

THE EYES and EARS

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Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA

Unit Citation for Gallantry (UCG) awarded to the Detachment and those who served at
The Battles of Coral/Balmoral in South Vietnam, 1968

2019 - 53 YEARS AND THE DETACHMENT 131 SPIRIT LIVES ON 1966 - 1971



**We continue the
ANZAC tradition...**
Brisbane kicks it off on
the steps of the GPO.

Anzac Day Brisbane 2019 – a thorough report from Terry Erbs.

We had been warned to arrive early for Dawn Service at Enoggera because of increased security measures. Consequently, **Derek Hinde, Joe Losiak, Stan Briggs & I** arrived about 4am and enjoyed a very leisurely “Gunfire Breakfast”. **Ian Board** was not so lucky and was delayed by the traffic congestion but did arrive in time for the service.

By 5am a large gathering of Locators, family and friends had assembled for the Dawn service in front of HQ, by the Regiment’s Locator’s memorial wall. It was a very cloudy morning with the service conducted in near darkness, but fortunately there were no stumbles despite the welcome “coffee & rum”.

The opening address was given by **Maj. Charles Phillips** followed by prayers and reading by **Chaplain Ken Schmidt**. On behalf of the CO, **Maj. Russ Hamsey** spoke of the significance of ANZAC Day, the Soldiers Prayer was read by **Gnr. Fidler** and finally wreaths were laid, including one from the LSTAA.



At left: Joe Losiak, Terry Erbs, Ian Board, Derek Hinde & Stan Briggs.

Russ’ address was inspired by his recent trip to Turkey and after the recent “offensive” speeches by the Turkish PM about the ANZAC troops at Gallipoli. For those interested in history, the founder of modern Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk wrote a very moving tribute to the ANZAC’s in 1934 – it’s well worth reading his speech, please follow the link - www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/ataturk

Russ had recently toured Turkey where he had met an ex Turkish soldier, named Badir, in a shop in Istanbul. Like all “old soldiers” they chatted and discovered they had both served during 2011 in Afghanistan. They shared common memories and comradeship, which Russ said was a reflection of mutual respect between both countries and was very relevant and topical as we commemorated ANZAC Day 2019.

After the Dawn service, the Regiment again excelled with an appetizing and welcome breakfast for the large appreciative crowd. There was much chatter and socializing before **Derek Hinde** had an opportunity to generously gift a framed photo of a barbeque held at the Menz Club, Nui Dat South Vietnam circa 69/70, to the current club. Russ commented that although the Menz Club has been relocated twice since then, it still remains the social focal point for the Regiment.



At right: Kym Fox RSM, Derek Hinde, Stan Briggs & Russ Hamsey 2IC



Joe Losiak then generously presented another framed photo, a montage of the Locator’s and their activities at the Menz Club Nui Dat South Vietnam circa 69/70.

At left: Menz Club (originally called the “Locator’s Lounge”) Nui Dat South Vietnam circa 69/70

By 9am most were on buses or trains, heading into Brisbane City for the ANZAC Day march. The LSTAA banner was located in George Street and was again the rally point. By 10 AM many were catching up with mates in the very congested assembling area of George St, caused by the closure Mary Street due to the new police HQ.



At right: Torin "TC" White adjusting Joe Losiak's collar in George St.

With help from harassed but efficient ANZAC March officials, we stepped off about 20 minutes late but in good order, approx. 90 in number. Led by **Russ Hamsey**, we followed the usual route, down George Street into Adelaide Street, past saluting dais at King George Square and ANZAC square and then gathered on the steps the GPO for the traditional group photograph. The Vietnam Veterans marched immediately behind the LSTAA banner - the following younger veterans jokingly said they would pick up "the ailing oldies" but we said we wanted to show them how to march! The leading group included **John Bristow, Phil Sheedy, Derek Hinde, Joe Losiak, Grant Perrin, Torin "T.C." White, John Blake, Stan Briggs and Terry Erbs** – and nobody needed assistance! **Pete Ravelje** was seen marching with the VV & VMC group, but missing the march this year were **David Dodds** and **Steve Hall** [hope they are both well]. On reviewing Channel 2's TV telecast [available on ABC Iview], the commentators gave the Locator's a much better coverage this year, with informed commentary about 20th STA Regiment and their UAV's.



At right: Near ANZAC Square in Adelaide St.

Although the public viewing crowd was much larger than last year, after the traditional group photo on the steps of the GPO, we reached The Stock Exchange Hotel by 11.30am and enjoyed a very convivial afternoon with mates and family.



At left: Stock Exchange Hotel - Terry Erbs, John Bristow and "Doc" Sheedy

At right: Busy bar at Stock Exchange Hotel



At right: "Come in spinner"

From what I've heard so far it, was a very successful day commemorated in a very respectful manner and that everyone got home safely. Terry.

. **Sunshine Coast – Steve Boutlis** - Hi, Dicko. AnzacDay2019. The lady standing beside me is our daughter **Leanne Jones**. Leanne served six years in the RAAF, mostly at Amberley. She got her Service Medal last year and is as proud as punch to march alongside us on Anzac Day. **Paul Musk** and I carried the VVAA Sunshine Coast Banner during the march and I made sure that it was prominently located during the service at the Buderim Mountain State School. I was truly amazed at the number of people who lined the main street of Buderim and watched us march. I felt humble, and thankful of their appreciation for the service of all of our past and present brothers-and-sisters-in-arms, as they applauded us. **Sqld Ldr Norm Cooper** (sitting next to me) laid the RAAF wreath, and I the Army one. A great commemoration. And the Magpies narrowly beat the Bombers in the traditional Anzac Day AFL game at the G. What a great way to end my day. Cheers, Steve."



