

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 07 July 2020 No 144
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



THE EYES AND EARS.

South East
Asian Edition

Nui Dat's answer to Playboy.

Liberty is Freedom — we have the Liberty to print, you in turn have the Freedom to ignore. On this basis we offer to you, the reader, a picaresque view of the "Unsung Heroes" at work and play in the Task Force. We hope you bear with us and allow our communication with one another to prosper.

The Editors.

The first edition was typed and "roneod" on 22nd July, 1967 - 53 years ago in the Orderly Room in Nui Dat.
Thanks for your help then and keeping it alive now.

. The “Lost Locator Project”



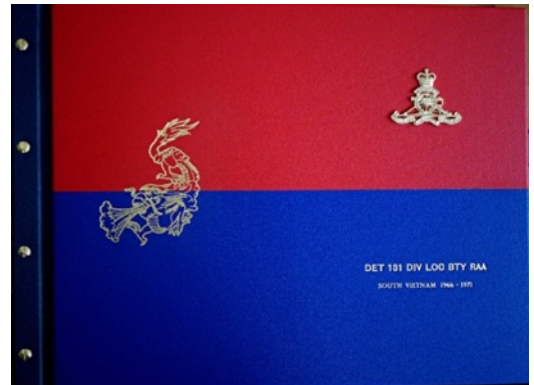
Ed – The Project continues on relentlessly so, we need to be vigilant and keep our minds active as who knows who, where and how we might stumble on, discover someone etc be it by accident but even more so by design. Paul

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.

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"Have we got your pic YET?"



OC's Report – Capt W R HAMILTON (RIP)
– the following was submitted by Allen Morley and is a final rendition compiled by Warwick which encompasses his term in South Vietnam. This is the first in the series...

17 Apr 67 – 12 Feb 68



Artillery Tactical H.Q. (Arty Tac) 1 ATF Nui Dat. 1967
Capt. Warwick Hamilton, O.C. Det. 131 Div Loc Bty 1967-68 on right.

The following section completes his time served and includes “Musings” and a “Footnote –

28 Nov 67. 15 replacements arrive unannounced. Just when I thought we had the rotations organised.

Dec 67 saw the Projectile Project continue apace. People can see its value and we are asked for more presentations on it, RPG 7, and the bigger rockets.

24 Dec 67 a Xmas Party was held. Small numbers as most were on duty. On Xmas day, I distributed ‘Diddy Bags’ to the Det in the TF area, and a disguised unnamed Lt dressed as Santa did the same for the Horseshoe contingent. Everyone guessed who it was though; perhaps a Wight Xmas after all! (Sorry, couldn’t resist)

Two interesting personal weapon events happened. After a particularly somnambulant night in Arty Tac an unnamed member wandered off to bed, leaving his rifle leaning on the outside wall. Fortunately, it was found by us. A snap weapons inspection showed whose it was. After threats to shove it where it would never be seen again the rifle was returned. Whew, disaster avoided, except that shortly after a definitely unnamed Lt managed to lose his pistol down a long drop toilet. With instruction, not to reappear till he had found it, he vanished, reappearing a long time later fully armed and sheepishly smiling. I never did a weapon’s check on that pistol.

Jan – Feb 68. Little did the Det know what was in store, indeed I don’t think anyone else did either. ALL Det members training and expertise was to be put to the test, and found sound.

The Det’s reputation for successful and accurate work had obviously spread well beyond the TF, as I was requested to go to the US Marines in 1 Corps and the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) from 20-26 Jan 68 as they were trying to set up and coordinate their locating effort.

The WORST advice given to Warwick: From my Marine contact officer in 12th Marine Regt, ‘You’re lucky, it’s been really quiet here.’

Well, for the first time in months, every major base installation I visited was mortared; at Con Thien outpost we had about 250 rounds incoming in the 24 hours I was there (The Marines thought I was mad collecting and trying to identify fragment during each lull, but I was able to identify and later confirm 120mm mortar, 130mm and 152mm howitzer rounds); at Gio Linh post we were gassed, yes gassed, but fortunately, through identification of the canisters it was *only* US made CS (Tear) gas; on the Qua Viet river the Marine landing craft next to mine was mined; and I managed to make it onto one of the last aircraft out of Khe Sahn before the major attack started.

Other than that, things went well, and the Det's advice and experience was well received. The crater analysis and fragment identification was found fascinating even though one senior Marine said 'We haven't done that since World War I.' I learnt a lot about NVA artillery tactics which was to pay off a few days later back South.

On reflection, the action against 1 Corps was probably a sneaky build-up (eg: registration of targets, feint attacks) for the TET offensive a few days later.

Best Advice Given to Warwick: At the DMZ, day 1. 'I think you had better have this flak jacket and steel helmet' While I was holidaying up North the Det showed how good it was individually and collectively, deploying on 24 Jan 68 out of the ATF area on Op COBURG, with less than 24 hours' notice, this was to counter a real rocket and ground attack threat against the Binh Hoa-Long Binh major base areas. Distance meant there were to be two independent Arty Tac and locating functions operating, joined by secure radio telephone. A record number of LP were deployed, 31A to 31G, with everyone, and I mean everyone, in the Det manning these and other functions sometimes as well as their normal. Arriving back at Nui Dat I find all this happening and that my job as Project Manager DARMA is suddenly very real. To my amazement on 30 Jan 68 my replacement Capt Phil Perrin and replacement Arty Int Sgt Ruddick walked into Arty Tac (Rear). My RTA had already been cancelled, as had Sgt W's so now we could properly man Arty Tac (Fwd) and (Rear). Poor Phil didn't get much of a briefing though as the First TET offensive started that night and I was whisked forward to take charge of Counter Battery (CB) fire, and given access to the Corps Artillery Net – 24 Regts /Bns worth of big guns– Whew!

The detachment, both Forward and Rear performed really well during this period and established locating and artillery intelligence as a really meaningful asset. A great compliment to everybody.

The TET offensive really slowed after 6 Feb 68, though Op Coburg continued till 1 Mar 68. Phil and Ruddick came forward and we were able to do a better handover in place with them and other replacements. I made it back to Nui Dat and the first thing I did was...you guessed...had a haircut!

