

THE EYES and EARS

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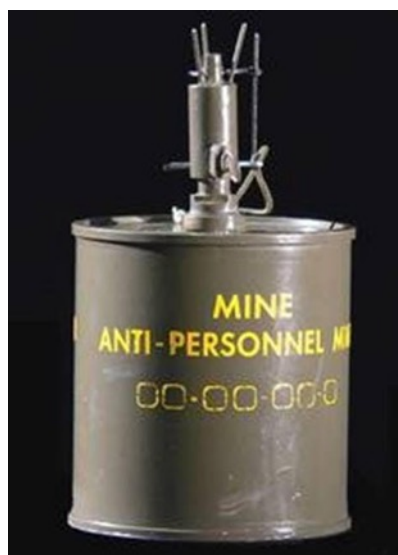
Supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs



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

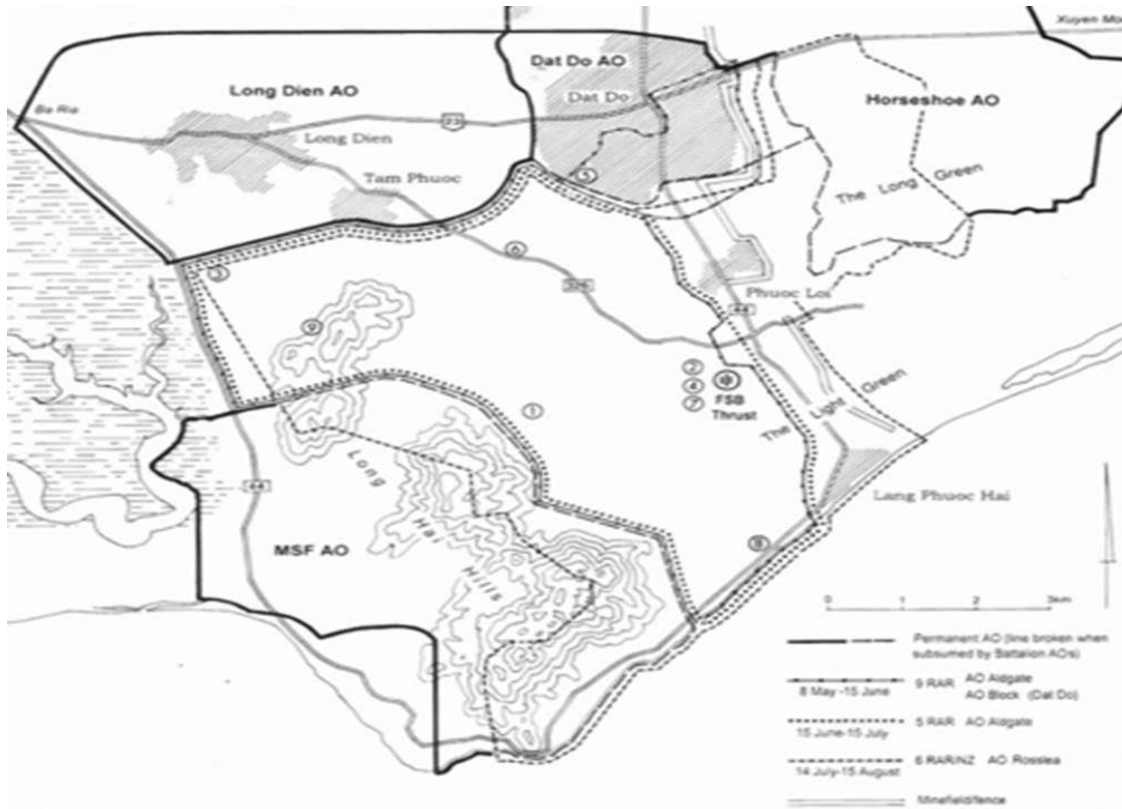
2020 – 54 Years and the Detachment 131 Spirit Lives On: 1966 – 1971



THE MINEFIELD:

Australia's greatest military blunder of the Vietnam War.

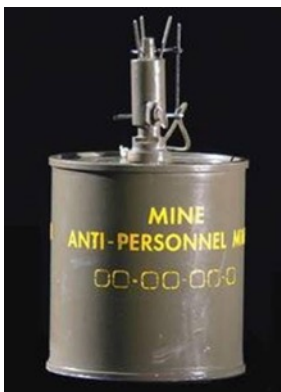
Australian soldiers in the Vietnam War not only fought in the harshest of conditions, facing an enemy that was cunning, ruthless, and demonstrably courageous, but had to contend with a weapon unleashed upon them by the Australian Army itself — anti-personnel M16 mines, in what was, arguably, the greatest military blunder of the war. In 1967, the Australian Task Force Commander — Brigadier Stuart Graham OBE MC — had established a minefield that stretched some 11 kilometres, ostensibly from the paddy fields around Dat Do, to the Long Hai hills, and down to Lang Phuoc Hai on the South China Sea.



The dotted line represents the minefield

Designed to be a physical barrier to deny the Viet Cong freedom of movement, the minefield was laid against the advice of the senior task force engineer, Major Brian Florence, and at least one battalion commander prepared to have an opinion — Lieutenant Colonel John Warr of 5 RAR who had served in the Korean War and knew first-hand what a two-edged sword anti-personnel mines could be.

On the other hand, Brigadier Stuart Pearson MC (the Task Force commander two years later) who had earlier declared that Vietnam was a 'unwinnable war' regarded the minefield as a 'sound concept' which detracts from *his* military legacy. In a three-month period, some 23,000 M16 anti-personnel mines were laid by engineers — an enterprise that resulted in five Australians being killed right at the outset.



The M16 anti-personnel mine

The M16 mine was a devastating weapon. It was capable of killing and maiming within a wide radius of its blast. In Vietnam, it averaged 6 casualties each explosion, with 27 casualties recorded on just one occasion.

The Disaster

There were three reasons for the failure of the minefield:

- South Vietnamese regional forces failed to monitor or guard the western side of the barrier as was initially agreed upon
- nor were the Australians guarding the eastern side, as agreed upon
- and gaps in the wire fences were not being repaired

'The Dat Do Mine Store'

Not only did it fail its objective to deny enemy soldiers access to local villages for propaganda purposes, food and recruits, Brigadier Graham's minefield became known as the '*Dat Do mine store*' because the enemy simply removed them and relocated them to areas the Australians were patrolling — an enduring, humiliating tactical failure by Brigadier Graham and the military high brass.

The Viet Cong quickly realised what an asset the minefield could be. Just one document alone, captured by 9 RAR in May 1969, recorded a resolution by the Viet Cong's Long Dat district committee to:
destroy the Australians fence and remove and collect 1,000 mines.

What was meant as a defensive barrier had become one of the enemy's greatest offensive tools.

Two years after it was laid, in 1971, Colonel P. Yonge — the Services and Defence Liaison Officer of Armed Forces Vietnam — noted that the mines '*had become biggest single casualty-producing weapon*' and '*the greatest single problem*' facing the Australian soldiers in Vietnam.

How many mines were actually lifted depends on who's telling the story.

- Task Force Commander Brigadier Hughes believed the enemy had lifted 'about' 5,000 mines
- Task Force Commander Brigadier Weir claimed the enemy had lifted 6,000 mines 'giving them a 'never-ending source of supply'
- and later, AFV Chief of Staff Major General Stretton stated that some '8,000 mines were lifted'

No one really knows how many mines were actually lifted, but the casualty figure was horrifying and tragic and had an untold impact on thousands of Australian families.