. **More Sunshine Coast - Phil Connor** – Great to see the activity up there by our Locators –

“Giddy Paul, how are you mate? Viewed the latest Newsletter and, again, well done.

Went to the Cotton Tree Dawn Service and Miriam and I were originally going down to my standard March at Maroochydore/Cotton Tree with Sub-Branch mates, however decided (at last minute) to go to the Buderim March, through the village of Buderim followed by the Service in the Buderim State school grounds. We had rain on the days prior to Anzac Day, however on the day you could not ask for a better day. A great March and Service, however very small compared to the larger Marches on the Sunnie Coast. but a great village atmosphere.

The Service in the grounds of the Buderim State school has the.....

“The Buderim War Memorial Arboretum (1945-46), sports ground and facilities (initially established in the 1930s by the Anzac Memorial Park Committee) (1930-1957), and stone memorial gates (1953) were a large component of a broader ‘living memorial’ which was established by the Buderim Mountain War Memorial Community Centre (BWMCC) following World War II (WWII) to commemorate those from the district who fought in World War I and WWII. War memorials are a tribute to those who served, and those who died....”



Anzac Day Buderim 2019. Brilliant March and Service. Well done to all.
Cheers, Phil”

. **John Dellaca** – reports in from **Melbourne** – “Hi Paul - Belated report from Anzac Day Melbourne.

Just 6 members of 131 BTY marched in Melbourne this year. We welcomed for the first time a current serving member of 131 **WO2 Wayne Waters** currently posted to Melbourne Uni. What we lacked in numbers we made up for in Quality!!! Had a very enjoyable day.

Attached are photos of us. Kind Regards, John Dellaca”



At left: Allan Adams, John Bayford, John Dellaca, Mike Butler, Mitch Millar and WO2 Wayne Waters



. Neville Davis – “Hi Paul.

Introduced two of my grandsons to the Anzac Day tradition. Together with an older one we had a big day starting with the dawn service at Kings Park and they followed the march later in the day.

Couple of pics one of the two little grandsons at the dawn service and the other of myself and **Gordon Williams** (131—68/69) who I caught up with at the end of the march.

Hope not too late for you to use them if you wish.

Regards, Neville Davis”



. The “Pioneers” got it together in early May in Coffs Harbour...



At left: Spike Chase, Merv Nairn, Ged Carrol, George Lane and Ron Mason.

Below: “Shortie” Gow, Ron Mason, Ernie Newbold, Merv Nairn, Ged Carrol, Spike Chase, Jayne Gow and George Lane.



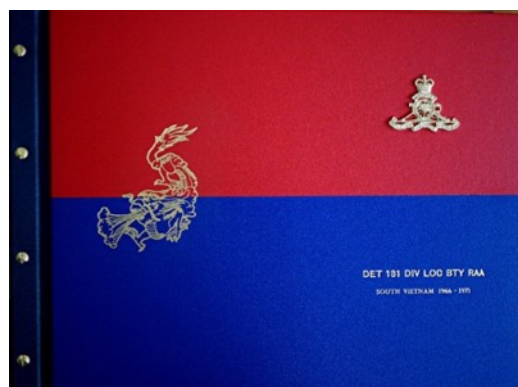
And by all accounts had a great time – mates will always be mates.

. The “Lost Locator Project”

Ed – The Project continues on relentlessly so, we need to be vigilant and keep our minds active as who knows who, where and how we might stumble on, discover someone etc be it by accident but even more so by design. Paul

Get in touch via 131eyesandears@gmail.com

. The “Detachment Album Project” – This project is sponsored by the 131 Locators Association and is in need of some photographic and by-line input from our members/Readers.



. Insights and Recollections...

The series will continue on the receipt of more Insights and Recollections, so if you would care to contribute, please send your Insights and Recollections –

Paul Dickson at - 131eyesandears@gmail.com

This topic/s has raised so much interest – we’re still in the middle of some really great discoveries with some remarkable memories being brought to life.

This month we’re continuing on with **David Dougherty** submitting the following on with **Sound Ranging**. This is worth a thorough read for the blokes who were there and for others, like myself, who wouldn’t have had the faintest.

In relation to **Kev's (Browning)** comments on sound ranging I would add my comments and note that some of the photos herein have already been circulated but have included them as relevant.

Some of us ("originals" perhaps) did have training in SR before being deployed to Vietnam. This was undertaken at North Head (Sept '67 in my case, a non-assessed course), some more at Holsworthy and a 2-week exercise conducted at Tianjara. **Geoff Jebb** was the resident expert as well as being a mentor during much of my service. The equipment used was as in Vietnam but with the addition of a "gas gun" that acted as the sound source. This "gas gun" consisted of basically a drum similar to (or perhaps from) a cement mixer that was filled with gas and subsequently ignited to cause an explosion. I vaguely remember that a mortar may have been used at Tianjara at one stage but cannot be sure. I do remember a long night spent at Huskisson during the Tianjara camp. We did eventually find our way back to camp, perhaps by good luck more than anything else. Another memory of Tianjara that I have previously mentioned, was of **Garth Nichols** belting across the range with the intent I'm sure, of trying to unceremoniously dump those in the back of the Land Rover over the sides.