Most importantly though, the Det plaques arrived.

12 Feb, after one last shift in Arty Tac, I packed up my plaque and set off to RTA, leaving the Det in good hands.

Final Musings

When I first learnt of my posting to the Det a number of people (nameless of course), said such as 'a weird bunch', 'too many Nashos', 'never be able to get things to work', 'all individuals', etc, etc. I am proud to say all these were true, and that is what made the Det the unique, cohesive and efficient unit that it became.

I don't know that many outside the Det understood how we worked, but they did understand our results.

Thinking back, I don't believe I ever categorised anyone as Nasho or Reg, as RAEME or Surveyor or bottlewasher. We were all '131', and I am privileged to have been the OC.

Footnote

On arriving at the big silver bird to take us back to the Land of Oz I found myself Draft Conducting Officer. This meant the hopeless task of trying to control in flight exuberance (Failed) and making sure everyone left the plane (Passed), except for a minor hiccup when flight attendants found live 'souvenirs' in a seat pocket. Needless to say, I was delayed though everyone else had left.

Meanwhile, in the terminal my wife was waiting, waiting. Some of the Det explained that I was actually on the plane and must have been delayed. At last emerging to a sorely missed hug I saw tears in her eyes. 'No need to cry' said I.

Answer: 'But you're standing on my foot!!!'

Welcome home Warwick.

A great insight from a Detachment Officer Commanding and a great mate.

. 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

. Mystery Time...?

There has been some interesting, if not mysterious, email transpiring as to "My Nui Dat Abode" – was this inspired by the current "coronial virostical" event?

Anyway, let's get to the start –

Allen Morley sent an email with the "My Nui Dat Abode" title which had this photo –



Ernie Newbold – responded –

“G'day Allen, interesting to see so many of us had a similar “corner of the world at war” where we could go and listen to battery and regimental fire missions at night, at least we knew it was friendly fire. The sound of a mortar tube coughing in the distance was more of a worry as it was difficult to tell if it was friend or foe. Within a few weeks, we could go to sleep and not hear anything. All those wonderful nights under canvas and the good mates we made and still have after all these years.

Attached is a picture of my little corner of the world from when I was posted to Arty Tac.

I notice a certain similarity in the décor of the era to the other images. Regards, Ernie.”



Ernie continued – “G'day Allen, my recollection of the first night in Nui Dat when the guns “went off” wasn't of sitting bolt upright in bed but of levitating approximately ten inches or so above the stretcher upon which I had been trying to go to sleep. Amazingly it seemed as though I was levitating for around 10 – 15 seconds each time the guns went off. Probably ten to fourteen days later I seemed to have lost the ability to levitate, just think how handy it would be now if I could still do it. I would be able to walk on water.

This certainly wasn't something we had been trained for. Regards, Ernie

Allen continues – “Hi Ernie. There was certainly a sameness in all locations. Even the sandbags look similar. You seem to have occupied a significantly roomier area than I did.

I remember the first night at Nui Dat when the guns went off and I sat bolt upright wondering what was going on. The naivety of a 20-year-old Nasho.

But you are absolutely correct that after a while we grew accustomed and immune to the noise of the guns firing.

I hope that you are well and look forward to reacquainting with you via Zoom on Bastille day. Cheers, AM”

Bert Blink weighs in – “Hi. Attached a photo of my sleeping quarters Arty Tac. Bert.”



Allen responds to Bert – “As you can see I had a corner location with windows. Interesting to compare with your spot, Bert. am”

Ernie – “G'day Bert, thanks for sharing that photo of your sleeping quarters at Nui Dat.

Many of us had a very similar set-up but not all of us may have a similar photo from those days at Nui Dat. Is that your original enamel mug, issued at basic training (?) and your multi compartment mess tray for your meals was an unusual item, not Australian issue.

The timber furniture looks good although different to what is available these days at Ikea.

I've had a go at putting some colour back into your photo to offset the fading and adding a bit more flash to brighten up what was your little corner of the world all those years ago.

Regards, Ernie.”

Bert – “Thanks Ernie.

As far as I remember we took our tray etc for all our meals, washed them after and back to the tent. Cannot say if the mug was original.

Note after looking at the photo for some time I wondered about: -

- (i) the copy of the numbered nude lady is missing further to the right methinks
 - (ii) rifle should be top of the bunk against the wooden cupboards (arty shell boxes) but missing
 - (iii) only photo I recognise is a Murphy penpal lady I kept corresponding with her even after I returned from SVN she wanted me to visit.
 - (iv) note wet towel so photo was shortly after I had had a shower
 - (v) did not remember having sheets
- fond memories, Bert”

Now I weigh in -

"OK, Good detective work the pair of you and also photo enhancing Ernie.

I've attached another "inside tent" photo - needs lightening too.

I have no idea who's it is, though it does seem to have –

. "couple" type photos (wedding - look formal) attached to the cupboard,

. Johnson & Johnson talc powder,

. a bottle of booze (can't pick what it is) etc.

Any thoughts?

Paul”

Bert has a crack at the questions –

“Remy Martin, Brandy I think. No on second thoughts -

I now think the bottle is Martini a vermouth label has changed since the 60s. Bert”



...Oddity time – not that it's an oddity me!

“Golf, cacti and me” – I can be held accountable for monotonously mentioning golf in my “Catching up to say g'day” emails, but the following couple of photos (both very recent – in the last couple of weeks!) do show me wandering off the fairways with hilarious results. It was the same ball which has now been relegated to a “water” ball.

I do add some insanity to be laughed at for my playing partners!

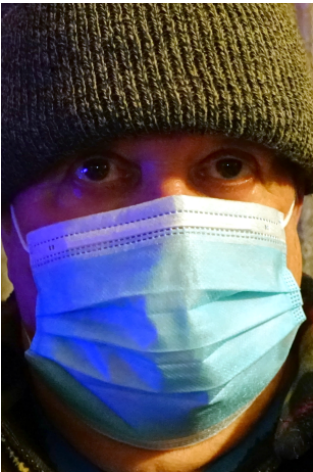
Paul

PS – could this be a sequel tor another “Caddy Shack”?



