

THE EYES and EARS

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

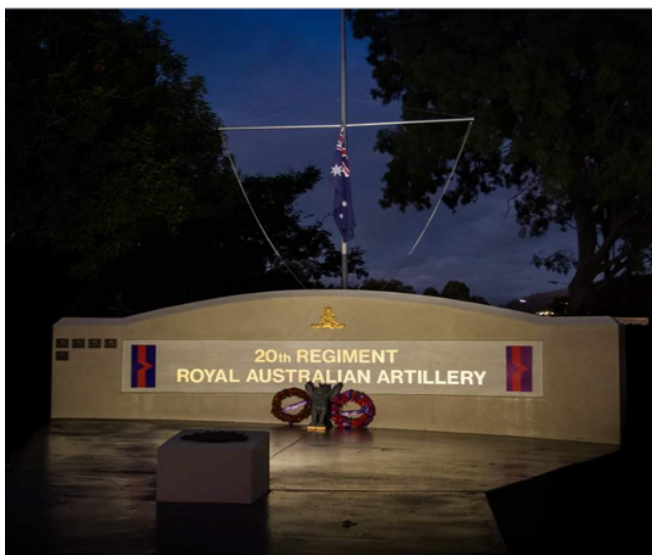
Editor: Paul 'Dicko' Dickson email: 131eyesandears@gmail.com Vol 13 No 04 April 2020 No 141
Official newsletter of the 131 Locators Association Inc ABN 92 663 816 973
web site: <http://www.131locators.org.au> Supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs



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



*...and in the morning,
we will remember them...*



**20th Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery
Gallipoli Barracks**

ANZAC Day, 2020 – Lest we forget – we never will.

Bert Blink 0550 hrs- “Hi all.

Thought of you all as I got up approx 05:55. Looked out the window to see if any of my neighbours were out doing the 05:55 thing. If any were I was planning to put on a dressing gown & slippers & join them but no one out. Caroline's boss was not keen to do the 05:55 thing so when Caroline told her we were planning on doing our Anzac commemoration at 11:00 she jumped on the bandwagon. Thinking of you all.

Lest we forget.

Bert”

Steve Boutlis – “Hi, Paul.

My wife Fran and I commemorated the day standing in our driveway alongside lit candles in two litre half-milk-bottles decorated with the red poppy. The bottles were done by a ukulele club friend of Fran's. Fran played the last post on her mobile.

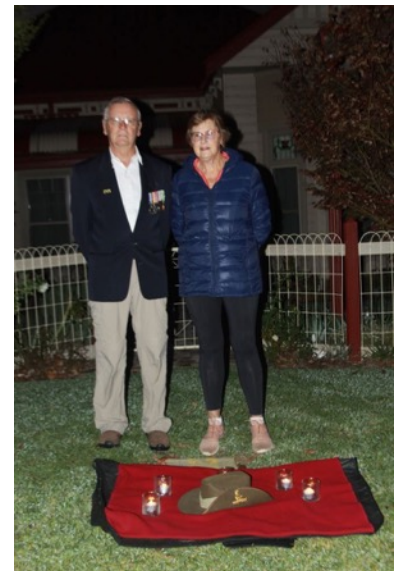
Alas, no footy today so the “Mighty Maggies” won't be shooting down the Bombers.

Cheers to all of the 131 mates.
Boots.”



Robert Billiards – “Morning all,

Over the past few days I letterboxed the street for the street service to start at 5:55 so we had most people in our street of 29 houses out at that time and a couple of people from the neighbouring street. Our street is short enough for us to be in earshot at that time of the morning. I had Gavin, currently in the Lancer Army band, from just down our street organised to plays the last post, etc. at 6 and at just before 6 I recited the ode in a loudish voice and then the last post. It was really great as when Gavin had finished, another bugler a couple of streets away was half way through his, so for the minute's silence we had another couple of renditions still going so we had 2 minutes' silence and during that time the Kookaburras started so very Australian. We all broke the rules and gathered together for a cuppa and ANZAC biscuits at our neighbour's driveway, then walked down the street to see a couple of displays from neighbours who had relatives in the Great War and the second. Hope you all have a great day. Stay safe and wash your hands regularly. Lest we forget, Bob”



Peter Pioro – “Paul, ANZAC DAY photo as requested. Peter.”



Ken Dwight – “Hello Paul.

Although I am a member of the Association as an ex Member of 131 Div Loc Bty I cannot normally get to Queensland to attend much of anything these days. I did attend the opening of the memorial at Enoggera a couple of years ago and met many of you.

As Senior Vice president of our local RSL Branch at Woods Point, a small mining town in the Great Dividing Range in Victoria I attend our Dawn Service every year. Normally in this town of 25 people in the mountains, we would attract around 60 people at our service. Today only myself and the President, John Ellis were able to attend to our service due to the virus. I have attached a picture of us at the Flag Ceremony.

Sadly, you may also be aware that as a member of the Victoria Police I am in mourning for the loss of 4 of my colleagues in Melbourne this week. A wreath for these members was laid at the small Memorial Tree and Flag Station at the Woods Point Police Station in memory of their passing.

Please feel free to use or publish any or all of these pictures and words as you see fit.

To all my brothers and sisters in service please stay safe and look after each other.

Ken - Kenneth James Dwight BM VA, Leading Senior Constable 26884, Station Commander Woods Point”



At left – Woods Point Police Station
At right – Woods Point RSL



John Delacca – “Hi Paul,
just a couple of photos from today's Anzac Day in isolation. Thinking of fellow Locators not being able to be together.

Regards
John D”



Mike Butler – “Hi Paul.

Did the driveway thing on ANZAC Day - no other people in the street unfortunately, but I see lots of other neighbourhoods got into the spirit.

Cheers,
Mike Butler.”



John Blake – “Giddy Dicky.”

Thanks for your regular needlings which needless to say I need.

I usually reply to the either or soooo late the editor would wonder what all this about. Well this time I may make the cut.

ANZAC Day started at 4:45as usual with an argument with Kirsty about what time it all started. Luckily, I got it right, but no one nearby did. I was at my daughter's place at 5:25p but she was not yet out of bed. She and hubby Luke, a twice over Timor medic vet. had partied the 24th and opted for a mid-term start. They wandered down at 5:45 but to their credit they were dressed as were the grandsons, one of whom did a full-dress rehearsal the day before. The grandies dressed up proudly with miniatures.

The photo (at right) shows son-in-law Luke and me in our judiciously modified Right Dress. Of course, it went down-hill from there. I discovered a Bundy Rum bottle missing 90% of the label but contents, 90% – probably 30 years old. It served me well as the base for several gunfire breakfasts.

We had chicken wings for lunch and I joined Luke in a Zoom meeting, largely good naturedly inappropriate, which these blokes do well. That went well into the evening.

I liked the Zoom experience as I could hear and see everything without being spoiled by blaring amplified music.

A memorable and enjoyable ANZAC day. Blakey.”



Allen Morley – at home.



Derek Hinde – “G'day Paul, 2 photos of my Dawn Service on the driveway and paying respects at War Memorial Parramatta Park.

I couldn't let Anzac Day go past living by myself, usually I go to Brisbane, Dawn Service at 20th Regt Enoggera. March in Bris...drink at Stock Exchange hotel till dark...then catch train back to Joes place at Kingston, Bris. This pic at Parramatta War memorial today...I'm holding the Anzac Day 2020 brochure and a photo of myself and my dad George Frederick Hinde. (RAAF 1945) putting the Slouch Hat on me, taken at the Army Training Depot, Addison Rd, Marrickville at 8.30am on 12th July 1967, my 1st day as a "Nasho" enlisted man. A very proud moment for Australia. Regards. Derek Hinde. L/Bdr SVN 1968-1969...#2787403”



Bruce Irvine – “G'day Paul,

Apols for not replying to you sooner. Bit cooler of a night but beautiful autumn weather here at the moment. Rain yes and OK here but still too dry , particularly further out west. I feel very sorry for those people out there still dealing with the drought plus the fires and now this corona virus. Thankfully, one would hope they are at least a bit better off in that regard than the cities but the impact would still affect them.

Attaching a photo of my ANZAC “service”. Probably too late for this month but anyway, use if you wish.

Very different this year of course. No service at Yetholme due to the restrictions on crowds but everybody seemed to respond to the general request to stand at the gate at dawn. I had the PA that I use at our service and the Last Post



was certainly heard along our road at 6:00am. Had a great online link up with a few mates later in the day and a thought for everybody as well. Hope this find you and Helen well Paul. All the best. Bruce”

Wally Franklin – “Hi Paul

Anzac Day in Tamworth very quiet. Good to hear from John Bristow and Doc Sheedy.

Kind Regards

Wally Franklin OAM. JP.”

p.s. - Anzac Day in Tamworth, good to hear from Doc Sheedy and John Bristow. Regards Wally.



Peter Larkin – “Hi Paul

A few photos from our driveway service on Anzac Day. Very different from meeting up with mates, but was still very enjoyable.

Regards, Peter Larkin”



Fiona Bruce – “G’day Paul,

I hope you are well?

ANZAC Day was fairly quiet over here for the Bty and Regt. Due to the RSL decision to hold one service per state, and ADF restrictions due to social distancing, the Bty commemorated the event privately at their place of residence. Most of the living in soldiers gathered on their balconies in the lines and streamed the ABC program of the national service from the AWM.

Most families also gathered in their driveways, or got up early with their families to watch the ABC coverage. I have asked for some photos, but I think given the circumstances, most people didn’t take any.

In the next few weeks I will send you through an update about how our soldiers are conducting training from home, given the COVID19 restrictions. They are tracking well and are adjusting to the new way of life and training with a sense of humour that only a Digger could have in times like this!

Take care,

Fiona

Fiona Bruce

Major, Battery Commander, 131 Bty, 20th Regiment, RAA”

Paul Dickson – 0652hrs Mex time (GMT + 5 hrs) – “With a 15-hour head-start, I was given plenty of time to reflect on what you blokes were up to. At 15c it was very pleasant standing out on the front patio and yes, I had a coffee! Great to be able to share this moment in time once again. Paul”



**Thanks to ALL of you who supplied photos and wrote
– it’s priceless.**

“42for42 – This Ode”



“Take the time to view this link and the relevant web site – Australian Afghanistan Fund. It’s based on Today’s Vets and a poem written in memory of a “son” lost. <https://youtu.be/V05e9S4oQAA>
Paul”

ANZAC Day, 2020 – some **prior reflections** from an email sent out and we take up what happened on this day this year -



Bill Taggart - 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery...