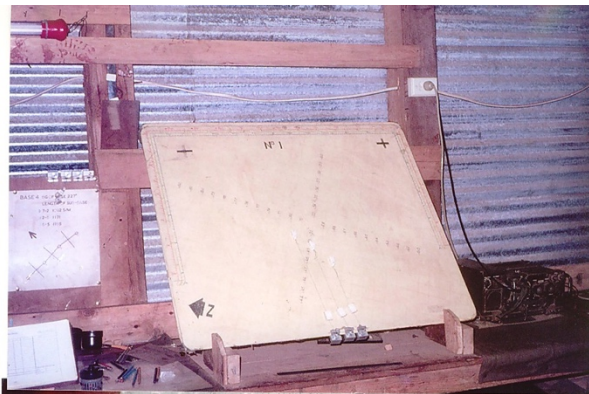
In Vietnam once the SR post was up and running my time was basically full time in SR and I don't remember carrying out any survey work thereafter, or at least minimal if I did so. The Surveyors were also obviously involved laying out the SR base. Geoff had wanted me to do a star ob's course to gain a stripe but by that time my interest lay back in Oz so I declined. Prior to this I had carried out the standard Survey/LP duties combination, being based at 31D with the 1/83 and when they left, an infantry company who took on security of the compound.

With regard to Kevin's comments on reading the tapes a sound, from say a mortar, would cause a blip on each line of the tape, one for each microphone and being similar to the blip on a heart monitor. The "time" between these was then converted to a bearing on the plotting board, where the bearings crossed was the sound source. If there were multiple sounds, as there were most times, it could be extremely difficult to separate these blips and determine the correct sequence. There were 7 microphones, 3 on each leg of the base with the 7th being common to both legs where they met/crossed, therefore equating to an actual 4 on each leg. Kevin refers to 6 microphones, this may have been a typo being from the video of the Imperial War Museum and the original system of WW1. This layout meant that there were 3 pairs of microphones on each leg thus enabling 3 bearings to be calculated. The selection of the leg to be used was based on bearings to the sound received from the LP's, we having no reference to its direction being underground in the CP. One of the first tasks I had was in preparing the initial plotting boards under the direction of Geoff when the bases were completed and then when in operation my role was principally as a "tape reader".

I do not remember writing letters home so much as I do of many hours spent playing black jack, with many matches lost or won. Like an LP there were long periods of inactivity.

I also have a vague recollection of us being advised one day that a patrol sent out to follow up on counter fire in response to one of our locreps had resulted in indications that possibly 2 VC had been killed and another seriously wounded. Any confirmation of this from others would be appreciated.

After the SR had been established, we were blessed with an inspection by Gen. McDonald, the Task Force Commander. I had 2 further contacts with him, one where as he was known to my father, I ("correctly dressed in full uniform", boots, pants with no belt, rifle, no shirt or hat) approached him much to the consternation of his retinue who were not sure how to respond. The other was due to comments I had made to a Cabinet Minister, McDonald later told my father "That bloody son of yours caused me a lot of trouble".



Entrance to CP 1968 - Steps down at left

Plotting board – source unknown.

Note 2 bases shown, 3 lines for bearings and diagram to left showing 4 microphones and 3 lines for bearings as per my comments above.





Skillion Roof over SR CP 1968 – Menz Club behind

SR Hut 1968 - 2nd hut off below



SR Huts Christmas 1968 below



David Dougherty with SR Microphone cover frame



A side note to Bob Billiards - Regarding Bob's R/C interests (2.5m wing span?) I flew R/C some 35 years ago, in those days aircraft were generally much smaller, mine being in the 1.2 to 1.5m class and much less complex. Exceptions were a sailplane of 4m and a powered job of 60cm, rudder & ailerons only, no throttle just flat out and fast. I frequently flew at a local soccer field and lost a few trying for goals and on a couple of occasions had fun playing with eagles, or so I thought, as more correctly they were playing with me.

John Brewer – continues with some relevant Sensor Section history –

“Paul. It was good to see some interest re the Sensor Section in the latest newsletter. Without being critical it's about time. As was stated I wrote a report for **Jeff Evans** which I think will answer most of questions you are looking for. This report consists of 3 parts, my initial report, questions by Jeff, in italics, and my replies. Worth a good read. I would like it known that Eddie Fisher, forward scout with D&E Platoon, has or is still writing a comprehensive manuscript on sensors and our forays into the Chau Pau valley re planting and ambushes. Just a couple of points re the newsletter. The only sensors given to 7RAR were PSIDS. They were instructed on these for their patrol activities. The section did not fold in Oct as I was with D&E doing implants from the area of the barrier minefield to the Song Rai river. It was still going strong when I handed over to 12 Fd Regt in Jan71. In conclusion, the Arabs that were assigned to me from the radar sect done themselves proud and at no time let me down whilst touring the country side nor in their monitoring duties on Nui Dat and the Horseshoe. They didn't get the kudos they deserved. Regards, John Brewer.”

. Oddities – Ed – Now, in this edition we're not really dealing with “Oddities”, but more like “Coincidence-icities”. Bear with me as I try to explain more... In the last few weeks we made contact with **David Pires** and you would have seen his Locator Profile as did **Rieny**...

. Rieny Nieuwenhof responds after reading **David Pires's Locator Profile** – “Hi Dicko, Thanks for Dave's (Gerry) Profile. I was in SVN at the same time as Dave in 1971. He signed my SVN flag before I departed in August '71. We also travelled together for our R & R in Bangkok and saw all the sights. Of course, he knew me as Bdr 'Van' due to my long Dutch name (MHA Van De Nieuwenhof). It was really good to read what he ended up doing and that he loves travel. Regards, Rieny Nieuwenhof.”



