I visited my oncologist Monday, I had to consult with her locum as Marianne off sick since July last year, due back in June (I suspect cancer). The locum had a heap of blood tests done the results of which I will find out on the 5th February. I went for p.e.t. scan yesterday, 55 minutes to infuse radio-active substance into me, then lay still with arms over my head for a 1hr scan. The scan will reveal any tumours from top of head to the soles of my feet and any other cancerous material. I also get the results on Feb. 5th. After my heart attack whilst awaiting quadruple heart bypass and mitral valve repair, we put the 6th cycle of chemo on the backburner as my heart would not be able to handle. If results come back ok I shouldn't need any more chemo. My body is not up to scratch but my mind is determiner. I have been through worse, but I had my darling wife, Beverley, of 48 years to back me up, it will be five years since her passing on March 3rd. With all the shit and near misses defying death, her loss affected me the most but she is in a better place. As always, I will continue to do my best. I had heart echo done early December and it came back as 50. That is a left ventricle ejection fraction which measure blood remaining in the valve after each Pump. 50 is the lower end of good (50 – 80). When I got out after my bypass I was on 30. In St Vincents after my massive heart attack I was down to 15, classified as walking dead. I suppose that is why I was in induced coma for 2 days. Haemoglobin down to 89 (s/b 160) and no white cells. Things can only get better and my head is in the right frame. Take care and keep up the good work. Regards, Dave CF"

Ged Carroll – "Hi Paul great to get your email. Sorry did not get back sooner but have been down at my daughter's place on the south coast NSW, Shell Harbour, doing a bit of teenage and dog sitting while daughter away on holidays. I have been away myself to Victorian High Country in my old four-wheel drive with a group of likeminded people it is good to go bush, light the fire and relax and listen to the bush symphony. Paul, you are doing a great job with the *Eyes and Ears* without it I don't think we would have an Association. My health is pretty good for an old "Natio" first intake 65.

I have a new knee which is performing very well. I am in regular contact with **Gunner George Lane** and **Merv Nairn**. My wife and family keep me on the straight and narrow. I have not had a drink for seventeen years. I was a drunk before that. DVA doctors looked after me. So much for my ramblings Paul, thanks again for your email and hope you and wife are well. Cheers Ged Carroll. PS It is bloody hot in Sydney 41 degrees as we speak."

Barry Campton – "Hello Paul - Thanks for your email.

It is good of you to keep the ball rolling in contacting the detachment members. This is most evident in the newsletter for which you must be congratulated. How you keep focused is amazing.

At the moment life is great with family matters taking precedence during school holidays. The bucket list has had a trip to the Orkney Islands on it for some time. I emptied that out last year when eventually it happened. What an experience! In between times car trips to explore country towns, pubs, pie shops and just spending time talking to the local people is one of the favourite pastimes.

Health wise in good shape except for a bug picked up in Vanuatu last year with the loss of about 6kgs. Four kgs have been added with not too much of a problem but still at my usual weight.

Keep safe. Barry."

Dicko – It's very heartening to get this return "g'day..." mail from you blokes, as it not only strengthens my day, regardless of the mail content which sometimes is not always "fun stuff", but it's just that we're communicating, not with me alone, but to everyone. It's just so good that after 50 odd years that this can continue – thanks to the internet etc, which makes it a sight easier.

I'm still concerned, as I "rabbit" on about after the "Birthdays in the Battery" bit below every month, about the numbers of us that remain "Un-Located". According to the "Birthday..." file there are **133** (see a detailed list below) of us not contacted. It's a sad fact that, no doubt, that some of these names may no longer be with us, but if there's any chance of contacting them maybe we should give it a try.

Adding to Vale is bad enough, but any unknown/sudden additions is really hard to take.