To all of our Aussie and Kiwi Mates, 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery who served in Vietnam from 1966-1971.

Well, this upcoming ANZAC Day is one that you will not forget. With all the restrictions in place, I know this will have a big impact on your normal ANZAC Day activities. Despite everything, commemorating this solemn occasion is something that I am sure the each of you will do in your own special and personal way. Be assured that, as always, the thoughts and prayers of your brothers in the 1/83rd will be with you. I will say a prayer for all the brave souls who sacrificed so much in all wars.

Lest We Forget!

Bill”

Ed – Bill, this is what mates are made of – you make us proud.

Chris Chapple - "I remember ANZAC day at the Dat in 1970. We sort of had the day off, a ceremony followed by a BBQ lunch then a game of football. The footy turned into a blood-bath with the hard surface of the oval not helping. By half time thereabouts most of both teams were in the RAP for repair and from memory footy was banned for us from there. Chris"

Stuart Sporn – "My maternal grandfather was in the light horse in Damascus and Beersheba in WW1 and saw Lawrence and his Arab army arrive in Damascus. He said the hardest thing was to shoot his horse when he left. He used to ride a horse around the Adelaide oval at the Anzac Day footy match in WW1 uniform. He ended up in a Veterans home in Adelaide. I visited him one time and all the inmates had pills every morning. He spat his out after the nurse had left. Why. What and end up like those blokes!!!!

He died about a month before his hundredth birthday.

He never got on with my mother and his son, but he and I were soul brothers

In WW2, he re-enlisted but was too old for overseas service and ended up as a WO2 in the armoured corps. Onya John Ross" Stuart"

David Dougherty – an amazing reflection to have from a family member and "a sole survivor" –

"Hi Paul, in response to your call out this may be a little early for Anzac Day but to me is a true reflection of the "Spirit" and foundation as we understand it.

The following are extracts from the diary of my wife's Great Uncle who was in the 1st Battalion WW1. He had two brothers who also served at Gallipoli and survived to see the end. All three being the 1st Brigade and he being in the 1st Bn amongst those first ashore.

I have included 4 extracts relating to different periods as follows: -

December 1914 - the "7 days" had no explanation as to the reason behind it but an interesting insight.

January 1915 - just to relate to the inherent boredom and repetition that was experienced in training.

April 1915 - 2nd January as it relates to that infamous incident in Cairo where they gained their reputation.

The last two 24, 25 & 26th April as they are the foundation of the ANZAC Legend and August 6th being the end of his war.

The entry on the 26th April is the one that I always remember and is that "poignant" moment for me. "I am only one left in the section others either killed or wounded."

DECEMBER 1914 Monday 7th December Before the Colonel sentenced to 7 days in cells.	Tuesday 8th December We are in cells to day. Having a good time.	Wednesday 9th December Major came at 3 am and pardoned us. Leave for Cairo to day arrive Cairo 3 pm.
JANUARY 1915 Monday 25th January Same old march on desert. Tuesday 26th January Marching out on desert again	Wednesday 27th January Our half-holiday to day. But no leave on account of a native festival in the city. Thursday 28th January Drilling same today.	Friday 29th January Nothing new. Saturday 30th January Same old drill.
APRIL 1915 Friday 2nd April Today we have a short service at church there is leave for rest of day. Tonight, the soldiers have taken charge of town. The red caps fired about 20 or 30 shots in the crowd 1 man shot dead 5 taken to hospital. A girl in a brothel stabbed a man and took his money. They burnt the place down and went mad. Saturday 24th April We leave port at 6 am steam round to the top of the Lemnos Isld. and anchor there. Expect to sail midnight and land at day break have been issued with 200 rounds ammunition rations etc.	Sunday 25th April We land under fire work our way in land 2 miles we go up into firing line. It is sheer murder, shells and cartridges falling like hail storm. Have had a couple of narrow escapes. Water bottle has been torn open with a bullet. We are lost from the remainder. I am writing this lying down. If I move I run a big risk. Don't know where other boys are.	Monday 26th April I am only one left in the section others either killed or wounded. Have had water bottle and rifle shot away. It is a living hell. Just lay down and they fire shrapnel at us. We cannot reply. Have a few hours spell and up into it again. The enemy is retreating we will have them beat in two days.

The last entry in the diary

August 6th everything in readiness for attack have been issued with extra ammunition and rum. The Turks a shelling like mad and have uprooted a cemetery near us. Blowing the dead bodies feet in the air. The boys are very calm. And the war boats are putting salvos over on to the Turks. About 5.20 pm the first line of bayonets charge and we follow. Had that old splinter in my arm broken again. Does not trouble me much. We hop in among Turks. Frank Vadin killed a Turk who had grabbed me by the throat. He put the bayonet in him. After clearing the first trenches up we went forward and had severe hand to hand fighting. About 4.30 am while on top of the trench firing I got my issue and trip to Blighty. I did not realise at the time I was so badly wounded being conscious all the time. Was taken to Alexandria for operation then on to England for 10 months in hospital.

The reference to his words "my issue" in this last entry being: -
"GSW Rt. Eye" resulting in loss of eye and part of face.

Regards, David Dougherty"

Ross Gunnell – "Photo 2018 is after the Dawn Service at Enoggera Qld for 131 Vietnam serving members.

Then the photo is at the end of the ANZAC Day march. I'm on the left and that's Vic Danko on the right."

Life didn't change much as I had a long stint of getting better and stronger after my op. Late December had a stint in I.C.U due to some infection to my immune system and had to have my bowel removed and part of my intestines. Lost 18 kilos in 5 days (80-62) and endured drug induced hallucination, which no one would ever like to go there. Anyway, I have managed to get to and stabilize 67 kilos. As rehab took a while I got used to the type of isolation and as I have a couple of small gardens, couple lawns, trees that shit leaves and a shed and incredible family and relies. The photo was taken at a pub on the top somewhere with this sergeant, Vic may remember his name, of the unit that was us but way higher tech and fully computerised and mobile. Leigh Hemming took us, Vic and me, around for 3 days in his wife's Merc. Was great to have been there as you know Leigh passed away later in the year. By the way it was Anzac that we marched and were honoured at the Memorial Ceremony. We were treated as good as any Veteran from any Conflict of War. Dignam and Victor ring me every 6 or so weeks and Mary Blink talks to Kate monthly, so Bert and I are discussed at length. Your magazine is THE GREATEST and look forward to every issue. Have a great day and as always, I WILL REMEMBER EVERYONE on Anzac Day.
31 Alpha, Ross."



Terry Erbs - Brisbane ANZAC Day 2020.

"Hi Paul,

Normally I'd be sending you the report with photos of Brisbane ANZAC Day 2020 for "Eyes & Ears" next edition. But, these are unprecedented times so instead here are a series of photos from previous ANZAC Days, from the Dawn Service to post march drinks.

Importantly, my neighbour, a DVA psychiatrist, is very concerned about veteran's welfare over ANZAC Day. To quote Russ Hamsey "On ANZAC Day, reach out to someone you served with and thank them for their mateship. As you all know, few of us would have served as well as we did without our mates. It was our mates that we celebrated with in the good times and helped us get through the bad times. It is even more important to keep in touch and help our mates through these trying times". "Lest we forget"



Joe Losiak, Terry Erbs, Ian Board, Derek Hinde & Stan Briggs - Dawn Service Regiment's memorial wall Brisbane 2019

Gunfire breakfast in the Checkley annex Brisbane 2016





"form up"- Ron Boaler, Pete Ravelje, David Dodds, John Bristow, & Phil Sheedy Brisbane 2011



The two banners on parade Brisbane 2016



Impressive group of Locators marching past ANZAC Square Brisbane 2019



"The team" having drinks at the Stock Exchange Hotel Brisbane 2016

On a personal note: -

An update of the "trials" of "social isolation" in SE Qld - and I suspect that there'll be further challenges before "*Eyes & Ears*" is even published.

Overall, it's been a "little chaotic" as each state government interpret isolation rules differently – you can play golf in one state but not in another. Some State schools have commenced term 2, others organized home schooling and some allow parents to decide. A week ago, a Brisbane tip trip was deemed "non-essential travel", incurring a \$1300 fine but the next day it was okay!

Like all of our age, we're in social isolation and only seeing the grandchildren via Facetime, Messenger or Zoom. It's not the same as having them running around our house, swimming in the pool or walking home from school, hearing of their latest adventures and "exciting" news.

We are coping with the "new norm", which may last until late May, who knows? Probably drinking more than usual, certainly missing eating out, having a drink at the club and going to the footy - I'm now a Platinum Lions Club member but that still doesn't get me a discount beer at the Gabba - \$7.40 for a plastic cup of mid strength beer last year!

Our married three grownup "children" are all adjusting to working from home, thanks to the NBN and laptops. Son and daughter in-law arrived back safe & healthy from O/S posting and now remotely fulfil O/S work contracts – it's a new world! I did wonder if Lesley, a retired nurse, would be recalled by Qld. Health but her registration had lapsed and more importantly now over 70 and part of our "at risk generation". Like for many of you, the "new norm" has brought us some sadness - so far, we've missed attending 3 funerals and my brother's 50th wedding anniversary. On the happy side, we were planning an overseas trip but luckily hadn't booked!

To you & your family, stay safe and well, hoping for better times ahead,

Regards Terry Erbs."

Barry Guzder – “G'day to my best army mates.
Hope you all have a good and reflective day.
I know that the next time we will remember them in the
accustomed style! When too much is NOT enough.
Barry. 5714500”



Keith Ayliffe – “G'day and greetings.
For the ANZAC day that isn't.
I have attached a power point show that like the
day will work for some and not others.
Anyhow!!! Have a good day and remember.
Regards all, Keith Ayliffe”



Bob Billiards – “We have just been looking to see what we will do tomorrow at 5:45 when we set up for the dawn service.

Looking forward to when we can all meet again. Miss u's all, Bob”

...an appropriate response from Grahame Dignam- “Nice tribute to absent friends!
Would it help if we each cracked a bottle of red at 7.30PM eastern and propose a individually collective toast?
Just like old times!!!!!! gd.”

