

THE EYES and EARS

"FIRST PUBLISHED 22nd JULY 1967 in Nui Dat, South Vietnam".

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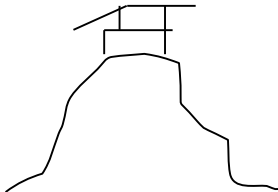
Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA

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

2020 – 54 Years and the Detachment 131 Spirit Lives On: 1966 – 1971



This is how it re-started 11 YEARS ago in February, 2009



Eyes and Ears

No.0001 February, 2009



31A, 31B, 31C and 31D – Are you awake? Over... (followed by a long pause) Well I warned you that I would start something, so here goes!

I'm not sure of the format to do this in, but along with possible future submissions from all and sundry on any topic that takes their fancy it may develop into something. I was wondering if anyone would care to be a regular or irregular contributor and take a subject / topic and air their knowledge. Perhaps someone might have a talent in electronics, photography, hypnotism, correcting my spelling and grammar, strange smelly growths occurring under the arm-pits or whatever, and may be able to problem-solve for any questions raised – something like a "Dear Dorothy Dignam" – NO marriage counselling though, not that Grahame may not be good at it! However, I believe he is a qualified Grandchild Tamer!

It's hard to believe that this publication is not only still in existence, but still creates interest and your involvement.

Let's see if we can do it for **9** more years!

OK, now back to re-starting this edition...



TET Offensive – 1968 52 years – Ba Ria...

Ba Ria picture theatre with bullet and rocket damage sustained during the Tet offensive. possibly one of the most photographed structures in Phuoc Tuy by those who served there and came after them. Photo courtesy: Ern Marshall

In January 1968, communist Vietnamese forces prepared to launch a major offensive against the Republic of Viet Nam and its supporters. The attacks were designed to coincide with the annual Lunar New Year (Tet) celebrations. The Tet celebration was traditionally a time of peace, and a cease fire had been negotiated for the holiday. However, the offensive was designed to put an end to the resistance by the pro-democratic Free World Forces led by the Americans at a time when the guard was down. The communist North Vietnamese Army (NVA), Viet Cong (Viet Cong) and local town units launched attacks across southern Viet Nam in the early hours of the of February 1.

Enemy forces attacked major population centres of the Australian supported Phuoc Tuy Province. The provincial capital, Phuoc Le (commonly known as Ba Ria) was typically a quiet south-east Asian town with untidy streets and little shop fronts. Australian and New Zealand soldiers from the 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF) base at Nui Dat, some five or six kilometres to the north east, typically went to Ba Ria have their laundry done, and to buy fresh produce, souvenirs and ice. Ba Ria was also a prime target for the Viet Cong D445 Battalion, supported by the C610 Ba Ria Town Company, who, armed with rifles, carbines, machine guns, grenades and rocket launchers, wanted to promote a communist uprising among the local population.

At 5am two Viet Cong companies attacked the American Administration and Logistics compound in the north-east end of town and around 140 Viet Cong soldiers attacked other important installations including a major US Complex and police station. Another platoon occupied the hospital, Catholic church and town theatre. South Vietnamese Army of the Republic of Viet Nam (ARVN) troops just managed to hold their ammunition compound supported by mortars and artillery. They also prevented two Viet Cong companies from destroying the town bridge across the Song Dinh, a river in the west of town.

Early in the morning, the 1ATF Tactical Headquarters at Nui Dat received a request for help from a senior US advisor at the Sector Headquarters in Ba Ria. The Tet Offensive had begun on 1ATF's doorstep.

...the following is extracted from Phil Perrin's "Recollections" (Phil arrived Nui Dat on 31.01.68) –

"At this time, Task Force HQ (fwd) was operating at FSB Anderson where I went to meet up with the CO 4FLD Regt. Capt Hamilton came back to Nui Dat for handover activities which were completed by 31 Jan/12 Feb. I sent Sgt Brian Rudduck to FSB Anderson while I familiarised with the unit and Nui Dat dispositions and Arty Tac...a steep learning curve.

To celebrate our arrival, the enemy put on a brilliant display called 1968 Tet offensive and infiltrated Baria. This required a reaction force of infantry and APC's to clear the town street by street with artillery illumination for most of the night. The seriously wounded were evacuated and the changeover of personnel was implemented."

Another memory revisited.

. AWM Last Post Service 18th February, 2020

- to commemorate the 52nd Anniversary of the attack on FSPB Anderson during Operation Coburg and the 50th Anniversary of Operation Hammersley.

Bert Blink sent the following article and photos in with reference the Last Post Service in Canberra –

"Hi all,

The event commemorated the 52nd Anniversary of the attack on FSPB Anderson during Operation Coburg and the 50th Anniversary of Operation Hammersley where on these two occasions Engineers suffered significant losses. **Myself, Bob Billiards, Grahame Dignam and Warwick Brooker** were in attendance.

A wreath, donated by the 131 Locators Association in honour of **Jim Menz**, was placed near the remembrance pool at the AWM. Bert"



Bert Blink, Grahame Dignam, Bob Billiards and Warwick Brooker



The yellow floral wreath, in memory of Jim, was laid directly in front of where Grahame and Bob are standing.

...The following correspondence was supplied by Bob Billiards and introduced him and now us to the Memorial service in Canberra on 18th February, 2020...

"Hi Bob

I thought you may be interested in knowing this activity was occurring. Even though the focus is Engineers, the activity is recognizing all personnel killed at FSB Anderson on 18 Feb 1968. It includes **Lance Bombardier JL Menz**, Detachment, 131 Divisional Locating Battery, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery. If my memory serves me correctly he may have been from your unit.

I'm just about to ring to give a Carryall update!

All the best for now

Regards, David" ...

"Major David Bergman

Manager, 'The Lloyd Millican Battle Simulation Site – Puckapunyal'

Land Simulation, Army Knowledge Centre.

To all Sappers past and present,

A National Commemoration Service to officially acknowledge the sacrifice of those who fought during Operation Hammersley in Vietnam in 1970, will be held at the Vietnam Memorial, ANZAC Parade, Canberra commencing at 1030am on 18th February 2020. Operation Hammersley was carried out in the Long Hai Hills area of Phuoc Tuy Province and was defined by ambushing and intense close quarter fighting, along with landmine, tunnel and bunker clearance and demolition. The 28th February became known as 'Black Saturday' when a mine incident resulted in nine Australian killed

and twenty-four wounded in action. Included in these casualties, were seven Tunnel Rats of the 1 Field Squadron, with Sapper Rodney Hubble paying the ultimate sacrifice.

Later on, this same day, assembling at 1630hrs at an Australian War Memorial Last Post Ceremony, the Corps will remember Sapper Allan Patterson, who was killed in action alongside his fellow 1 Field Squadron Sappers; Staff Sergeant Colin McLachlan, Lance Corporal John Garrett and Sapper David Steen. Their Engineer Section was acting in their secondary role of Infantry while conducting an overnight standing patrol forward of Fire Support Base Anderson near Bien Hoa, Vietnam during the Tet Offensive on the 17th/18th February 1968. The Last Post Ceremony has been sponsored by the Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association and will lay wreaths to recognise all seven Australians (Engineers, Infantry, Artillery) and one American servicemen killed in action at the Fire Support Base on that night.

Enclosed are further details about the Last Post activity. Also attached is a two-page document which you will find interesting. It is from the Operation Hammersley After Action Report and lists all of the bunkers, tunnels and caves found on this one operation. The list includes over 200 enemy bunkers and gives the reader an idea of the intensity of Sapper tasks on our operations with infantry and armoured. It also of course confirms there were tunnels found on Operation Hammersley.

The Head of Corps requests the attendance of all available Sappers (especially in Canberra) to attend either event or both, and acknowledge the sacrifice of all those who served on those missions. Those attending are also invited by the Association to attend an informal bistro style meal at own cost, following the Last Post Ceremony, to be held at the Hellenic Club, 13 Moore St, Canberra. For catering purposes, all serving members should RSVP for the dinner as requested by 10th February through the CRSM, (sean.chaine@defence.gov.au).

Regards

D.P. SPRIGGS

MAJ, SO2 HOC RAE

School of Military Engineering, Steele Lines, Holsworthy Barracks, NSW"

...Bob forwarded this to me -

"Paul,

The ceremony was for all who died on operation Coburg and those at FSB Anderson. It was organised by the Sappers as per the details I just sent from a "Goggo" owner friend of mine.