The following list is not alphabetical as it's been taken from the calendar list of birthdays -

1966 – Ezio Lombardo, Bob Tanner, Leslie Cahill, Graham Hislop, David Martin, Michael McDonnell, Peter Robertson, Jim Sellwood, Sytse Elzinga, Lawrence Sawyer, Barry Uren, Desmond Bury, John Perry, Tom King, John McGregor, Brian Hawkey = **16**

1967 – Paul Travers (RAEME), Geoff Todd, Willis (Bill) Wight, Michael (Mick) King, Frank Halliday (RAEME), Allan MacLean (RAEME), Keith White (AACC), Frederick Kruminck, John Greenaway, Bob Bruce, John Pollock, Peter Whitaker, Maurice Arch, Jim Lawler, William Thomas, Ron Saunders = **16**

1968 – Edward Henson, Richard Flavell, Robert Ramsay, Terrence Hunt, Grahame Lee, Roger Stanley, Barry Cooke, Les Smithlester, (RAAOC), Ronald Robards, Terrence Fox, Peter Clarke, John Brewer, Lindsay Mead, Robert Pelham, John Smith, Eric Thompson, Gary Bester, Philip Johns, Ernest Galloway, Peter Teather, Norman Lindroos, Ian Murley, Brian Ruddock, Gary Stratton, Keven Bush, Michael Burgess (RAEME), John Martin = **28**

1969 – Arthur Dove, Edward Copper, Peter Szabo, Luigi Lanera (RAEME), Adrian Spencer, Norbert Kroll, Gregory Peck, Robert Hargreaves, William Laughlin, Terrence Myers, Dennis Forster, Kenneth Sanderson, Andrew Csivincsik, James Lockhart, Vito Ciccolella, Phillip Ross, Robert Etherington, Allen Wheatley, Phillip Wapshot, Peter McGann, Michael Fletcher, Leslie Bates, Stanley Todkill, Michael Ferris (RAEME), Robert Holdsworth (AACC) = **25**

1970 – Brian Johnson, Roger Holmes, Leslie Saurine, Peter Fielden, Michael Barlow, Eric Williams, Marcus Robinson, Terence McManis, Don Perry, Rodolfo Marsani, Gregory Lucas, Eric Winn, Barry Dyson, Laurence Mion, Stuart Telford, Simon Willis, Charles O'Neill, Geoffrey Sullivan, Edward Webb, Peter O'Donnell, Bruce Fowler, Rex Arnold, Alasdair Gough, Wilhelmus Van Zetten, Ian Bubb, Gary Chillingsworth, John O'Neill, Dennis Avery, David Dacre, Jorg Kiene, Barry Williams, Michael Boyle, Ronald Ryan, David Billings = **34**

1971 – Allan Robotham, Gerard Pires, Anthony Turner, Neville Davis, Mark Szypulski, Frederick Marwick, Stuart Phillipson, John Homer, Peter Barry, Terry Welsh, Garry Grimwood, Norman Jones (AACC), Robert Harris, Laurence D'Arcy = **14**

Total = 133

This database is flawed – for a start it mainly only lists those of us who served in SVN, but, however, gives us some sort of starting point.

Just for the hell of it, let's take the first name we have listed above –

Ezio Lombardo – SVN 20.05.66 – 03.03.67, 216284, which makes him a Reg, he was a gunner, born in 1st Mar '46 in Montemagno, Italy. The Regt. No. and place of birth aren't a real help, because it doesn't give us an Aus State to possibly start from – bummer!

Ok lets' try #2 –

Robert Scott Tanner - SVN 21.05.66-28.04.67, 6708362, he's a Nasho, a gunner, born on 11.03.45 in Tasmania – bewdy! I froze for a second as I found a Robert Scott Tanner in "Gravesites of Tasmania", luckily, well for our bloke, this bloke was born in 1916 – phew, so far! However, he did have two sons named Robert. Next, in White Pages, I found an R&B Tanner in Sth Hobart so decided to give the number a go...no luck.

James Forbes Sellwood – SVN 04.05.66-30.04.67, 1731045, another Nasho, but he was a Temp Bdr, born in Brisbane 23.05.45. I thought I'd tracked him down to a "Handyman" business on the Sunshine Coast, but drew a blank again! Spoke to a nice bloke up there though.

So, will plod on and see what eventuates. Maybe someone else could come up with a plan/idea?

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

James Leslie MENZ – 18th February, 1968 – KIA

This year marks the 50th anniversary since Jim's death.

Grahame Dignam and Bert Blink from the Association are going down to Marysville, Victoria to pay their respects to Jim and are extending an invitation to other Locators to perhaps join them.

If there's an interest, could you please contact Grahame at sectreas131locators@gmail.com to find out more detail as to meeting.

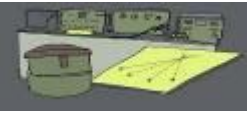
Coral / Balmoral – Events, Canberra – May, 2018

There are several events taking place over the weekend of 12th /13th May, 2018.