Ed -You've got to look closely to see David's notation –
“ALL THE BEST THE BATTERY FROM THE POCO (?) DAVE PIRES 33 BALDOCK ST BENTLEY THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DESERT. W.A.”

OK, me being me, I had to dig out the “flag”, enlarge it to discover David's note and halleluiaah, I did (as above), then I had a re-look at David's photos and the went back to last month's *Eyes & Ears* and discovered David in the photo at right



You have to agree that this is really one hell of a co-incidence – we didn't hear from David until recently and then bingo he's all over the place. This is part of this exercise that keeps my old brain active and I love it!

Maybe next month I'll ramble on some more just to drive you nuts!



. Here's a continuing story in the series with regards to Locators' “passions” ...

This series commenced a while back now with extracting “Passions” under the guise of “Grey Nomads” and has developed into “things” that somewhat consume us outside families etc and God forbid work! It's just so good to discover other sides, be that “outsides” or “insides” of blokes who we begin to get to know through this sort of process.

Now we're going to have a look at what consumes **Allen Morley** and his wife, **Diane**, ...

A Visit to China, 2019 – by Allen Morley

A long-planned trip to China was undertaken in March 2019. My wife Diane and I took a chance on the early spring weather, which in the end was very kind to us.

Our visit began with a direct flight from Sydney to Beijing. After a brief rest in the hotel we walked around that part of Beijing, and then met with others on our small group tour, before enjoying a traditional Peking duck dinner.

Day Two comprised exposure to the famous Imperial Beijing sites including Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City and the Summer Palace. As it was early in the season the crowds were not too great.



Diane at Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City in the background.

Day Three saw us heading north from Beijing to the Great Wall of China. Once you battle through the souvenir shops it is still quite a walk to the cable car. When I was previously at the Wall in 1996, it was a long, steep stair climb to the Wall proper and the souvenir sellers were fairly thin on the ground. But, the wall is now fairly easily accessible by orange cars cabled together. Again, the Wall had not yet begun to be besieged by tourists. The vistas from the wall are quite amazing and the section we went to, at Mutianyu, remains in good repair. In parts the stairs are narrow and steep, factors which require some care, especially in descent.



The path of the Wall is up, across and down the steep mountains of the region. The ingenuity of design and construction of this World Heritage-listed still took my breath away. And not because of some of the steep sections.

The Great Wall of China

Day Four/Five - Our next morning's excursion was to the Temple of Heaven. Intriguing to watch the elderly Chinese intensely playing cards, dominoes and mahjong. We were revived by a Tai Chi class in the gardens and then quietly visited the nearby 'dating park'. Here, parents display a one page-bio of their children, listing age, height, weight and income. It seems the children hate this process and one thing missing from almost all page-bios is a photo.

We then wandered through some of the winding alleys of this part of Beijing and had lunch at a small and rather run-down house. Then the excitement of a rickshaw ride back to our bus. Sadly, the rickshaws are now almost a part of history.

In the afternoon, we departed by fast train to Xi'an from Beijing railway station. Security is tight here too, so it was x-ray of our cases, followed by a check of our visas and passports and then a bodily frisk search. The trains are sleek and fast. What used to be an eleven-hour excursion from Beijing is now completed in a little over two hours.



High speed train at Beijing station



Peak speed reached of 307 km/hr

Xi'an is a smaller city than Beijing with a population of 'only' 4 million. It was once the terminus of the Silk Road to Europe. Now the city's fame is due to the discovery of the Terracotta Warriors or Terracotta Army, by three farmers in 1974.

The Terracotta Army, Xi'an

I have stood on the rim of the Grand Canyon, walked twice on the Great Wall, visited the magnificent hill-top towns of Tuscany, snorkelled on the Great Barrier Reef, seen the Pyramids at Giza and explored New York, London, Rome and Paris. But this physical depiction of the army of the first emperor of China and dating back to the 3rd Century BC, just blew my socks off. C'est magnifique!



We were spellbound by the Army figures comprising archers, soldiers, officers and generals plus horses. Work continues on carefully removing still entombed warriors from their resting places in the soil.

There are more than enough soldiers still to be found to keep the archaeologists busy for decades.

Our afternoon wander through the local Moslem Street market area was a bit of a letdown after the morning's excitement.

Our **Sixth Day** arrived clear and bright. Still exploring Xi'an we visited the incredible Wild Goose Pagoda, one of two major Buddhist pagodas in Xi'an. It suffered some damage when the Japanese invaded China before WW2. Then to the well-preserved city wall where a walk along the top showed the old town encompassed by the wall. It was a real contrast to see the old town centre with low level buildings, whilst outside the wall the apartments and office buildings towered over everything.

From Xi'an we travelled to Suzhou via Shanghai. Suzhou is a small city, containing Tongli Ancient Water Town which retains preserved architecture and bridges over the canals.

We enjoyed a boat ride to see the town from the perspective of the water.

Suzhou is also the location of a 900-year-old Master of the Nets Garden, which is World Heritage listed. In this city, we experienced a cool early spring day and the only rain during the entire trip.



Tongli Ancient Water Town

We continue, next month, on with Allen and Diane for the remainder of the journey in China.