I thought it appropriate that we attend the ceremony and lay a wreath for Jimmy Menz from the Association. I put the event on our 131 Battery and the 131 Oldies FB (Facebook) websites and suggested to Bert (Blink) that he might be able to attend. At the meeting the week before I had organised my day yesterday so that I could also go down and attend and seeing GD (Grahame Dignam) is on the way through from my place, I convinced him to come along as well.

At the museum we met Warwick Brooker and his daughter (fortunately she doesn't look in any way like Warwick ☺) as he was also going to go to the ceremony. At 4pm we got our coats and hats and the wreath that GD had organised the previous day and headed to the main desk. I spoke with one of the organisers and firstly she said that there were a lot of wreaths being laid today and hoped there would be one left for us to lay, surprising that we could have saved \$'s and just used one of the available AWM wreaths and cards.

We left Bert to do the photography and Dig and I did the wreath laying. The bloke next to us is a US citizen just on holidays for a couple of weeks and laid a wreath, with the stars and stripes for the US soldier KIA that day.

Bob"

...the Invitation...

BIG DAY FOR SAPPERS IN CANBERRA 18 FEBRUARY 2020

Last Post Ceremony at The Australian War Memorial, followed by drinks and dinner at the Hellenic Club, Civic, Canberra. The Last Post Ceremony on 18th February 2020 at the Australian War Memorial is to remember the seven Australians and one American servicemen killed in action at Fire Support Base Andersen near Bien Hoa during the Tet Offensive of 1968.

This event will be the closest that the Sappers of 1 Field Squadron Vietnam will get to a Commemoration of the long forgotten and often overlooked Battle at FSB Andersen during Operation Coburg.



At left: Troop BBQ at Nui Dat prior to Operation Coburg.

Left to Right (standing) SPRS Geoff Coombs, Dave Steen and Vince Tobin, who were on the ill-fated standing patrol at FSB Andersen. Dave was one of the four sappers killed at Andersen, while Geoff and Vince survived that horror only to be killed in a mine incident a month later in the Long Hai Mountains.

This event has been in the AWM pipeline for nearly two years and is sponsored by the Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association, with the strong support of COL John Kemp AM (Retired), OC 1 Field Squadron at the time of Operation Coburg and FSB Andersen. It is hoped that our Head of Corps RAE, BRIG John Carey CSC and the Corps RSM Sean Chainey DSM might be in attendance on this occasion, their duties permitting.

The Tunnel Rats Association is looking at this ceremony also as a commemoration of all 36 of the Tunnel Rats KIA in Vietnam.

The Last Post Ceremony commences at 1655h and the AWM recommends that visitors arrive early for the ceremony as the Memorial is unable to reserve spaces for groups.

While the one person to be eulogized on this occasion, as per AWM protocol, is 3 Troop 1 Field Squadron Sapper Allan Pattison, wreaths will be laid by 3 Troop Veterans of Andersen for all the Australian soldiers, Infantry, Artillery and Engineers, who gave their lives that night.

At the invitation of the Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association, the United States Defence Attache Office Australia, Colonel Ray Powell, will be sending a US Army Officer to lay a wreath to remember Specialist 4 Buddy Heightland.

Family of Sapper Allan Pattison and Sapper Dave Steen will be attending from interstate.

The Tunnel Rats Assn primary point of contact for this activity is Peter Scott (Roo Dog), email: holdfast6970@gmail.com

If you are attending and wish to place a wreath for a mate from 1 Field Squadron, please contact Peter to ensure proper arrangements are made with the AWM.

HONOUR ROLL - BATTLE AT FSB ANDERSEN, SOUTH VIETNAM, 1968

Outside the Wire:

The Standing Patrol, 11 Section, 3 Troop, 1st Field Squadron, RAE: Staff Sergeant CW McLaughlin KIA 18th February 1968 Lance Corporal JE Garrett KIA 18th February 1968 Sapper AG Pattison KIA 18th February 1968

Sapper DJ Steen KIA 18th February 1968 Sapper GJ Coombs KIA 22nd March 1968 (on Operation Pinnaroo) Sapper VJ Tobin KIA 22nd March 1968 (on Operation Pinnaroo)

Inside the Wire:

Private TJ De Vries Van Leeuwen 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment KIA 18th February 1968 Private JA Doherty 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment KIA 18th February 1968

Lance Bombardier JL Menz, Detachment, 131 Divisional Locating Battery, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, KIA 18th February 1968

Specialist 4 Orville W 'Buddy' Heightland Jr. B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 35th Field Artillery, US Army, KIA 18th February 1968

All welcome to join us for drinks and dinner following the ceremony

All who attend the ceremony are welcome to attend our simple drinks and dinner which will follow the ceremony and will be held at the Hellenic Club,

If you are joining us for the drinks and dinner please let us know so that we can advise the club of numbers to be catered for. Email Tunnel Rats Association President Jim Marett on: tunnelrats.vietnam@gmail.com

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APPENDIX 2 TO ANNEX B 8 RAR COMBAT OPERATIONS AFTER ACTION REPORT OPERATION HAMMERSLEY

SUMMARY OF ENEMY INSTALLATIONS

Serial	Location	Date/Time Found	Details	Sequence of Events Serial Number
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
1.	457548	161914	4 bunkers	26
2.	449555- 450554	171310	6 weapon pits, 1 cooking hut Area 1500 square metres.	
3.	467556	171530	Base camp. 2 bunkers. 3 sleeping areas. 2 weapon pits. 1 covered cooking area. Area 3600 square metres.	26
4.	455545	18 Feb 70	10 tunnel type bunkers	41
5.	454541	18 Feb 70	5 tunnel type bunkers	41
6.	474522	18 Feb 70	Bunker system containing 40-50 en.	45
7.	474531	181650	6 hides dug under rocks. Interconnecting tunnels. Area 3000 square metres. Pl size	42
8.	589584	201930	2 bunkers (partially destroyed).	64
9.	584597	201930	3 destroyed bunkers.	
10.	476523	210950	Large bunker system.	

11.	449539	211000	10 destroyed or partially destroyed bunkers.	61
12.	461548	211159	Tunnel complex. Area 10,000 square metres. Coy size.	63
13.	457557	211540	18 bunkers. 2 weapon pits. Area 1,500 square metres.	62
14.	4752	22 Mar 70	67 bunkers in general area. Area 1 million square metres. Battalion plus size.	73
15.	462524	221100	Cave used as ammunition factory.	69
16.	480521	221100	Command bunker with 8 ft OHP.	70
17.	463513	221505	Hut in cave under rock. 1 tin and wood structure.	
18.	463511	221505	Bunker	
19.	465515	221505	Living areas in rock clefts and caves.	
20.	454538	221610	2 tunnels. Number of weapon pits.	72

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...../21

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APPENDIX 2 TO ANNEX 8
8 RAR COMBAT OPERATIONS
AFTER ACTION REPORT
OPERATION HAMMERSLEY

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
21.	463538	231100	12 two to three man bunkers with OHC.	
22.	579572	231115	3 hides.	
23.	455545	231210	1 CP bunker, 20 bunkers. Two areas total 7,500 square metres. 2 Pl size.	
24.	552562	231600	17 bunkers, cooking areas. 38 hammock spaces. Area 7,500 square metres.	81
25.	457557	240830	33 bunkers. 4 weapon pits. Area 30,000 square metres.	85
26.	485520	240920	20 bunkers.	84
27.	460555	241325	40 old weapon pits.	
28.	449538	241630	14 old bunkers, 1 weapon pit. Area 3,000 square metres.	
29.	553688	241630	2 old bunkers.	
30.	458544	251133	6 bunkers with 4-5 ft OHP.	96
31.	471515	251235	8 bunkers.	
32.	488511	251655	7 weapon pits and 2 panji pits.	
33.	454545	261433	30 bunkers. 3 cooking areas. 2 wells.	113
34.	448536	261433	14 bunkers. 1 well.	113
35.	451553	261433	6 bunkers.	113
36.	Area 489520 471515 472530	Untill 26 Mar 70	Total of 84 bunkers in area. Refer Serial 16	109
37.	470536	261000	5-6 bunkers. 6 caves.	

NOTE

TOTAL NUMBER OF BUNKERS DESTROYED BY THE BATTALION - 201

as a follow-up email...Terry Erbs to Grahame Dignam which he shares with us...