Lifting the Mines

The Viet Cong used an ingenious procedure to lift the mines — although it cost them many casualties in learning the technique. It says much about the dedication and bravery of the enemy soldier the Australians faced in the war, that they managed to evolve such a procedure.

Three teenage girls who had defected in 1971 showed the Australian hierarchy how the mines were lifted in a display for Brigadier C Flint, Engineer in Chief at Army Headquarters. Flint had gone to Vietnam in mid-1969 when casualties from mines had become a constant 41% of all task force casualties.

Three of the girls had worked together, shuffling forward in bare feet 8 – 10 cm apart with their toes feeling for the protruding prongs of a mine pressure fuse. When they located one, they would get on to their knees, feel underneath it for an M26 grenade, neutralise it with a hairpin if there was one there and put it aside for the 'collector' to pick up, then neutralise the mine itself with more hairpins which the collector also gathered up. From that point, using two hands with their thumbs together, they located other mines easily, because they had been laid in a precise pattern by the Australian Engineers. The collector simply collected the weapons — up to 150 per night. Astonishingly, the teams of lifters and collectors mostly worked at night — demonstrating unbelievable bravery.

The Human Cost

The actual incidence of mine explosions are generally lost in the day-to-day records of Australia's role in the Vietnam War. But here are three examples

- On 15 June 1969, 3 infantrymen died and another 24 men were wounded from D Company, 5 RAR after Sergeant Rod Lees stood on a mine
- On 27 February 1970, 8 RAR suffered a dark day when a cluster of men from 1 Platoon A Company were standing close together in a relatively enclosed area and had removed their flak jackets. An engineer in a water party triggered a mine and 7 members of the platoon were killed instantly. When a dust-off helicopter was lowering another engineer by winch to help clear the area of mines, Corporal Jim Barrett detonated a second mine, and was also killed
- On 4 July 1969, moving across an open paddy field at the edge of the Long Hai Hills, Private Leslie Pettit of 7 Platoon 5 RAR was killed when another soldier (Private Jim Lowry) stood on a mine. Lowry and 9 others were wounded. An hour later, after extricating the wounded men, Lance Corporal Paul Smith detonated a second mine which killed him and Private Hans Muller.

The Commanding Officer of 5 RAR — Colonel Khan — was later heard to curse the Task Force Commanding Officer: *for sending his battalion into that area at all.*

While another battalion commander — Colonel 'Alby' Morrison of 9 RAR — threatened to shoot villagers from Dat Do if any more of *his* men became mine casualties.

In just one year alone (1969) this table records the devastating impact of mines on men and their units. In that year alone, 31 Australians were killed by mines, and 181 men wounded:

Mine casualties, 1969

In total, 95 Australian soldiers were killed by mine explosions, and 600 men wounded.

Sometimes, statistics only tell part of the story. The humanity gets lost. The mines caused horrendous injury — much of it kept from the Australian public, just as the true, total number of casualties was. Casualties invariably arrived on Air Force bases away from prying eyes, and quickly despatched to hospitals without journalists knowing they had arrived



A photograph taken in the Field Hospital of a soldier wounded by a M16 mine

One Army nurse — Faye Lewis — who served in the Australian field hospital in Vung Tau dealt with the trauma continuously. She wrote of soldiers: *continuously coming in with their legs off, multiple wounds, and you were sending home, week after week, planes full of young, mutilated people. Most people see amputated limbs as nice rounded stumps. We didn't get that. We got the ragged ends...*

In the field, soldiers not only had to deal with the constant threat of standing on a mine oneself, but one someone else did, having to extricate that wounded men at great risk of further explosions and being wounded as well, but witnessing the terrible injuries inflicted.

Table 8.1 Details of mine incidents causing 1ATF casualties in Phuoc Tuy province, 1969

No.	Casualties (KIA–WIA)	Date	No.	Casualties (KIA–WIA)	Date
1	0–1	9 January	31	2–1	23 July
2	0–1	15 January	32	1–5	23 July
	NIL	February	33	0–1	29 July
3	3–6	9 March	34	0–1	2 August
4	0–4	19 April	35	1–5	2 August
5	0–1	20 April	36	1–2	3 August
6	0–3	25 April	37	0–1	6 August
7	0–2	25 April	38	0–2	7 August
8	0–1	7 May	39	0–1	9 August
9	0–1	10 May	40	0–1	9 August
10	1–1	10 May	41	0–1	9 August
11	0–2	12 May	42	0–2	11 August
12	1–1	13 May	43	0–1	12 August
13	0–1	21 May	44	1–3	12 August
14	1–2	22 May	45	0–1	19 August
15	0–2	22 May	46	0–2	26 August
16	0–3	24 May		NIL	September
17	1–1	25 May	47	0–1	21 October
18	0–3	25 May	48	2–6	25 October
19	0–4	27 May	49	1–0	5 November
20	0–5	30 May	50	0–1	6 November
21	0–7	31 May	51	0–2	7 November
22	0–4	11 June	52	0–4	9 November
23	3–24	15 June	53	0–3	18 November
24	0–1	19 June	54	0–2	20 November
25	0–1	21 June	55	0–1	20 November
26	2–0	24 June	56	2–2	24 November
27	3–17	4 July	57	2–3	8 December
28	0–1	11 July	58	1–3	14 December
29	1–18	21 July	59	0–1	27 December
30	1–5	21 July	Total: 31 KIA–182 WIA		

2012, Australia’s national historian (Ashley Ekins) wrote that: *psychiatric assessments of Australian soldiers found that they feared mines much more than gunshot wounds. Aside from the unpredictability of death and terrible maiming, soldiers were disturbed by the loss of comrades for no apparent gain and frustrated by their inability to retaliate...*



Australian tanks and APCs on Operation

The human cost was one aspect. There was also the enormous cost of damage to Australian armour (tanks, APCs) trucks, bulldozers and other vehicles. One research paper blamed mines and RPGs for the 86% of damage done to tanks alone, while 100 APCs (50% of the entire force) were damaged in some respect — and being the greater cause of Armoured Corps casualties. One Trooper from B Squadron 3 Cavalry Regiment — Doug Voyzey — drowned on 14 December when his APC hit a mine and flipped into a stream.

The Politics

Journalist Peter Samuel charged the army and the government of the day with negligence. He wrote: *No sooner was the minefield laid than it was abandoned to provide the Viet Cong with a wonderful supply of lethal weapons with which to kill Australian soldiers. It is difficult to express confidence in the leadership they have been given, either by the Army or the Government.*

The minefield had become a symbol of the government's failed policy in Vietnam.

Army Secretary Bruce White, preparing answers for impending parliament questioning, had little doubt that increased casualties were being caused by mines, but recommended to the Defence Department Secretary that no mention be made of mines, and to attribute the high casualty rate to 'pacification tasks'.

But Deputy Leader of the Opposition — Lance Barnard — told parliament that the minefield was:
a tragic example of the waste and futility of Australian participation in the Vietnam War.'

And Brigadier Stuart Graham, the Task Force Commander in 1967 — the architect of this calamity?



Brigadier Stuart Graham

They gave him a promotion to Major General — and made him Deputy Chief of the General Staff (DVGS) at Army Headquarters in Canberra. And was rewarded for his service to the nation as an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO).

