

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



**Vietnam Veterans Day –
18th August, 2019**

**Tweed Heads Memorial Gardens –
South Tweed Heads Sports Club**



Tweed Heads - Graham Williams – “Hi Paul, **Derek Hinde** came up from Forster and stayed with friends here and **Joe Losiak** came down from Brisbane staying over with Jenni and myself. Another good roll up for the Memorial Day at South Tweed Sports Club this year. I have included some photos of the Memorial Service and then get together.



**Joe Losiak and
Derek Hinde
laying wreaths.**



Jenni, Joe and self
hope you're wearing
sunglasses mate)my
job as a roving reporter.



...The night before - BBQ and happy hour at home the night before...Joe Losiak and self.



Bathurst – Thanks to Bruce Irvine...

Had our usual march and service for Vietnam Veterans Day last Sunday which this year fell on the day (held the nearest Sunday each year). Good turnout and pleasant sunny day.

At the Bathurst Vietnam Veterans Memorial, with (L to R) Bathurst Vietnam Veterans Padre Howard Knowles, Warwick Brooker, Self, Vice Pres Bathurst Vietnam Vets Bill Wilcox and Ex-Navy Kevin Wren.



Sydney – Bankstown Sports Club -

Grahame Dignam supplied the following photos etc – “We had a good day at Bankstown Sports for Vietnam Veterans Day.

Lynn Fletcher * and the "Boogy Train" were the entertainment. Prizes were there to be had and we did win some. Ern Newbold might have more info there but Jim Fitzgerald was one of the lucky group.



At left - left to right: Ged Carroll, Merv Nairn, George Lane, Grahame Dignam (the superimposed photographer), Allen Morley, Ernest Newbold and Jim Fitzgerald.



Then the group once more with the photographer, Grahame Dignam superimposed – magic!

*Vietnam. 1966-01-18. Brisbane, Qld, singer **Lyn Fletcher** met Pte **Jim McIntosh** of Perth, WA (left), and Pte **Bob McCallum** of Beechmont, Qld, after she had given her final concert for Australian Diggers stationed at Bien Hoa. Lyn went to Bien Hoa with the “*Beaumarks*”, an Australian instrumental group, for the show.



. 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.



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



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

We continue with Graham Williams on from last month meandering around parts of Europe...

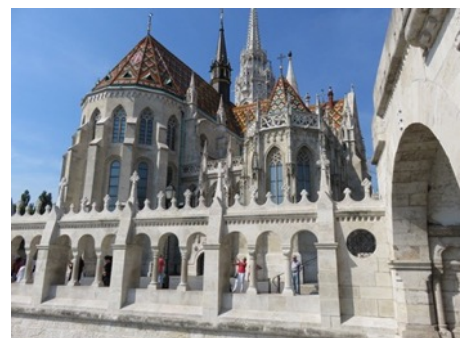
Thought it was about time to finish this off. The Bavarian area was different. I jokingly refer to it as the burp and fart capital of the world due to the fact they eat every type of sausage known to man, pickled cabbage and drink copious amounts of beer and wine...oh, add very rich desserts to that if you get that far. Here the wise old saying applies. "If you can't beat them join them." So many different types of beer but none I could rave about really. Our cruise director suggested while we were on the loose we try the smoked beer. Hmm...in the next breath she told us it tasted like licking the BBQ plate a day after the BBQ. While I consider I have a decent sense of adventure none the less decided not to go down that road. As pointed out previously the smaller town visits were more personal with more to offer. Places like Bamberg, Wurzburg, Rothenberg, Miltenberger and Rosenheim we both thoroughly enjoyed while City-wise same for Cologne. We did the relative tours in all these places and then still managed to find time to get out and about to see other things. Once past Cologne you are pretty much on the home straight heading for Amsterdam. Hit port there at the beginning of a two-day public holiday coinciding with a weekend. Total gridlock people wise. We had intended to take a trip to Bruges in Belgium but rain and the crowds scuppered that idea and by that time we were well and truly over what Jenni referred to as the "Three C's" ...Cathedrals, Castles and Churches. So simply merged with the crowds walking everywhere. I guess the biggest change from other trips had to be the sheer numbers in Asian tourists, mostly Japanese, South Korean and Chinese all grouped in the appropriate herd formation following flags all over the city. As most people would know Amsterdam is different to other cities in more ways than canals and windmills. There are liberal drug laws so one can pop into one of the many special cafes for a choof, even spend the day there off your face if you like and it is legal to carry a small amount on one's person. Also legal is prostitution similar to Hamburg where the girls sit in windows in the red-light district to ply the oldest trade in the world as the world passes by outside. Photos are not allowed. One can be arrested if caught but that did not seem to stop people trying on the sly. It is also an offence to show disrespect to the girls. Then of course there are the peep shows, strip shows and live sex theatres but my favourite was the sex shop. In Australia, of course we have them but they will usually not be allowed to show their wares in the window. In Amsterdam, it is all there for everyone to see. Whenever I needed a break from walking would always try and park myself in a café or bar opposite a sex shop for entertainment value. There one could always watch and be amused by a herd of Asians who would stop to look and be totally shocked. Then the looks would turn from shock to sly whispering among each other and then onto jokes and smiles before the entire herd would enter the shop en masse. I shudder to think what gifts were being taken home for mother and friends but it was amusing to watch. All that aside Amsterdam has many other things to offer visitors and is a handy hub to travel on to other countries in Europe so we were agreed that both enjoyed our time there. Luckily, I was able to keep Jenni out of the diamond district...that was the one worry and so home with smiles on our faces and a few ideas for the next trip.

One last thing. After arriving home, we had a punter's post mortem on the trip. Figured we could do it at half the price spending more time in all the places we visited by hiring a campervan if the weather was good or a car and staying at Inns along the way in bad weather. Simply put cruising is not my go. Now for some photos.



At left - The Chain Bridge Budapest.

At right and below – Fisherman's Bastion...Budapest





Left - Military museum...Castle District Budapest.

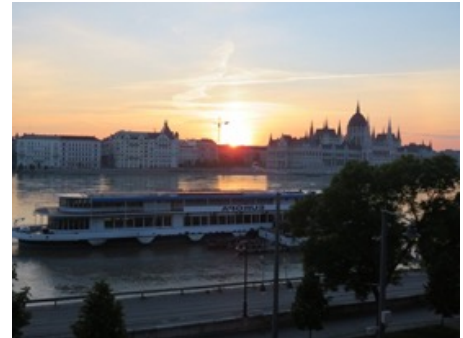


At right - Houses of Parliament Budapest from our hotel.