...Geoff Blackwell responds –

“Settle boys, And tomorrow we will be together...as always.

It's like trying to connect up 31A with Charlie, Delta...oh that rum bunch at 31D....

And then trying to get those fucking radars on line...working...no wonder I'm old before my time.

We have a march here tomorrow, 0930 hr.....down the drive from the replicated 31A. Interesting.

Geoff.”

**Again, thanks to ALL of you who supplied photos and wrote
– it's a great memory to keep.**

A memorable April in 1965...

Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War began with a small commitment of 30 military advisors in 1962, and increased over the following decade to a peak of 7,672 Australian personnel following the Menzies Government's April 1965 decision to upgrade its military commitment to South Vietnam's security. By the time the last Australian personnel were withdrawn in 1972, the Vietnam War had become Australia's longest war, and was only recently surpassed by Australia's long term commitment of combat forces to the War in Afghanistan. It remains Australia's largest force contribution to a foreign conflict since the Second World War and was also the most controversial in Australian society since the conscription controversy during the First World War. Although initially enjoying broad support due to concerns about the spread of communism in Southeast Asia, a vocal anti-war movement developed in response to Australia's programme of conscription.

The withdrawal of Australia's forces from South Vietnam began in November 1970, under the Gorton Government, when 8 RAR completed its tour of duty and was not replaced. A phased withdrawal followed, and by 11 January 1973 Australian involvement in hostilities in Vietnam had ceased. Nevertheless, Australian troops from the Australian Embassy Platoon remained deployed in the country until 1 July 1973, and Australian forces were deployed briefly in

April 1975, during the Fall of Saigon, to evacuate personnel from the Australian embassy. Approximately 60,000 Australians served in the war; 521 were killed and more than 3,000 were wounded.

Note: The total of 500 deaths comprises 426 battle casualties and 74 non-battle casualties.

Battle casualties

	Australian Regular Army	National servicemen	Citizen's Military Forces	Total
Killed in action	172	143	1	316
Killed accidentally	15	10	0	25
Died of wounds	40	28	0	68
Died of injury/illness	0	3	0	3
Missing presumed dead	0	1	0	1
Drowned	1	0	0	1
Wounded in action	1,140	880	6	2,026
Wounded accidentally	92	87	1	180
Injured/ill in battle	79	63	0	142

Totals by category

414 killed in battle, 2,348 wounded in battle

. The “Lost Locator Project”



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

Get in touch via 131eyesandears@gmail.com

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



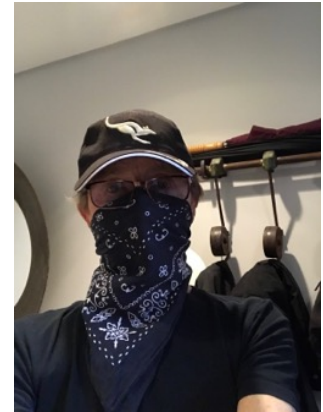
. Insights and Recollections...

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

. Another confusing “Coronavirus” Oddity – well, a current one...



No, I'm going shopping **NOT** to the bank!

. **An(other) Oddity** from last month **SOLVED** –

More digging around (I'm still at it!) I discovered this -A message from HRH – what the?

I've enlarged it to hopefully make it more readable, but what a classic!

Ok, who can shine some light on this missal?

Here's the answer...

Grahame Dignam sent me this email

I happened upon this to-nite CO-incidence????

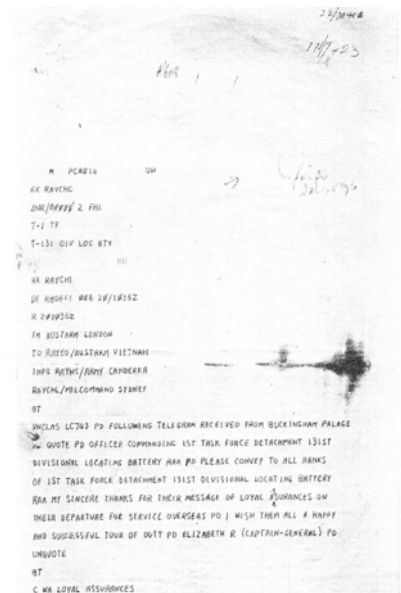
...then here's another email from me to **Bert Blink** -

“Bert, (Friday, 7th November 2014)!

If the quality is good enough is this worth sending to the VVM at Phillip Island?

It's certainly worth archiving - I've never seen it before. I can't read a date.

It came to me from Keith Ayliffe - God knows what else he has stowed away. Paul”



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.



20th Regiment, RAA

- . Regimental Headquarters
- . 131 Battery
- . 132 Battery
- . Combat Service Support Battery

UPDATE — April, 2020



Christopher K Moroney

Captain Adjutant | 20th Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery

"The ability to get back to basics in the jungle and work with coalition and other partner forces in South-East Asia will pay dividends for the Battery for years to come."

Lieutenant Stephen Cole, TP COMD RCB 127

**DRAGONS
RETURN TO
THE JUNGLE**

131 BTY





Author: CAPT Christopher Wishart, BK 131

The 6th Combat Support Brigade (6 Bde) mounted its first rotation of Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB 127), made up of six Units from within the brigade, one hundred and thirty one soldiers departed Australia on the 28th August 2019 to experience the 'J' we'd all heard so much about.

Rifle Company Butterworth is Australia's ongoing bilateral commitment to our Malaysian allies and takes the form of a Rifle Company permanently based out of Royal Malaysian Air Force Butterworth (RMAF-B), in Penang. The Company rotates on a three month basis, usually between Infantry and Field Artillery Companies, who spend their three months conducting Jungle training, live fire ranges, international engagement, bilateral training and as much sport as was humanly possible. Exciting stuff, but in all honesty our excitement was matched by a feeling of apprehension. The Company quickly came to terms with the fact that, not only would this be a completely different trip to almost anything any of us had had taken part in previously, not only did it require a set of skills that was rarely consistently practiced amongst the Brigades' soldiers and officers, but a vast amount of the soldiers deploying on RCB 127 were straight out of Initial Employment Training. All of which were challenges the Company would be forced to overcome in the three months we were deployed to Malaysia, and which I'm proud to say the team did superbly.

The Company mounted in early August and spent a month practicing and preparing for Infantry Minor Tactics and All Corps Soldier Skills in preparation for the increased exposure we were going to experience in Malaysia. The soldiers from different units were thrown together into three platoons all of which included soldiers from

every unit in the Brigade, this immediately reinforced the Team 6' mentality and forced them to build new networks and connections amongst their sister units from within the Brigade.

On the afternoon of the 28th of August a C17 laden with tired and hungry soldiers touched down on the tarmac in RMAF-B and was greeted by the previous rotation (RCB 126) who guided us through the rigmarole of locating bags and equipment, moving to rooms and then (most importantly) ferried the soldiers of our rotation across to the famous *Boaties* (the Soldiers' and Airmans' Club up the road from RMAF-B). By midday the next day RCB 126 was airborne on their way back to Australia and we enjoyed RSO&I and mandatory training as we waited for the Malaysia experience to truly begin.

Over the next month, our first in country, the company partook in specific Jungle TTP and SOP training with the Jungle Training Team flown in from Canungra specifically for RCB rotations, and then deployed to the infamous Malaysian jungle. The jungle was an incredibly different training environment from anything we as a company had experienced and for the first week, I watched as everyone from CHQ down battled with the frictions it raised, whether that was with communications, terrain, lack of light (at night the jungle canopy obstructed any ambient light leaving you in a state of complete blackness for almost seven hours) or on a more basic level being wet all the time.

Soldiers from all backgrounds and trades came together to achieve the mission and get the job done, and they did it well. They overcame all of the annoyances that the jungle could throw at them with the typical good humour and larrikinism of the

Australian Digger all while building their resilience and learning what life was like before the invent of



Computers, Battle Management Systems, the comforts of a Command Post or a Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Control Station. The company marched out of the Kulim Jungle a stronger more unified sub-unit with the benefits of shared positive and not-so positive (i.e. wet) experience.

The next month of the Companies Malaysian adventure was the conduct of exciting and novel Live Fire Ranges, which for a group of soldiers and officers whose experience was predominantly the AIRN LF2 (or LF6 if they were lucky) was a highlight of the trip. The team enjoyed a range of shoots organised by our gruff but much loved Senior Range Instructor W02 Ben Trewartha. These included 9mm, sneaker lanes, section attack ranges, and DFSW shoots inclusive of a healthy amount of demolitions charges, happily (joyfully) provided by our RAE OPSO CAPT Henry Mahood which all added to an experience none of the participants will forget and some fun realistic training.

Concurrently 2 Platoon, Commanded by LT Stephen Cole and SGT Stephen Hagan, represented the ARA and 6 Brigade as participants in Exercise Bersama Lima, the Five Power Defence Arrangement (FPDA) yearly exercise, led this year by our Malaysian friends. 2 Platoon detached from RCB 127 and attached to a composite FPDA company made up of British, Singaporean, Malaysian and New Zealand soldiers and practiced interoperability and amphibious operations over a two week period. 2

Platoon represented their country and the brigade to an excellent standard and forged multinational relationships with the soldiers from the other nations that still exist to this day.

The final month was saw the company branch out into international engagement where the 6 Brigade soldiers got to use their specialist skills to offer bi-lateral training to the

Malaysians while the Platoons' had the opportunity to move out into the community to play sport and offer assistance to local social services such as orphanages and schools.

This was by far the highlight of the trip. RAE soldiers rebuilt and fixed sports facilities for the kids, UAV operators and MPs offered training to their Malaysian counterparts while enjoying a lower tempo than had previously been experienced. This allowed the well deserving men and women of RCB 127 to experience the fantastic Malaysian culture that had been surrounding them for the previous two months.

On the 29th of November the Company sidled into another C17 and begun the flight home, Malaysia had shown us all a new operating environment, strengthened the ties between all the 6 Brigade units, and built resilience in a group of junior soldiers who will benefit from it for the rest of their careers. The Brigade and ARA as a whole should be proud of the performance of their soldiers and I wouldn't be surprised if Team 6' finds itself back in the jungle before too long.





5



6

(1) 131 Mbrs pose for a photo with the other partner nations during EX BERSAMA LIMA.