...Oddity time continues –

This photo was forwarded in as it was taken off a security camera – I'm not at liberty to say where because of possible legal consequences, but can anyone identify the “suspect” who has been identified as an ex-active Locator?



There is a reward being offered of a three week all expenses paid holiday to Wuhan, China and your return hotel 14-day incarceration costs covered!

It's an offer too good to be taken!

A discovery - Grahame Dignam makes a comment on the intro segment of this *Eyes & Ears* referring to the First Edition of *Eyes & Ears* being typed in the Orderly Room on the 22nd July, 1967.

"In my diary for Saturday 22nd July 1967 I have recorded in part..."did more "Q" typing (I am presuming this newsletter).
Listened to St. George playing South Sydney on the radio. Souths won 20-13 (see attached)
Had a quiet shift (at ARTY TAC) with Tony (Goldsmith, I presume)...

	<u>St George Dragons</u>	<u>South Sydney Rabbitohs</u>
	13	20
Match Score Sheet		
Tries	Stan Gorton	Brian Jones (2)
	Johnny King	Michael Cleary
	Elton Rasmussen	Robert McCarthy
Goals	Graeme Langlands (2)	Eric Simms (3)
		Kevin Longbottom (1)
Coach	Ian Walsh	Clive Churchill
Note: Forward packs are listed in	reverse order.	

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.

JULY 2020

Current Serving:

Those current serving do yourself a favour and do not lodge any claim direct to DVA.

It is important to get a claim in as soon as possible. It the medical diagnosis that determines your claim as it confirms a disability or disease exists.

If you have had an incident and submitted a Sentinel Report then seek out a qualified Advocate (Level 1 or 2) through an Ex-Service Organisation such as RSL to help you.

NEED TO KNOW

. One of the falsehoods is I am not a Veteran therefore not entitled. Anyone who has served FULLTIME or CMF/RESERVES is entitled to be heard

. If your accepted disabilities/diseases are getting worse see your advocate to review your case. With your medical provider's assistance, your advocate will submit documents to DVA for review.

SPECIAL NOTICE:

I preface this report by saying look at yourself, consider another ex-service person's and ask ...

Are the aches/pains/condition/disabilities in anyway related to service????

Have it checked out by SEEKING ASSISTANCE From a compensation advocate.

DOES THIS FIT YOU??

. One of the falsehoods is I am not a Veteran therefore not entitled.

- . I was only CMF or Reservist I am not entitled.
- **Anyone** who has served FULLTIME or CMF/RESERVES is entitled to be heard.
- . Always ask for help even if you are no sure if DVA will consider your case.

COMPENSATION & WELFARE

Since March 2020 we were all affected by the COVID 19 Isolation requirements which saw the Sub-Branch close June 2020.

The veterans' who have claims with DVA and those who made contact for help did not stop. The team of Advocates complying with all COVID 19 rules continued to work. We set up shop in my garage conducting interviews (2 large collapsible tables ensured social distancing) and moving forward with training. The hours worked totalled 751 hours over 57 days.

POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

Assistance Dogs - Funded by DVA

This topic has seen a special trial in Melbourne however all was quiet.

- . I was alerted by a client that this is now a program which DVA is following.
- . On page 3 of the current VETAFFAIRS you will find a notice "Veterans take home their assistance dogs"
- YES, those who are Eligible can via their Psychiatrist apply for an Assistance Dog.
- . WHO is Eligible?
- Must suffer PTSD ... Must have an accepted condition of PTSD or a Diagnosis of PTSD from a Psychiatrist
- . The dogs take 12 - 18 months to train. DVA carry financial costs such as:
- Annual maintenance of \$565.00 per quarter
- Vaccinations and medication
- Pet insurance and food
- Unexpected bills and gap payments
- . If you wish to find out more please contact myself or the welfare team.

WELFARE

The VETAFFAIRS on page 6 has provided details of:

- Indexation of Rates from 1 July 2020
- Annual Increase to travel allowances
- Deeming rate reduction

GUIDE TO BETTER HEARING WITH DVA

This article has indicated a process of preparing yo for your hearing appointment.

Contact details:

- To make an appointment with a hearing provider in your local area, visit the Hearing Services Program Website, Provider Locator on www.hearingservices.gov.au or call 1800 555 726
- This will help in submitting your claim to DVA for Hearing Loss & Tinnitus.

UNACCEPTABLE DELAYS IN DVA's PROCESSING OF COMPENSATION CLAIMS

I have for some time commented on the delays in DVA processing claims and various submissions.

These issues existed prior to COVID 19 and continue now.

So, unacceptable means:

- Claims taking months even to get to a Delegate fo consideration
 - They misplace documents submitted (scanned & emailed) which means they need to be re-submitted.
- DVA has acknowledged that even its own "timeline targets" are not being met and haven't been met for a long time.
- . The delays have an impact of those making claims such as stress.
 - The delay by DVA puts greater risk of suicide.

THE JESSE BIRD SUICIDE - THE INQUEST - WHAT THE CORONER FOUND

The following are extracts from the Vietnam Veterans Federation Magazine

- . The Victorian coroner found that DVA's bureaucratic failures contributed to the tragic suicide of Afghanistan veteran Jesse Bird.

Quotes!!

1. "I ...find that Jessie Bird's personal difficulties were exacerbated by frustrations he experienced in interacting with, and navigating, DVA's complex compensation and rehabilitation system"

2. "There appeared to be a lack of care, attention and proactive support, leaving Jesse with the belief that the only choice he had was to give up"

Alarming the Coroner also found:

3. "My investigation revealed that a practice had been established within DVA that was contrary to law and policy"

. We can only see if things improve.

. Advocates although able to negotiate some of the waters at DVA they are not able to manage DVA's shortcomings.

CONFUSION OF ELIGIBILITY NON-LIABILITY

Due to certain misunderstanding of Non-Liability Mental Health & Cancer (No need to establish that these conditions were caused by your ADF service) I am setting out the current position.

DVA have dispensed with Factsheets that could be located simply however if you look up on the DVA Web site;

. FREE TREATMENT FOR CANCER AND PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS (Factsheet updated 2 March 2020)

WHO CAN RECEIVE IT;

- Eligible war service Includes operational service, continuous full-time service (CFTS) with the ADF

- Operational Service Generally performed outside Australia, defined in VEA Act 1986 during wars, conflicts or non-war like operations in which the ADF was involved.