At left – Freedom Statue Budapest (affectionately known to locals as the “bottle opener.”)

At right - Sunrise from Budapest Hotel



At right
- Houses of Parliament at night from hotel.



At left - From the ship about 9pm

At right – Vienna at night



Schonbrunn Palace Vienna





***15 Aug 2019 9:57 AM AEST - Chester Media Release - AWM Director thanks for outstanding achievements - MEDIA RELEASE -**

AWM DIRECTOR THANKED FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

THE Federal Government will undertake a nationwide search for a new director of the Australian War Memorial after **Dr Brendan Nelson AO** announced that he would finish in the role at the end of the year.

After seven years as Director, Dr Nelson told Australian War Memorial staff this morning that he will conclude his service when his appointment ceases at the end of the year.

Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel Darren Chester thanked Dr Nelson for his passion and outstanding contribution to honouring the service and sacrifice of the almost two million people who have served in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

"Brendan has provided leadership to the Memorial that has made it world-renowned, including managing its extensive upgrades and overseeing the Centenary of Anzac program," Mr Chester said.

"Having previously served as Minister for Defence, Brendan's passion for telling the stories of service and sacrifice of current and former Australian Defence Force personnel of more recent conflicts has been extraordinary.

"Under his guidance, the Memorial has also led a range of exhibitions, displays, memorials and documentaries of our First World War, Korean and Vietnam conflicts, and more recently, the commemorations of the Centenary of the First World War, including the poignant display of 62,000 knitted Poppies.

"More recently, I worked closely with Brendan and the Council of the Australian War Memorial to secure a \$498 million investment to expand the Memorial for future generations, which will ensure all Australians who have served in our armed forces are honoured and that their stories are told.

"However, his most important achievement is the solemn and respectful Last Post Ceremony held at the Memorial each night. It was Brendan's vision to have this brought to the Memorial, which is inspired by the daily ceremony held at the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing in Ypres, Belgium.

"I commend Brendan on his passion and commitment to commemorating the service and sacrifice of all Australians who have served our nation. His enthusiasm and leadership will be missed and I wish him all the best for the future."

In 2016, Dr Nelson was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for his services to the Parliament of Australia, to the community, to the advancement of Australian international relations and to major cultural institutions. Dr Nelson has also been conferred Honorary Life Membership by the Returned and Services League of Australia.

Mr Kerry Stokes AC Chair of the Australian War Memorial Council, also thanked Dr Nelson for his dedicated service.

"Dr Nelson has overseen a transformation in the Australian War Memorial that has taken it to a new level of awareness and appreciation by the Australian people."

"Working closely with the Memorial's Council and building on the work of his predecessors, Brendan has brought our nation's history to life, emphasised the commemorative and healing role of the Memorial and most importantly, made it a place of immense meaning for young servicemen, women, veterans and their families."

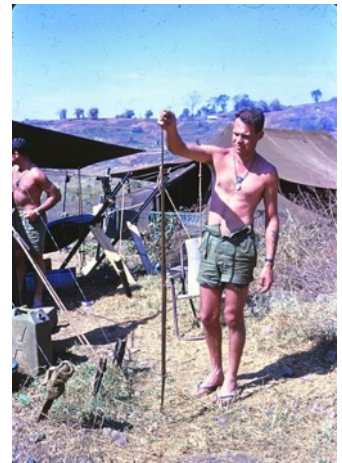
"The generational investment by the Morrison government to grow the Memorial and allow the more stories of 100,000 young veterans will be his enduring legacy."

A recruitment process will commence shortly to appoint the new Director of the Australian War Memorial.

Ed – Anyone contemplating filling out an application form? They'll be hard shoes to fill.

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

This photo at right is extracted from **Rob Retrot's** collection and yes, we can see that the "Unknown" is holding a snake, but who is he?
The photo is taken out at the Horseshoe if that is any help!



. **David Doyle** forwarded in the following article which could/should raise some interest –

'I have known utter despair': Thousands of veterans on wrong level of benefit, say advocates...



Scott Hannaford – *Canberra Times*

Thousands of defence force veterans are likely on the wrong level of benefit or are missing out on injury payments they are entitled to due to the complexity and difficulty of dealing with the claims system, according to leading lawyers and advocates.

As the federal government prepares to respond to a [damning Productivity Commission report into the \\$13 billion-a-year compensation system](#), veterans and those assisting them with claims have raised concerns about vastly different payments for similar or identical injuries, depending on which Act they apply under.

Currently, depending on injury and the timing of their service veterans can be compensated under the Veterans Entitlement Act, The Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act and the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act. Different levels of compensation also apply depending whether their injury occurred during war or war-like service.

Injured military personnel are receiving vastly different compensation for similar injuries, according to experts.

KCI Lawyers partner Greg Isolani has spent 27 years representing veterans and defence personnel. He estimates up to a third of all veterans could be receiving the wrong level of compensation. "You can look at that from the number of appeals that go through the Veterans' Review Board and how many are overturned at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal," Mr Isolani said.

"The fact that various federal court judges have consistently identified the harshness of the veterans' compensation scheme, the complexity of the veterans' scheme - It has been compared to the income tax assessment act in its complexity. So, if a federal court judge looks at this and remarks on its complexity, how difficult is it for veterans to grasp the three schemes?"

A Department of Veterans' Affairs spokesman said until a claim was lodged and investigated, the final amount of compensation entitlement under one Act or another was unknown, with some veterans applying under multiple acts. "It is often possible closer to the point of determination to provide more specific advice to a veteran ... once determinations are finalised. This may lead the veteran to withdraw one claim or proceed with a claim under both acts," the spokesman said.

One veteran of Middle East and East Timor service, Michael, (who asked not to have his surname revealed for fear of affecting his claim), said he was driven to contemplate suicide following his battles with DVA.

"I have sat at my wife's feet in tears, I have known what it feels like to feel utter despair," Michael said.

He had received payments under two different acts, and said he would support calls for the system to be rationalised.

"It should not be as difficult as it is to make a claim. The legislation is that convoluted and often contradictory. There are three or four pieces of legislation to deal with, I am caught between two. DVA is making it more difficult for advocates and thus for veterans."