(2) RCB 127 posing with SAF after their urban training in Singapore.

(3) 2 PL during their lead up training for EX BERSAMA LIMA the FPDA international exercise.

(4) The multinational company from EX BERSAMA LIMA made up of soldiers from the armed forces of New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia and the UK.

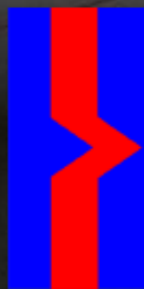
(5) 20 Regt members occupying a LUP in the jungle during EX BERSAMA LIMA

(6) PTE Shin Kim comparing herself to a Malaysian 50. Sniper Rifle during Ex BERSAMA LIMA.

20TH REGIMENT, ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY

2020 started in frenetic fashion with elements of the Regiment deployed during the Christmas / New Year break to support Operation Bushfire Assist. Due to some prudent planning late in 2019, the Regiment was able to deploy force elements quickly and easily in support of state emergency services and the respective state ADF Joint Task Forces during the National Bushfire Emergency. As the Regiment continues to develop its readiness capabilities in 2020, the ability for the Regiment to deploy the Shadow 200 Tactical Unmanned Aerial System and smaller platforms to support domestic tasks will be a focus point for heading into what already looks to be an interesting year. Additionally, the Regt has the task for leading the ISTAR Coordination Cell within HQ 1 Div/DJFHQ.

This year the Regiment welcomed a new CO (LTCOL Wade Cooper) and RSM (WO1 Reece Hay). MAJ Dan Molesworth was internally promoted to the Regt OPSO (BC Ops Spt Bty), and MAJ Fi Bruce (BC 131 Bty) and MAJ Dan Evangelisti (BC 132 Bty) returned to the Regt. WO2 Geoff Bruhn remains as BSM 132 Bty, with WO2 John Berger returning to the Regt as BSM 131 Bty, and WO2 Al Finnsson (RAINF) posting in as BSM CSS Bty. In addition to providing short notice ISTAR capability options for Army and Government, the Regt is busily preparing for the Shadow 200 replacement program (Land 129-3), integration into HQ 1 Div/DJFHQ, and significant number of regional enhancement activities (Mobile/Mentor Training Teams).





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

John Dellacca has quite a story to tell. A "Passion" that he lived and breathed and continues on this day... Well you asked for my "**Boys and their Toys**" and here they are:

No 1. My first car FX Holden Triple Carbie followed by an Anglia 105E fitted with Cortina Motor, this was the car I had while doing my training at Arty. Started my motor sport career in this car.



Then purchased a **1967 M.G.B.** far better for travelling from Sydney to Ballarat.



1st Racing Mini purchased on return from Vietnam was an Improved Production English Cooper S (Sold Anglia for funds). Raced it till 1974.

In **1971** added a second Cooper S Mk2 for Series Production Racing. Turned improved Tourer into full blown Sports Sedan Mini.

Replaced it with a Production Touring MK2 Cooper S for long distance racing (Bathurst 1000) etc. Then drove a Factory-backed Triumph Dolomite, retired from Serious Motor Racing in 1981.

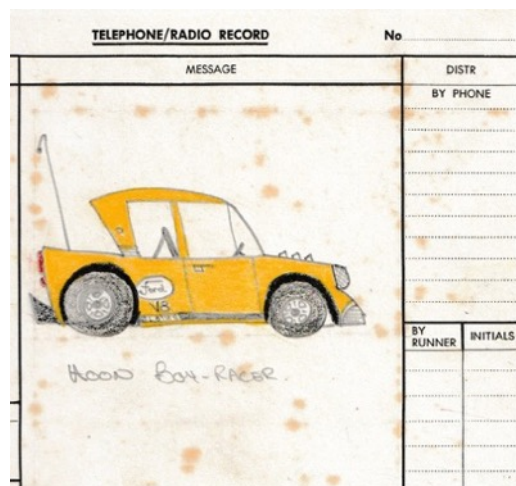
Built Cooper Racing Mini to get my Sons involved in the 90's which we still have. I string of family cars and a Ute for work. Plus, a string of family cars.



My collection today consists of, an original 1961 Morris 850, 1967 MK1 Cooper S, 1967 BMW 1600-2 and a 325i sport BMW E30, a 1979 Sandman Panel van as well as a 1978 LS 1275 Leyland Clubman, lastly a 1963 Mini Coper.

“Special Interest”

The Sketch of the Anglia was drawn by “Derek Hinde” at FSB Julia December 1968 a great memory of our time together in Vietnam.



...then there's the following...

The Courier

Ballarat October 2 2018

Ballarat's John Dellaca says a love of racing helped him cope in Viet Nam



A champion driver: John Dellaca holding one of his many trophies in the garage of his home. He raced many cars in his career, including Escorts and Triumph Dolomites, but retains a love for the Mini Minor. Picture: Luka Kauzlaric.

The first car Ballarat racing driver John Dellaca coveted was an FX Holden. It belonged to a neighbour who had died, and at 17 he told his mother it would be the car for him. His passion for early-model Holdens was short-lived, however.

“I lowered it and made triple carbies and all that, because I worked in the industry so I could do those things,” John Dellaca says.

The only experience I had, I was a hoon up and down Bridge Street... in the Holden in particular, and the Anglia with its big cam bobbing up and down, looking for anyone who wants to have a crack...

John Dellaca

“But I saw the future in smaller cars.”

Born in Ballarat, 73-year-old Dellaca says he's lived here all his life aside from two years seeing action in Viet Nam, serving with the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, 131 Divisional Locating Battery.

His career as a racing driver is synonymous with the famous, ubiquitous BMC Mini Minors, and spanned over a decade. There are two in the garage as we talk, and another in pieces undergoing restoration.

John Dellaca came second in his first race driving the tiny sedan, and won his second race on the same day at Winton, overtaking an Austin A30.

It was being driven by a young Peter Brock. He took him on a corner and they raced to a close finish.

Dellaca was a fast learner, overcoming the problems of understeer in Minis and setting up a career where he was finishing in the top end of competition continually.

His first 10 races delivered two wins, three seconds, two thirds, a sixth and two races where he didn't finish.

Dellaca says he became fixated on racing small cars after the British driver John Fitzpatrick won the English Saloon Car Championship in a Ford Anglia, beating the Mini Minors.

“I thought, ‘that’s for me’, and I could afford one. I couldn’t afford a Cortina, I wanted a Cortina GT, but they were out of my reach,” he says.

The Anglias were stylish little cars, in their later models bearing fins and using a number of other American design features such as a backward-sloping rear window. You can see one in the Harry Potter films.



"It was a little bit of an "oddbod" car, but it attracted me," Dellaca says. He bought one from race driver and car improver Brian Sampson and was about to launch his career.

"They had all the ingredients for being a good race car. The English Super Anglias had Cortina motors, and Brian Sampson said to me, 'Don't muck around, get yourself one of those.'"

John Dellaca was set to race in the Anglia when a more pressing fate intervened. Conscripted into national service, and required to train as an artillery rangefinder in Sydney, he had a car more suited to the racetrack than the intercapital commute. He bought an MGB thinking he'd race that instead, but his heart was still set on a Lotus Cortina. He read books and magazines and factory manuals about his dream vehicle while serving in Viet Nam.



"I sat in the dark, leaning on the machine gun, staring out into the dark night after night, working out in my head how many more pays I'd have and how much money I'd have, and I figured I could buy a Lotus Cortina which would be my road car and my race car. That is the worst combination you can have." He returned to Australia after seeing some of the heaviest action the Australian Army underwent in the war, and says the thought of a future racing career got him through

Range finding: John Dellaca in Viet Nam.
Picture: courtesy AWM.

Convinced by the very person he was going to buy the Cortina off – Alan Whitely – that he was making a bad choice, Dellaca was persuaded to purchase an Improved Production Mini Cooper S, a magnificent build by Ron Brownrigg.

"It was just beautiful. He had a fabulous engine in it, because he was working on the best Minis, Peter Manton's and Jim Smith's and Bob Brown's and he knew how to get the most out of them. "So, this car had done nothing. I was very fortunate that I had two great friends in Ballarat, Neville Purdue and Neville Dell. Neville Dell was a racing car nut and he knew everything about everything, he just studied it.

"He said, 'This car has hardly raced; it'd be a really good one to get.' I knew nothing about it! I'd been away for two years.

"Alan Whitely couldn't have been a better person to get involved with, because he said I'll help you with it but you got to do one thing: you listen to no one else you listen to me only, and you'll have great success with this car.



"So, I've never raced; didn't even have a racing licence. It happened that fast. I've suddenly got a racing car and no licence!"

So without ever having driven a Mini, John Dellaca started out on his career.

"So I've got this thing in the shed and I'm falling in love with it slowly, and it's small and compact; I'm trying to read up and learn about it! I'm a Lotus Cortina man. Didn't know a thing about a Mini. I knew they drove through the front wheels, nothing else. And now I'm a race driver.

"The only experience I had, I was a hoon up and down Bridge Street, one of the better men in the Holden in particular, and the Anglia with its big cam bobbing up and down, looking for anyone who wants to have a crack..."

We're going to continue John's "Passion" over the next couple of *Eyes and Ears* where we'll continue on with John's serious racing career – stay watching!

Mail Call...

Peter Dealy – “Thanks Paul

Hope you and yours are keeping well and avoiding this “virus”. All well here.

I have attached a letter that originated at VVA Vic, the guts of which was retained but then added to, by me. This was sent to all GVVVA known Vet contacts either by email or post and has been very well received. Members of the GVVVA were allocated a group of Vets to contact and the response has been great.

Amazing how a Ph call can get Vets and their partners talking. Good stuff.

All the best, Peter Dealy -

“Hello all Vietnam Veterans and families.

I hope you and yours are all keeping well.

Below is part of a message that has come from the President of the VVA Vic Bob Elsworthy to all Sub-branches re the current coronavirus situation.

Quote

“We have all been bombarded with advice from Governments and health authorities on how to protect ourselves from the virus. Frankly, if we haven’t got the message by now, we never will.

Most of us, if not all of us have had our day to day life disrupted in so many ways. **Make no mistake, Vietnam veterans are smack in the middle of one of the most vulnerable groups in society susceptible to the virus; our age, war service and our general health are major factors.** I hate to say it, but there is a real possibility that a Vietnam veteran or partner could die as a result of contracting the virus, particularly those of us who already have pre-existing conditions which make us even more susceptible to a life-threatening bout of the virus.