Here's an initial brief – courtesy of **Keith Ayliffe and Bert Blink** -

- . **Saturday, 12th** - RAA Memorial on Mt Pleasant.
- . **Saturday, 12th** - the DVA will also be conducting a "Last Post Ceremony" at 4.50pm at the Vietnam memorial, Anzac Parade. This is open to the Public.
- . **Sunday, 13th** - The DVA is conducting a commemoration at the Vietnam Memorial at 1100 hrs, which is also open to the Public

More information will be provided as it becomes available.



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 – Alan Adams, WA - Barry Guzder
<http://www.131locators.org.au>

A few well-chosen words of wisdom from the Sec/Treas - "Well, here we are into 2018 and maybe it's time to fulfil that New Year's Resolution and join the Association or maybe catch up and re-new the Membership?
Just contact me with an email sectreas131locators@gmail.com to do something. Grahame"

...then Grahame has added -
WANTED

We are seeking a **Curta** donation for the Nat Viet Vets Museum - We know that someone has cornered the market for this item. We are prepared to make he/she a reasonable offer or maybe arrange a donation of the **Curta Model 15** direct to the Museum in their name with the proper acknowledgement.

We are also after an **80mm Mortar Tube** to appear beside the ANK/PQ1 radar but don't have much hope of getting one – unless...??

For Sale - Tracks of the Dragon - I have 9 copies for sale @ \$35 hand delivered or plus extra for postage if required. If you are interested or know anyone who may be - call me at home in the Orderly Room 02 90571761.

. **Upcoming Events Calendar –**

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: **Tuesday, 13th February, 2018 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.



Presidential perambulations

Above in this edition there are many wonderful stories of 131ers. Some sad ones too, but fortunately these are the minority.

Christmas with family and grandkids. Careers and career changes. Moves and relocations. And typical gripes about the hot weather. I suspect it is maybe a forerunner to the life after we are planted. Think about it!

Editor Dicko has rounded up a number of reappearing former Gunners. The stories are great to read and help provide that important thread of our collective history. Fifty or so years on and the stories help to ground us.

Ernie Newbold sent me an email note on January 28th, reminding me that our last night in Nui Dat was about to be 50 years ago. Yes, we missed out on the Tet offensive. Maxwell Smart would say we missed it by 'that much'. RTA in a Qantas 707 beckoned.

Bob Billiards reminds us that Armed Forces radio was a source of news, albeit mostly American. The TVs were black and white, as were many of our camera shots. No mobile phones, internet, emails nor obviously 'fake news'. A simpler life overall.

Regards

Allen

. web Additions...

If you've got more photos that you want added, just send them to: -

Paul Dickson – web Photos

131eyesandears@gmail.com– BUT DON'T FORGET TO ADD TITLES/NAMES ETC.

. Birthdays in the Battery...February –

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 McMANIS	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
25	ROBERT MILLER	36944	1939	05.11.6 & 08.4.70	28.11.69/02.08.70	† 29.12.17 RAEME
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 – financial Locator, Yellow – located Locator, Black – passed Locator, Blue – honorary Member, White – NOT Located Locator.

Dicko – 12 blokes not highlighted is appalling, surely some one knows where a couple of them are? There are 4 blokes, alone, who were there in '68! Ok, the gauntlet s been thrown – who's going to pick it up?

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received **150** and we've sent **148**. Ed – next target is **155**.

. **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 –

Name	Regt No	Rank	SVN	DOB	DOD
Kryntjes, Martin	5715291	Gunner	27.08.68 – 04.06.69	23.03.47	27.12.17



In the 1968 shot, those visible

L to R – are Bob Gibson, John Bristow, Me, Bubs Mitchell, Tony Coutts and **Martin Kryntjes**

Photo courtesy Phil Sheedy's Locator Profile

Dicko – On receiving notice of Martin's funeral I went in search of photos etc and came across one in **Phil Sheedy's** Locator profile, which prompted an email out to the group of blokes listed as being in SVN at the same time (not all the blokes are on my email database). –

My email 5th January, 2017 - "I've been searching for photos of Martin - I've just been informed that he passed away on 27th December just gone and I found the attached one in Phil Sheedy's Locator Profile (a copy is attached) - amazing! Now I've Bcc'd everyone who Phil states he knew in his Loc Prof (well those listed anyway - that are still with us and I have contact details for) in the hope that there may be other photos and any memories that could be added to his Vale in this month's *E&Es*.