(This author, Don Tate, is a former infantryman who served in the Vietnam War, a teacher, and historian, and the author of a memoir — The War Within)

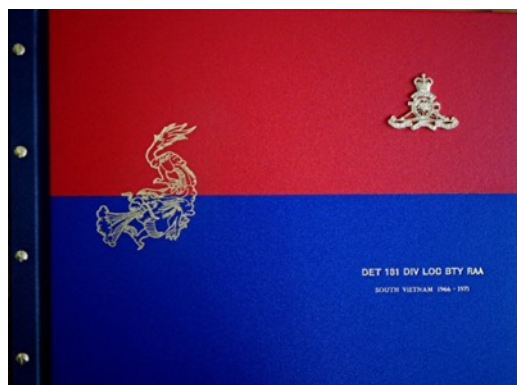
. The “Lost Locator Project”



Ed – The Project continues 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

- Keith Ayliffe sent this item in which he retrieved from his archives...

“4 OBSERVATION TROOP – DISBANDMENT” Recollections by GEOFF JEBB

4 Observation Troop was, in the early fifties, an active unit training and conducting courses in survey and flash spotting techniques at Georges Heights, Mosman NSW.

It was during one of these that the course went to Singleton Range for a final exercise.

The Ops had been surveyed and manned, the plotting board set up, command post established, lines laid and the flash simulating party (under Sgt Priest) deployed ready to flash.

It was a night exercise and we were ready.

We had just started when the Troop Commander Capt John Stevenson (yes, the very same later Major General) came into the CP and we were told to pack up, the unit was no more, it had been disbanded. We thought he was jesting (he had a sense of humour and probably needed one) but he was not and the exercise was abandoned. We packed up and, rather dismayed, returned to Georges Heights to become the Survey/Sound Ranging Troop of the new 4 Locating Battery located at new barracks at Middle Head.

It may be of interest that during a visit to Dong Ha near the DMZ, SVN in October 1968 it was noticed that the US Marines had flash spotting units covering the length of the DMZ and these were considered a vital part of the counter battery network.

CHUA CHAN – SOUTH VIETNAM – 131 BTY'S FRIENDLY MOUNTAIN by GEOFF JEBB

Chua Chan is a mountain about 60km east of Saigon and 10km east of Xuan Loc where the final great battle of the war was fought in March/April 1975.

The mountain rises out of a flat plain to a height of over 800 m and from its summit gives an uninterrupted view of surrounding country.

The Americans used it as a radio relay station and it bristled with antennae of all descriptions. It was only accessible by helicopter and had a small heli-pad which was very difficult to negotiate. There were landing mishaps from time to time. The top of the mountain had been cleared of all vegetation to about 50 m down the slope. It was ringed with wire, bunkers and 44 gallon drums of napalm to form a defensive perimeter.

Built between large natural boulders were buildings crammed with banks of electronic equipment. The base was manned by radio technicians, a platoon of American infantry and about two platoons of SVN soldiers commanded by a US Army captain. Heavy and medium mortars and 50 cal machine guns made it near impregnable at least against any ground assault which also would have to contend with a 1:10 slope.

131 Bty's interest was the location of an old French Trig Station on its summit. When the Task Force was deployed within 30km, given the right weather conditions a direct line of sight could be achieved. If not into the FSB proper then usually to a position close by. It was then a simple task to carry the survey to the gun position. The advantages were no slogging across country, no protection of survey pairs to worry about plus many more worries when stuck in the middle of nowhere.

It was a godsend and proved its value again and again.

The kangaroo emblem on the Australian choppers soon became well known. There was a great welcome given at every arrival – no doubt influenced by the cases of VB and Fosters that somehow managed to be included when theodolites, tellurometers, batteries, heliographs etc were loaded.

Once the survey task was completed the surveyors were treated to the hospitality of the base, meals, hot showers, accommodation. Nothing was too much trouble; even precious bottles of Jim Beam were produced. No digging in, no standing to, our pick-up was often too soon but every now and again the weather would close in and we had to endure a couple of more days.

Those who had the good fortune to visit the "Friendly Mountain" will never forget the experience.

There are many stories that could be told about these visits. Perhaps another time.



Chua Chan - signals / survey hilltop feature.

“The Flying Red Tail Rats” by Jeff Basford – the following is the complete article written by Jeff that we published and shortened version in last month’s *Eyes & Ears* -



The photo at left, taken at Tan Son Nhut, was supplied by Allen Morley.

It was the 1960's to mid 1970's, it was John F Kennedy, Martin Luther King, the Civil Rights movement, the 1968 Paris riots, it was the time of San Francisco, the flower children, Hari Krishna, and the Vietnam peace marches. It was Bob Dylan's, 'How does it feel', Don Maclean's 'American Pie', and John Lennon's 'Imagine', it was a time to remember. Except those young men going off to war in Vietnam, had nothing to be happy about, or want to remember. Between late 1960's to early 1970's I was rostered to crew seven RAAF military charter flights, carrying Australian soldiers in to and out of Vietnam. During the war, Qantas Boeing 707 aircraft and crews were used, as the RAAF did not have the aircraft, that could handle the work load.

The Australian Government, directed Qantas to call for volunteers, as all flight crews were civilians. At that time, quite a few of us had a strong conviction, that the war was justified, and the Government were able to fill their crew quota. Because we felt that we were helping the Government in the war effort, we did not negotiate any extra benefits, Qantas insured all cabin crew the extra amount of \$80,000, which at the time would have purchased four houses. So, we felt that our families would have security if something had happened.

The military charter flights, usually took off and arrived in darkness, at Richmond RAAF base, and Mascot airport in complete secrecy. I did not see anything wrong with this at the time, but years later, when the war went bad, and our soldiers complained of their treatment, I realized this secrecy was done on purpose. There were no crowds, no parades. I cannot remember anyone seeing them off, or cheering them home. I suppose there were family, but I cannot remember anyone being there, but then it was always late at night. Over this period, there were hundreds of flights carrying 140 soldiers on each charter. The military flights would leave Sydney and fly via Darwin to either Singapore or Manila, then a waiting crew would operate the final leg into Saigon's Tan Son Nhut Airport, Vietnam, and sit on the ground, for two hours, until the homeward bound troops were on board.

Sometime around 1972 I became antiwar, probably because of my contact with the troops, seeing how young they were, and hearing their conversations. It was a very strange time, looking back, it still amazes me how much the population was split, for and against. The last leg of the flight, Manila into Vietnam, the young soldiers became so quiet you could almost hear a pin drop. I knew they were trying to hide their thoughts and feelings from each other, and get themselves into a strong mental state. After going through this a few times with them, I started to feel so sorry, and so very angry, that our Government was doing this to such young kids.

The flights leaving Vietnam were the complete Opposite, the troops were always very raucous and drank the aircraft bars dry within a very short time. Some came on board with black eyes etc, as they had been letting their hair down on leave prior to departure. Landing at Tan Son Nhut Airport was quite an experience, it was the busiest airport in the world, for aircraft traffic. Before the war, Chicago's O'Hare airport had the record for the busiest. The American traffic controllers would welcome our captain on the radio, as the 'Red Rats' or the 'Flying Rats', they thought the kangaroo on the tail looked more like a rat. As we entered Vietnam's airspace, the Americans would scramble two jet fighters to escort us for the landing. This was done because of regular Vietcong firing on aircraft, and occasionally they fired on the airport. When we were lined up with the runway the pilot would put the aircraft into a very steep dive, which made the approach and landing extremely fast.