Many veterans are already self-isolating and have curtailed normal activities to protect themselves, but it is the very act of self-isolating that brings with it a raft of other issues that we all **MUST** be aware of and prepared to do something about collectively.

This email may seem a bit melodramatic. However, we sit in State Council meetings and Sub-Branch meetings and tell ourselves how we do welfare better than anyone else, well COVID-19 will test that, and will test whether we just pay lip service to our motto or whether we are prepared to live it for our members.

What I want to focus on is what we as a Branch and you as Sub- Branch committees can do to make the lot of our fellow Vietnam veterans and their families just that little bit better. This is not a time to be complacent, all our members need support **NOW** and for as long as it takes.” End of Quote

Bob has challenged every Sub-Branch to make every effort to contact **EVERY** member, **ON A REGULAR BASIS** to make sure that they are coping.

The GVVVA Committee has always tried to keep Vietnam Veterans informed but now we are going the “extra mile” in making contact with all Vietnam Veterans and families that we have details for, by email or post and phone, to start the process of “supporting” through this difficult period. You will be contacted shortly by phone by a GVVVA member. This will continue on a regular basis. Also, the next Uc Dai Loi Newsletter will be out in April as part of this process. As well as the Committee making contact, I urge you as Members to reach out also to other Vietnam Veterans that you know personally or have contact details for. Remember Ph contact is the best option given the “self-isolation” rule. It would be greatly appreciated if you could compile a list of the Vets you are in contact with and email back to me. Some of these Vets may not be members of the GVVVA, but at least we will know that they are being contacted and supported.

Finally, I would like your feedback. Let us know how you are coping, do you need assistance, do you have family support. All feedback replies will be treated as confidential and only seen by me and if necessary, our Secretary / Welfare Officer Jeff Stanyer.

Finally, as Bob says, we all know the rules re keeping safe. Please adhere to them and let us **ALL** come out the other side of this together.

Best wishes

Peter Dealy, President, GVVVA, On behalf of the Committee GVVVA

Peter –Ph 03 58623969

Jeff – Ph 0419 135 909 Address – Secretary, GVVVA, 139 Fuzzards Road, Numurkah 3636

Email – j.stanyer@bigpond.com

Veterans & Veteran Families Counselling Service: Phone: 1800 011 046

Website & newsletter - www.dva.gov.au/health/vvcs

G.V. Veterans Services Shepp Ph 03 58317220”

Graham Campbell – “Paul,

Thanks for the link. With regards to **Christopher Self**, I do remember him at Holsworthy with 8/12 Med Regt (74-75) but can’t recall him in the 8 Med/131 period in 73 – he may have been in HQ Bty. As Kevin (Browning) noted, he worked in the RP Sect in 8/12 under ‘Tom the Sheriff’ as a LBDR and was a very efficient dog handler. I’m sure

others will be able to confirm that. From my memory, he was very pleasant bloke and always willing to have a chat with me.

Ubique,
Graham "Wheels" Campbell

Then Graham gets back with more information...

"Paul,

One more. Reading the Honour Roll, the name **Quentin McNaughton** jogged my memory. If I have the correct bloke he was a Bty cook in the 75-82 period. He was from Tasmania and Lance Barnard (Minister for Defence in the Whitlam Govt) was his godfather. Another bloke with a great sense of humour and a good supplier of clover honey from Tasmania.

Ubique,
Graham "Wheels" Campbell"

Ernie Newbold – "Blue Leader – possible origin"

"G'day Guys,

A possible origin of the term "Blue Leader" (Det OC Warwick Hamilton – 67-68) may have been revealed.

Tonight Channel 9 were showing the film "633 squadron" and as Cliff Robertson was flying his damaged Mosquito back to his home airfield for a crash landing he radioed, "Blue Leader to Control, Blue Leader to Control, over".

The film was produced in 1964, not long before we were called up for National Service and Vietnam.

There has been some conjecture of the origin but if Pete Fletcher had seen the film prior to going to Vietnam, it could have been the origin of Warwick's nickname.

Regards, Ernie."



...Ed couldn't help himself (as usual) and replied including Pete Fletcher -

"Ernie,

I've added Pete Fletcher to this reply, so maybe he can add some authenticity to this query!

Fletch, hope this finds you well and not getting too bored indoors?

As you can see Ernie has come up with a "Blue Leader" possible origin theory and I thought maybe you can add or enlighten us to an answer.

Maybe there's a different take? Paul"

Peter Fletcher responded with -

"Hi Paul,

All good with me health wise, going along nicely though a bit stir crazy.

I don't recall seeing '633 Squadron' film at any time. It doesn't ring a bell with me.

I have a feeling that Barry Bonser tagged Warwick with the 'Blue Leader' nick name as he used the term quite often.

But having said that I recall you using the term more often than anyone else?

Cheers, Fletch.

...my response -

"Fletch,

No temptation to take the board out after dark?

Thanks for the response. Barry B - he could be the prime suspect, as my using the name that's a certainty - maybe not to his face back then - or did I over a beer or 3!

The movie doesn't come to mind with me either, though I have seen Cliff Robertson movies a long way back. He was in "Gidget" - what the!

Paul"

Not the definitive answer we were hoping for, but it was an appropriate name whatever the source was – thanks fellas – maybe we should have asked it 50+ years ago.

Ric Marques – "Thanks for the update we do a lot of navel examination at the moment keep safe. Ric."



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...

Ken Foster – “Apart from being restricted to home, self-isolation, not a medical restriction yet, I am finding time to do things I have put off for too long.

On the ex-service front, there are regular telephone conferences to keep everyone up to date and we are setting up video conferencing facilities using companies like Zoom and WebEx. Interesting how necessity becomes the mother of action.

A few difficulties in the advocacy front, particularly for some who cannot access their usual workplace, but again necessity become the mother of invention.

Plenty of toilet paper and supplies so generally we at home are good and the Vietnam veterans seem to be adjusting to change, there have been a couple of veteran's deaths mainly related to cruise ship activities but not excessive (except to those concerned) keeping an eye on the more vulnerable.

Look after yourself and keep in touch. Regards Ken.”

John Bayford – “Hi Paul

Happy to hear that you and your family are well. I was surprised to hear that you had travelled extensively without being quarantined at the borders. We have cancelled our trip in July to Puglia in Italy, where we were staying with nine other couples from Cape Schanck

We are in lock down at the moment. No golf, no visiting, no shopping at the supermarkets (we order on line), so we go for a ride around the estate for the exercise, at times stopping for a chat with the neighbours and keeping a safe distance. Perhaps we are overdoing the precautions but we feel that we are following the best advice.

The government of the Socialist State of Victoria has banned playing golf, visiting beaches, gatherings of more than two people and visiting someone that you do not live with ie. an anti-bonking law; later to be withdrawn. Strange times.

Nice to hear from you. Best regards, John”

Phil Connor – “Giddy Paul,

All good at the moment. We are complying with all the current requirements, particularly given the age factor. Bowls clubs closed, Golf club closed then opened, then closed, then opened, Surf clubs closed, pubs and the like closed. Churches closed. And no ANZAC DAY ceremonies. I did some good shopping a week ago that will tide us over with most of the necessary goods/food. So that is a plus. The only thing is some perishables and medication which I will do, when necessary. The sad part here is not seeing the Daughter, Son-I-L and the grandies and they are only half hour away.

Miriam, even though a retired RN, has received a request from the Government to return to work, she is thinking about it...hmmm.

Our Son and Daughter-I-L in Fort Wayne, INDIANA are on the ‘front line’ in their hospital, Lutheran Hospital. Matthew is a Nurse Practitioner and Julie is the Director of Intensive Care Nursing and they are at the ‘coal face’. So we are overly concerned for them and are in constant contact with them. They have ICU, Ventilated patients and deaths from Covid-19.

There have been bad things come out from some people here like the ones who are abusing healthcare workers in public because they are wearing their ‘scrubs’ and these idiots abuse them because they may be carrying the virus. I was going to invite these grubs over to my house to show them how to use a cricket bat, baseball bat and/or a hockey stick!!!!

Yes, a number of Pandemics in the last 100 yrs. It seems that as though Governments over the years tend to be ‘Reactive’ rather than ‘Proactive’ when it comes to these issues. I did note that apparently the 1917-1920 ‘Spanish’ flu did not ‘commence’ in Spain, but that it commenced in China. Also, read a report that the ‘Wet Market’ in Wuhan recently reopened...Hello!

Oh, I noticed a report that Corona has stopped production of the ale in your parts.

I hope Helen's Mum is safe and well. And both of you stay well and no arguing over who won the card game or the Monopoly game!!!

Cheers, Phil”

Peter Bruce – “Hello Paul

All safe and well here. Weather absolutely beautiful at the moment but more rain on the way over the next few days apparently. Our lake is full and another inch of rain will overflow it and cause Council to open the outlet to the sea. Everyone is pushing for it as the lake was nearly dry a month or so ago. Most fish have died as there is now too much fresh water. Once they open it, the estuary will stay open for a few months but Mother Nature will gradually close it over again. Life goes on.

You certainly were lucky to get back home when you did. One of our kid's mother in law from UK is stuck here and can't get home. She has a provisional flight leaving in May but certainly not guaranteed of getting home. At least the kids have a built-in baby sitter for a while. We still take the kids three days a week but that will stop soon when their dad comes home from working in Darwin – if he can get home. He will have to isolate for 14 days when he gets home so we won't see the kids then.

Wife Susie has me starting on a refurb for our BBQ area. It is actually an old bird cage but with some modifications and now she wants more. A good excuse for me to buy some new power tools! Our old BBQ is up for replacement as well. We are still using the one my kids gave me for my 50th – 20 years ago!

We have our Woolworths nearby and they have now instigated limiting numbers in store. Still no loo paper or paper towel and disinfectant wipes are hard to get. Restrictions still apply for most store items (except chocolate). One example is Almond milk in cartons. I normally buy six which would last us for a fortnight but now I can only buy two at a time. I did manage to get some hand sanitiser this morning and picked up a couple of face masks for future if needed.