Does anyone remember what section he was in - LP, Radar etc? I'd like to hear from you blokes? Paul"

...incoming responses -

Phil Sheedy – "G'day Dicko. Really sorry to hear this. Martin was with Alpha Radar for a good part of 1968.

I have some recollection that he and **John l'Anson** did some travelling in UK/Africa together after discharge, but other than that I don't recall hearing of anyone having any contact with him or him ever attending any reunions, either the whole Battery reunions or the handful the '68 Radar crews have had.

He was from WA so some of the guys from over there may have come into contact with him

Here's a couple of photos though -



At left - Martin seen here on the left in Alpha Radar lines enjoying a quiet beverage with Tony Coutts



At right - And here on the left with me inspecting a reptile kill by Tony Coutts, standing.
Regards, Philip Sheedy”

John l'Anson – “G'day Phil and Paul, John l'Anson here. Yes, Marty and I did travel from Australia together after discharge. We travelled from Sydney to Genoa in Italy then up through Europe to Holland where Marty had relatives. We bought a Kombi wagon toured around a bit but it got very cold so we crossed the Channel to England. Marty wanted to hibernate for winter in England but I took off for Africa and that was the last time I saw or heard from him until now. I have some photos of him but they are in Australia and I have lived in Thailand for the last 8 years . Hope this is of some help. John”

Alan Robb – “Hi Paul,
I feel bad about not going to Martin’s funeral which was held yesterday (5/01/18). When I received your email I had a look at some previous digital editions of the “*West Australian*” and found his death/funeral notice. I don’t always get or read the West (digital). He was at the 131 “get-together” that **Barry Guzder** organised last year, he looked really well but hard to tell what is going on underneath the surface unless you are told.

In the attached photos –

at right, L to R. Martin Kryntjes, Phil Johns and Bill Ward.



At left - John Bristow, Doc Sheedy, Martin and Bob Gibson and by the Merry Christmas decoration in background it would have been post-Christmas 1968. In the 131 “boozer” or was it named Jimmy Menz club? Not sure if John’s Christian name was Phil? I am sure that he was in the same radar crew as Doc, Gibbo and JB. From records, he was in Vietnam from Aug ‘68 till

June ‘69 and same intake as myself(9th) and we were released in July ‘69!!
All the best Paul and hope the attached photos are of use. Regards, Alan”

Vale –

Name	Regt No	Rank	SVN
Miller, Robert	36499	Staff Sgt - RAEME	05.11.69 – 28.11.69 1 st Field Regt 08.04.70 - 02.08.70 HQ, Aus Force Vietnam (Army Component)

DOB	DOD
25.02.39	29.12.17

The following is Bob’s Locator profile and additional Army History as completed and supplied by his son **Phil**.

Locator Profile

Surname: Miller **Given Name:** Robert **Nickname:** **State of Origin:** Victoria

What did you do before the army: Stock clerk at Allan's Music Pty Ltd in Melbourne

Army service dates from: July 1958 **to:** 28 November 1973 **Regt. No:** 36499

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

I was a "nasho" in the late 50s and later joined the regular army (36499) and served in the RAEME as a RADAR technician. He worked at Melbourne Barracks, Larrakeyah, Enoggera, and The School of Artillery at North Head. I did two short stints in Vietnam in 1969 and 70. I was discharged as a Staff Sergeant after 15 years, in 1973.

Dates served in SVN from: 05.11.69 to: 28.11.69 1st Field Regt
08.04.70 to 02.08.70 HQ, Aus Force Vietnam (Army Component)

Battery/s Activity/s (Bty/ served in, Sections of Bty/s worked in, locations, dates etc) after SVN: My involvement was with the device [EVA Electronic Velocity Analyser] worked very well up until I left the army. Because of the early failure, I was taken everywhere with the device to WA M2A2 guns, TAS twice 25Pdr Field guns, then the M2A2, (they issued TAS with the new guns only after weeks of us calibrating their old guns). NSW M2A2, Qld M2A2, the three gun batteries in Vietnam 1969,1970 including NZ 161bty "drop shorts."