"G'day Dig,

I watched yesterday's moving Last Post service via AWM website and would like to thank you and the "boys" for organizing and laying a wreath for Jimmy Menz.

As you know his name lives on via the "Menz Club", which remains an integral part of the Regiment, as it was in Nui Dat. Fittingly, the items kindly donated by 131 Association are proudly displayed within the club and are seen daily by current Locators.

Again, many thanks, my shout next time we meet,

Cheers, Terry"

. The "Lost Locator Project"

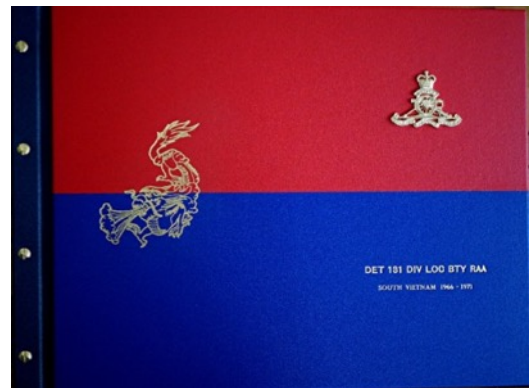
Grahame Dignam has informed us of the latest Located Locator, **Mark Szypulski**, via a relative of the Locator. But, sadly, we have been informed that Mark has passed, so note his name in **Vale** below.



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...

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

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

. An Oddity – I was actually fossicking around (tend to do it a bit), in my archives, for something else and came across the following and couldn't help myself, so I cut and pasted it from a larger edition of the Royal Australian Artillery's Liaison Letter – this part commences on page 26...

Royal Australian Artillery, Liaison Letter Ed 2 -1988

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131 DIV LOC BTY

1. The Divisional Locating Battery is currently in the process of becoming an integrated ARA/ARES Unit, after the disbandment of 132 and 133 Batteries in late 1987. Reserve recruiting is proceeding well, with the total enlistment now approaching forty. The standard of recruit is also high, with two Reserve recruits being awarded Student of Merit on their respective courses. It is most pleasing to see the Reservists taking an active part in so many Exercises this year.
2. Speaking of exercises, the Bty has again had a busy twelve months. There have been numerous Tp exercises and two major Bty exercises. The first of these was Exercise DIG-IN, at SWBTA. This exercise provided a rare opportunity to work alongside our trans-Tasman colleagues, when members of the RNZA Locating Troop were flown over to participate. As we have come to expect over the years, the Kiwis displayed a high degree of professionalism and competence. Many friendships were made and valuable contacts were established. We are looking forward to further involvement with these interesting and worthwhile exercises.
3. The second Bty exercise, Exercise GUIDING LIGHT, incorporated the Divisional, Artillery Shoot on Exercise LONG GUNS as the final phase of the exercise. It was during this phase that the two Regimental Survey sections, and the Divisional Surveyors had a rare opportunity to work together in their doctrinal role. The experience gained was considered invaluable by all those who participated.
4. The Tp exercises have seen close involvement, by all the Tps, with other units. These have included mortar platoons from both 6 RAR and 8/9 RAR, and all the Gun Regt.

5. The continuing refinement of the drills and capabilities of the Weapon Locating Troops, this year, has exposed further the real vulnerability of the guns to modern locating. It is therefore worth re-iterating the deployment practices which will assist the guns in minimising their chances of detection:

- deploy between the enemy and a large feature, using the feature as a backdrop;
- shoot close to crests;
- shoot along valleys;
- select the highest charge possible, to reduce the maximum ordinates of the round;
- utilise the pistol gun as much as possible and failing all of the above;
- don't shoot.

6. The Bty took delivery of two new pieces of equipment this year: a new medium range electronic distance measuring equipment and the new AN/TNS-10 sound ranging set. These acquisitions, together with the weapon locating radar and the introduction next year of the new Marwin Portable Met System will even further enhance our ability to provide locating support to the Division.

P8GJ02.LP

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On the sports field the Bty continued to be a dominant force. In conjunction with 1Fd Regt, the Enoggera Gunners made the semi-final in the Rugby; the grand final in Soccer; and are premiers in both Australian Rules and Hockey. The Bty Touch Football team are again premiers.

New year the Div Loc Bty is looking forward to exercise KANGAROO 89. The opportunity to trial the now Navstar Global Positioning System is also eagerly anticipated.

Now isn't that interesting – I'm hoping we get some responses from blokes who were around with the Battery in 1988-89.

. VALIDATION RESPONSE FOR HONOUR ROLL...

The following is a follow up from last month's *Eyes & Ears* where we were seeking help in updating/validating information recorded on the Association's Honour Roll.

Thanks, in the main to **Kevin Browning** for his great endeavours, then **Stuart Sporn** and **Wayne Whitehead** for their additional comments (see the following emails).



131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA Honour Roll

Name	Rank	Regt No	Section	SVN	DoB	DoD
Addison, George William	W02	2410040	Survey/Sound Ranging	1969-70	16.04.30	27.12.12
Arch, Maurice Leonard	Bdr	43350		1967	17.09.37	26.08.17
Armshaw, Christopher	Gnr	2781291	Survey	1966-67	09.02.45	10.02.70
Atkinson, Neville Ross	Gnr	1733449	Arty Tac	1968-69	12.07.47	14.12.96
Aurisch, Raymond Arthur	T/Bdr	2212243		1969-70	26.03.44	25.03.70
Bates, Leslie John	Gnr	218053		1969-70	20.11.50	07.0803
Bensley, Allan Bruce	Sgt	243104	RAEME	67-68/70-71	19.12.42	20.12.11
Black, Brian Francis	Gnr	2786469	Driver/LP	1967-68	16.09.46	18.01.11
Black, Lindsay Colin	W01	213794		1970-71	07.02.40	02.06.08
Bohl, Michael Owen	Gnr	1411182	LP	1968	28.10.48	15.06.93
Bonser, Barry Douglas	Bdr	37661	T/Port	1967	10.10.41	03.09.98
Broadbent, William "Billy"			Sound Ranging	N/a	1957	03.12.08
Buckley, Mills Robin	L/bdr	16950	LP/Radar	1966-67	03.09.37	02.04.07
Buss (Rafferty), Paul	Gnr	2781443	Radar	1966-67	14.06.45	28.09.11
Campbell, Allan James	Maj	18257	Radar	1966-68	13.03.46	19.06.09
Campbell, Lewis Michael	Gnr	6708462	LP	1967	13.11.46	20.03.1988
Carsburg, Russell John 'Rusty'			Met	N/a		07.07.09
Checkley, Thomas William	Gnr	311534	LP	1966	18.12.38	05.08.66-KBA
Connell, Leslie Phillip	Gnr	6709098	Radar	1969-70	15.05.48	04.04.11
Coutts, Anthony Patrick	Gnr	1733291	Alpha Radar	1968-69	22.08.46	31.08.88
Crowther, William David	Bdr	215416	Bravo Radar	1966	26.04.46	14.01.20
Dart, Mervyn Frances	Bdr	37821	LP	1967-68	14.09.42	06.03.01
Davidson, Derek	Gnr			N/a		00.01.72
Davies, John William	Sgt	29351		1966-67	26.09.37	25.04.04
Deacon, Alan	Bdr			N/a		00.08.07
Delaney, Michael Joseph	Gnr	2789205	Survey	1969	25.10.47	17.02.13
Doehrmann, Karl Heinz	Maj	38119	Survey	'66-'67/70	15.06.33	10.08.09
Douglas, Alan				N/a		00.00.2009
Doust, Edmond George	Sgt	53111	Radar	1967-68	14.07.39	26.12.14
Doyle, William Francis	Gnr	4719912		1969	25.07.47	05.09.78
Erica (form Earwicker), Bernard George	Gnr	3787334	Survey	1966-67	29.04.45	23.11.16
Evans, Jeffrey Bruce	Maj	3789164	Survey	1971	11.10.45	23.12.11