- Warlike service ... as defined by the Minister for Defence

- Non-Warlike service ... as defined by the Minister for Defence

- Peacekeeping service ... Service outside Australia. This includes ADF members.

- Hazardous service ... on a defined overseas deployment

- British Nuclear Test Defence service ... Maralinga, Emu Field and Montebello Islands between 1952 and 1965

- Defence service ... Peacetime service in the ADF, usually between 7 December 1972 and 6 April 1994.

In most cases, you need to have completed 3 years' continuous full-time service, unless you were medically discharged.

- National Service ... If you completed your national service on or after 7 December 1972

. The underlying requirement is "FULLTIME SERVICE IN THE ADF"

-This excludes CMF or Reservists.

It is always best to seek advice from an advocate who can navigate the various DVA rules.

FREE MENTAL HEALTH FOR VETERANS

WHO CAN RECEIVE IT;

- If you are a current or former member of the ADF

- Including Reservists, with at least one day of continuous full-time service (CFTS)

- Reservists without CFTS may be eligible for mental health treatment if they performed Reserve Service Days, such as:

. Disaster Relief Service

. Border Protection Service; or

. Involvement in a serious service related training

EXPOSED FIREFIGHTERS BATTLE FOR RECOGNITION

Article in full WINGS Winter 2020 Volume 72 No. 2 (Air Force Association Magazine)

DECADE LONG STRUGGLE

During 1950s through to the latter part of 2000 firefighter initial and continuation training conducted by Air Force involved intensive burning of a wide range of toxic materials.

Personal Protection Equipment was not available as it is now with current knowledge and best practice standards.

Most of the firefighter training was conducted at RAAF Fire School at RAAF Base Point Cook.

- More than 750 former ADF firefighters were trained.

- Although they do not hold the Air Force to blame as at the time best practice was as it was understood at the time.

. However, a total of 163 toxic chemicals were identified.

- Defence has indicated a proposal to excavate 55,000 tonnes of contaminate soil.
 - Also 950,000 liters of liquid hydrocarbons from the area for environmental protection.
- DVA - Although some veterans have succumbed claims submitted have been rejected (not directly related to chemical exposure).
- Now DVA Secretary Liz Cosson, has directed her Policy Reform Team to investigate possible remedies.
- This will take 12 - 18 months.
 - How many more veterans' have to suffer before DVA provides the support it supposed to provide.
 - If you think you may have been exposed in any way please see me.

Peter Pioro

Military Compensation & Military Welfare, Advocate Level 2

Mail Call...

George Kijurina's "teaser" – sent in the following classic "teaser" – no Googling, but the first correct response to the email's mystery location wins another free 12 month's editions of *Eyes & Ears*!

Responses -

Ernie Newbold – "George Kijurina's question -

Answer: is North Fort at North Head where Artillery Museum was

housed until a few years ago. I was there late last year for a visit.

Kevin Browning – "Hi Paul,

Just open the June 20 Eyes and Ears and looks like another great read. George's location question is an easy one. It is North Fort at the old School of Artillery. Of course, the area had been used by Locating Wing in the 60s and upto the 90s. The building the show is using was one of the two large Lysaught Huts erected at North fort for the Artillery Museum. Having spent an enormous amount of time there I wish to disqualify myself from your generous offer.
Regards, Kevin"



Allen Morley forwarded in the following email from **Russ Hamsey** –

"Folks:

Please find attached, a photo of the new 131 Bty sign that the LSTAA and the 131 Locators funded. It really looks good and should last a few years.

We have a committee meeting coming up. I'll push out the details shortly.

Take care, Russ Hamsey."



Warwick Brooker – gets back with a "hacking" comments – "Thanks again for the newsletter, Dicko.

It's not hard for hackers/scammers to get hold of our email addresses via hacked websites that contain some of our personal details. I occasionally receive emails with mates' names on them but unknown email addresses. I've even received emails from myself at foreign addresses and I know that others have received emails from me, i.e. my name, but with unknown addresses.

Of course, the emails always contain recommended links to follow... at your peril! Brookey"

Pam Ayliffe – NOT GREAT NEWS with regards to Keith...

"Hi Paul,

Pam here. Keith has asked me to advise you that he is in hospital. He had a nasty fall yesterday & fractured his hip. Operation for hip replacement is scheduled for this afternoon.

He spoke to Linda Todd yesterday & asked me to ask you if you could take over whatever is happening with that scenario until he is more with it. He is pretty loaded up on the heavy-duty drugs at present.

I have Linda's number so I have sent her a text re: the actual date of her father's passing. No reply as yet.

Cheers, Pam (Ayliffe)."



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 – "Paul.

Life has changed, social distancing is almost a habit now, in fact the wife and I went for a drive yesterday to the blue mountains and the crowds were so heavy (by the new standards) we turned around and came home.

Death rate is comparatively low in Australia but Victoria is going through a second wave, not good.

I have resigned as National president of the V.V.A.A. and will now concentrate on advocacy and a few appointments not related to ESO's.

Stay well and keep in touch, Regards Ken"

Warwick Brooker – "G'day Dicko

We're all OK, thanks. Good to hear that you and Helen are doing well despite having to social distance from each other at grocery stores! We're permitted to shop and socialise with our family members here in Canberra.

On the Covid19 front, we've been very fortunate so far in the ACT, as has Australia for that matter, but the recent heavy outbreaks in Melbourne are concerning. ACT borders have never closed, although overseas arrivals have to quarantine for 14 days, as do Victorians who identify as being from a hotspot. I don't know how that would be policed. Our restaurants and clubs have been reopening but with social distancing, limited attendance and other Covid rules. It's sad to see the closed shops, some probably permanently.

There's been very little rain here for months, as you can see in the attached photo (at right) that I took from our suburb on Saturday. A dry winter forebodes another severe bushfire season ahead.

Best wishes to you and Helen. Brookey"



John Bayford – "Hi Paul

I am pleased to hear that the people in your district are looking after each other by complying with the Covid guidelines.