I had our caravan scheduled for a service this morning – booked about six weeks ago. Not that we can go anywhere, but thought the mobile caravan service guy would appreciate the work, and he did. He was saying that on a normal Monday he would get 12 to 15 calls for bookings. This morning he only got 3 calls and no jobs. Things are tough. I have also heard this morning that “MyHouse”, a business dealing in bedding etc is struggling and our local store in Port has closed down. Next nearest to us is Forster but I am told they may have to close too.

Enough gloom and doom. Loved the Queens message today and worldwide, perhaps there has been a bit of a shift in the right direction. We hear about a lot of countries but had to research details about Mexico. (2000 cases and 94 deaths) Seems you are not doing too bad relative to the number of people there.

Sad news about Kevin Salter. I have sent Marjorie a card and hoping someone will write a suitable obituary for him. If I have to do it, I'm afraid it will have to wait in line behind a lot of others I am researching and posting. I do have some information from his time in 101 Bty in Malaya from David Troedel.

Well Paul, stay safe over there and hopefully we will all see the tail end of this sooner rather than later.

Best wishes, Peter”

Warwick Brooker – “Thanks for the update, Dicko.

I'm glad to hear that you and Helen are OK and not experiencing toilet paper and, less importantly, food shortages!

You are very fortunate to have completed a visit to Oz and returned home without any hassles, although it's a pity you had to cut your visit so short. I hope and pray that Helen's mum and your other folks stay out of harm's way.

It seems you have the Oz story already and I guess there's not much I can add. Like you and Helen, Nancy and I are pretty much confined to barracks except for essentials like grocery and bathroom items and medications. I've tidied my white hair a little with a razor comb, but I'm considering going shoulder length!

I hope you're able to play golf. I think Canberra courses are open, but I don't play. We have a nice pond and walking track nearby, but since it's well occupied by walkers, runners and dogs these days, we're mainly relying on our indoor exercise bike to keep the blood circulating.

Stay safe and well!!! Brookey.”

Peter Creedon – “Paul

Thank you for your perseverance, otherwise I am sure we would all lose touch.

Not a lot happening here, like everyone we sheltering at home with Netflix.

Due to the lock-down we have had to cancel our cruise around the Baltic states which we were taking in April. Also, we have cancelled our plans to go to Kurumba, which is in the Gulf of Carpentaria, for three months, so this will be the first winter spent at home for many a year (not happy). Regards Peter.’

David Auld – “G'day Paul, fortunately we moved into our house on the 7/3 so plenty to keep us occupied, started Reno's last Friday.”

Nick Armstrong – Nick actually titled his response as “Life under the current new world order” (classic)

“Hello Paul

Life under the new world order here in North Shields isn't too much different from the old. Robin and I were not particularly socially active, so adapting to social isolation has been easy. Our daughter and twin granddaughters, who live on a farm one hour north, are less frequent visitors. We had planned a trip to Tasmania, including visiting a son in Launceston, had to be cancelled. Tasmania pulled up the drawbridge!

We do have tentative plans for a trip to visit a son and grandchildren in Narrogin (WA) in July. That journey can be organized at short notice. If WA re-opens the SA/WA border, we just load the car and go!

Occasional bus driving related to visiting cruise ships ended when the Federal Government banned the ships from entering Australian ports.

I manage some social isolation by taking the boat out on Boston Bay. I usually launch at dawn, when the ramp is usually empty. Returning in the afternoon, the ramp is usually quiet. Port Lincoln district is well served with boat ramps. We don't have the traffic jams seen at metropolitan beaches.

Aircraft movements into Port Lincoln Airport have reduced significantly, and caravan traffic seems less. SA doesn't have quite the stringent movement restrictions as the east, but I expect the Grey Nomads are effectively stuck in whichever state they were caught.

All the movement restrictions probably won't stop the virus, so it feels rather like waiting for a tsunami. We know it is somewhere coming our way. We just don't know when, or how big! It is a little worrying being in the high-risk age group, but I just plan to not be in the fatal percentage!

Best wishes and stay safe, Nick.”

Kevin Browning – “Hi Paul,

Glad to hear all well at your end. Nice how you can slip in one under the belt with you comment on playing golf. Even that is banned here. I cannot complain haven't played for years.

Isolation is a wonderful thing. It allows you to do all those things around the house that you have avoided for years. It also allows others free time to think about things and ask questions on subjects that didn't need answering before. We have been trying to work out who slept where in the huts in Vietnam and Jeff Schafer took up the challenge and we think we have just about nailed it. Not an easy task as people moved in and out of the place on a regular basis and of course new arrivals and departures. The hut (two of) was divided into two rooms each sleeping four and central was a common table. At present, we have two sleeping on the table as we cannot positively place their bed space.

On the other side of things, I get more emails at present from people wanting to know artillery/military historical things. One chap, who is a very big collector of militaria asked me: was in shed and found this you may like to research it's a German four-wheel wagon of sorts ie field service, or gun carrier maybe see what you can find. This was most I could find of one being all that was left where it rotted on farm. Seem much less complete have both axles and assume draw bar pivot stuff.

He sent these photos -



What more does one need? He concluded have fun.

Think I found the answer, whilst I think this wagon would have been modified for several uses the drawing shows it configured as the Armourers wagon for the FK96 n.A (standard German field gun).

This keeps me 'sane' as I isolate with my wife, mother-in-law, one daughter and her three young children.

Day 7 of the quarantine
My wife took up gardening but won't
tell what she's going to plant



Take care, Kevin"

Keith Ayliffe – “G'day Paul,

What can I say it has been a worrying time alright, Fires, Virus and it won't be long before the floods are on us. My Family is well and staying safe in our isolation. Two locator deaths have upset me both from the Sunshine coast here, I served with both these men/ "Bluey" Foley and Kev Salter. I served with Blue in 1 Fd Regt back in 1960 we were in Survey together he was my Bdr then. I served with Kev at 131 and again at the School of Arty. Both were very helpful and informative when I was writing my locating book. Unfortunately, I was unable because of the Virus to attend the funerals, disappointing. Regards Keith.”

Keith and Diane Dean – “Quite boring during this Covid time. Time to get a few things done around the house.

Dianne and I are still doing our gym sessions via the app our Exercise Physiologist has set up for us.

We had our daughter and son in law from Sydney visit us for the week end just before self-isolation started which was good.

Hope everyone does the right thing so that we can get back to normal life soon.

Regards, Keith and Dianne Dean.”

Ron Evans – “Thanks for thinking if me Dicko. I am happy to tell you that this damned plague has had very little effect on me or anyone I know - so far. Social isolation is a fairly small annoyance really but closure of businesses will be a catastrophe for some. Lives will be ended and ruined by this thing.

All in all, we are the lucky generation. Hasta a vista Baby. Mook”

Steve Boutlis – “Hi, Dicko.

Thanks for the updates, mate. Glad that you and Helen made it back to your home without drama. Am sorry that your stay in Oz was shortened.

Supermarkets here are still running short of lots of product but are slowly restocking. I did not hoard but whenever (3 times) I saw loo paper in stock, I bought a pack, (in case any of the kids were running out). Other groceries we had in the cupboard (the kids refer to it as aisle 5) and I only go to the shops for bread and medications.

The self-isolation that we are encouraged to observe does not affect me adversely as my routine is always the same.

In front of the computer playing the free pokies, or holding a book. Unfortunately, our libraries are closed due to the virus and I've run out of paper books (yeah, the feel of paper and physically turning a page is great). I have started reading E-books online and the pleasure is not as great. Download this app, download that app.... pain in the butt.

My wife Fran is not enjoying the isolation at all as all of her ukulele groups aren't able to get together. Video conferencing for her is O.K. but she misses the socializing in person.

We were all ready to start painting outside walls this morning as the neighbouring duplex owners painted their half of the wall a different colour from our half so, of course, we had to match (didn't we!!??). Back to Bunnings who exchanged the four litres of the paint that I had bought two days prior. Surprise surprise! They had run out of the six and ten litre cans! Everyone in isolation is painting.

Himself upstairs looked after me, though. I had woken an hour earlier than my usual time and Fran said, “Go back to bed, it's raining”. YES!!

I hope all of our mates are coping well and not catching the virus.

My son Craig is an Infectious Diseases Physician at two of Canberra's hospitals. When I saw that there was one positive Covid patient there, I rang to check on him. He was O.K. and said that they were expecting at least another twenty by weeks' end. He was spot on!

What's the situation like where you live, Dicko?

Keep well and thanks for E&E. Cheers, Boots.”

Mike Butler – “Hi Paul

Thanks for the note.

Well, we are doing much the same as you (and millions of others!) Trying not to overbuy things and staying put in the house. Really miss the grandkids, especially our daughter's child who we look after one day a week - haven't seen her for 3 weeks!! Michelle and I had a family get together organised for late April in Warrnambool but that has been cancelled – luckily, we got our money back on the deposit. Getting stuck into jigsaws and making model planes to keep occupied!!

Have planted some winter veggies just for something to do and keep the brain exercised. Unfortunately, not a lot of other news.

Cheers, Mike Butler.”

John Delacca – “Hello Paul,

Great to hear from you, sorry your trip home had to be cut short but these are challenging times for us all. Glad, you got home safely and we do hope all is going well for you now. We like the rest of our family are doing the right thing by isolating at home too.

Sad all events have been cancelled especially Anzac Day. We were planning a trip to the UK in July to visit our Son living in the Lakes District, but was halted due to the current world circumstances, so maybe next year. I am entertaining myself by trying to reassemble one of my old Minis again which I started in 1990!! Spending a lot time

hunting for parts that I had put safely away somewhere in the sheds. Good to catch up.
Hope these attachments come through ok, will send separately - have attached 4 pages of my racing life.

(Ed – see “Passions” above!)

Regards, John D.”

John Chilton – “Hi Paul,

Pleased to hear that all is going OK with you and yours. You have been doing a bit of travelling by the sound of it. We have been doing the same.

Before old man time catches up with us. Toured the UK by car, then onto the Royal Princess touring around the UK. Back home, and then cruising part of USA and all of the French part of Canada. We were booked on the Diamond Princess to go around Japan on April the 2nd, thank goodness that didn't eventuate. After what is happening now, I think my days of cruising are over. Best part of the cruises was seeing Niagara Falls and the Tattoo in Scotland. Well mate, we are still in Lock down in Surfers as at the 21st of April. Doing a lot of DIY around the house. Thinking Of you all on the 25th April. Take care and keep safe. John Chilton.”