It wasn't until after his matter was taken up by Tasmanian Senator Jacqui Lambie that Michael was able to resolve some of his disputes with Veterans' Affairs.

READ MORE:

- [Veterans' Affairs chief promises change](#)
- [The crisis facing veteran support organisations](#)
- [Enough inquiries that go nowhere - it's time for a royal commission into veteran suicide](#)

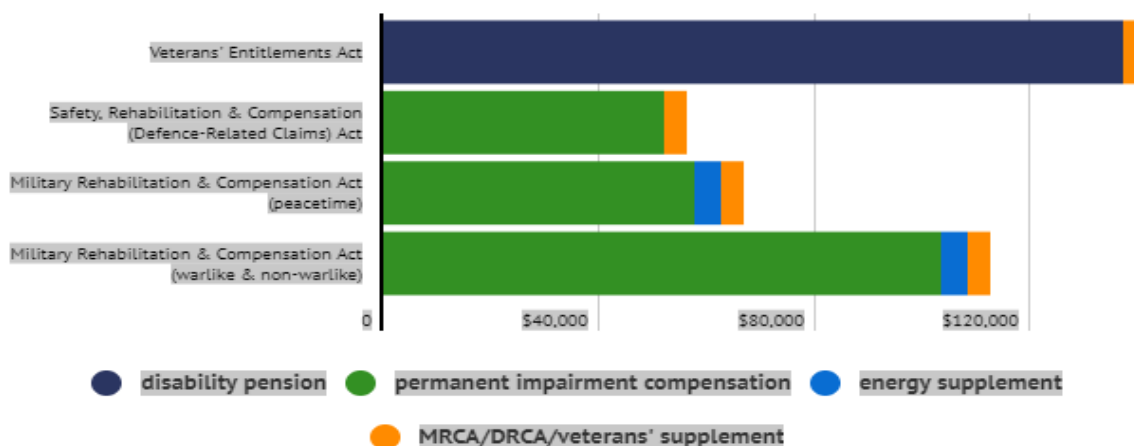
In its report the Productivity Commission called the system "overly complex, difficult to navigate, inequitable and poorly administered", and recommended simplifying the system into two compensation and rehabilitation schemes by mid-2025.

Same injury, different compo

lifetime compensation for 'Jane', 30-year-old veteran with a shoulder injury –

Same injury, different compo

lifetime compensation for 'Jane', 30-year-old veteran with a shoulder injury



Source: Productivity Commission

One example highlighted by the commission was of a 30-year-old soldier 'Jane' who injured her shoulder during service. Her lifetime lump-sum equivalent compensation payment would range from \$56,000 up to \$140,000, depending on which of the three acts she was compensated under, and whether she had been in a war-like or non-war-like situation.

Veterans' advocate Jim Wain, from the Veteran Support Centre, said the claims system had improved in recent years under veteran-centric reforms brought in by the department. But any veteran that accepted DVA's decision on which act applied without checking if it was in their best interest was potentially being under-compensated.

"If we don't agree with a decision we lodge an appeal. First up they do an internal review and if that internal review is not successful, we go to the Veterans' Review Board. We win 85 per cent of our appeals, so that tells us that 85 per cent of those [appealed decisions] are incorrect," Mr Wain said.

The department spokesman said in 2017-18 financial year about 6 per cent of claims made to DVA under the VEA and MRCA were taken by veterans to the Veterans' Review Board (VRB). Less than 3 per cent of claims made to DVA result in a variation.

"In about 50 per cent of these cases, the variation or new decision is based on new evidence presented to the [review board]," he said.

From the Advocate's Desk...

Our professional Advocate's contact details: -

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

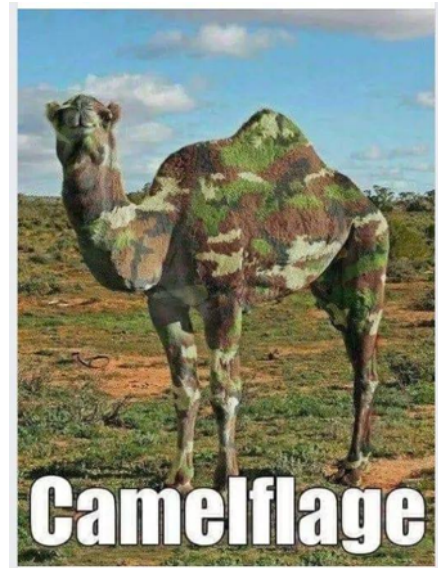
Ken Foster OAM JP - email contact: khfoster1@bigpond.com

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...

Ernie Newbold – “G’day Paul, something of interest.
Regards, Ernie.



Grahame Dignam – this could solve a lot
of problems in Sydney!!

Ed – Interesting coathanger!



Allen Morley forwarded the following correspondence that he'd sent to **Bill Taggart (1st Battalion/ 83rd Artillery)**
“Hi Bill

I extracted the section about the 2nd/35th Battery US ARTILLERY from the RAAHC newsletter -

“Thanks to Veteran Trevor Bryant for this story

In May 2018, on the 50th anniversary of the Battles of Coral and Balmoral in Vietnam, elements of the Australian Task Force who were involved in the action were awarded a Unit Citation for Gallantry by the Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal (DHAAT). Those elements receiving the citation included specified units of the 12 Field Regiment Royal Australian Artillery. One of those units was the American Army's A Battery of the 2nd/35th Field Artillery, a mobile artillery battery attached to the Australian Task Force and part of the 12 Field Regiment.

Eligible ex-members of specified Australian units found it was a relatively simple on-line process to apply to the DHAAT for their badges, and subsequently received them in remarkably quick time.

However, it was a bit more complicated when it came to getting the award out to the eligible ex-members of the US A Battery who are all American citizens scattered across their country. Not being part of the official Australian Defence Force network, most weren't even aware that they had received the honour and those few who did know, had no idea how to apply.

And no-one here in Australia seemed to know how they could apply either. The question was, "How can an individual who is not a citizen of Australia and is not governed by Australian law, and who is part of a completely different honours and awards system, apply to be sent an award from a foreign country?" Even the bureaucrats in Canberra had no answers to the enquiries.

In spite of some concerted effort from Major Mike Grimes Rtd. (ex- 102 Field Battery and Coral veteran) to find out how it could be done, there was still no clear direction. Finally, Mike suggested that we set up a test-case which might identify a process that works. Enter Denny Nevala from Michigan, USA, an ex-member of A Battery 2nd/35th Artillery and Coral veteran...