The suburbs north of Melbourne are experiencing serious cross contamination as a result of people returning from overseas not obeying lockdown restrictions and refusing testing. The hotels they were confined to were not properly guarded and Covid is now out into the community. Some high-rise housing apartments are in total lockdown not unlike Wuhan. Mexico sounds like a more caring place at the moment.

I had knee replacement surgery 2 weeks ago so I am in total lockdown for the time being. I returned home 4 days after the operation and I am able to move around on crutches so all is well.

Glad to hear all is well with you.

Best regards, John"

Phil Connor – "Giddy Paul. Good to hear from you champion.

Great read for the last Newsletter, well done.

Temps the same here with 10c nights, need some rain, but that is on way.

I have finished golf as I told you earlier but still a member. And as you know I went straight to lawn bowls (sport is first in our family). However, Covid lockdown stopped the bowls in March and as I have a old dicky 'footy' right knee and getting worse I decided to have the full right knee replacement to go with the right hip replacement that I had a few years back. Restricted elective surgery came back in April/May and had surgery early June. I thought a good move having it done in the lockdown and all is going well. Into fifth week and crutches gone although still a bit wobbly freestanding/walking. Our bowls club, Buderim bowls, reopened this week for Comp, although I am a few weeks away from going back. We are going well and all family is good. Although, son and daughter-in-law in the USA are up to their necks with the Virus. As you know with both they are in medical, son in Intensive ED and daughter-in-law as Director Intensive Care Nursing at the large hospital in their city, Fort Wayne Indiana. They have had a number of Covid cases (and deaths) over the period.

The grandsons here in QLD have been biting at the bit to get back to AFL and that started last week for training with matches starting soon.

Cheers, Phil"

Peter Fletcher – "Hi Paul, good to hear from you. We are both going along nicely at present.

The weather has been good around 18-19c sunny though chilly in the mornings.

I have returned to playing golf. Veneice and I play on Saturdays in the Mixed Comp and I play on Tuesday in the Men's Comp. After a 6 month break it's taken me a while to get some form going.

All travel both o/seas and local have been put on hold due to the virus.

I am looking towards the summer months to perhaps get back on my surfboard as I am fit and well. Touch wood.

All the best to you and Helen.

Thanks for dropping me a line. I'll be in touch with you down the track if things change.

Cheers, Fletch."

Wade Cooper – "G'day Paul,

Great to hear from you.

Yes – it's a funny old time we live in. Victoria in the strike with COVID - they have just been ordered to isolate as a state from the rest of the country.

I am taking a week leave this week, shot back down to Canberra to catch up with my girls (wife and daughter). Bloody freezing!!!!

Regt keeps busy, we are trying to work out how we run a suite of courses on the back end of the year with likely restrictions for travel into/out of Vic (Puckapunyal).

Do keep in touch! Wade."

Charles Brewer – "Great to hear from you Paul; interesting times!

Coffs Harbour has come through this crisis really well - and is continuing to do so.

Our Daughter-in-law is an Emergency Doctor here - and runs Macksville (3/4 hr south, and a brand-new hospital now) ED Tuesdays - with shifts here in Coffs other days. She is very pleased with just how well things are. So - we are NOT going to go to Victoria!

Borders now closing again - and Melbourne city areas being shut down.

We are grateful, let me tell you Paul.

And - family here and in Brisbane all healthy too.

To give you an idea how things are; we attend Lifehouse church here in Coffs; 1000+ attend each weekend, and we have campuses north in Woolgoolga and out west in Moree, Agra and Varanasi in India.

Anyway - services are starting back - been on -line for weeks - next week, with live on line for now too. This is a really good sign Paul.

So - we soldier on, like you guys. Healing for Australia - the Great South Land of the Holy Spirit - is coming!

Trust it will be for you all over there Paul.

Ubique! Charles."

Mike Butler – "Hi Paul.

Thanks for your note. Not a lot to report here except that the COVID is peaking again and we can only have 5 visitors to the house so grandkids etc are doing visits on a rotation basis. You've probably read that Melbourne's north-western suburbs are in lockdown due to rising infections. Just had another grandchild delivered (our 6th) so we are creating a dynasty!!! The weather is rubbish at the moment - cold and wet. So we are bunkering down and just doing domestic things. Just completed a large jigsaw puzzle and about to get onto model planes. We are not intending to go anywhere for a while - mainly due to lockdowns etc but also because Victoria's borders are now closed. Michelle and I are well so can't complain - a lot of people are doing it tough though. Sorry haven't got any inspiring news but that's the way it is at the moment.

Cheers, Mike Butler

PS -I should add to my previous note that we're are now in complete lockdown - no visitors, only going out for essential shopping for at least 6 weeks - not happy !!!"

Ron Evans – "Buenos dias Amigo, all is well here in Adelaide. Truly, this pandemic hasn't had any effect on me at all and hardly on anyone in Adelaide.

Hardly anyone wears a mask and life goes on pretty well as usual. The death toll for the whole country is only a bit over a hundred. Some parts of the economy are in trouble but no-one will starve. Meanwhile, the USA looks like it is disintegrating. That Trump twat is a moron masquerading as an idiot. For a while I was rather amused by Trump but not anymore.

Right now, Australia is about the best place on Earth. Thank God for the British Empire I say.
Love to you and the missus. Mook"

Nick Armstrong – "Hello Paul

Thank you for your latest news. You may have explained exactly where you live, but it seems you are in a more densely populated region than the bottom end of Eyre Peninsula? Our Covid-19 restrictions are less extreme than yours. Movement around South Australia is generally unrestricted, but with personal distancing still required. Interstate movement is still restricted, with each State having their own plans. A surge in infections in the high-rise units in Melbourne is causing some problems. Refusal by residents to submit to testing is adding to the problem. I recall being horrified seeing those high-rise units when I travelled through Melbourne to the School of Survey at Balcombe near Mornington, in 1964. They looked like something that had escaped from a large English city!

With State borders still closed, our proposed journey to Narrogin (WA) to visit our son and grandchildren has been cancelled. The next school holidays will be towards the end of September. If travel restrictions have been eased, we might try to get to Narrogin then. My Relief School Bus Driving has become full-time at the moment. Now School Holidays are the only time I can plan trips away from home.