Fahey, Frederick	W01			N/a		02.06.14
Farr, Lawrence Joseph	Gnr	1734257		1969-70	27.08.47	00.00.2009
Fawcett-Smith, Neil	Sgt	17732	RAEME	67-68/70-71	29.06.42	Unknown
Field, Edwin Alfred	T/Sgt	242577	W/Shop-RAEME	1966	08.06.34	20.07.96
Foley, Charles Anthony	W02		Survey	N/a	00.00.1939	31.01.18
Frost, Leslie David	RSM	215230	Radar	1966-67	25.08.45	26.03.14
Gault, Peter "Pappy" Scott	Gnr	2783644	LP's	1967	19.12.45	24.05.14
Gordon, Colin Barry 'Bones'	Bdr	16975	Radar	1968-69	31.01.45	28.03.10
Goss, Pierre Ramon	BQMS	213990	Det HQ	1969-70	17.08.36	06.08.11
Greenland, Grahame Warren	Gnr	2792441		1970	03.08.48	17.11.14
Griffith, Derek "Dirk" Williams	Gnr		Transport	N/a		02.04.05
Gunn, Gordon "Jock" Campbell	WO2	16915	1FdRegt/Svy/SRG	66-67/69-70	14.09.44	23.09.13
Hamilton, Warwick Ronald "Blue Leader"	Lt Col	235190	Det OC	1967-68	17.11.39	26.08.19
Hayes, Terence "Lofty" James	Bdr	214973	Alpha Radar	66/67-68/69	17.11.39	14.12.11
Hemming, Leigh Graham	Gnr	1732039	LP's	1967	04.10.45	02.03.18
Holmes, William John	SSGT	61040	RAEME	1969	09.02.37	Unknown
Jeffery, Wayne	LBdr	2794772	Radar	1970-71	01.11.46	26.10.17
Jones, Paul William	Gnr	216324	Radar	1966-67	11.10.46	09.09.68
Keech, David Derek	Bdr	311588		1970	13.05.47	08.12.99
Kryntjes, Martin	Gnr	5715291		1968-69	23.03.47	27.12.17
Lempa, Helmut	L/Bdr	38120	Radar	1966-67	18.10.46	Unknown
Lennon, Frederick Norman	Sgt	29712	Radar	1966	29.12.27	25.07.13
Leplaw, Garry James	L/Bdr	217182	Arty Tac/LP	1968-69	21.09.48	06.12.83
Leslie, Graeme Benjamin John	Capt	18614	RAEME	69-70	11.01.42	30.07.15
Lewis, Edwin Leslie	S/Sgt	53909		1970-71	08.08.35	26.08.92
Little, Harold Philip	T/Bdr	2789038		1969	04.11.45	02.04.18
Lock, Geoffrey William	Gnr	2782439	Survey	1966-67	17.03.45	09.09.10
Lockhart, James Douglas	Bdr	6709144	Survey	1969-70	05.06.47	12.04.14
Long, Roger Crelin	Gnr	3788775	Radar	1967	30.05.45	22.05.90
Luxford, Arthur Gordon	Sgt	212803		1969-70	08.08.39	01.01.08
Macaulay, Geoffrey John	WO2	35753		1969-70	28.12.36	27.04.13
McManus, Norman Ronald Keith	WO2	26202	HQ	1970-71	15.08.24	05.10.16
McNaughton, Quentin				N/a		09.07.07
McPherson, Maxwell Duncan	Gnr	3795560	Radar	1969-70	19.05.47	19.05.16
Menz, James Leslie	L/Bdr	38838	Survey	1967-68	01.02.46	18.02.68-KIA
Miller, Robert Urquhart	Staff Sgt	36499	Radar - RAEME	69 & 70	25.02.39	29.12.17
Minns, Raymond Arthur	L/Bdr	4410744	Arty Tac	1966-67	03.12.41	24.05.97
Mitchell, Raymond John	Gnr	218731		1970	26.05.51	24.09.11
Moreau, Victor Alan	Gnr	1200577	Radar	1966-67	18.03.39	09.02.19
O'Keefe, Michael Francis	Gnr	2787168		1968-69	26.11.46	1980
O'Mara, Anthony Joseph	Sgt	38334	Radar-RAEME	1968-69	07.12.40	01.01.85
Palmer, Stephen Edward	Cpl	18820	W/Shop-RAEME	1968-69	31.08.46	03.12.72
Pearce, Ralph William	Gnr	214806	Radar	1966-67	16.06.45	Unknown
Peisley, Kenneth John "Bluey"	L/Bdr	2787174		1967-68	17.08.46	31.08.16
Pepper, Francis Gordon	Bdr	216683	B Radar	1967-68	16.09.48	27.12.89
Perry, Frantz "Frank" John	WO2	36026	Radar	1966	19.11.32	17.10.16
Prenter, William Douglas	L/Col	64258	RAEME	1966-67	23.06.33	01.10.97
Roberts, John "Beau" Leslie	Gnr	3787005	Survey/LP/Radar	1966-67	08.05.45	20.11.18
Robinson, Edward "Ted"				N/a		Unknown
Royal, Ronald Vincent 'Chalky'	WOII	23552	Det HQ	1967-68	19.04.29	01.05.02
Sadler, Peter Scott	Maj	15138	Survey	1966-67	09.01.41	09.10.01
Sali, Peter	Gnr	1735560		1970-71	13.10.48	02.03.16
Self, Christopher	Gnr	66981		1969-70	14.12.49	Unknown
Simmons, Donald Victor	Sgt	212769	Radar	1966	24.11.37	25.05.15
Slape, William John	Bdr	44464	LPS/Sd Rg	1969-70	12.07.50	12.05.12
Smith, Garry Kenneth	Gnr	2792048		1970	21.03.47	19.01.12
Staziker, George Stuart RFD ED	Lt Col	2108436	133 Bty	1971	15.01.38	29.12.12
Szypulski, Mark	Gnr	313270		1970-71	22.04.51	00.00.2016
Thomas, Ean David			130 Gun Loc Bty	N/a		24.04.03
Thomson, Alan James "Big Al"	Bdr	42308	LP	1966-67	12.08.37	07.10.15
Townley, James Harold	Brig	17072	OC Det 1966	1966	02.03.39	20.10.19
Van Driel, Marinks Hendricks 'Marty'	Gnr	38954	Survey	1967-68	07.08.44	08.08.98
Walker, Leonard Alan	Gnr	3798942	Survey	1970-71	28.09.49	03.02.07
Webb, Ronald Adrian	Gnr	1411172	Survey	1967-68	30.05.43	29.03.77
Weber, Hans Reinhard	Gnr	3789591	Radar	1967-68	10.12.45	12.07.16
Wertheimer, Peter William OAM RFD	Capt	355747	132 Div Loc Bty	N/a	06.11.41	23.11.19
White, Robert Barnett	Sgt	311537	Radar	1966-67	08.12.37	00.00.1992
Whittaker, Roger John	Bdr	2184592		1970-71	18.06.49	01.12.08
Wickenden, Richard Newell	Maj	19945	B Com	1969-70	06.09.40	06.04.10
Wood, Geoffrey Paul	Gnr	2783898	A Radar	1967-68	09.02.45	26.04.07
Yerbury, Ian Michael	Lt	43129	Survey	'67-'68/71	05.02.44	00.00.1989

Lest We Forget

At the going down of the sun, And in the morning, We will remember them

Information can be forwarded to me, Paul Dickson at - 131eyesandears@gmail.com

BOLD notes the updates above were supplied via the following emails providing more updated information –

Kevin Browning

"Hi Paul,

Thanks for another great edition of *Eyes and Ears*. I may be able to assist with some entries in the Honour Roll. As for the section in which people worked this is not always an easy question to answer. For the Det it is time and also the spread of people that makes it hard to know what they did, especially for radar and arty int (LPs). For those post-Vietnam, many were dual qualified and could have been in more than one role. Anyway, here goes>

Broadbent, William (Billy) DoB 1957 DoD 3.12.08 I think he worked in Sound Ranging

Carsburg, Russell John (Rusty) DoD 7.05.09. He was in Met

Connell, **Leslie** Phillip DoD 4.04.11

Davies, John William DoD 25.04.04

Foley, Charles Anthony DoB 1939(?) DoD 31.01.18

Griffith, Derek "Dirk" Williams was in transport

Gunn, Gordon "Jock" Campbell on his first tour was in an FO party. On his second tour he was the 1 Fd Regt Svy Sgt and so worked with us as a second svy sgt and also in the SRg CP. So maybe best to show section as 1 Fd Regt/ Svy/SRg

Leslie, Graeme Benjamin John DoD 30.07.15

McNaughton, Quentin found a chap by this name died 9.07.07 in Hobart age 80

Thomas, Ean his section should be 130 Gun **Loc** Bty I found a Thomas, Ean David DoD 24.04.03 age 57 not sure if same person.