Denny agreed to use the Australian on-line application system to lodge an Application in his name, and to see what can of worms this would open up. He filed his application in mid-December, 2018. He received no acknowledgement from the DHAAT to say that the application had even been received, leave alone recognised.

At this stage, Denny also realised that most of the US A Battery veterans were spread all over the United States and making contact was difficult. He steadfastly tracked down a number of them and telephoned. He found that to a man, they had no knowledge of the UCG before his call, but felt honoured when they were informed. However, convincing them to take on Australian red-tape from all that far away was a challenge. Denny found that many of them had circumstances and issues which made the complex task of applying for a "foreign" award well beyond their inclination and capability.

So, Denny did the next best thing... With help from his Australian veterans' network, he purchased a bundle of replica UCGs-with- Federation Star from Christies and these were delivered promptly and efficiently to his home in Michigan.

He then set about posting them to all the other A Battery Coral vets with whom he had made contact. Problem solved! He has received enthusiastic feedback and thanks from all recipients who are grateful to have the award to wear, but who are spared the effort of having to formally apply. Win-win.

Denny finally received his "official" UCG from DHAAT through the post to his Michigan home on 8th April, 2019, more than 4 months after he applied. Better late than never, and as a test case it was successful - the DHAAT can and will accept applications from non-Australian citizens who served with a foreign unit, although the processing time is long. But for Denny's ex-A Battery Coral mates it's not an issue. They have earned their UCG and they have a badge to prove it; and just like their Aussie counterparts, they wear it with pride.

Denny Nevala

Coral veteran from the US A Battery 2nd/35th Field Artillery wearing his UCG

Bill, I am unsure whether any of your group was with 2nd/35th, but it is an interesting tale anyway.

Best wishes, Allen"

...Bill Taggart's response – "That was interesting Allen and it has a couple of points of special interest for me.

1. My CO of HQ Battery in 66-67 was a Captain Carl Freeman. He was a wonderful officer and a great guy, the best I ever served under. When he left the 1/83rd he was sent up to the 2/35th where I had the chance to visit him during one of my trips up to your area. I have never been able to track him down and would so much love to find him.
2. Ronnie and I, on one our trips to Washington DC a few years ago for Veterans Day, decided to take a tour of the US Capitol. While in line at the beginning of the tour a group of Vietnam Vets came in and wound up right next to us. There were all from North Dakota and I was right next to the group leader. Well as we chatted, I found out that he had been on 3 tours to Vietnam and had served with the 2/35th at Nui Dat. We had a great talk, comparing our stories, and wound up tagging along with their group for most of the tour. Then a day or do later we wound up sitting with them (purely by chance) for the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Vietnam Wall.

Another thing about their leader is that he is an official of the Vietnam Veterans of America. His name is Dan Stenvold, I will send him your email and see if he is aware of this.

Another twist on this was that one of the guests of honor that day was a representative of the Australian Govt and I also had a brief chat with him. Wish I could recall his name bur unfortunately I do not.

3. I don't know of any others of our 1/83rd group who also were with the 2/35th but any of us who were at Nui Dat remember them.

4. There used to be a website for the 2/35th but it disappeared several years ago. I do have a link to their Unit Page on Military.com... <https://www.military.com/unitpages/unit/102156?id=102156>

Thanks Allen for sharing this info. Bill"

...more mail from Allen Morley...

"Hi Ernie.

I am at last back to normal - whatever that means - after Oshkosh. So, I can get some outstanding things done.

I saw the jeep mounted 30 cal so I obtained the details for equipping your Subaru with some 30-cal protection. The only problem was that I could not find a 30 cal easily.



I tried to souvenir the one from the B-25 Mitchell (pic at left), but was dissuaded by the crew. Sorry.
Regards Allen”



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...

Bruce Irvine – “G'day Paul,

Good to hear from you and thanks for the reminder...again. Glad to hear things are well with you and yours and same here.

Not a lot happening except the weather and general upkeep around the place. Strong winds tonight and freezing but then that's August for us. Might be a bit of future firewood around in the morning!! We enjoyed, what was for us, a large snow fall 10 days ago of 10" and the last of it is melting just now. Just beautiful here when it's like that.

Went to see “*Danger Close*” last week and well worth a look in my opinion. Very intense and given the advisors for it, one can only think it must be pretty accurate in detail. Certainly authentic.

Anyway Paul, thanks again and also for *E&E*'s each month, great job. Kind regards, Bruce.



Ed – This photo taken by Bruce on 11.08.19 is absolutely amazing – true tranquillity.

Russell Jackson – “Hello Paul, thank you for the mail and thank you again for the work that you do for all of us. It's been a year of home renovations for us. We have been considering a move but having had no luck in finding a suitable replacement we have elected to spruce up the existing house to make it a little more comfortable and hopefully at the same time improve its resale value.

Skin cancers are an ongoing concern for me as well, with a three month watch in place to check for new outbreaks. One way of losing weight I suppose.

I hope the shoulder is on the mend and doesn't interfere too much with your golf.

We are currently enjoying summer in Sweden with a visit to our son and his family. It has been good to catch up with our grandchildren and to again be entertained with their bi-lingual flexibility. It has also been good to get away from the bite of a cold winter in Victoria as well putting the Reno's to one side for a while.;

Next year is a milestone year for us with a fiftieth wedding anniversary and two seventy fifth birthdays to celebrate. We do have a trip to France booked for October 2020.

Enjoy your trip to Thailand. Their food is certainly good. Regards Russ"

Kim McGrath – "Hi Paul.

It has been a busy year for me also and it isn't going to get easier anytime soon. I spend just over 3 weeks in western USA doing a road trip of about 5.500 kms. Eight States and had a great time.

The 2019 National Gunner Dinner is looming rapidly with it on the 23/24 Aug 19 again at Caloundra QLD. I will be heading up that way a couple of days prior to help prepare the place.

My wife, Tracey, has just returned home today from a three-and-a-half-week Locum at Proserpine / Airlie Beach and next weekend she is off to Norfolk Island again for a couple of weeks' work...then Caloundra.

On our last National Gunner Dinner 2017, we presented a large original oil painting of the M777 to the Royal Regiment. The Head of Regiment (HOR) and his team have had a couple of hundred prints produced which are going to be put up for sale. I have been tasked with getting about 50 of them signed and numbered by the Artist (a personal friend of mine).