My first landing in a Boeing 707 like this, was quite a frightening experience, and will always be etched in my memory, with thoughts of 'am I going to die'. As we taxied back along the runway, I have never seen so much aircraft activity. There were helicopters, taking off and landing, bombers taking off, jet fighters taxiing. All the way along the runway on both sides, were steel sand bagged igloos, housing the fighters. They looked like evil wasps, their long-pointed noses sticking out from the hives. There must have been thousands of aircraft based at Saigon's airport, because it was continual movement all the time. The only comparison I could make was the number of times I flew into and out of JFK airport in New York, the air traffic was huge but insignificant compared to Tan Son Nhut airport in Vietnam. The immortal scene of the Huey helicopters in the movie *Apocalypse Now*, whoop, whoop, whoop, overhead, that is how that airport sounded. The Hueys seemed to be flying around everywhere, like a swarm of bees. The security around the terminal, and

around the parked aircraft was very heavy, the aircraft were spaced wide apart in case of any mortar or rocket attacks.

On one of the flights, while waiting at the terminal, the Americans told us the airfield had been attacked the day before. Thankfully, nothing like that happened on any of my flights, just the very steamy heat for the two hours waiting to load up. Standing on the rear steps watching the flights of Phantom bombers taxiing in front of me, they were fully loaded, with missiles, bombs and long range fuel tanks. As they turned at the end of the runway, they all paused for the okay. Then with their - 8 -engines roaring, they hurtled down the runway, heading out to do their bombing runs. I do remember, it was always a great relief, after we had taken off and reached a higher altitude. The sixties were a fantastic time to be part of, the changes that were made, such as the civil rights movement, and the great music and lyrics that were born from that era. It seemed so alive and full of great people, and great happenings. The Kennedys and their modern-day Camelot, the great music that came from that period is still being played today. It is being played today 40 years on because so much feeling and passion went into the writing of those songs. Like the song says 'Times they are a changing'.

Jeff Basford.

Next month – Ian Amos gave me a lead to “**Skippy Squadron**” and also it led to The Skippy Squadron Association’s President – **Ted Hazlehurst**. We’ll be publishing more next month and hopefully beyond. It should be so good to get this side of things of “volunteers” who got us to and more importantly safely home after our service term in South Vietnam.

Here’s a bit of background -

Skippy Squadron organiser, **Alan Kitchen**, has made an extensive study of Qantas charter flights to Vietnam from June 1965 to February 1972 and has established that at least 300 flights in/out of Saigon were chartered to the RAAF to carry troops to Vietnam. According to National Australian Archives Inward Customs Register in June 1965, B707-138B VH-EBI operated four flights from Saigon as shown in the following table.

Skippy Squadron was formed in 2002 by the volunteer Qantas aircrew and ground staff who operated and supported military charter flights in the prescribed area of operations during the Vietnam war, maintaining the commitment established by their predecessors during the Second World War.



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

The following sent in by Michael Quinlan was actually originally located in the Mail In-Mail Out section (following), but I thought it lent itself perfectly to a bit of “Nomad” yarn especially after I received the photos (the Hervey Bay scene did it!) –

“Hi Paul, Nothing to report really. We have just come home from a 6-week stint in Queensland, just got in before Anastasia closed the border again. We were in our caravan and stayed at Dicky Beach and Hervey Bay (Pialba) Caravan Parks ... just great!!! Caught up for lunch with Brian and Mary Smythe at Noosa Heads, told a few lies and reminisced about what happened 50 yrs ago.

At the moment just doing family things and keeping a rather low social profile for obvious reasons. We will start planning a 6-month stint around Australia in 2021 providing borders reopen. Let’s all hope for a vaccine early in the New Year and less Chinese influence in our lives. Regards, Michael”



The length (Imperial) is 23.5 feet, it weighs 2650kg fully loaded, ball weight 260 kg and I tow it with a VW 180 TDI Touareg, and yes very comfortable.



The photo at left depicts a view from our Club Lounge out to sea at Hervey Bay.

...the following is my response to Michael after seeing these photos –

“When all this Coronavirus thing is over can you please take the caravan back to Hervey Bay and I'll rent it for 18 months!

What a great location! **Paul**”



Nice Catch! This is proof of a very serious hobby!

From the Advocate's Desk...



Our professional Advocate's contact details: -

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

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

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

Mail Call...

Ken Osborne – after various communications Ken sent in the following. It's an interesting pictorial of a radar being returned to the 1ATF base –

“Dear Paul, some more photos for you. This time taken around Oct 1967 of them trialling the lift of the radar by Chinook. It is amazing what I am finding under my list of slides. So, will be doing some more scanning in the future and then I will have digital copies that I can readily forward on. Found a couple of my old mate Ted Doust on his way home and his grin is as wide as you could get, just sorry he is no longer with us, so keep at it and keep well, regards, Ken Osborne.”



Spotted on Facebook...

Mal Scott asked the following question – “Does someone on this site play golf at Coplicks Tallebudgera. I saw a car with Vietnam Veteran ribbon sticker and 131 Assoc sticker there on Tuesday”

Iain Kennedy responded with – “Didn’t know we had a 131 sticker!!”

Interesting! – **Ed** suggests getting onto the 131 Locators Association website –

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

Then have a look at “Merchandise” or get in touch with **Grahame Dignam** at Email sectreas131locators@gmail.com

And he’ll only be too pleased to help you out!



At left and above are samples of the Decal and Ribbon stickers, plus merchandise.



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...

Ian Campbell – “Hi Paul,

In Melbourne, Level 4 Lockdown, with less-than-stuff-all-else-to-do (and this is not a whinge or whine, just a fact) I have been reading ALL the past E&E's from the archive.

This has been an amazing journey from its resurrection in 2009 and a credit to you for the effort put in over the time since. Taking notes as I go to aid a failing memory (I know, join the queue) I read, amongst other articles, the PANAM Stewards article so well written by Jill Niegnos, and a very focussed piece on the Coral action by Colonel I.F. Ahearn in which he stresses accuracy is vital for the historical recognition of this action.

So, and trivial by comparison, I want to correct a couple of errors in an article I submitted that was published in E&E vol-8-no-12-december-2015.

See attached (below as well).

The article was written by Ian Campbell not Grahame Campbell and the departure date was "early 1971" not 70. this last detail was my typo error.

Keep up the great work.

Regards...Ian"

Terry Westerway – "Well, personally, I would like to send a really big 'Thank You' card to Xi Jinping – 'Dear Comrade Jinping, thank you so very much for your kind gift of your coronavirus, we are having a wonderful time locked up most of the time. And very limited to where we can go outside, even wearing masks and other PPE. We would like to extend to you and your country a courteous invitation to attend the theological place of eternal punishment, at your very earliest convenience.' Terry."

As you might guess, I am not impressed with the whole coronavirus pandemic. I don't know whether you have seen it, but the CDC in the US has issued a report in which they say at least 96% of all deaths attributed to the coronavirus involved people who had multiple other life threatening medical conditions (obesity, heart problems, diabetes and a few others). The CDC cannot be sure what killed the people, the coronavirus or their pre-existing condition. Apparently, if a deceased had (or might have had) a coronavirus infection, the cause of death was written down as coronavirus.

My personal health is okay, although my back is giving me the shits (apparently, I actually was not super-duper-man when I was younger)."

John Richmond – "Hi Paul

Beginning of September, but it also looks like we are heading right into an early spring and let's hope not another summer and fire season like the last

Excuse my worse than usual typing, have my middle finger of my right hand braced up. Back in late July took dive into a concrete path. The finger took then Emergency Department 3 - 4 hours to get it back into shape and then was back at day surgery to have the back side stitched up.