Hope this helps, Regards, **Kevin**"

Wayne Whitehead - Paul Borig is my brother in law, Jeffrey Potter was one of my groomsmen and John Collins was a school friend. Paul has not shown much interest in the organization but I thought maybe his name should be on the roll, **Jeffrey Potter passed away in 1973** from cancer and I haven't seen John for 20+ years. I just wanted to touch base with you and have their names recorded as being part of 131.DLB. Interesting my neighbour was the medic at 19 Composite Regt. when we were there in 68/69. Cheers mate.

Stuart Sporn - Hans Weber was in radar not survey

We're still a long way short of a satisfactory Memorial Honour Roll with numerous "Yellow" blanks listed. We owe it to these Members memories. If you can help, please contact me: **Paul Dickson at - 131eyesandears@gmail.com**

. Here's the next in the "Unknown" series...with a bit of a twist!

The photo below was dug out of the archives and I, of course, had to see something in the name of the establishment to raise a question –

"Orderly Room"

Was it really an orderly establishment and did it remain that way during time? Was it ever upgraded? What the hell went on in there?



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.



**NEW!!! We're hoping to make this a regular item to add to our communications with
20 Regiment RAA**



20 Regiment, RAA

**Update – February, 2020
Major Russel Hamsey**

Paul:

Good to hear from you.

The Regt has been busy with Det's of troops in Victoria and the ACT supporting bush fire ops. Our young people have been kicking goals. Basically, they have been flying our smaller drones in support of recovery efforts feeding information about roads and tracks, water supplies and the extent of fire damage. The great thing is it is all the young folks, the diggers.

The Regt has a new CO, LTCOL Wade Cooper. I took him to Iraq in 2005; he was a young LT at the time. I knew then he was pretty good. He has had a stellar career since then and has hit the ground running. The Regt is very busy with becoming more agile, more capable of rapidly deploying and stretching the Shadow drone capability even further. Next month, 132 Bty heads to Oakey where it will fly in military airspace but over civilian land. A big step for the unit.

I am heading a small team of reservists who are working on preparing the Regt for a \$400 M project to replace Shadow in a couple of years. We are already very good but this project could make us the best there is at this game.

Army wants to get back into the Weapon Locating Radar game as well and we are considered the likely unit to receive the new capability.

So, very busy times.

The LSTAA is working on ANZAC Day with the Regt as usual. Dawn service with the Regt and then the unit marches with association downtown. We finish with libations at the stock Exchange Hotel. Should be a good time to gather.

We are also working on a reunion for 16-18 Oct. Early days yet but hoping to have some info out soon.

Well, mate, that's it for me. Take care of yourself and talk to you again soon

Russ Hamsey

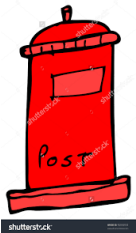


20 Regiment, RAA

Mail Call...

Bill Finlay – “Hi Paul, thanks for another gripping edition of eyes and ears. I notice I never got a mention in the roll. Have had a woeful Christmas and new year, stroke, perforated abscess in the colon and a dicky ticker, out of hospital and well on the way to a full recovery, dodged a bullet they told me, the staff at RNS hospital were magnificent, hope all is well with you, regards, Bill.”

Bob Billiards – “Not sure what part of the meeting (February’s Association meeting) that it came up, but maybe Gordon (Malcolm) mentioned the chalk badges in the Salisbury plains area. I managed to find some photos from August 2004 when we lived in the UK. We did a weekend trip to see the badges after seeing them mentioned in a TV program. They are outside the town of Fovant. Bob”



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...

Harry Lynas – “G'day Paul,

Bit busy just lately - have been called back into the fold at 20 Regt to help with the LSTAA 2020 Bi-Annual Reunion at Fort Lytton. I have been given the job of go between and working with Terry Erbs and RSM Reece Hay to ensure that the Reunion is a successful one. Have stood down from being Secretary of Fort Lytton Historical Assoc and now are just coasting along as the Assistant Secretary, manning the Museum when we are open and writing up our newsletter. Our dry spell seems to be over as so far, this month we have received over 300 mms of rain and everything around these parts are now looking nice and green. That's all for now. *Cheers, Harry Lynas*”

Allan Harrison – “Woke up this morning with 2 feet of water in my study. Too much work to do to chat.
Allan Harrison”

...Allan's follow up -

“Lost some (not all) computer gear so still on air in a way. Lost aircon and Hot water service both isolated by safety team earlier today. Ins co has offered emergency accomm which I'll take up if it all gets too much. Unfortunately, it continues to rain, so even tho the flood water has receded I can't get anything outside to dry. All low-level stuff in my study is rat-shit incl lots of paper files in a filing cabinet. Garden shed went under so lawn mower and golf clubs are a mess. All this after we were evacuated as a bushfire precaution just a few weeks ago. Dorothea Mackellar was right!”



Philip Mulgrew – “Hi Paul.

Firstly, my apologies for not replying back to your email last time as it's been a very busy time. My wife Helen and I put our house on the market in Leopold, Victoria in the middle of 2019 and sold it at the end of the year after the odd drama with the eventual purchasers, a story in its self. To me it seemed that they didn't have the full confidence of their bank going into the purchase, but it all worked out to every one's relief in the end. We have moved up to sunny Queensland once again, or I should say at this time, a very wet sunny Queensland, and have brought a house in Narangba in Brisbane's northern suburbs. Downsized from the last two double story houses we

have owned. Three sons needed a lot of space for their gear, not forgetting their cars and parts of cars which got embarrassing with the neighbours, before they met their wives with those poor girls taking them off my hands. Our move to Queensland was not without its dramas as on the way up at a Subway at Mittagong, we received word that Helen's mum passed away peacefully at the Omeo Hospital Aged Care facility. She was failing, but regrettably due to the fires in East Gippsland we couldn't travel to see her before we left for Queensland which caused us both great angst. My brother in law who works in Vietnam with an oil exploration outfit, home on compassionate leave, just got out of the fire zone before the Great Alpine Road was closed in both directions when he saw his mum for the last time a week previous and my sister in law who rang to inform us of Helens mum's passing, came back from Brisbane in early January and was unable to return to her property at Swifts Creek, south of Omeo for three weeks as roads leading there were closed or blocked off, especially the Great Alpine Way.

According to one of my nephews who was with a strike team of fire fighters from Melbourne in January, Omeo and the Swift Creek area on the Great Alpine Way was ringed by fires. Omeo Hospital staff told the fires that most age care patients could not be moved as some were so frail that moving them could cause their deaths. Apparently, the decision, if it came to it, was to defend specific buildings with all available resources after the mandatory evacuation of all those who could leave. Hair raising stuff. And those firemen are all volunteers. Amazing fellas.

We had a fairly uneventful trip by road to Queensland apart from a flooded highway at Grafton which most people negotiated with various degrees of ease or difficulty. NSW Roads and Maritime were in attendance at the scene and allowed most vehicles through the fast-flowing water over the road. No problem for us as the Land Cruiser is set up for shallow river crossings, I did learn something from my time in 132 Div Loc Bty (CMF) as Transport NCO cadre staff. But they closed the road shortly after due to the rising flood waters.

That's about it. Paul. Glad to hear you and Helen are both well and adios por ahora. Phil."

John "Kanga" McFadden – "Dicko,

Yes, our wide brown land weather has been ramping it up over the past years.

Things have been steadily getting grimmer. The firestorms weren't that surprising.

However, in a complete turnabout, a long-lost memory of February rains has appeared on our doorstep! A welcome respite!

Trust you are OK and you still retain the robust hilarity that charged our 131 ranks so long ago.

I commend your efforts with the many aspects of *Eyes & Ears*. Kanga"

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

ANZAC DAY Brisbane 2020



All Locators, families and friends are invited to 20th STA Regiment's traditional Dawn Service to be held at the Regiment's memorial wall in front of HQ building, Gallipoli Barracks at Enoggera. If the base security status remains unchanged, entry will be via the main gate from 3.30am.

The traditional Gunfire breakfast [biscuits, coffee & rum] commences at 4.30am in front of HQ building, followed by the Dawn Service at 5am in front the Regiment's memorial wall. After the service, breakfast will be served beside the Menz Club, in the Checkley Annex, from about 5.30am, for the cost of a gold coin per person.

There is the usual free travel on ANZAC Day for veterans on public transport, either via Gaythorne railway station or BCC council buses into the CBD. The LSTAA banner will be our rallying point from about 9am, located on the corner of George & Mary St. We are part of Group 4, Army Associations, at position 22, behind 108 Bty, and Group 4 form up at 10.15am in George St.