This Dinner we are in the fortunate position of again been able to provide the Royal Regiment with some fantastic 'stuff' that is to be displayed in the upcoming Artillery and Armour Museum at Puckapunyal - aka The Armour and Artillery Heritage and Learning Centre? I can't tell you any more at this stage so as not to pre-empt our function. There will be plenty of photos after the Dinner is over.

We are also involved with the preparations for the 2021 - 150 years of Australian Artillery events. We will see how well they accept suggestions and/or get their motivation going.

Your trip to Thailand sounds great. I remember that Billy Slape did a really good job up that way until he suddenly passed on.

Anyway Paul, do take good care of yourself and I look forward to catching up with you - Down the Track.

Ubique, Kim"

Phil Mulgrew – "Hi Paul.

Nice to hear from you. Winter hasn't been too tough on us down here on the Bellarine peninsula. It does get really windy here though. We're only a kilometre from Port Phillip Bay which has a moderating effect on the cold weather as opposed to further inland and the High Country to the north of us.

Likewise, with the Murray Darling fiasco, Barwon Water down here has been ordered to repair damage to a ground water aquifer due to acidification by exposing toxic soil and causing

fish kills. The State Government has canned any attempt by Barwon Water to extract any more water from the affected area in the Otway Ranges and has ordered remedial works to that area.

I tried playing golf once or twice. Paul. But it stressed me out too much. The little white ball had a mind of its own, and had evil intentions towards my self-esteem.

The wife and I got stuck into travelling the east coast of Aussie a few years back, catching up with old friends, outlaws and the sights. But since then I have had ongoing issues with my back. I'm almost on a 'drop around for a beer'

basis with both my Physiotherapist and Osteopath, and it has been hard to stand and walk a good distance. But I'm coming good. I have advanced spinal degeneration in the L4 and L5 (just above the tail) bones and to a lesser extent further up the spine. My Osteopath said joking that I should have got someone to carry my pack in the Army. I said to him, if I had been silly enough to say that, I would have been lumbered with every bloke's pack in my section.

Interesting that you and Helen eat vegan. My wife Helen would like to try eating that way also. Trouble she is allergic to fruit and some vegetables including onion and garlic. She has to follow a Food map diet as she is Fructans/ Fructose intolerant which excludes the fore mentioned foods and others she is learning to avoid by bitter experience.

So, going out to eat means dissecting the menu looking for the usual suspects.

I turn 71 in a few days' time. I was 19 when I shipped over to SVN like a lot of other mates from North Head who went to the Gun batteries after being transferred from 111 LAA Battery at Woodside in 1967. The memories are fading a bit, but thankfully the friendships haven't. The same can be said for my service in the Victoria Police Force. I sometimes catch up or stumble across old acquaintances, either retired or ex members of the Force extending back to graduation from the Police Academy at Glen Waverley in Melbourne. The last squad reunion was about 14 years ago at a South Melbourne pub. Some memories from the Job stand out for their brutality, and the desperation of the situation you found yourself in at the time. But there were lighter moments. I was raising a family of boys and had a supportive wife (still have) in spite of the pressure of the Job. There was also the camaraderie at work and off duty. Otherwise I don't think I would have stuck it out for so long.

During this time in the 1980's and 1990's, I often came across numerous connections with Vietnam in the Police Force. From an ex 1RAR SVN Police instructor at the Academy, Senior Constable John Quinn, to Police members serving in SVN with another army.

One person who sticks in my mind was one Senior Constable Henri Polowski. He saw the service ribbons on my jacket when I was at his workplace at the Highway Patrol Division at Brunswick and struck up a conversation. I noticed service ribbons on his police jacket but didn't recognise them. At the time (1985) I was a Senior Constable stationed with the Independent Patrol Group at St Kilda Road, Melbourne, with our Group usually tasked alongside the Special Operations Group.

Henri told me he had gone to the United States from Australia in the middle 1960's with a mate on tourist visas, but their intention was to dive for treasure off the Florida coast. They found some gold coins from one of the Spanish galleons of the 1715 Plate Fleet that sunk in a hurricane in that year off East Florida, but couldn't locate the wreck the specie had come from. Subsequently they got nabbed by the authorities for not having permission to search or take possession of the gold which was deemed to be Florida State property at the time and for overstaying their visas. His mate was convicted and went to jail. Henri, as 'a lesser participant' (his words) was also found in breach of state and federal law by the court, but was offered either a jail sentence or a stint in the US Army. So, he chose the army with no conviction recorded by the court. Needless to say, their small amount of illegal treasure was confiscated by the authorities.

He told me he ended up doing two tours of SVN, volunteering for both, as a machine gunner. He was well over six foot and a pick handle or two across the shoulders, "So I got lumbered with the M60" he said.

Henri's battalion got involved with some ferocious fighting up in I Corps in the north of SVN on his first tour, but it didn't deter him from volunteering for a second one.

Henri wasn't the only visitor to the US to find themselves offered a stint in the US Army that I came across. Long before Henri, while out on operations in 1969 in SVN, I was manning a LP at Camp Duster, not far from Bien Hoa, along with Bombardier George Clark and Graeme Owen. Our initial LP was on top of a water tower at Duster. When I was on duty up there one early evening, a couple of US servicemen came up the ladder to have a chat and to find what on earth I was doing up there with a radio. After I had explained my purpose in life, reporting any incoming ordnance from the other side, I asked one of them where he was from in the US. He said he was Canadian and same old story, crossed into the US on vacation and overstayed his visa and like Henri was offered jail time or service in the US army. He accepted the US authority's kind offer and he too, volunteered for his tour of SVN. Both he and Henri later said that in no way were they coerced or pressed ganged to join the Army. They were simply given an alternative to going to jail for breaking US laws. Take it or leave it. And both said they found the US Army quite an experience at the time. I'll warrant there are more blokes out there with similar stories.

I attended the Queenscliffe Vietnam Veterans Day march and service down here on Sunday, organised and led by the very energetic and capable Graham Christie, ex 1RAR Coral and ex Queenscliffe councillor. The March started at the Post Office in Hesse Street to the sounds of the Geelong Pipe Band. and concluded several blocks away at the RSL hall where a very moving and well attended service was conducted to honour the Vietnam Veterans. The line-up of dignitaries included both the Federal and State Government Members for the region and a retired RSM of the Army. Also a Ecumenical Choir was in attendance and in good voice. Chatted with Sgt John Hallam, an instructor from the School of Artillery at Puckapunyal about the training of the troops and the current whiz bang artillery pieces the gunners have there. And I must be getting on a bit, Sgt Hallam looked as old as a second-year apprentice.