Winter rain here is lower than average, so far. A normal year on the Lower Eyre Peninsula is often too wet, so this year is looking good here. 100km north, where my Son-in-Law and daughter farm, this season is looking like a third year of failure. The local Agronomist told my Son-in-Law, the farms in his district are the worst he has seen. There was some optimism in late April, but since then, rainfall on the Central Eyre Peninsula has been very poor. Some very strong winds have caused sand drifting and resultant need to re-seed some areas.

I haven't been fishing for a few weeks. My boat had developed a leak in the fuel tank, which needed to be repaired. The engine is a twin cylinder, diesel, Yamaha. The fuel leak wasn't a fire risk, but the diesel will degrade the fibreglass hull. The boat was not constructed with provision for future removal of the fuel tank. I had to arrange a fibreglass repairer to provide the access to enable the tank to be removed and refitted. The work on the boat has coincided with the bus driving quite well. I would not have been able to get out in the boat anyway, and the extra income will help pay for the work!

My other interest, CFS, is fairly quiet at the moment. The workload in winter, changes from bushfires to housefires, which are fairly rare. Training has reduced, although probably about to resume soon. I don't know how they plan to enable interstate deployments next summer? Normally they last one week, so an additional two lots of two-week quarantine could be a problem? I expect we will find out in about four months?

Not much other news for now. Best wishes. Nick"

Allan Adams – "Hi Paul

Yes, we are still in lock down, our death rates are down compared to your side of the world. There isn't much we can do but try to keep well.

I have been very busy with a couple of new projects that seem to get more involved. This hasn't been too bad as it has taken my mind of my own problems.

I have prostate cancer and will need radiotherapy which will be a drawn-out affair, 4 - 6 weeks of daily therapy.

I feel well and wouldn't know if not picked up through blood tests. Prostate cancer is one of those things that you don't know if it's there. I probably won't start for another couple of months.

Apart from that we are well and are restricted with outings, doing the usual, odd jobs around the house.

We are having our bathroom renovated at the moment re-tiling, walk in shower etc. The tiler has been here for 2 weeks and hopefully all will be finished next week.

Have only got in a couple of games of golf, my golf buddy doesn't want to have contact with others. There is also restrictions at the course.

All of the family are well and all working from home which seems to work out okay for them.

Hope you and Helen are both well

Cheers, Al"

NOTE – I have highlighted Al being made aware of his cancer, because, perhaps we need to be more vigilant somehow when having medical appointments. Though a general visit would not get into that field unless we were to ask for a blood test. Please keep well.

My latest blood test showed a PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) of 0.58 ug/L, which is acceptable for an age group of 70-79 years of age.

Peter Creedon – "Hi Paul

A little slow to answer your catch up, just been so busy being locked down it's a full-time occupation.

I live not far from the latest outbreak in south west Sydney.

Other than that, things are travelling along OK, golf is back on, when I was working and playing golf once a month I always felt that I could get pretty good at the game if I could play once a week, well that's not how it's worked out.

The weather here is as you would expect for July, but pleasant enough with the Sun out and no wind.

We received a refund for a cruise we had to cancel that was to take us around the Baltic states including St Petersburg.

My darling wife decided to fulfil her dreams, new timber floor, new kitchen with a double oven and a butler's pantry.
Happy wife happy life.
Everyone here is maintaining reasonable health as long you don't include aches and pains. Peter"

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

Vietnam Veterans Day – 18th August, 2020. Peter Bruce

Hi Everyone, Just an update on any 18 August Commemorations.

Laurieton. We won't be able to hold any form of reunion or get together under the current circumstances. There will be a service on the 18th at our Memorial Park and a luncheon at the club later that day. Numbers are of course restricted so trying to organise anything is out of the question. A couple of guys may be attending at the invitation of Syd Farrow. Others who had shown interest have decided to hold off until we can really confirm something for everyone. Next ANZAC Day in Sydney is shaping up as the best option but we will see how things go.

Brisbane. There are a few old boys possibly gathering in Brisbane but I have been advised that there will be no official service as such. This wouldn't stop a few getting together somewhere. If I get any further details I will let everyone know.

If anyone has any questions re 18 August, just give me a call or email (see below).

Best wishes to all

Peter

Peter Bruce, OAM, JP, President, 4th Field Regiment (SVN) Old Boys

pjbruce8@bigpond.net.au Mob: 0419 349 317

Vietnam Veterans Day Commemoration Ceremony 2020.



Also, known as **Long Tan Day, Vietnam Veterans' Day** falls on 18 August each year. The **Vietnam War** was **Australia's** longest military engagement of the 20th century. Almost 60,000 **Australians** fought in the war and more than 500 lost their lives.

Please let us know what you did on the very Special Day?

"Warning Notice"

This program is subject to the easing of current state travel & social constraints due to the coronavirus.

Locators Reunion Program 16/17/18th October 2020

15th Birthday of 20th Regiment RAA

CANCELLED



Friday 16th Oct:

Locator's Reunion Cocktail Party 6pm in Southern Cross Room at Kedron Wavell RSL

Saturday 17th Oct:

Regiment's family day 10am till 3pm at Fort Lytton Historic Military Precinct, including guided tour of Fort Lytton, display of Regiment's equipment & family barbeque.

Sunday 18th Oct:

Farewell drinks/lunch noon, Ship Inn Hotel at South Bank, Brisbane.

Final notice, with full details including RSVP, will be circulated when program is confirmed.

Russ Hamsey – a further update from the LSTAA -

"Dear friends and members:

The LSTAA Executive Committee met yesterday and after much discussion concluded that we cannot host a reunion this year. Considering the current COVID-19 situation the risk of cancellation of a social gathering is too great. The committee is also concerned about the health of our members and the fact that many are at high risk to the virus, it was concluded that postponement of the reunion until next year is prudent.

And although we cannot reunite this October, the committee is planning to host a reunion in Brisbane over the ANZAC Day weekend in 2021. Planning for the event next year has already commenced and we will provide further information as soon as we can.

I understand this news will be disappointing but considering the current situation this difficult decision is for the best.