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

Peter Binns – OK, we know 4 of the blokes and the photo was taken in '68, but we need to know the "unknown" and the location -

"Hi Paul



Here is a pic I received from Alan McDonald from WA

People in pic are - **Alan McDonald, Frank Pepper, UNKNOWN, Ian Amos and Gordon Malcolm**

Not sure where but 1968 – "Question who is the unknown?"

Cheers Binnsy."



The photo was taken by Iain Kennedy

...Wait there's more...

Here's another one with a twist in the "Unknown" series... - this time it's a location?



This photo came to life (again) as it is in the selection for the **Association Photo Album**. It was taken by Geoff Jebb in SVN sometime in 1968-69 on one of his many meanderings out into the field beyond the 1ATF area. There have been, of course, some well-intended guesses – One for example came from

Bert Blink – "I was puzzled by two things

(i) the use of the rainwater tank surround and

(ii) closeness to the jungle and by the grenade launcher and theodolite sitting on the sandbags."



Then, the following was offered by Bob Billiards -

"It certainly looks like me as I was on that operation and it was November and it was up near Tui Tic. We moved there after being a bit further south for 3 weeks and then here for another 3 weeks from memory. I was with 31D which was the first LP without the hootchie and the yank tank. There was a gun battery to the left of us and we were shot at from a building ruins just down the roadway. The engineers bulldozed it the next day. A couple of days later the surveyors LP had mortars walking in. We couldn't hear them as it was from behind us and the guns were firing at something in the distance. I think that Barry G and John Blake were sitting on the LP roof when the tracer went past them. I had the 24-hour malady and when I got to the LP, every time I lifted my head I threw up, so they kicked me out to lie in my bed. I can't remember the Bombardier but as well as those I mentioned there was also "Mouse" Baker. I have added a couple more from the same operation and both FSB's."

Phew, here comes another, this time from Ian Amos -

"G'day all, hope you are enjoying a nice Mothers' Day.

I have attached a couple of possibilities to match the mysterious LP. I recall that the LP in my photos had a grenade launcher and several of us had a shot into the jungle. This LP was also very close to the wire as in Geoff Jebb's photo. Is that Gnr Billiards sitting on the wall?

Over to the adjudicators and those who manned this post. Ian."



From the Advocate's Desk...



Our professional Advocate's contact details: -

Peter Pioro JP - email contact: piorowp@ozemail.com.au

Ken Foster OAM JP - email contact: khfoster1@bigpond.com

Disclaimer: Please note that all correspondence submitted will be treated with the total confidentiality between the sender and our Advocates. Printed submissions and responses that may be published in *Eyes & Ears* will be completely anonymous, just used as examples of help.

Mail Call...

. **Peter Saint – “A Question?”**

“Thanks Paul, a good read, I would like to seek some information please. In February of 1971 when the Landrover hit the mine (4 guys wounded), there was another 131 vehicle right behind it, would anyone have the names of the three 131 guys in that vehicle. I have a total memory block. Thanks, Peter Saint”

. **COFFS HARBOUR PIONEERS RE-UNION – BRAVO RADAR AND OTHERS ATTENDED...**

. **Ron Mason** Hi Paul, have just had a weekend at Coffs Harbour with a few Pioneers, "B" radar was well represented - not all pioneers & not all 21Bravo. It is good to catch up face to face now & then. 8 ex 131 all told plus a couple apologies so a pretty lay back get together - all good.
Margaret and I are currently at our daughter's place only just south of the Qld border for a few more days before heading home again. Not all that much rain at our place, just over the inch I believe - very welcome.
News from the National Vietnam Vets Museum, the Tellurometer is at last standing on the Tripod that Ernie Newbold acquired - art work for the Tellurometer display will be the next thing to have completed. The locators are now making a showing at the NVVM.
That's about all for this time. Ron M.”

. **Ernie Newbold – “G'day Paul.**

Coffs was a great few days. Edward (Spike) Chase, Ged Carroll, Merv Nairn, Ron and Margaret Mason, George Lane and I were there and whilst there we caught up with David (Shorty) and Jane Gow and Dave and Lois Doyle. George organised it as an informal get-together and it was a most enjoyable time.
Margaret Mason took a few photos which I am sure she would be happy to send to you.
The road between Sydney and Coffs Harbour is now all dual carriageway, making the trip for those heading north to Coffs much easier and safer. Regards, Ernie.”

. **Geoff Cowgill – “Hi Paul.**

My name is Geoff Cowgill and I have just applied for membership to the 131 Locators Assoc. Grahame Dignam has obviously put my details in your system as I have received the latest *Eyes and Ears* newsletter.
While reading it I noticed **Tony Foley's** photo and name mentioned. Tony and I were both in survey together at North Head during 1963-64. I was wondering if it was possible to get contact details for him from the 131 Locators Association? If this contravenes your privacy policy would it be possible for you or Grahame to contact him on my behalf and give him my contact details and then he can decide if he wants to make contact with me or not?
Hoping you can help me with this as it would be good to catch up with him.
My Regards, Geoff Cowgill” **Ed** – Sadly we had to inform Geoff of Tony's passing in 2018.

. **Bert Blink** sent the following link in which goes to the Battle of Long Tan movie -
“**Danger Close: The Battle of Long Tan**” -

https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0441881/?ref_=nv_sr_4?ref_=nv_sr_4
It's worth having a look at.

Ed: I think it's being released in August this year. **Tony Goldsmith** mentioned it in an email and is going to see it.



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...

. **Allan Harrison** – “G'day Paul.