Well. Paul. This is what I have been up since we last chatted and I've delved back into earlier times when I was gainfully employed. Take care. Phil."

Joe Molenkamp – "G'day Paul, sorry I didn't reply to your email earlier in the year.

I had a bout with parodist cancer and was waiting to finish treatment to contact you. I'm pleased to say I had a PET scan last week and my oncologist told me the result showed I'm now cancer free...a great relief for myself and my wife Teena. So, I'm back riding my bike and paddling the kayak to keep fit and healthy. Hopefully life will get back to normal now and forget about doctors and appointments for a while.

Looking forward to meeting up with a few 131ers in November at Canberra...Peter Saint. Mick Butler, Les Falkai, Rieny Nieuwenhof and John Jaggard. That's about all the news I've got...so, cheers for now...Joe Molenkamp."

Tony Goldsmith – "Hi Paul,

Good to hear from you. Yes, those bloody winds that arrive every August are doing their thing – if you can find a place away from them in the sun – the weather is bloody glorious. On second thoughts, maybe the sun is not such a good idea. (16 stitches is a serious weight loss program)

Can't see me getting into the vegan thing – I love my "Tuesday nite steak nite" too much. Although I do understand too much red meat is not a good thing. Will have to check out "Beyond Meat" products. Will talk to my Director of Catering.

Yes, Chris is well, she is also Director of Arts and Crafts producing boxes of stuff for end of year school fund raising. Haven't seen the dining room table for a couple of months, let alone try to eat off it.

Off to see the Long Tan movie on Tuesday (concession day) will let you know how it goes. Will you get a chance to see it, online or otherwise?

Haven't been doing much else. Fell out of my tree (no comments) a few weeks back, trying to remove offending branches and it attacked me, sending me to the ground and resulting in a hematoma the size of an egg on my shin. That sat me on my bum for a few weeks.

Director of Household Chores has just informed me that washing needs to be hung out – Oh well – she who must be obeyed (if I know what's good for me).

Talk soon, Tony."

Wishing you well for VV Day! Brookey”

**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**

Ed would like to hear a few memories of the actual day.





. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 10th September, 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, 13th August, 2019 at 1105hrs...

Attendees were: Allen Morley, Bert Blink, Grahame Dignam, Ernest Newbold, Ian Amos, Gordon Malcolm, Nick Proskurin, Merv Nairn, and George Lane.

Financial Membership is currently ...121, plus Associates 2, Affiliates 9. Total 132. Lapsed 37 members
Financial Membership is currently ...121

Presidents report.

Allen advised that -

. Major General Tim Ford AO has stood down as President of the RAA historical Society.

. The AGM for the Sydney Branch of the LSTA association was held at Panania and the new President, **Maj Russell Hamsey**, assumed the position and the Association will now be based in SE Qld. The Sydney branch will continue on and the Public Officer will be based in NSW to comply with NSW law.

. We received word that A Bty 2/35th US Artillery personnel were included in the award of the Coral/ Balmoral UCG recently.

Health.

No advices to hand of any new health incidents. Those we know who are fighting ailments are still punching!

Photo Album Project

The Committee would like to pass on a huge "Thank YOU" to **Mrs. Mary Blink** and **Bert, Ernest Newbold** and along with **Geoff Jebb OAM** for their tireless efforts in collating and identifying photographs and subjects. This necessary work is to allow compilation of the Photo Album project that has been a focus for the Association for some time.

WELL DONE THOSE MEN and LADY!!!

General Business.

Discussions ensued on the following:

. Horn Island WW2 memorial. We have been able to contact the [Horn Island War Memorial Preservation Society Inc.](#) who has recently had a 3.7inch gun refurbished and placed in the original site. The committee confirmed that a \$300 donation be supplied as a one off to assist the on-going work that will be required in the tropical climate. See other communications for the link to this historic site.

. We also were in contact with Monuments Australia who maintain a website listing known military monument s and memorials. AS we have been active in this regard we intend to formally advise them of those pavers and plaque we have.

The website:

In the midst of emailing with **Bob Billiards** the other day, we updated some information in the Assocaiaon section of the web site and adjusted the Roll of Honour reported number from **83 in August, 2017 to 100 as at August this year.**

– we both commented on the sadness with some solemnity.

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...September –

Date	Name	Regt No	YOB	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	ERIC THOMPSON Sgt.	44153	1948	18 02 1968	18 02 1969	
	" "			13 05 1971	04 06 1971	VISIT
2	PHILIP MULGREW	3411756	1948	29 04 1968	07 05 1969	
3	MILLS BUCKLEY	16950	1937	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	† 02.04.07
3	PETER SAINT Bdr	45033	1949	04 11 1970	29 07 1971	
6	JOHN DELLACA	3791355	1945	29 01 1968	28 01 1969	
7	STEVEN BOUTLIS	3787962	1945	02 01 1967	27 09 1967	
7	GARY BESTER	3411737	1948	08 01 1968	03 12 1968	
7	IVAN MILLS S/Sgt.	213051	1934	31 01 1969	05 11 1969	