I wish all of you the very best and encourage you to maintain contact with each other via phone, email and social media.

Sincerely,

Russ Hamsey, President, LSTAA"

e-news



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

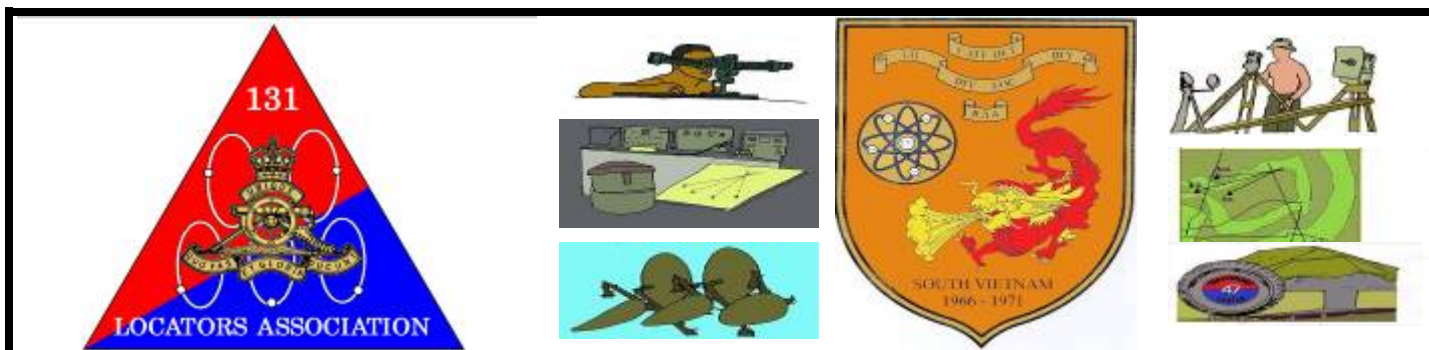


The latest issue of this newsletter is now available – cut and paste the following link -

<https://mailchi.mp/d2d963774a6b/dva-e-newsfor-may-jun2019-218450?e=a65ea8694f> (You can click on this link)

It's a very good read with some interesting articles and updates.

Just Released - Special COVID-19 edition - no. 3



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>

A few well chosen words of wisdom from the **Sec/Treas** - "Thank you" for those who have already renewed and a "reminder" for those that are yet to do so... see my email dated 1 July 2020...

"Another year has rolled over and hasn't it been a beauty? Drought, worst bushfires in living memory, glorious rain then the bloody VIRUS!! Australia will be a long time coming back to its former glory and we won't see it! We just need to push on and do the best we can with our personal situations.

The diary says I need to send Renewal reminders so here it is. I have included all members that are falling due for renewal as of 30 June 2020.

I am sure that you are all relieved that we located last year's member who left off his name - well done all.

I look forward to hearing from you either renewing for another year or longer if you are feeling as good as I do.

Stay as well as we can manage...

Regards to all and "Happy Locating" and we will see your latest news in a future *Eyes & Ears*.

Email sectreas131locators@gmail.com to check. Grahame"

Presidential perambulations

Just 12 months ago I was sitting on the warm grass watching the Oshkosh Airshow in Wisconsin USA. This year's airshow has been cancelled due to the virus, so I guess I was pretty fortunate to make the 2019 call to attend.

I would not like to be in Oshkosh currently for health reasons. In fact, there are many parts of the world I would currently not like to be.

Australia has been pretty Covid-fortunate compared with many other nations around the world. Melbourne has been hit pretty hard by the virus and consequently the regulatory constraints for individuals. Now masks are compulsory outdoors in the southern state there is a further dimension to the restrictions in Victoria.

Interestingly, some people are refusing the 'wear a mask' order. One clip on the news shows a verbal altercation at a Bunnings store with a woman claiming that the staff insisting on her wearing a mask do not have the right to insist on her wearing a mask. She invoked some obscure 1984 human rights Act, argued that the staff were treating her badly because she is a woman and threatening to sue the Bunnings front line staff. She filmed the dialogue and posted it on antisocial media.

On the side, there are plans for a Black Lives Matter protest in Sydney this week. It will be interesting to see how the police handle what would be an illegal gathering with physical distancing requirements thrown out of the window by protesters. Remember those anti-Vietnam war protests many of us came home to? For us young soldiers, both Regs and Nashos, it was both confronting and anger inducing. Personally, I just wanted to get on with my life after my two years.

Regards, Allen

50 Years
April 1966 - April 2016



The Memories Remain
1966 - 1971



find us on

Facebook

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

. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 11th August, 2020 at 1100hrs

Venue: **To Be Advised**

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

Date: Tuesday, 14th July, 2020 at 1100hrs...

Attendees were:

Allen Morley, Bert Blink, Paul Dickson, Terry Erbs, Grahame Dignam, Merv Nairn, Ernest Newbold, Ron Mason, Rieny Nieuwenhof, Bob Billiards and Gordon Malcolm.

A thought from **Grahame Dignam** –
“How about we add your image next month?”



Financial Membership is currently ...123, plus Associates 2, Affiliates 11. Total 136. Lapsed 33 members.

Presidents report.

Allen advised that

That Vietnam Vets Day at Banks town Sports club on 18/8/2020 has been cancelled due to virus lockdowns. He suggested that a get together be organized by our group to mark the occasion.

We still hope to meet at the Canley Heights RSL in August and will advise more lately. We are planning to make this a zoom event as well.

After a discussion and no great benefit being gained the “DVA newsletter” link will not be proceeded with.

LSTAA reunion planned for October 2020 may be deferred and held conjointly with the Caloundra Dinner in 2021. More to come.

The new 131 Bty Sign has been erected and looks good. The posture of the Lion has been returned to the original and was well received.

Allen has lost access to his local Westpac branch and he is not disappointed.

. web Performance...

Bob produced web stats prior to the meeting and advised that activity was lower possibly due to the Covid-19 virus concerns worldwide.

Membership of our Face book group was now 153 and he invited all members to post some of their more interesting photos to break the ice and generate some traffic.

DVA Health is seeking advices from vets and ESO regarding the shape of future engagement.