The march route is the same as last year - down George St, right into Adelaide St past the saluting dais at King George Square and ANZAC Square, right into Creek St and Queens St then fallout near the GPO [with a group photo opportunity on the GPO steps]



Afterwards, it's an easy short walk to the Stock Exchange Hotel, at the corner of Edward & Charlotte St, with early entry to Locator's & family using tickets issued by RSM Reece Hay - I'll have few spare tickets too! So, hope to see you all at the Stock Exchange Hotel, to catch up with mates, family and friends, have a few convivial drinks and maybe a meal.

Terry Erbs, VP LSTAA MOB 0403 500 642 terry.erbs@gmail.com

If anyone has or getting any events planned? Put a notice here if you want.

Please contact me: **Paul Dickson at - 131eyesandears@gmail.com**





Committee members:
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>

Presidential perambulations

It rained in Sydney recently. No, it pissed down. We had 400 mm in Lane Cove over 3 days. The first world problem we experienced was no power for 3 days, and in an all-electric house. Food had to be thrown out and bedtime was earlier than usual, about 8.30pm.

My office was the only point of flooding, but my experience was minor compared with that of Allan Harrison, as described above. However, the downpour sorted out the main water supply dam problem. From a capacity of 42% of total before the rain, we now have over 80% capacity.

It was interesting to see the reactions from the area involving the power outage. One neighbour had his car running to charge his daughter's phone. That's expensive charging with the price of fuel. I thought that I would go to the Lane Cove library, where I knew that the tables all had power points. Others had the same idea, so access for phone charging was restricted. Amazing how we are dependent upon our phones for communication, and in some cases, for access to anti-social media so some can groan and bellyache to anyone who might be interested in their personal views.

My office has now dried out. The only victims were some paperwork and my large file covering my ongoing battle with DVA. Our house is on the side of a sandstone hill, and once the sandstone was saturated the surface water ingressed without invitation. There is not much that can be done about that for future heavy rain events.

Cheers, Allen.



. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 10th March, 2020 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, 11th February, 2020 at 1105hrs...

Attendees were: Allen Morley, Bert Blink, Grahame Dignam, Ernest Newbold, Bob Billiards, Ian Amos, Gordon Malcolm, Nick Proskurin, and Ged Carroll.

Financial Membership is currently ...**121**, plus Associates **2**, Affiliates **11**. Total **132**.

Lapsed **37 (as at 01.02.20)** members

Presidents report.

Allen advised that -

. He had been advised Quentin Knight had passed following an illness we were not aware of. This is a good example of where we must do more of R U OK? and do it better.

. LSTAA has completed its migration to SE Qld with the new committee in place and the new AGM to be held in July 2020.

. An appeal will be made to the owners of the first Det 131 DLB website namely www.artillerysurveyors131.com.au to allow the interested public access to this historic resource.

. A grant is being crafted to assist complete the historical Photo Album of the involvement of Det 131 DLB during the SVN conflict.

. A gathering will occur on 27 March 2020 at the Royal Exchange hotel Elizabeth Street Sydney on the rare occasion ex Gnr P Dickson will be in the area/country.

Public Officer Report.

Gordon has delivered the finalised report for the recent AGM. He has been busy with his local RFS during the bushfire emergency. There are no changes or developments that will have any effect on our association in the near future.

Webmaster Update.

. Bob produced web stats prior to the meeting and advised that activity was very constant. He also supplied an invoice covering the past 7 months of ISP costs. The total of \$203.45 was presented to the meeting who passed the motion for reimbursement unanimously.

. Mention was made of our Face book page and discussions agreed that we need to promote our version as take up of the alternative was slow from our cohort. This ensures that members will maintain contact and will not deter crossover contact with pre-existing groups with similar connections and values.

Health.

As we age we are reminded that additional tests are needed to allow us to continue our accepted daily practices vis, additional eye tests to keep us driving on the road and to ensure the walking public is safe from us. Check the requirements in your state

Photo Album Project

The successful completion of this project which was modest in its conception has grown substantially due to its historic nature. Consequently, an application for a DVA Grant has been suggested and will be undertaken to allow us to produce a better than acceptable results.

General Business.

Discussions ensued on the following:

Bob Billiards advised the AWM Canberra will feature a tribute to those who lost their lives during the conflict at Fire Support Base Andersen 1968. It will take place at the Last Post ceremony on the forecourt of the AWM and feature. Details to view online from the AWM are contained in this link <https://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/last-post-ceremony/live-stream>

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...March –

Date	Name	Regt No	DOB	Svn In	Svn Out	Comments
1	EZIO LOMBARDO	216284	1946	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	
2	GEOFF HOLDEN	2785828	1945	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
2	JAMES TOWNLEY Brig.	17072	1939	14 06 1963	22 06 1963	103 Fd Bty FARELF
	" "			22 04 1966	19 08 1966	131
	" "			30 04 1970	28 05 1970	HQ AFV † 10.02.70
2	PETER BENNETT	3794060	1948	26 08 1969	04 06 1970	
3	RIC. MARQUES	3790008	1946	10 06 1967	21 05 1968	
3	RAY SMITH	3787666	1945	20 05 1966	02 05 1967	
3	GRAHAME LEE	2787457	1947	23 04 1968	23 04 1969	
3	ROGER STANLEY	2788155	1947	08 11 1968	27 08 1969	
3	RALPH MITCHELL	2788073	1947	08 11 1968	27 08 1969	
4	JOE CLENDINEN	17648	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
6	GARRY LUSCOMBE T/SGT	243144	1942	22.04.66	09.05.67	RAEME
7	RODOLFO MARSANI	3796861	1948	20 08 1970	20 08 1970	131
	" "			20 08 1970	05 05 1971	4 Fd Regt.
8	RUSSELL JACKSON	3793090	1945	24 02 1969	28 11 1969	
8	BARRY COOKE Sgt.	54886	1946	16 09 1968	24 09 1969	RAAOC
8	DES McGIUGGAN Sgt.	214722	1944	20 01 1970	21 01 1971	
11	BOB TANNER	6708362	1945	21 05 1966	28 04 1967	

11	PETER McKIE	2787728	1947	22 04 1968	23 04 1969	
12	JAMES FITZGERALD	2782044	1945	04 05 1966	29 04 1967	
12	GREGORY LUCAS	1735725	1949	20 08 1970	20 08 1970	131
	" "			20 08 1970	29 10 1970	4 Fd Regt.
13	JOHN (JACK) HEYES	3791085	1945	05 12 1967	03 12 1968	
13	ALLAN CAMPBELL Sgt.	18257	1946	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	† 19.06.2009
	" "			05 02 1968	31 03 1968	
14	NEVILLE WORTLEHOCK	54941	1947	29 04 1968	30 04 1969	
17	GEOFF LOCK	2782439	1945	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	† 09.09.10
18	VIC MOREAU	1200577	1939	22 04 1966	23 01 1967	† 09.02.19
18	ROY CLAUSCEN	214873	1941	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	
20	BRIAN CAMPBELL	2781310	1945	22 04 1966	30 04 1967	
20	BARRY FOLLINGTON	2783144	1945	12 12 1966	27 09 1967	
20	IAIN KENNEDY	3791023	1945	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
20	RONALD ROBARDS	216900	1948	21 02 1968	21 02 1969	
21	GARRY SMITH	2792048	1947	15 04 1970	17 12 1970	† 19.01.12
21	MICK KING	216504	1948	04 05 1967	02 04 1968	
21	WARREN JAENKE	1735584	1946	20 02 1970	11 02 1971	
22	GREGORY PECK	2790401	1948	04 11 1969	04 06 1970	
23	DEREK HINDE	2787403	1947	01 07 1968	14 05 1969	
23	MARTIN KRYNTJES	5715291	1947	26 08 1968	04 06 1969	† 27.12.17
25	GARTH NICHOLS	216381	1948	{05 02 1968	11 02 1969	
	" "			{05 11 1969	28 11 1969	1 Fd REGT
25	ROBERT HARGREAVES	2790343	1948	04 11 1969	04 06 1970	
26	GEORGE LANE	2781630	1945	04 05 1966	11 12 1966	
	RAY AURISCH	2212243	1944	1969	1970	† 25.03.70
27	ERIC WINN	219656	1951	30 05 1970	07 08 1970	131
	" "			07 08 1970	05 05 1971	4 Fd Regt.
29	JEFF REID	3790495	1946	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	† UNKNOWN
30	FRANK HALLIDAY Sgt.	215105	1937	02 01 1967	13 12 1967	RAEME
30	EDWARD CHASE	2782043	1945	04 05 1966	11 12 1966	
31	LESLIE CAHILL	2412281	1947	20 05 1966	30 04 1967	
31	GRAHAM HISLOP Sgt.	15290	1935	22 04 1966	03 03 1967	
31	PHILIP SHEEDY	4719418	1947	29 01 1968	21 01 1969	

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

Ed – 14 blokes not highlighted is horrendous and not acceptable! Ok, let's get into it and actively get out there locating a few more!