8	WILLIAM EDWARD	2789911	1947	21 02 1969	21 02 1970	
12	BARRY NUGENT	1411039	1945	03 01 1967	12 12 1967	
12	LARRY BRIDGE	2786506	1946	15 03 1968	18 03 1969	
12	PHILIP JOHNS	4719086	1946	16 09 1968	18 03 1969	
12	STEVEN VOSS	1735605	1948	29 04 1970	18 03 1971	
12	KEVIN GEOGHEGAN	219351	1951	16 12 1970	02 06 1971	131
	" "			02 06 1971	23 12 1971	HQ AFV
13	VICTOR CLAXTON	4410991	1948	17 01 1968	23 12 1968	
14	MERV DART	37821	1942	03 01 1967	09 01 1968	† 2001
14	FRANK IPSA	3786657	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
14	RUSSELL HEWITT	2792435	1948	03 06 1970	04 03 1971	
16	FRANK PEPPER	216683	1948	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	† 27.12.89
16	RONALD DEAN	215527	1944	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	
16	BRIAN BLACK	2786469	1946	27 11 1967	26 11 1968	† 18.01.11
16	ALLEN WHEATLEY	2790305	1947	16 09 1969	04 06 1970	
17	JOHN BLAKE	1731550	1945	04 05 1967	13 12 1967	
17	BARRY GUZDER	5714500	1945	10 06 1967	21 05 1968	
17	MAURICE ARCH	43350	1937	02 01 1967	14 11 1967	† 26.08.17
17	ERNEST GALLOWAY	216708	1948	08 01 1968	22 04 1968	
18	BOB WILSON	3791425	1946	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
18	JIM LAWLER Sgt.	28523	1936	18 12 1967	03 12 1968	
19	ROBERT DAVID GOW	61644	1944	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	
19	HUBERT ANDREWS	2790121	1947	21 02 1969	21 02 1970	
19	WESLEY HINDMARSH	2791313	1947	30 09 1969	13 08 1970	
19	PHILLIP WAPSHOT	3793468	1947	27 11 1969	18 03 1970	
21	GARRY LEPLAW	217182	1948	05 02 1968	11 02 1969	† 06.12.83
22	IAN BUBB	2792358	1948	13 05 1970	11 03 1971	RAEME
23	GREGORY TOMMASI 2Lt.	3791966	1946	10 03 1970	25 08 1970	131
	" "			25 08 1970	11 03 1971	4 Fd Regt.
	GORDON CAMPBELL GUNN	16915	1944	11.03.69	11.03.70	† 23.09.13
24	ROBERT BILLIARDS	2785702	1946	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
24	GEOFFREY CARTHEW	2793339	1949	03 06 1970	09 06 1971	
26	KENNETH McNAMARA	2783740	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
26	JOHN DAVIES Sgt.	29351	1937	07 10 1966	30 04 1967	† 2004
26	RONALD BOALER	130230	1948	20 02 1970	11 02 1971	
28	LEONARD WALKER	3798942	1949	16 12 1970	30 06 1971	Det 131 † 29.01.07
	" "			30 06 1971	30 10 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 – 8 blokes not highlighted is looking better, but still needs working on! Let's see if, when we print tjs next yearwe can see a real reuction in the number!

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received 159 and we've sent out 159. Ed – how long is it going to take to get 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.

Vale -

Name	Rank	Regt No	SVN	DOB	DOD
Hamilton, Warwick Ronald	Lt Col	235190	Det OC 1967-68	17.11.39	26.08.19





Gunners,

27th August, 2019

Yesterday afternoon the former OC of Detachment 131 Div Loc Bty in South Vietnam, Warwick Hamilton, passed away after battling leukaemia for several years.

I have received requests for advice on funeral details for Warwick. Last night I received the following advice from his partner and long-time best friend, Kate Moppet:

The body which used to house our wonderful Warwick will be cremated this week all alone. I will collect the ashes for later sprinkling in the [Sydney] harbour.

We will have a memorial party later in the year when we can do justice to Warwick's remarkable life. Sufficient notice will be given.

I will advise all 131ers of any details as they are available.

In the interim please remember Warwick in your own way.

Best wishes, Allen Morley

Please note: I have just been advised that Warwick's celebration will be on Friday **15th November**. Somewhere in Sydney.

More details to follow as they are received.



Kate and I on our yacht,
Sydney Harbour

My 1957 Messerschmitt.



Locator Profile

Surname: Hamilton **Given Name:** Warwick **Nickname:** "Warwick", "Hammo", "Blue Leader" and many expletives I'm sure **DoB:** 17.11.39 **State of Origin:** NSW

What did you do before the army: I went straight to the Royal Military College, Duntroon from Fort Street Boys High School, Sydney

Army service dates from: Jan 1957 **to** Nov 1989 **Regt No:** 235190 (ARA)

If served in SVN, then dates: from 18 Apr 67 **to** 12 Feb 68

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

1957-60. Royal Military College, Duntroon

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Last Rank: Lt Col

What did you do after the army:

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

In **2002**, I was asked to help teach the new event management course at Brookvale TAFE. For a long time, I had thought that the events industry needed proper training so I said yes. This grew from a small part time teaching role to full time (and running the company as well). Additionally, I became a part time lecturer at University of Technology, Sydney. The Department of Education, in their wisdom, decided I needed another post nominal so in **2005** I completed the Graduate Diploma in VET (Vocational Education and Training, nothing to do with non-human animals).

2008. This frenetic working style continued till June when Kate presented me with a one-way ticket to Europe and a choice: keep working or come and have fun. I retired! Best decision I didn't have to make!

2008-14. Europe for 3 years living in apartments, back to Oz for a short break in 2011, which turned into 19 months driving around Australia in a Prado and living in a small dome tent with a swag, then back to Europe for 2013.

2014. We moved back into our house in Lane Cove mid-2014, but the travel bug was still there and we spent a lot of **2014-15** wandering Australia catching up with friends. Travelling was suddenly curtailed in **Jan 2016 when I was diagnosed with Leukaemia** and ended up with an infection which required the removal of half my left lung. I am now in remission and slowly regaining my strength, so travelling is not written off, just delayed a bit.

Anything else of interest:

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

A have always been interested in cars, and particularly 3 wheelers. I used to have 3 Messerschmitts but am now down to one, a 1957 version. I have included a photo for those who drive common cars and don't know what one is!

Kate and I enjoy travelling, bush walking and sailing (racing and cruising), but these are on hold just at present.

What city / town do you live in now: Lane Cove, Sydney



Bill Thomas, Roger McDonnell and self at opening of the Rec Building.



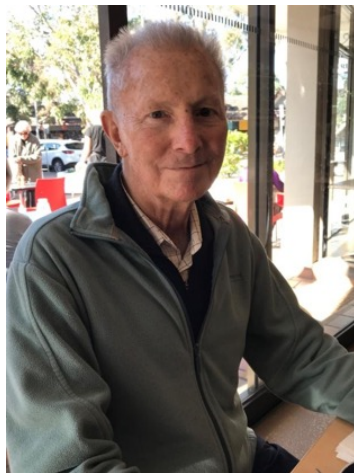
Welcoming the reinforcements. (guess which ones they are!) Pete Fletcher on left I think, Bill Wight next to me, and self in flat hat with survival knife on belt.



Seymour paver dedication, May 2015. MAJ Russ Hamsey
2IC 20 STA Regt, Barry Campton, Self and Brian Kennedy.