Discussion resolved that the best effect would come from approaches through well-equipped resources like RSL who are better placed to follow through on issues and submissions.

The Minefield - an article by Don Tate.

The item was raised as a future feature for Eyes & Ears. A discussion of the motivation for the article resolved that the military action in SVN is part of history and that history and individual interpretation should be left to be the judge.

Health.

We have been advised that a very popular, WO2 Ivan Mills, has been overtaken by Dementia and after some issues is now residing comfortably in the Ruby Manor Nursing Home 10 Ruby Street Carramar NSW 2163. His wife Jean said he would welcome a card from old friends whom he hoped to remember.

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...August –

DAY	NAME	SERV NO	YOB	SVN IN	SVN OUT	COMMENTS
1	PHILLIP ROSS	3794468	1947	06 05 1969	30 04 1970	
1	JOSEPH LOSIAK	218302	1950	04 11 1969	05 11 1970	
1	JOHN LUCAS	3796256	1948	20 02 1970	11 02 1971	
2	JOHN GREENAWAY	3790617	1946	24 10 1967	22 10 1968	

3	LES SMITHLESTER	1201202	1949	23 09 1968	24 09 1969	
3	MICHAEL BUTLER	3796958	1948	04 06 1970	09 06 1971	
3	GRAHAM GREENLAND	2792441	1948	15 04 1970	29 07 1970	† 17.11.14
4	ANDREW OVERALL Lt.	235330	1946	22 02 1969	21 02 1970	
7	MARTY VAN DRIEL	38954	1944	27 11 1967	13 03 1968	† 08.08.98
7	RANDALL JONES	2788775	1947	29 01 1969	28 11 1969	
8	ARTHUR LUXFORD Sgt.	212803	1939	20 01 1969	28 01 1970	† 01.01.08
8	EDWIN LEWIS Sgt.	53909	1935	18 03 1970	11 03 1971	† 26.08.92
9	TERRY WELSH	4721779	1949	03 03 1971	29 06 1971	131
	" "			30 06 1971	30 10 1971	12 Fd REGT
9	GARRY GRIMWOOD	2795771	1949	24 03 1971	01 07 1971	131
	" "			01 07 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd Regt.
12	ALAN THOMSON	42308	1937	20 05 1966	22 06 1967	† 07.10.15
13	BRIAN HACKETT	2783449	1945	03 01 1967	12 12 1967	
13	STAN BRIGGS	1731999	1945	27 11 1967	17 09 1968	
13	BOB BRUCE	4718049	1945	11 06 1967	13 12 1967	
15	JOHN POLLOCK	53860	1939	{17 04 1967	24 05 1967	131
	" "			{05 02 1971	07 04 1971	12 Fd REGT
15	KEVIN TAYLOR	2791357	1945	29 07 1969	23 07 1970	
15	NORMAN McMANUS WO2	26202	1924	09 11 1970	19 08 1971	† 04.10.2016
17	PIERRE GOSS	213990	1936	24 03 1969	25 03 1970	† 06.08.2011
20	PETER BINNS	356367	1947	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
21	NORMAN JONES	5717611	1950	04 05 1971	01 12 1971	12 Fd Regt / AACC
22	JOHN VICKARY	1732218	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
22	STUART SPORN	4718471	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
22	ANTHONY COUTTS	1733291	1946	29 01 1968	21 01 1969	† 1988
23	ROBERT ETHERINGTON	66962	1946	04 11 1969	19 11 1970	
24	JOHAN MOLENCAMP	2795074	1948	03 03 1971	30 06 1971	131
	" "			02 07 1971	09 08 1971	12 Fd REGT
25	LES FROST	215230	1945	22 04 1966	28 04 1967	† 26.03.14
25	KENNETH JONES	2786931	1946	27 11 1967	26 11 1968	
25	COLIN WEST		1947	20 01 1969	21 01 1970	
26	MAX TROYNAR	3790244	1945	05 05 1967	30 01 1968	
26	STANLEY PATTERSON	38451	1947	29 01 1969	28 11 1969	
27	LAWRENCE FARR	1734257	1947	27 08 1969	25 02 1970	† 2009
27	KEN PIESLEY	2787174	1946	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	† 26.03.14
27	GORDON MALCOLM	2785906	1946	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	
27	PETER WHITAKER	2786848	1946	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
27	PETER CREEDON	2790207	1947	31 01 1969	28 01 1970	
27	GRANT PERRINS	1734509	1947	27 11 1969	04 06 1970	
28	DAVID PIMM	215746	1946	17 04 1967	23 04 1968	RAEME
29	TIM FORD Capt.	235300	1945	19 08 1970	05 08 1971	
31	STEPHEN PALMER	18820	1946	12 04 1968	30 04 1969	RAEME † 03.12.72

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

Ed – 9 blokes not highlighted – where thw hell are they?

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received **163** and we've sent out **163**. Ed – Hey have you sent yours in?

. **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: Todd, Geoffrey Thomas Service No: 54254 DoB: 26 01 1943

SVN In: 18 12 1967 SVN Out: 10 12 1968 YoD: † 2012



I have been contacted by **Linda Todd** trying to obtain info on her father **Geoffrey Thomas TODD**, I knew him and he was in the LP's I wonder if you could put a call out for anybody who may have a photo of him. He passed away in 2012. Regards Keith (Ayliffe).

As per Keith's request, on behalf of Geoff's daughter, Linda, if you have any photos or memories please send them to me at 131eyesandears@gmail.com Paul



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](mailto: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 website is not accessible. Contact Grahame Dignam via the 131 Locators Association for further information – sectreas131locators@gmail.com

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... Next meeting 24th September, 2020



LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION

The Eyes and Ears of The Battlefield



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



www.artilleryhistory.org



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

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

. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE

The Dept of Veteran's Affairs has launched a new mental health initiative to assist veteran's experiencing the affects of mental illness and their families. Providing information and fact sheets about understanding mental illness, links and contact information for accessing support, and online resources for health professionals, this website focuses on

helping veterans identify early warning signs of mental illness to effectively manage their mental illness and seek treatment. For more info or to access, please visit www.at-ease.dva.gov.au

. 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery...



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

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



The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association

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

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

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