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received 160 and we've sent out 160. Ed –

. **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 In	Svn Out	DOB	DOD
Szypulski, Mark	Gnr	313270	18.08.70	29.07.71	22.04.51	2016
			4 th / 12 th Fd Regt & 131 DLB			

Crowther, William David	Bdr	215416	1966 – Bravo Radar	26.04.46	14.01.20
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Dave Crowther's Locator profile with additional correspondence...

Locator Profile

Surname: Crowther **Given Name:** William David **Nickname:** Dave **DoB:** 26.04.46 **State of Origin:** NSW
What did you do before the army: ACCOUNTANCY! Left school at 14 and started work as Trainee Internal Auditor the day after the Intermediate Examination. I started work with Clyde Industries at Edgecliffe, NSW a company with 54 subsidiary companies in the group. I studied Accountancy at Granville Tech at night and by September 1963 I had three

years under my belt and was Assistant Accountant in the Finance Division. I was on about 22 pounds a week but working till midnight at month ends to consolidate national returns/account from Telexed state returns. I was catching the last train from Sydney to near Blacktown and up again at 0430 hrs. I never wanted to be an accountant but pressured by my parents as my cousin topped the State in Accountancy. I was the second of five brothers and came from a poor family. My cousin was one of two children from an affluent family and was a boarder at Christian Brothers College Waverley, a well-regarded College. I wanted to be a builder but there was a credit squeeze on and apprenticeships hard to get. My elder brother joined the army in May and I was after a break. The recruiting office was at Rushcutters Bay, a mile from work. I ducked down and did the tests and enlisted. Problem, I needed my parents signature as I was under 18. My parents refused until I told them I would be 18 in 6 mths. Reluctantly they signed. I started at the princely sum of 11 pounds, two and sixpence. Yes, I was insane (sic).

Army service dates from: 9/9/1963 to 9/9/1969 **Regt No:** 215416 (ARA)

If served in SVN, then dates: from 22.04.66 **to** 31.10.66

Battery/s Activity/s (Bty/s served in, Sections of Bty/s worked in, locations, dates etc): I was in Radar troop at the School with Warwick Hamilton and was well grounded in 4 mk 6, 3 mk 7 (both anti air and mortar locating) and the recently arrived ANKPQ 1. I got my first stripe from Warwick. Also, intricate knowledge of the valves and basic electronics. I was seconded to Marrickville as mess Bdr for the First Intake and the "Save our Sons" warriors. I joined the Bty 15/2/1965 as L/Bdr Sig/Radar op in Bravo Radar. "Clacker" Alan Cleesby was Sgt. and was promoted to full Bdr. 2/11/65 after Mal Musgrave moved to Qld. My recruit training (Kapooka) was in the same era as Lofty Hayes, Keith Dean, Les Frost, Karl Doehrmann and Carl Lempa.

Who were you in the service with: All the originals including "the swamp fox", Bruno, Bill Finlay, Graham O'Toole, Hugh Hoddy, Fred Lennon, Don Simmons and many, many others - too numerous to list. Fred Lennon was transferred from Tpt to Bravo radar as replacement for Alan Cleesby and I had the pleasure of being his Bdr. until just prior to SVN. I was transferred to Alpha Radar as Bdr to Don Simmons.

Vietnam "what happens on the field stays on the field", however during the resupply of 103 Bty during Long Tan we were tasked with moving ammo to the guns. I was asked to help un-box the rounds and during the melee I had both eardrums burst (no protection) and did not pursue. I kept a supply of codeine tablets and self medicated as I did not want to be repatriated before the job was done. In mid-October, I was about to take out the clearing patrol when I went arse-up with no balance and blood coming from my ears. I was evacuated to Vung Tau Field Ambulance. And medivac'ed back to Australia 31/10/66 arriving 3 days later after an arduous 3-day flight in a Hercules.

Last Rank: Bdr

What did you do after the army: I started work with a Finance Company whilst on 2 months' pre-discharge leave and was quickly promoted to branch manager due to my finance experience prior to my enlistment. Within 3 yrs I was an Assistant Divisional Mgr in their State Office but my advice to some senior managers was taken the wrong way and I was appointed Manager at Gosford on the Central Coast of NSW. God's country. After 3 years, they tried to move me but I had built a new house which we owned outright, a house-full of new furniture and a new car. Add \$20,000 in the bank and I was going nowhere.

I started work for a friend in a caravan outlet washing vans. I quickly learnt the trade and opened a yard with a partner in Wyong and was very successful. The partnership did not work out and I continued on my own. A market came up for transportable homes and I was quickly into it using steel frames which I initially purchased from a kit home manufacturer, but when I found the manufacturer of his steel I cut him out and started a light engineering company to manufacture the steel frames and trusses.

Due to the Building Code, the homes required a licensed builder to locate on private blocks. They charged an arm and a leg and were quickly replaced by a new building company, mine. The building company, as well as employing all required trades, had its own prime mover and specially designed trailers built to Australian standards, designed by me. At last I was doing what I wanted as a kid. In my first year, I took out the Housing Industry of Australia Award for the best Transportable Home.

I employed 49 staff and was very successful until Keating's "recession we had to have". Interest rate rises from 11% to 22% and fire sales saw us lose everything. We were left with the clothes on our backs but not bankrupt. Run-ins with the BLF were not uncommon but I had friends in the wrong places and slowly drifted into old friends who were the "Mr Bigs" and they sorted out any stand-overs.

I had attended night school and got my building qualifications as well as working two full time jobs and cutting grass on weekends.

Anything else of interest: I could not continue in the building game due to a raft of Auto Immune diseases from Agent Orange. A claim was lodged by my old mate from home Tim Mc Combe OAM, RIP. It was taken up by Peter McCulloch ex Chair of Immunology at The John Curtin Institute and with another digger from SA was fought as a test case. It took 3 years of fighting, lost records, blatant lies by DVA and two appeals. After the second appeal the review board wanted to send back to DVA to approve or reject on a bullshit excuse. I had already been "sentenced to 6 weeks" at ST John of God Richmond for anger management and when I gave them 5 days for an approval or else. Guess what? Within 5 days I had an approval. I had been told by a Review Board member to drop the Agent Orange Claim and reapply for PTSD which would be approved. I told him to stick his idea up his arse.

In Jan 2006, I was given months to live with advanced Mantle Cell Lymphoma of the bone marrow, misdiagnosis on two "benign" tumours by surgeon. I got into remission and in preparation for bone marrow transplant my white cells would not come back. After three weeks with no white cells, double pneumonia and mucositis from mouth to arse I got the death rattles. After a near death spiritual experience my white cells started to come back. March 2007, I had the transplant and all was successful. In Nov 2011 I had a stroke, after 12 months' partial paralysis I was back on my feet.

My wife was put on oxygen 24 hrs for a lifelong lung disease and after a battle for 12 months passed away March 2013. Without going into the next novel, we lost a son in 1969 and another at 34 in a car accident 2001.

What city / town do you live in now: Erina, Central Coast, NSW

A Post Script - I had trouble getting photos onto profile but I give you permission to use any photos you have and the info I gave you about Bev and family. If you can get attached photos onto profile I would greatly appreciate. Also, just remembered, when I was at Proof and Experimental establishment in Port Wakefield, I was in charge of velocity comparisons for the E.V.A. trials prior to use by 131. Bill Finlay was down from 131 for the trials.

...then some added email communications Dave had with Paul Dickson...