Nice to hear from you and yes, another ANZAC Day done and dusted. I marched in Coffs Harbour as usual and it was a warm day with a huge turnout at both the Dawn and the post march services. Organisers are looking at a different route for the march and venue for services as the environs of the RSL and Cenotaph are simply not able to cope with the crowds. Wonderful problem! Locators were represented by **Dave Doyle, Jim Hogno** and yours truly.

Having some annoying problems with my hearing (destroyed by rifle and MG fire in pre-aural protection era). Over the last 2 months I periodically lose 100% in the left ear which is normally pretty bad anyway. The episode lasts about 24 hours then returns to “normal” (for me that is). GP and audiologist at a loss to explain. Brain scan OK (well at least they found one which is a bonus). Been referred to an ENT specialist and have to wait the obligatory 2 months for an appt. The joys of regional life.

Legacy and Freemasonry keeping me very busy and my golf has shown a distinct improvement with a 2nd and 3rd in successive competition weeks. B Grade of course but I'm enjoying the increased frequency of good shots and putts that drop.

Cheers mate and take care, Allan Harrison”

. **Tony Goldsmith** – “Hi Paul. Good to hear from you.

Right now, I'm wondering if you got my last e-mail – can't seem to find it in my sent list – so if I start rambling on about stuff I've already written about – blame it on my increasingly unreliable memory.

Yes!! Anzac Day!! First time I've ever marched. Joined my Granddaughter marching with her school here at The Gap. A real pleasure.

Also saw this guy, that I usually see at church, with his pack of 5 Vietnam medals. Oh! Who were you with? “Artillery”. Which Battery? “131” Get out of here! Turns out it was **Lionel Outen**. Small world.

Yes – “age shall not weary them”, but it sure as hell changes how we look.

Pretty sure I told you, that, courtesy of DVA, I'm now a disability pensioner.

Helps with funding trips away. (Yes!! I definitely remember telling you that).

At the risk of repeating myself – looking forward to, Caloundra holidays end of June early July (wish I had caught up with Leigh before his demise), Long Tan movie in August, Mediterranean cruise/Greek Islands in Sept/Oct. – and so goes the year.

Weather here at the moment is absolutely magnificent, cool nights and blue skies.

Yes – 53 years ago – that's a lifetime ago.

Keep up the good work with E&E, I really enjoy reading them. (I do understand it's a lot of work – but, it keeps your brain active.)

Cheers, Tony”



. **Harry Lynas** – “Hello Paul.

Not much has been happening in my neck of the woods - except that we had a bit of a busy time over Easter and ANZAC Day period. The 28th Apr was also a busy day as we observed the Centenary of the first death by the Spanish Flu at Lytton Quarantine Station with the chaps coming back from WW1. Still seeing family members every now and again and also Army mates and grumbling about all our aches and pains.

It certainly looks like you get around but I have decided it is about time I hung my travelling shoes and stayed at Home.

All the Best, Harry”

. **Warwick Hamilton** – “Hi Paul, after what can only be described as a shit of a year things are finally coming together and I am definitely on the mend, though my back (where I slipped in the shower in Hospital and injured my spine) will still take a while to be 100%.

Last weekend we went to Narooma on the NSW South Coast to visit friends and attend the Oyster Festival. It was the first time the car had been anywhere but Royal North Shore Hospital - glad it could find the way. We had this visit in the diary for months and Kate, and (under sufferance) my haematologist agreed I should be OK. Must have been the oysters and the fact that I had some small amounts of wine (first this year) but I had a ball and felt really great. I suppose I should include good company and fresh sea air as well!

So, feeling good, this evening I went through my e-mails and what should be there but a really nice one from you from *January*. I am quite embarrassed that I had not even read it let alone replied. Blame the pain killers!!!

This year has really just passed me by in a blur, but this will change as I return to being my quiet shy retiring self! Haven't read the backlog of *E&E* yet, but I will catch up.

Thank you for your thoughts, they are really appreciated. I will try not to be so tardy in future correspondence.

All the very best to you and Helen from Kate and I, Warwick.”

. **Allan Adams** – “Hi Paul.

It has taken a bit of time to get back to you, I have been under the pump to finish off a job, eventually finished last night.

ANZAC Day was fairly low key, the numbers were down due the Easter break. There were only 6 in our group - one was a current young W.O. from 131.

We are off to Sunshine Beach tomorrow for 2 weeks and had hoped to catch up with Barb Hemming. I don't have her current contacts. Do you have her Mobile or Tel No's.

We have put off the Japan trip until Sept - Oct but that will come around soon enough.

All is well here and family keeps us busy. Cheers Al.’

. **Russ Hamsey** – “Paul: Taking a short break from exercise. We are in the midst of a massive command post exercise involving HQs in Brisbane, Canberra and Darwin. Oh yeah, one of the ships at sea as well. The Regt remains very busy with 131 Bty at Wide Bay supporting the school flying. 132 Bty is getting ready for the big ex, “Talisman Sabre” in Jun and Jul.

My health remains good but keeping up with the young folks gets harder.

Planning a trip to Canada, Portugal, Morocco and Hong Kong in September and October. I can't wait to travel again. Anyway, that's it for now. Take care mate. Russ Hamsey”

. **John Bayford** – “Hi Paul.

Nice to hear from you last month. I had little news at the time so I thought that I would contact you after the march.