We in the ACT have been very lucky with COV 19. In the last several weeks have had no new cases. The odd thing is we are considered, by particularly QLD, as a hot spot. From what I can gather it is because some bright spark from outside the territory tried to buck the QLD lock down

The lock down is still affecting us to an extent eg there are restrictions on entertainment venues etc etc

One thing that has really hit me lately is I am about to join the 75-age club. Only seems yesterday (be it 52 years ago) that I was being discharged from the Army. How time has flown

How is big brother Jim these days?

Hope this finds u well,

Regards, JR"

Peter Pioro – "Paul,

We seem to be much the same with one exception.

Those needing help do not stop COVID 19 in seeking help.

Apart from current ongoing cases (80) we have 3 new clients this week. The number of mental health issues is outstanding showing Afghanistan, Timor and others are sleeping time bombs.

I have a team of trainees (2) so in 57 lock down days 4 of us put in 752 hours of work. This included interviews (social distancing) and a number of other matters.

Yesterday I saw my grandsons for the first time in 6 months especially the younger one. Made me a very touching fathers/grandfathers day card.

All the best I have to head off for an early appointment. Client female 38 years in the army.

Take Care Stay Safe.

Regards, Peter Pioro."

Ken Osborne – "Dear Paul, what you are doing sounds exactly the same my wife and I are going through. Neridah, my wife, runs in to do the shopping as we are not supposed to go in as a couple which she finds a bit frustrating as she is never sure how much money she needs to do the task. I estimate what she needs, but then she says what if I see something and I do not have the money I have to come back and start over again. Apart from that we mask up as required and I am only going to the bank once a month and pay all the utilities for a month in advance and we can keep ourselves amused and busy at home. If the sun shines after we have had breakfast we usually both sit out on the back veranda, have a cup of coffee my wife will read and I will do the cryptic crossword from the Sun newspaper and I am getting quite good at it. It used to only get a little attention but now if I have not finished it completely under an hour I blame the compiler for his lousy clues. Then if the sun keeps shining most probably spend more time just reading and relaxing.

My cousin in Adelaide and his family have got me helping them with their family tree. I have done family history for about forty years and have covered or had most of it in my files, but there is always something you have not covered so that is what I am on at the moment. I have about 10,000 names in my Osborne file after I put in my siblings their families and those of my parents and grandparents and theirs, it begins to spread out and this basically only the Australian side. I have another file for the English side of the family, cousins and so on that stayed behind and that has about 8,000 names in it,

then there is the wife's family and all their hangers on and the only trouble with all of this is trying to remember names and dates. I do have a good family history program though, it is an oldie but a good one.

On the political scene, I think Victoria is going to have some unsettling times to come, our Premier said he would ease Covid restrictions once the number of cases per day reached double figures, which I understand as being between 99 and 10, but now he wants to continue the lock down until the figures are single digits. He has been given powers that really make him a dictator and he is certainly going to have an economic disaster on his hands if he does not lighten up, small businesses will go under and will never recover, and some of rules and restrictions for all of Victoria should only apply to those areas that are Covid hotspots. The rule about you can only travel in a five kilometres' radius from your home when applied to Portland means that if I really stick to the rules I cannot visit any of my friends on the other side of town otherwise I am breaking the rules. I could go on and on about the problems but who wants to hear my complaints? So, before I go, did you get the photos I sent regarding where some of our RAEME blokes were sleeping in Vietnam during our stay there. The reason I ask is that I was sending some photos of Woomera to a mate of mine who served up there after me on Rapier trials that showed some of the missiles I witnessed being launched or had some involvement with in regards to tracking them did not reach him as I inadvertently left a dot out of his email address, and as you probably know that stuffs up the apple cart. I will be going through my list of slides to see if there are any others that might be of interest, I have them all numbered and indexed so they are relatively easy to find, it is the scanning of them that takes a while.

Anyhow, as the sun is shining and there is no wind and the temperature is only 15, and the sun has just gone over the yard arm as the saying goes, I am going to make myself a cup of coffee and go outside and read for a while before having lunch. So, keep well and safe, Regards Ken Osborne."

John Stanford – "Paul

Thanks for your update. There have been some major changes for me in recent times as I have sold up my house in suburban Gold Coast and down sized to an apartment, overlooking the water, in Southport. Downsizing was very interesting as you meet some characters when selling on Gumtree/ Facebook and when conducting the odd garage sale - an experience I hope to forget soon. Many trips to the dump where the council workers work ethic leaves a lot to be desired.

We have now settled in well to our over 50s complex but still waiting for some furniture to arrive - it's literally on a slow boat from China. The next hurdle to overcome will be learning to survive on sharing one car with my better half.

I have spoken to Col West and Herb Andrews recently and they are travelling well.

Regards, John Stanford"

Graham Williams – "Hey Paul,

Thanks for the gee up. Life goes on pretty much as normal here except of course for my travelling ways. I have come to the conclusion that with the exception of travel my life here has been in lockdown for the past five or so years anyway with very little socialization outside our own ponderosa. Jenni is still working as a nurse in aged care and rueing the fact all dog shows have been cancelled during the pandemic which was her outlet from work. I just potter around the house as required hoping for rain when the larger jobs present themselves. It is definitely getting harder as our home has 3 levels of gardens with vegetables, flowers and shrubs and trees that attract the birds which, left unattended can turn into a jungle but we do our best. The Covid curse fortunately does not affect us much here in Tweed Heads. Although the border restrictions with Qld have changed a number of times have had no trouble getting the necessary border pass. All my doctors and specialists are in Qld so a pass is necessary and on those occasions, I turn post appointments into social outings to walk along the beach, have a beachfront coffee and even the odd beer at one of the surf clubs before coming home. Works for me and breaks the boredom which is good. Will say nothing on the politics going on over the borders as you would never shut me up but the bottom line is without building a wall you will never stop people getting through. Even without a pass if I wanted say to go to Coolangatta all one needs to do is park the car in Tweed Mall and simply walk across the border for a day out. "Nuff' said.

Sadly, unlike you my golfing days ended some years back after the last of five shoulder reconstructions (2 on the left and 3 on the right.) After the last op the specialist took me aside and said words to the effect "If you further damage either shoulder don't bother coming back as there is nothing we will be able to do for you." There endeth the golfing career which I do miss but am not prepared to take the chance. Embarrassing enough that each time I need to mow the lawns these days I need to ask Jenni to help me carry the mower up or down the stairs as required. Que sera as they say. Weather here has been good throughout winter. Warm days, not much rain and only a few very low temperature nights or early mornings so getting plenty of vitamin D. Weather bureau is telling us we will be getting a wetter than normal spring and summer but wait there's more. Also, forecasting another bad fire season in the same breath...life goes on. We are both well with no health complaints so thankful for that and just cruise along at our own pace. During the pandemic have spoken with quite a few of the people I know from the Detachment during my tour to keep in touch and say giddyay. Everyone seems positive in uneasy times so that is good.

Time now to hit the "Frog and toad". On that note my best wishes to yourself family and friends. Stay safe and take care of each other.

Cheers, Graham."

1A/IV

~~Grahame Campbell~~ sent the following story and photos in of a visit to North Head and by the looks of the photos not much has changed over a fairly long period...

"Following 3 months at 2RTB in Puckapunyal I was moved to Holsworthy to do basic artillery corp training before transferring to the School of Artillery at North Head for the Arty Int course, Operator Command Post - Locating.