Peter Fletcher – “Hi Paul,

You were indeed very fortunate to return to Mexico just in time to beat the lockouts following this dreadful virus arrival. To be stranded away from your home under the current circumstances would be awful.

‘Well done that Man’ as they say.

I have just completed 6 months of Chemotherapy following surgery to remove a tumour from my colon which was a particular nasty one to say the least.

A recent CT Scan has indicated that there is no evidence of Metastatic Disease spread to any other part of my body which is a great relief to Veneice and I, let me tell you.

I am not required to undergo any further therapy at this stage. I will have regular blood tests and scans in the future just to keep an eye on things. My surgeon will conduct a colonoscopy in November this year which is a regular thing for me, every 2 years.

We are looking forward to returning our lives to some sort of normality after going through a tuff period.

I guess we won't be organising any overseas touring for a while because of the ways things are at present.

We are both looking forward to playing some golf together and are scheduled to have a game tomorrow. My first since being laid up.

That's all for now mate. Hope all is well with Helen and your good self.

Best wishes, Pete and Veneice.

PS. Very sad that Anzac Day will not be the same for any of us this year.”

Ian Campbell – “Hi Paul, got your email and thought a reply was warranted. Well, life in Aus is different, we went from an obscure virus in China, allegedly hushed-up, don't worry it won't affect us, to an almost total locked-down environment (well for old guys like me) which seems to be working. Australia's death toll is tiny compared to other places, France, Italy and, go figure, USA, and proves that while a few Aussies seem intent on disobeying the Victorian Labour and federal Liberal governments isolation orders, most seem to have got-on-board with great results. Did you see the crowds at Bondi in late March?

Most Locators who read this will fully understand where I am coming from and hopefully agree with the strategy.

You would probably be aware that public gatherings, Anzac Day for example, will not go ahead as we are used to seeing. Those with an interest in the Memorial Day are being encouraged to observe the day by standing-to at their front gate at the appointed hour, display a candle or light in their window and remember the fallen. I will be doing this. For us Victorians, there will be a Dawn Service at the Shrine, wreaths will be laid, the last post will be played, a minute of silence in memory of the fallen will be observed, but the service community and the public will be asked to stay at home.

Now, my main reason for replying to you was to get your experience living in exotic Mexico. What are you Amigo's doing to protect yourselves from Coronavirus? I don't recollect seeing any news on your new home.

Take care Paul, and a hearty Thanks to you for your work in keeping 131 connected.

Couple of pics I recently scanned from slides taken while over there are attached

Regards, **Ian Campbell, SVN 1971**”



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



**It's NOT coming it's -
HERE!**



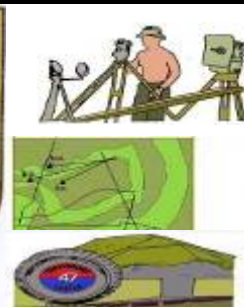
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/131divlocbtyraa>

First up cut and paste this link (above, have a look at what's going on, then,
bight the bullet and join up!

Hey, even I joined, and added a post or three!Ed

If you've got or getting any events planned? Put a notice here if you want.

Send the details to – Paul Dickson - 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 –

Covid-19 or Chinese Virus (CV) has changed the way we interact, eat, shop and adjust to significantly changed circumstances. And the messages from the State and Federal Governments don't seem to always correspond. For example, you can, provided you adhere to conditions of separation and numbers, play golf in New South Wales. You cannot in Victoria.

Experts seem to have appeared out of nowhere, and again the messages are mixed. We watch in awe at the changes in infections, survival and deaths. There is a sense within the media and some government departments that modelling provides the answers, even though we understand the fallibility of computers. The old law of 'garbage in, garbage out' often seems to have been forgotten. However, if Professor X or Doctor Y says something to the TV audience then we should take that as gospel, because they are 'expert'. But are they? The ABC's Norman Swan is a classic case, where the Corporation actually calls him the expert that he is not.

Is the Australia model to deal with CV the best one, or should we deliberately expose the community to the virus and let Darwinian principles take over? To lock up or let people loose, to let groups of more than two people mingle or generally demand that people keep their distance are the big questions. Is online education an alternative to face-to-face teaching or will the kids be safe in the classroom?

In New South Wales letting the passengers loose from the *Ruby Princess* was an extreme bureaucratic stuff up. And boy, didn't they all duck for cover after blaming another organisation. The single care workers who infected several aged care facilities clearly illustrates the voraciousness of CV. If the *Ruby Princess* is to sail during the northern summer, I'll bet that it will do so under another nom de plume.

Stay safe and alert.

Allen.



find us on
Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/131divlocbtyraa>

. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: **As continuing advice Association monthly meetings have been cancelled until further notice.**

Notifications of upcoming meetings will be advised in due course – watch this space – keep safe.



However, a meeting was arranged by Bert Blink via

zoom

. **Pertinent Points** – extracted from the “Spur of the moment” 131 Locators Association Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 14th April, 2020 at 1105hrs (well fairly close?)...

Attendees were: Allen Morley, Bert Blink, Grahame Dignam, Merv Nairn and Paul Dickson (all at the required Covid 19 separation requirements – one a little more than others!).

Financial Membership is currently **121**, plus Associates **11**, Affiliates **2**. Total **134**. Lapsed **35** members

Health report.

. From the “131 oldies” Facebook comes the following report re: one of our early members:

Ken Clements to 131 Div loc oldies Group April 1 at 6:38 PM ·

“Hi Gunners - **Kevin Maker** update

Kevin saw his Oncologist today and he starts Chemotherapy next Wednesday and has a session each 3rd Wednesday for the next 3 months.

At the conclusion of Chemotherapy he will have another PET scan to see if the tumours have reduced.

Haven't spoken to Kevin for a while but Gail informed me today that the Melanoma had “spread” everywhere.

UBIQUE

We wish Kevin all the best in the fight ahead and we have him in our thoughts.”

The “Detachment Album Project” – comments were made to the effect that the Project needs closure and more effort will be made to seek and add more photos, especially in the later part of the Detachments time in SVN.

Grahame Dignam also made a request for photos (head and shoulders) to populate the Members Profile page – it's missing many.



The meeting ended on a very good and happy note with the conclusion that this process will continue and Members are welcome to join in via ZOOM. C'mon get ZOOMING!

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

Paul Dickson – web Photos

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

. Birthdays in the Battery...May –

DAT E	NAME	REGT NO	YOB	SVN IN	SVN OUT	COMMENTS
1	DENNIS FORSTER	39992	1949	30 04 1969	16 04 1970	
2	NICK ARMSTRONG	43316	1944	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	
2	MICHAEL YOUNG	2786087	1946	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	
2	BRETT RAINSFORD	4719790	1946	18 12 1968	28 11 1969	
4	BRIAN KILLWORTH	2782129	1945	04 05 1966	02 03 1967	
4	PETER ROBERTSON	15543	1936	04 05 1966	29 04 1967	
5	DAVID CORNELL	5713808	1945	07 08 1966	30 04 1967	
8	JOHN ROBERTS	3787005	1945	04 05 1966	29 04 1967	† 20.11.18
8	GRAEME OWEN	39453	1948	08 11 1968	19 11 1969	
10	KEN WOODBINE	2786077	1946	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
10	MICHAEL QUINLAN	2788865	1946	08 11 1968	05 11 1969	
11	BOB KING	2785420	1946	10 06 1967	23 04 1968	
12	MERV NAIRN	2781450	1945	20 05 1966	01 05 1967	
12	GORDON WILLIAMS 2Lt	2783891	1945	13 05 1968	26 03 1969	
13	DAVID KEECH	311588	1947	04 06 1970	10 06 1970	131 † 1999
	" "			11 06 1970	26 05 1971	AATTV
15	LESLIE CONNELL	6709098	1948	23 09 1969	13 08 1970	† 2011
17	PAUL ANGELL	2790740	1948	23 09 1969	04 06 1970	
17	KENNETH SANDERSON	3794846	1948	23 09 1969	13 08 1970	
17	LAURENCE MION	3795762	1948	01 04 1970	03 12 1970	
18	PETER COLMAN	2791655	1948	22 12 1969	17 12 1970	
19	DENNIS DYE	2412366	1945	27 11 1967	26 11 1968	
19	TERRY WEEKES	3787197	1945	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	
19	JOHN TICKLE Sgt.	214000	1942	03 03 1971	13 08 1971	131
	" "			14 08 1971	09 09 1971	12 Fd Regt
20	NICK PROSKURIN	2785002	1946	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
21	PETER RAVELJE	3794461	1947	16 12 1969	04 06 1970	
21	STUART TELFORD	2791930	1948	20 01 1970	03 12 1970	† 18.02.90
21	SIMON WILLIS	3797687	1948	02 12 1970	29 07 1971	
22	BRIAN TURNER	2412230	1947	20 05 1966	02 05 1967	
22	ANDREW CSIVINCSIK	2790320	1947	02 12 1969	04 06 1970	
23	JIM SELLWOOD	1731045	1945	04 05 1966	30 04 1967	
24	JOHN BREWER (M.I.D.)	16220	1944	05 02 1968	07 02 1969	131
	" "			12 03 1970	25 02 1971	4 Fd Regt
26	KEN WHITTLE	2781996	1945	20 05 1966	27 03 1967	
26	BERT BLINK	3789692	1946	10 06 1967	21 05 1968	
26	RAYMOND MITCHELL	218731	1951	30 05 1970	10 12 1970	† 24.09.11 - 131
	" "			10 12 1970	11 03 1971	4 Fd Regt
28	SYTSE ELZINGA	3787318	1945	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	
28	FREDERICK MARWICK	45285	1948	10 03 1971	28 06 1971	131
	" "			28 06 1971	20 12 1971	12 Fd Regt
29	CHARLES O'NEILL	1735063	1946	15 04 1970	17 12 1970	
29	ROGER PRYKE	312827	1951	30 05 1970	26 05 1971	
30	ROGER LONG	3788775	1945	05 06 1967	12 12 1967	† 22.05.90
30	RON WEBB	1411172	1943	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	† 29.03.77
30	ANTHONY EATON Capt.	17090	1941	14 01 1969	30 07 1969	

30	WARWICK BROOKER	1732289	1946	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
31	STUART PHILIPSON	3799990	1950	27 04 1971	17 12 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 – 12 blokes not highlighted is still way too many, which is a shame. Let's keep the hunt for "Unlocateds" going.