John Dellaca travels from Ballarat each year with the banner. This year we were joined by **Mike Butler, Mitch Millar, Allan Adams** and a serving member **WO2 Wayne Waters**. I was interested to learn from him that most surveillance is carried out by drone in the modern army. Wayne is one of our most experienced in that theatre of war. As for me and my family we are all doing well. My eldest son Ashley and his wife Clare are expecting their first child in November. Our youngest son Julian has two boys aged 10 and 8.

We will be heading north to Port Douglas in August to escape the worst of the Cape Schanck winter.

All the best. John.”

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

**There's plenty of room for notices – has anyone got or getting any events planned?
Just send an email and I'll post it. Ed**



“Hi Paul,

Full details and Registration is available on our Website (see link above).

Ubique, Kim”

ON JUNE 10TH We can say HAPPY 64TH BIRTHDAY TO THE BATTERY!!!



President – Allen Morley, Vice President – Bert Blink, Treasurer/Secretary – Grahame Dignam,
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>

The rest of our society heard lots during the election build up. So, called climate change was big in the election leadup, but seemingly less so in the voters' election choices.

So below are some of my thoughts that may be useful. The climate change story started many years ago under the terminology, the greenhouse effect. That morphed into global warming and then subsequently became climate change.

My meteorology studies for my private pilot's licence in the 60s and 70s told me the word climate referred to the variations in weather systems and conditions. So, the term climate change translates to something like change of the change of the weather. Perhaps that is a bit confusing.

Australia is in the grip of a drought at present. However, droughts in this country occur with some regularity and vary in both intensity and duration. Google the 1939 extreme weather stories, and even those of 1858. Yet, the media consistently talk of record temperatures based upon some 200 years of records. Seems the previous 4 billion years since the earth was formed don't figure. And certainly, were not measured.

Sydney looks like being subjected to water restrictions within the next month. But no new local dams have been built since Warragamba Dam (completed in 1960) due to pressure from objectors to inundating new areas required for establishing dams. The desalination plant in Sydney will provide some pressure relief to Warragamba. Nevertheless, Sydney's population has soared in the period since we were kids, so the old water supply infrastructure will continue to struggle to supply.

So, it is a relatively hot period of temperatures across Australia in recent times. Is that due to greenhouse gas carbon dioxide emissions – not carbon as the journalists call it – or the result of natural weather variations?

As the cliché says, the jury is still out. And the computer models do not always mesh with the historic reality.

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. **New Members** – a great report from **Grahame Dignam – Secretary/Treasurer** –

April is always a buzz with family birthdays, Easter and ANZAC Day to activate the mind. We always pick up a new member or two and the Vets ask “Am I financial?” This year was extra special with **FOUR** new Members connecting again. We had Old timers **Geoff Cowgill, David Pires, Garth Nichols** and newer **Wade Cooper** all sign on the dotted line.

Geoff Cowgill was at 131 between 1959-1965 in Survey, during the Mk 7 Radar period and was up to his ankles in water at Frenchman’s Creek.

David Pires (Jan 71 – Sep 71) and **Garth Nichols** (1968-69) were SVN vets and will be well known to a certain section of our members while –

Wade Cooper is a newer soldier and has seen service with 131 Battery in Iraq.

It great to see that we are beginning to attract members from opposite ends of our service spectrum. We need to fill out our personal stories and experiences from these periods of the Battery evolutionary story.

. **Upcoming Events Calendar** –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 11th June, 2019 at 1100hrs

Venue: Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club, 26 Humphries Rd., Wakeley.

Ph (02) 9604 9975 and for directions - <http://www.canleyheightsrsl.com.au/contact-us/> You’re all welcome

. **Pertinent Points** – extracted from the 131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date:

Tuesday, 14th May, 2017 at 1105hrs...

Attendees were: Allen Morley, Ron Mason, Bob Billiards, Bert Blink, Grahame Dignam, Ernest Newbold, Ian Amos, Nick Proskurin, Merv Nairn, Ged Carroll and George Lane.

Chairman/President Allen Morley opened the meeting and thanked **Ron Mason** who had travelled far to join us and VP **Bert Blink** for his consistency and diligence.

Financial Membership is currently **121**, plus Associates **2**, plus Affiliates **9 Total 132**

Plus, Lapsed as at 14//2018 **37** members

Presidents report.

Allen advised that

. The Sydney Anzac Day 2019 was held in warm summery conditions. The Det 131 banner was well attended with our group being swelled by mates from interstate joining in mini reunions. Approximately 60 vets and a couple of family members made up the contingent

. The unofficial “PIONEERS” reunion at Coffs Harbour over the 4/5th May went off well with a number of pals (about 14) getting together in an atmosphere where you “do your own thing”. A very informal family friendly affair where good chat and good times were had in abundance. It’s on again next year so put it in your diary for the first weekend in May

. The AGM of the **Sydney LSTAA** will be held at **Panania RSL on 14 July 2019** and all are welcome.

. He had spoken to **Warwick Hamilton** who was holidaying in Narooma and advised “the reds available here are very drinkable”.

Secretary/Treasurer Special Report:

Progress has ensued on the Photo Album project with the selections having been made and scripting for each picture being composed.

A notable benefit from the election process is no Ministerial advices being bloated out for 8 weeks

If you require any further access to any item appearing on this list –

contact - sectreas131locators@gmail.com

Webmaster Update:

. Bob has sent his website stats out as usual. He will contact the “web builder people” to do a conversion of the “Contact Us” tab on the website. The meeting unanimously approved the reasonable expenditure to complete this requirement.