Page 2 of 17

North Head was a great place to be posted, much better than Holsworthy so after graduating with the other gunners from the course and we spent as much time as we could back at North Head doing General Duties in the dining room and kitchen until departing for SVN in early 1970. 71.

So...nearly 40 years later, my wife and I went for a day trip to Sydney and decided to visit North Head to see how the school has lasted. We took the Manly Ferry from Circular Quay, grabbed a quick lunch at a café overlooking Manly Surf Life Saving Club then hopped on the local bus to ride up to the School.

The school is now a military museum and is still looking magnificent.

The Officers and Sergeants mess were not open but looked in good condition. The OR's mess is now leased out to a business.

The museum is in the guard house that straddles the archway that leads out of the school to the street.

The gunner's accommodation, 4 or 5 man rooms, have been stripped of the fitted furniture and are now just bare rooms. These are not open to the public but you can peer in the window and remember it as it was.

The parade ground is a perfect as it was in 1970 and I can still hear the BSM's voice bellowing out demanding that you "Get off my parade ground" if you foolishly took a short-cut across it.

I can recommend a trip to see the old place, it sure brought back some memories.

Gunner IR Campbell"

Ed – I thought I'd add the photos again (below)...



North Head. Guardhouse and Museum



North Head. Admin and Gunners Accommodation



North Head. Officers Mess

John Vitkovsky – "G'day Paul,

We are in regional Victoria, so not locked down as in Melbourne. Really, living on a rural property, we are not affected by Stage 3 restraints except for having to wear masks when we leave the property.

The resort has been closed now since March, and I cannot see that we will re-open until there is an antidote to this virus, or I keel over from old age. Our plans to cruise around NT for a couple of months was shot down by border closures. We managed to get away for a couple of weeks camping on a fabulous spot on the mighty Murray near Robinvale; before the virus gestapo ordered us home, see photo. Other than that, it is good to see the start of spring - will drag out the boat and make it ready for the fishing season. Our property bounds the high-water mark on Rocklands Reservoir.

About to arrange a visit to the Macarthur Pub which has been purchased by a Viet Nam vet as a refuge. Called **"Cockatoo Rise"** - look it up on the web. He has banned all locals from the pub and only caters to Vets. Has upset a few local drinkers. Anyway, sounds interesting.

That's about all the news from "Sicktoria".

Cheers, JV."



Ed – We ran this a while ago – it's worth a look if YOU'RE a "Sicktorian" and can travel there at the MOMENT!
Where's the website - <https://www.cockatooriseretreat.com.au>

Steve (Partridge) Wynn – "G'day Paul,

It is good to hear things are OK with you and the family. Last time I knew my core body temp was a year ago, it was 42.3C, they rushed me into hospital with pneumonia ha, ha.

Blossoms are out everywhere here and that means the start of hard yakka for me. The 'boss' wants all the vegetable garden beds repaired/rebuilt too, bugger. Father's Day today and I have just been told to cut the grass, what is the world coming to. Father's Day is when father does nothing and gets waited on, while Mother's Day is when mother does everything, is here anyway, well it was until now.

Life has been a little taxing for the last six months with 'the virus', however I remember some of the WWII years, and the following years, in comparison, Covid is a piece of cake, except for the deprivation of liberties. In truth, I have not been out except for a few trips to hospital, one for a heart attack and one for an operation and biopsy, all in the last six months. Living on acreage gives me room to move, and plenty to do, so insanity is delayed.

I did have to visit my GP yesterday that meant wearing a mask, they would not allow me into the surgery without one, fair dinkum, they suddenly have better security than the local bank, electronic doors and monitors. The hospital would not let me in without a mask, right up until it was time to 'go under' then none of us had masks on, funny how the virus suddenly disappears like that.

Bit of mirth, I found this one, I hope you like it. "I went to Bunnings last week to buy some timber and a kg of nails. The plan was to build a small free-standing shed in my back yard. When I got home I found that half the nails were no good - they were facing the wrong way. Back to Bunnings to complain and the nice lady told me the nails were OK, they were meant to be used for the other side of whatever I was building. I never thought of that!"

Keep safe, stay away from virus'. Cheers, Steve Wynn (Partridge)."

Steve (Partridge) Wynn – he's back – sent in the following after discovering he received a "stranger" than usual (if that's possible!) email from me, the proceeded on with his response to my quarterly mail-out –

"Hi Paul,

I thought it looked a bit sus, there is a good Windows bit of software you can download free from MS if you use Win, at <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/security/threat-protection/intelligence/safety-scanner-download>

It is only good for a week and is around 50mb but will find anything that should not be there, just set the scan to cover everything, it will take a couple of hours but you can keep working while it scans.

You do a fantastic job with "Eyes and Ears" mate, it must take you ages to get it all together. I was only thinking after reading the last *Eyes & Ears* how could you be replaced if you decided to give it away. That means you cannot stop producing "Eyes and Ears" sorry. **(Ed – I was hoping for some sort of application for a "volunteer replacement"!!!)**

On your last email, I have a wonderful wife who looks after me, married almost 52 years now, with 2 adult and very successful children, with 2 grandsons who ran me ragged up until Covid hit. We grow almost all our own fruit and vegetables so only buy meat and some items we can't grow or could not be bothered growing, we picked 3 huge, juicy pineapples and 4 paw paws this week. I took a pic of the pineapples next to a tape measure to remember how huge they were (attached).

All the best mate, Steve Wynn"

...Steve added a bit more in another email -

"The pineapples, paw paws and mangos are out of this world compared to bought stuff. We also grow peaches, nectarines, plums, pears, custard apple, passionfruit, mandarins, oranges, lemons, olives, grapes, guava, carob, pepinos,

mulberries, strawberries, blueberries, figs and Camelia Synensis (tea), plus most vegetables, mostly for our own use. So, you can see why we are busy outside most of the time. We have had no luck with coffee or avocado funny enough.



Ed – The Wauchope soil/climate must be ideal!

...got Steve to “volunteer” – well, I’ll see how I can ‘suck’ him into something between his primary growing production enterprise –

“G'day Paul,

The last time I volunteered was in 130 Corps Loc Bat (SR) when I volunteered to do the first watch and the NCOs forgot about me, so I spent the entire night on guard duty, then the following weeks in the CP reading graphs of guns firing. I remember eventually falling asleep after a couple of days’ ha, ha.

Yes mate, if I can help out, glad to. I warn you I have never done editing before and I am going through a few medical issues at the moment. I can proof read if that is preferable.

Now I will have to find out what an editor does.

I ran numerous companies of my own and for others, mostly at the same time, but have not been as busy as since I retired about ten years ago. Even when working I was running or organising NFPs and community organisations which I still do. I did leave a lot of organisations a couple of years ago when I got really crook but mostly over it all now, fingers crossed. I actually retired about 15 years ago but the govt. asked me to manage a census, so went back to work for a year, then retired again. I knocked back the second request to do a census, I was TOO retired by then ha, ha.

Better let me know what you want done.

Cheers, Steve Wynn.”

Rodney Beasley found this item on Artillery Group and posted it on Facebook – the Associations and it appeared on mine too.

Michael Glasson

Yesterday at 4:53 AM ·

I was at a cemetery in **Adelaide** yesterday looking for a spot for a wall plaque for my dad in the ex-serviceman’s section (my dad was in the navy), and came across this. He was around my age, but don’t remember the name, does any know of this digger? (Ubique).