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received 160 and we've sent out 160. Ed – can we try for 2 or 3 more this month?
It only takes 5 minutes at the most and what else are you doing while being confined!

. **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 –

The following list of Members has been extracted from The Ryerson Index and reproduced after doing a large amount due diligence which included checking the DVA Nominal Rolls for names and dates pertaining to the listed names.

The prompt for this came from the Lost Locators list that has been published in previous *Eyes and Ears*. At the moment there still remains 107 names on that list out of the 118 originally listed. Paul Dickson

NAME & RANK	Regt. No.	SVN In	SVN Out	COMMENTS	DOB	DOD
PAUL BRENDON TRAVERS Maj.	47027	09 09 1965	19 09 1965	VISIT	11.01.40	18.02.90
" " "		25 02 1967	04 04 1967	131 RAEME		
BRIAN JOHNSON Pvt	4720991	29 05 1970	05 05 1971	131 AACC	12.01.49	31.01.12
PETER SZABO L/Bdr	38752	26 03 1969	25 03 1970		18.01.47	07.12.07
BARRY COOKE Sgt	54886	16 09 1968	24 09 1969	131 RAAOC	08.03.46	13.03.99
LESLIE JAMES CAHILL Gnr	2412281	20 05 1966	30 04 1967		31.03.47	30.07.74
PETER ANDREW CLARKE Gnr	3792212	11 11 1968	27 08 1969		19.04.47	20.02.01
STUART JOHN TELFORD Gnr	2791930	20 01 1970	03 12 1970		21.05.48	28.03.72
PETER BARRY Gnr	2794949	17 03 1971	04 08 1971		25.07.49	03.10.02
" " "		04 08 1971	02 11 1971	12 Fd Regt		
LAWLER, JAMES FREDERICK Sgt	28523	18 12 1967	03 12 1968		18.09.36	20.01 71
BARRY JOHN WILLIAMS Gnr	3796729	16 12 1970	08 02 1971		17.11.47	11.12.08
MICHAEL WILLIAM FERRIS T/Cpl	1733794	23 12 1968	28 03 1969	1st Arm Reg.	19.12.45	21.09.05
" " "		30 03 1969	03 12 1969	131 RAEME		

May They Rest In Peace

I will continue on with this exercise and would appreciate any assistance that can be supplied to give an honourable closure to those Members who are and may not be with us. Paul.

...Life is added to a Vale –

"Dear Paul

My name is Keran Carsburg (ex-FSGT RAAF) and I came across the 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA Honour Roll and noted some missing information for my brother, WO2 Russell Carsburg. The date of death is also incorrect, it reads 07.07.09 and should be 07.05.09.

He was with 131 Divisional Locating Battery from 15 Sep 1980 until 12 Oct 1987.

Name	Rank	Regt No	Section	SVN	DoB	DoD
Carsburg, Russell John 'Rusty'	WO2	1205673	Met	N/A	2.11.1953	07.05.2009

I don't have any photographs of Russell (Rusty) in his Service uniform and was wondering if you could point me in the direction of where I might find some.

Yours sincerely, Keran Carsburg'

...my response –

"Dear Keran,

That you for contacting me or I should say contacting us. It's so heartening when we can complete details of our large family. I will make sure that our web site is updated.

As you will see I have cc'd **Kevin Browning** and **Peter Bruce** in this response who I think may be able to assist with your request. I will also put your email into the next edition of our newsletter, *Eyes & Ears*, to see it can be of help too.

Again, thank you for your email. Paul”

Ed – It'd be great if we could help Keran with her photo request of her brother “Rusty”. If you can help, please contact me – **Paul Dickson - 131eyesandears@gmail.com**

...a great response from Peter Bruce to Keran -

Hello Keran

My name is Peter Bruce and I served with Rusty at the School of Artillery many years ago. I think it was around 1982 or 83. He was on a different wing to me but the common denominator of course, was the Sergeants' Mess.

Keran, I do not have any photos or in fact any information on Rusty's service. You may like to have a look at our RAAHC Website www.artilleryhistory.org and on it we have an obituary section, of which I am the coordinator. With your permission, I would like to start a search for photos and information on Rusty and with your help, perhaps we could put together a suitable obituary for Rusty.

If you agree, do you have his Record of Service at all? You may also like to browse some of the other obituaries to get a feel for what we could write about Rusty.

Please let me know either way and I can be contacted via the website contact list or directly to this email or by phone if you would like to chat.

Best wishes, Peter

Peter Bruce, Obituary Resource Officer RAAHC, pjbruce8@bigpond.net.au

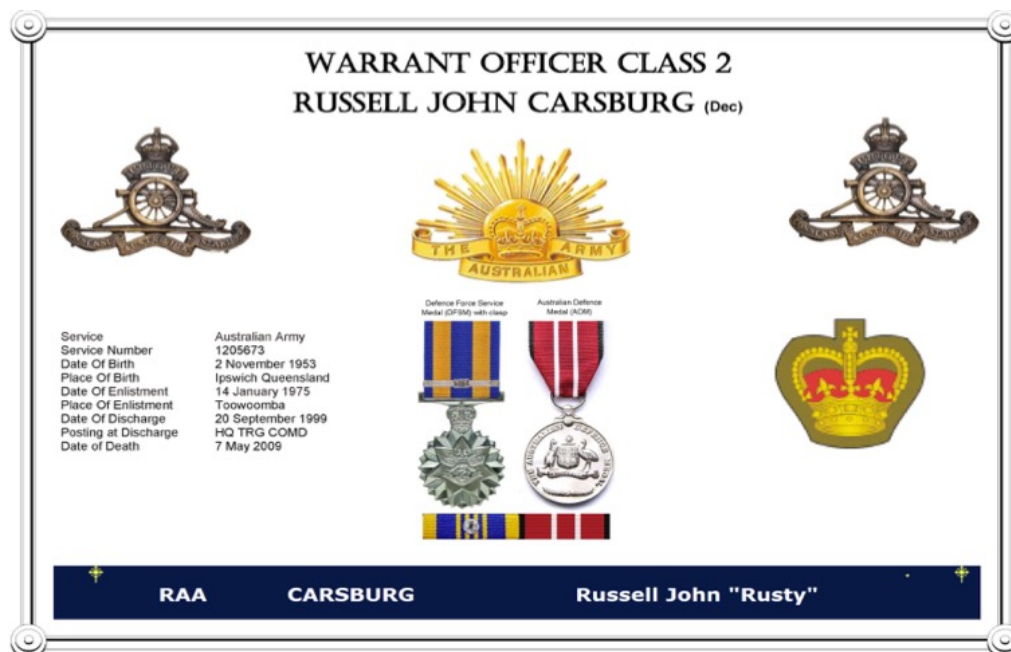
...Keran's response –

Hi Peter

Thank you for your response and your offer of assistance. Any further help would be appreciated.

The Service Records I have are the attached ADO Report and ROS Report. I have also sent in an application to Defence for any further records that may be available. Things like his attachment to BRIZE NORTON (UK) are unclear

He was working in the NSW Department of Health as Associate Director Facilities Management from June 2008 until his untimely death.



At left is a Service Tribute to Russell which I post each ANZAC Day.

I was a Flight Sergeant (FSGT) Firefighter in the RAAF from 1971 until 1992 and Russell used to take delight in dumping on me as a Blue Orchid at every chance. Of course, being a WO2 he thought that a FSGT should bow to him.

When Russell was discharged, he was extremely angry with the Army (I believe his discharge was related to his cancer) and at his funeral one of his ex-wives said he burnt everything associated with his time in the Army including his DFSM. Sad as he lived and breathed for the Green Machine.

Again, I look forward to anything you may find.

Sincere regards

Keran Carsburg”

...Peter Bruce is asking for help – this is for a great cause.

"Hey Paul.

I am putting together an **Obituary** for **Rusty Carsburg**.

. **Q** - Can you remember what ECN236 was? Would it be Met?

. Rusty qualified 236 in 1975 and also as Sound Ranging and Survey.

. He was at 131 from 1975 until the end of 1977 and then again from Sep 1980 until the end of 1988.

. **Q** - I wonder if you could ask your contacts for any memories of Rusty during that time
eg what job he was doing etc?

. In 1983, he went to Brize Norton (RAF) in the UK for ten days.

Q - Any ideas what that may have been for?

. He also went to NZ in 1984 for 28 days. Some sort of exercise perhaps – in fact I just had a brain snap. That was when I went over to NZ from Townsville. We did a big Divisional CP Ex at Waiouru in an area called "Paradise Valley". It was about minus 10 and snowed the whole time we were there. Small world, isn't it?

. He then went back to the School 1989 to 1991 and then on to Training Command.

Any help appreciated.

Cheers, Pete."

Information can be sent to Peter via this email address - Pjbruce8@bigpond.net.au



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

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

Hope we hear from you?

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

. Other related sites...

Artillery Surveyors 131 Div Loc Bty...



ARTILLERY SURVEYORS 131 DIV LOC BTY

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

. Locating, Surveillance & Target Acquisition Association...



LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION

The Eyes and Ears of The Battlefield



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



www.artilleryhistory.org



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

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

. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE

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

. 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery...



Dedicated to the men of the 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery who served in Vietnam from 1966-1971. We left Fort Sill in October 1966 for Vietnam. We originally were at Bear Cat, Nui Dat and Xuan Loc. We later were in many other locations in Vietnam. We also welcome our Australian and New Zealand Allies to whom we owe so much.

It is also dedicated to those members of the 1/83rd who did not return. We will never forget their sacrifice. Website: <http://www.1stbn83rdartyvietnam.com>



The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association

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

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

All material that is included in *Eyes and Ears*, official Newsletter of the 131 Locators Association Inc remains the property of 131 Locators Association for its sole use. Prior written authorisation for the use of any material whatsoever contained in the Newsletter must be sought from 131 Locators Association Inc. Any material approved for use by third parties must acknowledge 131 Locators Association Inc as the source. No responsibility is accepted for unsolicited manuscripts, illustrations or photographs, or for the accuracy of information contained in the text of Eyes and Ears.