"Hey Dicko, DC here. Thanks again for all the good work with E & E. Here are some photos of my late wife Bev and I. I first met Bev in kindergarten in 1951. School together for four years and took up with her again when she was 18 in 1964. We married in October 1965 and our first son was born 29/9/1966 whilst in SVN. We were inseparable and would have been together 51 years this year. God blessed me with an angel (and I needed one). Keep well, DC"

"Dicko, unfortunately I have a gran-daughter just admitted to hospital in crisis condition, at this stage I won't get to Enoggera. We had two other sons and twins (boy and a girl). the second son was killed in a car accident in Queensland in 2001, he played grade for St George. The twins were born 3 ½ months premature after the hospital in Adelaide screwed up. Our son lasted only an hour and my daughter fought for another 3 months with continual blood transfusions. (rhesus factor.) Also unfortunate was that her first transfusion was from my arm into her stomach. This was on 9/2/69. All the agent orange shit which struck me later was transfused into her causing a heap of auto immune problems. At least no physical deformities. If you send me the profile I will complete, the prospect of number 131 is convincing me. I have a grandson, among other grandchildren, who is a personal trainer and had his first m.m.a. fight at 18. He travels to Phuket each year to train with number 2 in the world Muay Thai. He had 6 fights in 5 weeks after Christmas, winning them all well. I have included a photo. Get a look at his 6 pack. I'm in reasonable shape but my 6 packs came in amber fluid. I was going to retire as a bio chemist, turning beer, wine and spirits into water but am a teetotaler after my son was killed. I will try to keep my profile short but it will be hard after my lives, yes plural.
kind regards, dc"

"Hey Dicko, thank you for your gracious comments. Anyone who met Bev knew that it was a pleasure. Without her I might not be here now. I have been looking forward to meeting you, but will have to wait a little longer. keep well, dc"



**Crowther,
McDonnell, Tanner
Hayes, Cornell,
Worrall celebrating
birth of my son
Glenn
30/9/1966 (at right)**



Don Simmons, Bob Tanner, me and Bob Ness



A couple of Andrew Opie's Photos to add to the collection

Self and Kev Thornton Anzac Day, 2014



...additional correspondence from Dave over time just to get to know a bit more about him...

January 2018 - Dave Crowther - Hi Paul, good to hear from you. I visited my oncologist Monday, I had to consult with her locum as Marianne off sick since July last year, due back in June (I suspect cancer). The locum had a heap of blood tests done the results of which I will find out on the 5th February. I went for p.e.t. scan yesterday, 55 minutes to infuse radio-active substance into me, then lay still with arms over my head for a 1hr scan. The scan will reveal any tumours from top of head to the soles of my feet and any other cancerous material. I also get the results on Feb. 5th. After my heart attack whilst awaiting quadruple heart bypass and mitral valve repair, we put the 6th cycle of chemo on the backburner as my heart would not be able to handle. If results come back ok I shouldn't need any more chemo. My body is not up to scratch but my mind is determiner. I have been through worse, but I had my darling wife, Beverley, of 48 years to back me up, it will be five years since her passing on March 3rd. With all the shit and near misses defying death, her loss affected me the most but she is in a better place. As always, I will continue to do my best. I had heart echo done early December and it came back as 50. That is a left ventricle ejection fraction which measure blood remaining in the valve after each Pump. 50 is the lower end of good (50 – 80). When I got out after my bypass I was on 30. In St Vincents after my massive heart attack I was down to 15, classified as walking dead. I suppose that is why I was in induced coma for 2 days. Haemoglobin down to 89 (s/b 160) and no white cells. Things can only get better and my head is in the right frame. Take care and keep up the good work.

Regards, Dave CF"

May, 2018 Dave Crowther – "Hi Dicko, sorry for delay in reply but I was waiting on result of P.E.T. scan which covers from top of head to bottom of feet. My drama continues as it shows fresh tumours. One on left elbow, one in neck and another in left armpit (close to where I had grade 3 highly aggressive tumours last year). It's a never-ending battle but I have never given up a fight. I have a beautiful 51-year-old lady friend who lost her husband 8 days after lost my wife. She helps keep me positive. I have appointment with my oncologist on Monday to discuss biopsies. I will request biopsies under ultrasound with the best radiologist on the coast. We are well acquainted with our paths crossing many times since January, 2006. My head is in the right place and doing my best to enjoy life. I also have an appt. with my cardiologist in June as a follow up to heart echo. Three of five of my heart valves to discuss with him. Keep up the good work. Kind regards D.C."

September, 2018 Dave Crowther – "Hi Dicko, apologies for delay in answering as I was awaiting some specialist reports following three weeks in hospital. Was admitted with pneumonia but then developed nodules on the lungs. Had them early last year but they bled when I started chemo. I currently have four tumours in my lymph system, my fourth relapse. The good news is it's not in my bone marrow. They are medium grade and as the chemo will do more harm than good, I am on a watch and wait for further 3 months. In hospital, I developed pain between kidney and spine. I have a huge stone in the neck of kidney, first sighted in 2006 but caused no pain. Now affecting kidney function. Urologist said too dangerous for keyhole surgery and was planning to blast. Surgery was set for last Wednesday but cancelled due to concern by cardiologist for effect of sepsis infection. As I am in no pain, we delayed surgery. I also have two discs permanently out of alignment and the pain could have been "referred pain". The nephrologist (kidney) has me on food restrictions i.e. no salt and max 70 grams' protein per day, glad I kept fit all these years. Not the most exciting prospects but I have seen much, much worse. Following a near death spiritual experience Christmas 2006, I appreciate every day, as I live on borrowed time. I am still the longest survivor from stage 4 mantle cell lymphoma of the bone marrow. I have a lovely family but miss my wife dearly. We would have been married 53 years and she kept my feet on the ground. Thank you for your email. Good to catch up. Keep up the good work. I enjoy *Eyes and Ears* very much although not too many regs from the old 131 left of the pioneers.

Keep well, DC"

September, 2019 Dave Crowther – "Hi Dicko, it is with sadness that I give my condolences to Warwick's partner and his ex- troops. I served with Warwick at the School of Arty, Radar Troop. He was Troop Commander and a great bloke. An officer I held great respect for. He had a full knowledge of the electronics trade and we had a 4mk6, 3mk7 anti-aircraft and a locating mode conversion. The late "**Bones**" **Gordon** was also in the troop and had a curiosity to look in Warwick's drawers. Warwick was an avid model plane builder and had them hanging from the class room roof. He realised someone was checking his drawers but "Bones" didn't own up. Warwick set up a small cap detonator, which

when it went off "Bones" turned whiter than white and went very pale. No more problems with the drawers. He had a full knowledge of the electronics trade and we had a 4mk6, 3mk7 anti-aircraft and a locating mode conversion. He had a very good sense of humour and was a great leader and also gave me my first promotion. Warwick R.I.P. Dave."

November, 2019 Dave Crowther – "Hi Dicko. Another great read. Of the two in the photo, the one on the left looks like **"JOCK" White**. He was a L/Bdr in Pioneers and joined from the British Army along with **Tom Checkley**. Jock was known to have a short fuse. He had a Listening post alongside the American "Long Toms". Take care, Dave Crowther"

Peter Suckling – "I was saddened to hear of Dave Crowther's passing.

We were at Port Wakefield together, he a Bdr me a Sgt, and he was a bit of a bugger. On one occasion, he was wanting to go somewhere with Larry (Algy) Algar also a Sgt, and fronted up to the Sgts mess and yelled out to the PMC, WO1 Harry Hopper, "can Algy come out to play". I think this earned him an extra piquet on the switchboard. There were other occasions that come to mind occasionally and I have a little chuckle. Regards Peter."

Gordon Malcolm – "In July/August 1967 I did a radar course at North Head, it was run by an obviously older and experienced Vietnam veteran, Dave Crowther, I left the course earlier and went to Canungra thence Vietnam. 40 years later I did a Heart Start program at Mingara Gym at Tuggerah, NSW Central Coast, one of the other participants was Dave, actually about a year older than me.

A group of 6 or so kept going and we still do the gym 3 times a week, Dave was part of the group until his illness prohibited his attendance some 6-7 years ago.

I've never seen a man so determined to keep going, always one for a chat, when met in the interim he would update on his progress, fight with DVA etc.

I honestly don't know how he was able to stay with us, such was his battle with the numerous cancers.

Rest in peace. Gordon Malcolm."



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... The site is NO LONGER active.



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



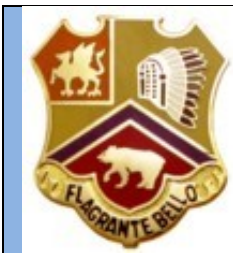
Website link - <http://www.vvaa.org.au/>

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>



The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association

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

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