Ed – Can we see if we can lend a hand? A response can be added to this Facebook post.



NB from Ed – My email address obviously does get scammed, so it wouldn’t hurt if something looks “sus” using my name (mind you some of my emails can be somewhat strange at times) just to check the “@.....” part. Paul

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

WELCOME HOME PARADE – 3rd October, 1987 – 33 years hence -

Were you there?

What are your memories?

Do you have photos?

Let us know – Paul Dickson at – 131eyesandears@gmail.com

Locator's Reunion Program 23/24/25th April, 2021 15th Birthday of 20th Regiment RAA



Friday 23rd April:

Daytime - free to tour Brisbane and environs.

LSTAA Annual General Meeting in the Sky Lounge at 5pm, Kedron Wavell RSL. Locator's Reunion Cocktail Party at 6pm, to celebrate 20th Regiment's 15th birthday. Drinks & nibbles in the Sky Lounge [cost yet to be determined]. Dress for men, jacket & tie with miniatures, ladies after 6pm.

Saturday 24th April:

10am until 3pm, 20th Regiment's family day at Fort Lytton Historic Military Precinct, 30min drive from the CBD.

<https://fortlytton.org.au/>

*20th Regiment's equipment display & guided tours of historical Fort Lytton. * Family barbeque, a gold coin donation per adult.

Free transport available for visitors, leaving Brisbane's ANZAC Square at 9.30am and returning approx. 3.30pm.

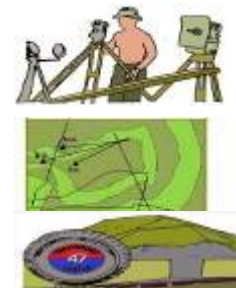
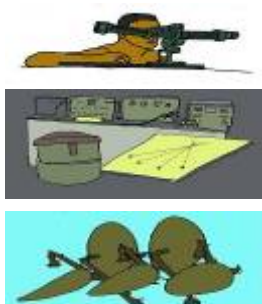
There is ample car parking at the Fort, which will be closed to the general public.

Sunday 25th April:

5am Regiment's Traditional Dawn Service at Gallipoli Barracks.

10am Brisbane ANZAC Day march

Noon post march drinks at the Stock Exchange Hotel.



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>

"It was great to see all the blokes at the **ZOOM** meeting – you don't have to be a Member to join in, but it could be handy if you were. Grahame Dignam. Email sectreas131locators@gmail.com to enquire about joining the meeting or joining or both! Grahame"

Presidential perambulations

With the coronavirus pandemic now abating somewhat I wanted to check out some definitions of terms used, some old, some new and some with different meanings from past usage. The media, both 'social' and 'traditional' bandy words around, seemingly to both confuse and break into the medical- scientific lexicons.

For example:

Pandemic – an international health situation that the WHO was slow to admit to but which now has international acceptance for this event

Covid-19 – a novel viral infection thought to come from China

PPE – the letters representing Personal Protective Equipment that at times seemed to be in short supply

Hand sanitiser – an anti-bacterial chemical solution used to clean hands to prevent a virus spreading

Modelling – a way to try and have computers predict outcomes; remember the old saw for computers of 'garbage in, garbage out'

Chief Health Officer – a non-elected medical doctor, with powers identified in legislation, who effectively runs the State or Territory during the current pandemic and who can conveniently be the scapegoat for politicians

Covid safe app – a computer, phone or tablet application which allows governments to track where you have travelled, supposedly to enable tracking of infected contacts

Super spreader – not a mechanical superphosphate spreader, rather an infected person who spreads the virus to many people

Person zero – the unidentified person seen as the first virus victim

Curfew – a state of severe quarantine/isolation in your home, more often experienced in Eastern European countries, during wartime and more recently in Victoria

Bubble – a device to enable activity for a selected few while the majority remain constrained and/or restricted in movement

Palaszczyk/Palachez – a Mrs Bucket/Bouquet type mispronunciation of a surname

JobSeeker – a Federal government scheme to provide more income to some unemployed than they would receive by working

Covid vaccine – a vaccine still in multiple location development, which governments hope will work, although many are likely to refuse vaccination because of the short duration of its development and safety testing

Deep cleaning – the expensive (for small businesses) process of cleaning premises because of an infected person's presence there at some time

Arrivals cap – the limit of international passengers permitted into state airports each week, despite early government warnings to either hurry home or remain where they were

1.5 metres – the magic person to person separation distance, or the space beyond which the virus cannot travel

Perhaps that is enough for the time being.

Regards, Allen



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

. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 13th October, 2020 at 1100hrs

Venue: **ZOOM** – wait for further information. **Come and join us – its great to catch up for an hour or so!**

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

Tuesday, 8th September, 2020 at 1105hrs...

Attendees were:

Bob Billiards, Paul Dickson, Terry Erbs,

Gordon Malcolm, Barry Guzder, Ian Amos,

Bert Blink, Ron Mason, Rieny Nieuwenhof,

Graham Dignam, Ernie Newbold and Allen Morley



Financial Membership is currently ...**128**, plus Associates **2**, plus Affiliates **12**. Total **142**,
Plus, Lapsed as at 1/9/2020 **30** members.

The Association has more than 20% lapsed members which is a worry. To check if you are financial please email the Sec/Treas Sectreas131locators@gmail.com to confirm your status.

Some members have elected not to maintain their financial membership which we respect and so we can maintain contact, we have converted them to Affiliates and can be reinstated upon payment of that year's dues.

Members **not financial** by **30 October, 2020** will be deemed unfinancial and **will lose voting rights** and MEMBER access to the Association's website section.

Presidents report.

Allen advised that:

. The AGM would go ahead on the 10 November 2020 at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway at Street Address: Killoola St, Rhodes Park, Concord NSW which has the appropriate facilities including parking.

. He had an enquiry from a Brendon Dent who was seeking information via Face book regarding his father the late Edwin Leslie Lewis who had passed in 1992. Again, Facebook provided an avenue to connect with the family of a past Locator.

. We were presented a proposal to meet ½ the cost (our share \$260) of a miniature Queens Banner with the LSTAA. The banner would be presented jointly to 20 Regiment as part of the 2021 Australian Artillery 150th Anniversary activities. The proposal requires that a minimum of 50 banners be ordered from the supplier before triggering the commitment. The EOI for the banner is required by 26/9/20 with payment if required by 6/11/2021. A vote was carried in favour of joining the EOI and sharing the cost. We will be further advised in due course.

. Discussion was held regarding arranging a quote to do a reprint of Tracks of the Dragon which would include correcting known errors and omissions. While the will to undertake, the project was strong there is a matter of copyright that must be respected. We will approach the authors to gauge their feeling on the matter.

. web Performance...

Bob advised the Face book page now has 170 members.

Health.

No new concerns have come to our attention: Keith Ayliffe continues to convalesce from a recent operation.

We urge our entire cohort in the 70 + age bracket to be aware of the COVID-19 danger and properly protect themselves when out in public.

General Business and around the grounds.

Discussions ensued on the following:

. Terry question - if a vinyl patch for the UCG would be appropriate for the sign recently erected externally on the 131 Battery building in Enoggera QLD. Discussion suggested that it would not stand the UV radiation in the QLD climate. Terry will approach the sign writer who supplied the sign for suggestions.

. Grahame advised that we will be time restricted getting Committee nomination completed prior to the AGM due to COVID-19 regulations.

. Rieny advised that Geelong would be the beneficiary of a government project to purchase self-propelled artillery howitzers from a locally based Chinese company Hanwha for the RAA providing employment for the locals...