And

Upon return to Nth Head NSW in 1971 four of us were sent back to Vietnam with the EVA to calibrate the three gun batteries (24 M2A2 field guns) two Australian batteries and 161 Battery New Zealand. See Army History below

Who were you in the service with: Jack Holmes Bill Lidell Arty, Mick Richards, Dodger Campbell.

What was your last rank: Staff Sergeant

What did you do after the army:

After discharge, I joined the CMF and spent a couple of years at 132 Div Loc Battery in East Brighton, Vic. I also did stints as the President and Secretary of the Castlemaine RSL, and Vietnam Veterans Association branch. The army was a major part of my life, and I often regale the family with tales of those days, long past. The family, especially my son Phil has heard most of them several times over 55 years.

What city / town do you live in now: Bob passed away at 10pm on Friday the 29th of December 2017. He had been living in Dromana, Vic.



With Don Beaumont 26.01.1959



Ann and Bob



"ANZAC's" Coach '70's



With "Rosie"

Army History

Army Brisbane 10 Pidgeon St Inala QLD 1967

Sometime in November 1966 I was posted to 4Fd Regiment Workshop RAEME in Wacol Qld. 4 Field Regt RAA was an artillery regiment due to go to Vietnam in 1967 and the last part of 1966 we spent on exercise Barrawingia near Rockhampton QLD to simulate the task force at Nui Dat Vietnam. During this period, Anne and the three boys stayed in our house in Albury and I finally got home to Albury where Anne and the kids were just before Xmas 1966. I then put our house in Nth Albury on the rental market.

After Xmas, we all moved into a married quarter at 10 Pigeon St Inala just out of Brisbane.

After all this moving into the new house my boss at the 4fd Regiment workshop called me in to his office to announce that I was promoted back to Corporal again (having lost my rank to attend the Radio Course in 1966) and that I was being replaced by another radio tech as I was to be trained as a RADAR Tech, so I had to go back to Albury for a Basic RADAR course.

Jack Holmes and myself who had done so well on our radio course had been included on this course along with some radio techs who had just graduated from the Apprentices School in Balcombe, Vic. So once again pack my bags and leave home and kids for 12 weeks in Albury. This course included a basic computer hardware course taught by another great instructor Bob Law. The Radar we were being trained for had a primitive digital computer attached to it.

After this RADAR Course, I was posted to 301 Fd Workshop RAEME in Bulimba Qld near to my house and kids. I headed up the radio workshop in Bulimba as there was not a RADAR to be seen, except when an Army small ship pulled into our wharf on the Brisbane River, these had Kelvin Hughes Marine RADARs fitted.

After I settled in to the Bulimba workshop I was sent on an advanced RADAR course in Albury for another 12 weeks away from my home and family this was an advanced RADAR and Missile course.

After my return to Bulimba workshop and doing little work for that workshop I was again shipped back to Sydney 2Base Workshops Moorebank this time for yet another course on the Radar computer run by Yanks from the Emerson Electric Coy USA to teach us some changes to the system. As this course was only 2 weeks Anne and the kids went with me and we lived in a caravan park near 2 Base Workshop Moorebank where the course was held.

We all went back to Inala after the course, and in 1968 around November we packed up the house and were moved to Holsworthy 131 Div. Loc Bty Workshop who had the Radars that we had trained for, the new house was 63 Derna Rd Holsworthy Village NSW.

Army Holsworthy NSW 63 Derna Rd 1968

We did not leave this house until my discharge from the Army in November 1973!

Later in 1968 Jack Holmes and I went to 2 Base Workshop RAEME in Moorebank just next to Holsworthy where we lived as they were having to take delivery of brand new Radars AN/KPQ-1 Mortar Locating Radars to be sent to Vietnam, to replace the sets in Vietnam that needed to be repaired here in Australia. So, we had about 12 new radars to set up and test which took several months to complete. These Radar sets were brought from the Yanks for \$500,000 each.

These radars are so complex that when you have them running for about 10 hours' faults occur requiring you to repair the faults before going on to the setting up job. Some of these faults may require 2 or 3 hrs to fix and it was rare that you could set up the radar without several faults appearing on the way, this goes for normal use in the field also.

The majority of the electronics in these radars were thermionic valve; heaters in the valves blowing were a main problem or valves becoming loose in their sockets. The digital computer was completely transistorised (no other integrated circuits) main problem was the analogue to digital converters which tended to drift off with temperature changes. There were three of these converters that required almost constant attention.