Warwick Ronald Hamilton

RAA Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Regimental Number 235190



(Photo by Diane Morley, Lane Cove 27 July 2019)

Warwick Hamilton passed away in Sydney's Royal North Shore Hospital on Monday 26th August 2019. He fell several months short of achieving his 80th birthday. Warwick was born in Sydney and attended Fort Street Selective School. He graduated as a Second Lieutenant from the Royal Military College, Duntroon and became part of the Australian Army.

Warwick was the third Officer Commanding, the Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery (the Detachment) based at Nui Dat, South Vietnam. This is where many of the readers of *Eyes and Ears* were to first encounter him. Unlike most other Task Force Units, the Detachment was spread around the Task Force base rather than being in a single location. And the Detachment structure was such that there were more National Servicemen than Regular soldiers. There are so many stories involving Warwick at Nui Dat, but one is particularly memorable. 31Apha listening post was located at the top of Nui Dat hill. Warwick drove up one day with the intention of carrying out an inspection. One area of the sleeping quarters was a real mess. So, Warwick inquired of the Gunner whose space it was, what had happened. "It was a monkey, sir," was the reply. The OC denied this could be the case as there were no monkeys in the area. He was deciding what punishment should apply as he drove down the hill. Suddenly a monkey jumped onto the side of his vehicle, challenged Warwick with teeth bared then jumped off again. Warwick told me many years later how embarrassed he was about not believing the Gunner, and the incident was never mentioned again.

Warwick left the Army with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He established a highly successful events management business as his post-Army career. His former soldiers from 131 would encounter Warwick and Kate in places around the world and in Sydney on many Anzac days or special Battery occasions. He and his partner Kate travelled a lot and enjoyed distant and less populated locations.

In about 2016 his annual medical check-up showed elevated white cell counts. The GP suggested they should look at this during the next annual medical. This delay was unfortunate, as Warwick was diagnosed with leukaemia. He began medical treatment and as the result of a complication was operated on, which involved removal of half of one of his lungs. Warwick went into remission for a period then the diagnosis returned. He spent an inordinate time in and out of hospital over the intervening time. In the end, he could fight it no more.

Vale Warwick Hamilton, an officer, gentleman and bloody good bloke.

Allen Morley.

Trevor Prideaux (Waghorn) – “So very sad, we worked together very closely in Vietnam. An officer I admired greatly and came to think of as a friend, Trevor Prideaux(Waghorn)”

Bruce Irvine – “Sad news Paul and my condolences to Kate and Warwick’s extended family. It’s a blessing he suffers no more.

Fondly remembered and a significant time for us all.

Kind regards, Bruce”

John Blake – “Thanks.

I feel broken but I look forward to some level of repair as soon, we meet again.

Hugs to all. John (and Kirsty) Blake”

Nick Proskurin – “Saddens me to hear the news of the passing of our respected Officer Commanding.

Heartfelt condolences to Kate and his son and daughter.

Rest in Peace, Captain, you will be missed by all who served with you. Nick Proskurin”

Barry Guzder – “Vale Warwick, A very good C O (the best I ever had in Nashos), how he put up with me I will never know.

So, sad, and now we have lost both our CO s ex Capt. Wickenden (Holsworthy) and Hammo.

They knew how to treat their soldiers. Behram (Barry) Guzder. 5714500

Warwick Brooker – “G’day Dicko - Grahame sent me a warning email a couple of days ago with the sad news that Warwick’s medications had been ceased and he probably had only days left. I knew he’d been ill, but until then I hadn’t realised just how ill he was. Very sad indeed.

I think I met Warwick only once after Vietnam and that was at our plaque dedication in Canberra. I’ve attached the only shot I have of Warwick at Nui Dat. You appear also and I think just about everyone in the pic would be identifiable. I see five surveyors in there!

My sincere condolences to Warwick’s family and friends and, of course, 131 Div Loc Bty. Brookey”



Bob Billiards – “Paul,

A very sad day with such a really nice bloke passing so early.

I didn’t have a close relationship with Warwick as I was a gunner and not an officer and I spent the first 6 months in the 1/83rd compound at 31D and only got back to the Task Force base on Sunday for church and when it was my turn for the morning briefings. I did spend 2 weeks in Arty Tack from 12th September 1967 when I first arrived, so saw him there.

The next time we formally met was when a couple of us had an altercation with a gunnery sergeant and then the BK of A battery 1/83rd. We were fronted by Capt. Hamilton and told that if we were in the Australian lines we would be in the stockade and this was our last warning.

After SVN, our next meeting was in Macquarie Street, Sydney on Australia Day sometime in the late 90’s when he visited the Micro Car Club display where we display our Goggomobil Dart “yes the Dart”. Warwick had a Messerschmitt three-wheeler car and was a member of the club. From then it has been at several get together and he was always a gentleman and a mate.

Regards, Bob”



Ernie Newbold – “G’day Paul, so sad to hear the news of Warwick’s passing, he will be missed. attached are some photos, you may already have them on file but these will save you searching.
Regards, Ernie.”



Arty Tac, Nui Dat 1967



Seymour Vic 2015.



At a fairly regular luncheon spot – The Royal Exhibition Hotel, Sydney 2014.



One more, this time with the Gunners at the AWM on 4th May 2012 - Canberra
Regards, Ernie.

John Vitkovsky – “Hi Paul, Very sad. We were friends.
John Vitkovsky.”



Bert Blink – “Hi. Very, very sad - a true officer and gentleman.
I have lost two Vietnam Veteran friends this year Robert Clough from 3 RAR (1st tour) and Warwick.

At right is my last photo of Warwick at Cowes RSL. We had our dinner table in a very convenient spot for us oldies but not so for a photo opportunity.
Warwick and I had a long talk at the bar about our respective treatments for cancer. He deserved better.
Bert”



Allen Morley – “Bert - I remember that cold night at Phillip Island well.
And the pic attached confirms that you two were propping up the bar deep in discourse.
Allen”



Paul Dickson – A favourite photo of mine with a couple of favourite mates, sadly now one has gone, but will never be forgotten. Paul

Bob King – a great collage of a much-admired person –
“Hi Paul, Sad news.
Regards, Bob”

The classic (on the right) is Warwick, very relaxed, very young at the “Welcome Home” parade get-together.





Just an additional photo which shows Warwick earlier in the day for the North Head Welcome Home Parade - 3.10.1987.
He's the Locator on the very far right.





This picture by Bob King tells it all.



May He Rest In Peace



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

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