. Bob has provided the Australian Artillery Association with the information they requested for our section of their proposed APP.

. Bob also discussed the possibility of establishing a Facebook presence which would generate more traffic among the younger Locator audience and serving soldiers. This also would allow us to post more newsy items direct to that space. A number of Moderators would also be required to maintain the integrity of the site. A subcommittee will develop a closed group page and build in security measures where we can control posts.

Health.

. **Bert Blink** is going along well following his prostrate procedure last year and is due for a check-up next week.

. **Grahame Dignam** has had 2 skin cancers removed but is otherwise enjoyed good health.

. A number of the committee are involved in the **Hearth Health** programme and the associated exercise regime and have been for some time. It is a good routine to reduce stress and share some down time among likeminded vets. The programme has many positives and very few negatives. Consult your GP before any strenuous exercise.

Photo Album Project:

Ernest Newbold aided by **Geoff Jebb, Bert Blink** and his aides have processed sufficient photographs to get the Album project moving. Names and descriptions of scenarios have all been checked and are ready for final assembly. More to come but very shortly.



General Business:

Discussions ensued on the following:

. The unofficial "PIONEERS" reunion at Coffs Harbor over the 4/5th May went off well with a number of pals (about 14) getting together in an atmosphere where you "do your own thing". A very informal family friendly affair where good chat and good times were had in abundance. It's on again next year so put it in your diary for the first weekend in May.

. **Ron Mason** has recently spoken to Phil Dressing, GM of the NVV museum, who reported that the museum is embarrassed by the number of items he has in the collection. The Museum is looking for a space to re-locate and has government money to proceed on the RIGHT site. Until then he has to manage the item on display due to lack of space. Ron passed on the Signed receipt from the museum for the recent Tellurometer and stand we supplied.

. Nick produced an amended "Nasho" Vietnam campaign ribbon showing the recently awarded USG on the same panel as the Lung Dragon (extreme right side). The ribbon will be laminated and is UV protected against fading. The committee approved the purchase of 200 ribbons at a total cost of \$550. Sale price will be \$6 each and includes postage.

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...June –

June	Name	Regt No	YoB	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	GEOFFREY SULLIVAN	3798292	1949	02 12 1970	03 05 1971	131
	" "			03 05 1971	20 10 1971	12 Fd Regt.
3	ALLAN MACLEAN Capt.	32203	1928	24 05 1967	28 06 1967	RAEME
5	PETER DEALY	3411983	1947	18 02 1968	21 02 1969	
5	JAMES LOCKHART	6709144	1947	03 06 1969	21 02 1970	† 12.04.14
5	VITO CICCOLELLA	2791669	1947	16 12 1969	17 12 1970	
6	JOHN I'ANSON	2787424	1945	12 04 1968	16 04 1969	
7	BRUCE IRVINE	2783695	1945	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
8	EDWIN FIELD Sgt.	242577	1934	22 04 1966	31 07 1966	† 20.07.96
10	KEITH WHITE	2783029	1945	17 04 1967	13 12 1967	AACC
12	IAN AMOS	2785676	1945	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
12	LAWRENCE SAWYER	3787393	1945	04 05 1966	03 03 1967	
14	PAUL BUSS	2781443	1945	22 04 1966	28 04 1967	† 28.09.11
15	KARL DOEHRMANN Sgt.	38119	1933	{20 05 1966	29 04 1967	† 10.08.09
	" "			{28 01 1970	27 08 1970	
15	EDWARD WEBB	29964	1941	27 01 1970	21 01 1971	
16	RALPH PEARCE	214806	1945	22 04 1966	30 04 1967	† Unknown
18	ROGER WHITTAKER	2184592	1949	19 08 1970	05 08 1971	† 01.12.08
20	JOHN CHILTON	215855	1946	09 12 1968	03 12 1969	
23	WILLIAM PRENTER WO1	64258	1933	22 04 1966	07 06 1967	† RAEME 01.10.97
	" "			20 08 1970	09 06 1971	4 Fd Regt
25	PAUL BUTCHER	3411454	1946	01 04 1969	25 03 1970	
26	LINDSAY MEAD	3790714	1945	27 03 1968	26 04 1968	
26	GERRY CARROLL	2781311	1945	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	
28	BARRY COLLINS	2793213	1948	20 08 1970	20 08 1970	131
	" "			20 08 1970	07 03 1971	4 Fd Regt.
	" "			08 03 1971	09 06 1971	12 Fd Regt.

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

Ed – 6 blokes not highlighted seems light on when there are only 22 blokes listed in the month and seven are no longer with us, it's till too many. C'mon put your Investigator hats on, please?

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received **158** and we've sent out **158**. Ed – there's one more in the pipeline, so we're slowly getting to **160**.

. 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.

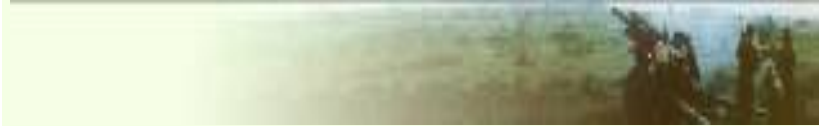
So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the *Eyes & Ears* regularly you could bite the bullet and email Grahame Dignam:sectreas131locators@gmail.com and he could forward you the relevant forms to join - Memberships are available for 1 year or longer deposit a DONATION direct (add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



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



www.artilleryhistory.org



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

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

. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE

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

. 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery...



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



The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association

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

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

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