Weapons research establishment in Sth Australia redesigned them in later years and they were much more stable.

Army EVA and Port Wakefield SA & Woomera Rocket Range 1969

After we finished with the new radars we went back to 131 Div Loc Bty to work and the word came that the POMS were bringing to Australia a radar that would check the muzzle velocity of all field guns called the EVA (electronic velocity analyser.) The chiefs required that a sergeant radar tech attend a course at Port Wakefield Proof Range in South Australia so I now had just been promoted to sergeant, and no other sergeants volunteered to go, I was the candidate to attend this course due to run for 5 weeks.

So, the POMS arrived with the EVA two officers to teach the operators no technician to teach repairing it but all the manuals and spares were there. I started in on the manuals so I had some idea how to fix the device but then was told I was on a team to learn to operate the thing which is unusual to involve maintenance people with the operators but they insisted that I do this. After firing about 6 rounds from the guns on the operator's course, the bloody transmitter in the device packed it in and then they all leaned on me to fix it.

I had to work out how to get the thing pulled apart to get to the transmitter which took a couple of hours and then I went to the spares and there was a spare klystron (transmitter valve) which I replaced but still had to tune the thing to exactly the correct frequency (9547Mhz) for accurate measurements of velocity. I learned a lot out of this exercise but expressed my dismay of them not bringing a technician with them they could have left one of the boofhead officers behind in the UK.

The device worked very well up until I left the army. Because of the early failure, I was taken everywhere with the device To WA M2A2 guns, TAS twice 25Pdr Field guns, then the M2A2, (they issued TAS with the new guns only after weeks of us calibrating their old guns). NSW M2A2, Qld M2A2, the three gun batteries in Vietnam 1969,1970 including NZ 161bty "dropshots". I was sent to Port Wakefield and Woomera with 106 Bty (for new gun trials) rocket range both in SA. WO2

Bill Liddell was usually in charge of the teams that went to do calibrations and he would not go anywhere without me so I got all the trips to exotic places.

During this period, I was promoted to Staff Sergeant.

Originally, we took the EVA with three of us Sgt Dodger Campbell, Arty Gunner, Garth Nichols Arty and later Bill Liddell was sent as Liaison as Dodger did not communicate well and I as Operator /Technician

When 106 Fd Battery returned from Vietnam we were sent to Port Wakefield again with the EVA to compare the M2A2 Field gun with new 105mm guns being considered as replacements. The English Abbott 105mm and two other US 105mm field guns.

After a month at the Port Wakefield Army proof range we were all sent to Woomera Rocket Range SA to continue the trial under very dry hot conditions.

Upon return to Nth Head NSW in 1971 four of us were sent back to Vietnam with the EVA to calibrate the three gun batteries (24 M2A2 field guns) two Australian Batteries and 161 Battery New Zealand.

Army North Head NSW 1969 -1973

In finishing, all this running around I was posted to the School of Artillery at North Head NSW as the radar Staff Sergeant which I enjoyed very much because of all the new developments in radar locating, EVA velocity, gunnery computers FACE (field artillery computer equipment) another UK equipment and other assorted electronic devices coming from Weapons Research Establishment in SA. By this stage I had a crew of five radar techs working for me at the Nth Head RADAR Workshop. We also had three radars No3 Mk7 and one radar No4Mk6 to maintain, these were all large RADARs each, in an air-conditioned cabin on wheels which were towed behind a Mack truck.

Seeing that I was the only one who could operate the N04 Mk6 Search radar I was asked to take it to Kiama on the Sth Coast NSW for the Anti-aircraft live course shooting, as a backup for range control to keep fishing vessels out of the range area. Thanks to Jack Holmes for teaching me to operate the beast several years earlier.

One of the best things about Nth Head camp was the views from high up on the cliffs of the harbour and the city of Sydney. The Army had married quarters on the Scenic Drive to the camp but I could not get one but I tried.

During this period, I became involved with junior Australian rules football in the Holsworthy area. The army had formed two teams of all age groups as there were heaps of kids in the two army villages and we played against other suburban teams.

During this period, Bill Liddell Arty, Mick Richards Arty and myself were sent to Melbourne to work with the Weather Bureau at Laverton RAAF Base

One of the silly things that happened was after realising that artillery needed a met section to give the latest met conditions to the field artillery computers was the choosing to purchase met RADARs

Plessey had introduced a semi portable RADAR the WF3 which was a cheap solid state RADAR designed with the weather bureau in mind.

It was meant as a portable RADAR that could be transported to another site cheaply and easily but it was not as portable as the Army required it to be. However, the Met people just had to have it even though the older No3 Mk7 could do the job until something more satisfactory came along.

We sent one WF3 to Melbourne to weapons research to have a study done on how it could be modified to suit the army. The boffins there nearly laughed us out of the place as the cost of mods would be so high. Artillery met insisted the work on the modification should be done. It was done and returned to Nth Head so evaluation could be done.

I left the Army soon after it arrived but it was still not satisfactory as far as I was concerned. I was glad to see the end of it. Talking to friends in the weather bureau some years later it was fine for them if you could set it up at a site for several months or more but useless if it needed to be transported to other places at regular intervals which would not suit the army.

Emails received -

George Kijurina – “Thanks Paul, sad news, may he RIP. Happy new year to you and your family. Cheers Gorge”

Bill Taggart (1st/83rd) – “While I did not know Robert, it is sad to hear of another of our brothers who has passed away. Please share my condolences and those of the entire 1/83rd family to Robert's family. Les t We Forget! Bill”

Kim McGrath – “Hi Paul, Robert's name is very familiar to me. We had a 'Dusty' Miller RAEME with us at Nee Soon Barracks Singapore 1972-73 however it may be another Miller.

I also remember a Radar Mech up at the ARMCO in the early years. I recall on particular day, after payday, where we were all a bit shaky and this RAEME Mech could only curl up in a ball against the ARMCO. He was in a worse state than us, but not much!!

We were lucky during my time to have a great bunch of RAEME diggers within the Battery.

Ubique, Kim”

Scotty McNicol – “Hi Dicko. It was sad to hear the news about the passing of Bob.

I knew Bob quite well when I was involved with EVA at Holsworthy. I did a trip to Nui Dat with him in 1970, (with EVA), he was a RAEME Sergeant, & myself a Bombardier. Then we worked with EVA together at the School of Arty at Nth Head until I was discharged in 1971. I lost contact with him after my discharge, but I often saw his name as a committee member of the Castlemaine RSL in MUFTI, (the Victorian RSL magazine). I kept promising myself I'd call in to visit him, but it never happened. I guess we are all at the age now where we should just get out & do the things we want to do before it's too late, instead of just thinking about it. Regards...Scotty.”

...**Scotty gets back to us...** "Hi again Dicko. I was searching through my Vietnam photos & came across this shot of Bob in our EVA tour in 1970. This is a scan of a 48-year-old print, so it doesn't show our faces too clearly. Entirely up to you if you want to use it.

The guys pictured in greens are from l-r rear: ?, Myself, Wo2 Liddell, Mick Kinang
Front row: Bob Miller, Sgt (Dodger) Campbell. I think the photographer may have been Bob Billiards, but I'm not sure. He would remember if he was with this crew. It was a long time ago.

The shirtless guys are an American crew with their analyser behind them. We were comparing accuracy between ours & their machines at the time. Regards.....Scotty."



1 EVA CREW - NOV DAT 1970



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

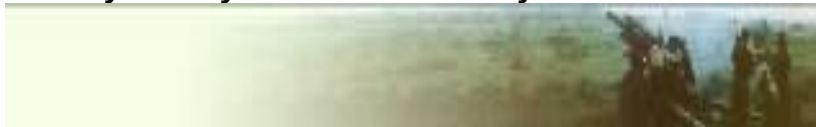
So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the *Eyes & Ears* regularly you could bite the bullet and email Grahame Dignam:sectreas131locators@gmail.com and he could forward you the relevant forms to join - Memberships are available for 1 year or longer deposit a DONATION direct (add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

Hope we hear from you?

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

. Other related sites...

Artillery Surveyors 131 Div Loc Bty...



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

. Locating, Surveillance & Target Acquisition Association...



LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION
The Eyes and Ears of The Battlefield

Meetings: Sun 11 Mar 2018: at Paddington RSL. Sun 8 Jul 2018 and AGM: at Panania RSL
All meetings commence at 1115 hrs



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>



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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