. Grahame advised the background of a project to "Return a slouch hat to the family of the late Lesley Connell and suggested that the Association might cover the postage cost from Nicholas Montgomery, the Person who rescued the hat from an antique shop in Illinois USA. The full story will appear in a future *Eyes & Ears*.

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...October –

Date	Name	Serv No	YoB	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	IAN BRIGNELL	2789405	1946	20 01 1969	21 01 1970	
2	TERRY BRUCE	2783213	1945	05 05 1967	30 01 1968	
2	PETER TEATHER	3790242	1945	12 04 1968	06 08 1968	
2	LESLIE ROBINSON	217662	1949	09 12 1968	28 11 1969	
3	WELCOME HOME	ALL	1987	1966	1971	Det 131
4	LEIGH HEMMING	1732039	1945	04 05 1967	11 12 1967	†02.03.18
4	MICHAEL LUFF	2783725	1945	02 01 1967	27 09 1967	
4	DAVID LAHORE	3791183	1945	02 09 1968	04 03 1969	
5	JAMES MERCHANT	2788817	1945	18 12 1968	28 11 1969	
7	GARY CHILLINGSWORTH	313477	1951	29 11 1970	05 08 1971	
8	JOHN O'NEILL	243505	1949	09 11 1970	11 11 1970	
	" "			11 03 1971	12 05 1971	RAEME
9	BRIAN SMYTHE	1201484	1946	02 09 1968	03 12 1969	
10	BRIAN KENNEDY Capt.	213488	1942	02 03 1965	11 03 1965	3 RAR
	" "			26 08 1969	27 08 1970	131

10	PAUL DICKSON	1732012	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
10	BARRY BONSER	37661	1941	03 01 1967	27 09 1967	† 03.09.98
11	PAUL JONES	216324	1946	22 04 1966	30 04 1967	† 09.09.68
11	JEFFREY EVANS Maj	3789164	1945	10 02 1971	02 06 1971	† 23.12.11
	" "			02 06 1971	02 11 1971	12 Fd Regt.
12	ALAN CLEASBY WO2	36053	1937	02 12 1968	10 12 1969	131
	" " "			11 06 1972	20 11 1972	AATTV
12	BARRY FOUNTAIN	3798485	1949	03 03 1971	20 08 1971	131
	" "			21 08 1971	30 10 1971	12 Fd Regt.
13	PETER SALI	1735560	1948	24 02 1970	18 02 1971	† 2016
13	DENNIS AVERY	4720906	1948	19 08 1970	09 06 1971	4 Fd Regt.
14	ANTHONY DODDS	16776	1944	04 05 1967	02 04 1968	
14	NORMAN LINDROOS	3410957	1939	20 05 1968	24 05 1969	
14	PETER McGANN	55672	1950	27 11 1969	19 11 1970	
16	WILLIAM THOMAS	16727	1944	{07 01 1967	19 03 1967	1ARU
	" "			{20 03 1967	26 09 1967	
17	TORIN WHITE	218372	1945	21 02 1969	25 02 1970	
18	HELMUT LEMPA	38120	1946	20 05 1966	06 12 1966	† Unknown
18	ARTHUR JUX "TED"	2792371	1948	29 04 1970	18 03 1971	
19	IAN FINLAY	2412363	1948	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
20	ROBERT HARRIS Sgt.	213514	1942	10 02 1971	29 07 1971	
22	STEPHEN WYNN	2251369	1942	CMF 130 BTY		
23	JOHN VITKOVSKY	4718271	1945	02 03 1967	12 03 1968	
23	NORMAN BULLEN	214545	1944	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	
22	IAN BOARD	213879	1943	22 04 1966	11 12 1966	
25	MICHAEL DELANEY	2789205	1947	17 02 1969	28 11 1969	† 17.02.13
28	MICHAEL BOHL	1411182	1948	08 02 1968	17 12 1968	† 15.06.93
28	DAVID DOYLE Sgt.	17760	1943	{22 04 1966	11 12 1966	
	" "			{24 09 1970	08 02 1971	
28	IAN MURLEY	38503	1946	12 04 1968	23 04 1969	
28	PAUL TYS Lt.	235362	1946	17 03 1969	18 03 1970	
29	JAMES "ZEKE" RITCHIE Sgt.	2411899	1940	21 05 1969	09 04 1970	
29	PETER LARKIN	3793067	1946	08 11 1968	19 11 1969	
30	GRAHAM O'TOOLE	61497	1943	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	

*Above colour background coding explanation – Red = Financial Locator, Blue = Honorary Member, Yellow = Located Locator, Black = Passed Locator and White = NOT Located Locator.

Ed – 9 blokes not highlighted is looking decidedly better, but still not acceptable! Ok, let's get into it and actively get out there locating a few more!

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received **164** and we've sent out **164**. Ed – managed to resurrect **Michael Quinlan's!**
. **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.



The following was sent by David Troedel, plus other follow ups – thanks to those who submitted it -

As you know Kevin Salter passed away on 25th March.

Sadly, due to COVID-19 attendance at his funeral was restricted to family members only.

We intended to hold a memorial service but this also creates some problems.

Gary Penney, RSL president (Kawana Waters) RSL Sub Branch is keen to go ahead with a memorial service for Kevin on Remembrance Day.

However, numbers will also be limited and because of the restrictions, many of Kevin's ex-army mates won't be able to attend

As the Queensland Border is closed and may not be open prior to November I suggested to Ken Murphy that maybe we should hold a simultaneous service on Remembrance Day somewhere in Sydney.

Would you be able to put the word out to your members who would like to attend the memorial service as once again numbers may be a problem?

The service will be held in Sydney, location TBA.

Those interested are asked to contact **Ken Murphy** by email (ken.jan62@gmail.com) or ph. 02 44544352. Mob. 0411061146.

David Troedel

The following is extracted from our latest newsletter for your info -

Kevin Joseph (Kev) Salter.

Passed away on 25th March 2020.

5/710510 - 5410427 - 54170

Born 2nd January 1938, Fremantle, Western Australia.

17 National Service Training Battalion 8th January 1957 to 15th April 1957.

Enlisted RASR(O) 16th April 1957.

School of Artillery 11th May 1957.

1 Field Regiment, 102 Battery 12th August 1957.

1 Field Regiment, HQ Battery (Survey Troop) November 1957.

Lance Bombardier 1958.

Temporary Bombardier 1958.

1 Field Regiment, 101 Battery (Delta Troop) 3rd March 1959.

Bombardier 4th March 1959.

Malaya: Bombardier (Delta Troop-Gun Bdr) 101 Battery 4th October 1959.

Transferred to ARA 16th August 1960.

101 Field Battery Royal Australian Artillery/26 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery 17th October 1960 (Survey Troop)

4 Field Regiment, HQ Battery (Survey Troop) 27th October 1961.

Temporary Sergeant 26th January 1962.

Temporary WO2, 4 Field Regiment, 106 Battery (Battery Guide) August 1966.

WO2, School of Artillery May 1967.

11 Field Regiment December 1971.

United Kingdom December 1973.

Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill (LTS) 1974.

RAGTE Holne, West Germany (AIG) April 1975.

Return to Australia September 1975 by ship via the east coast of USA, Panama Canal, West Coast of USA, Hawaii and New Zealand.

School of Artillery, October 1975.

LS&GCM 1975.

WO1, 131 Divisional Locating Battery 1976.

WO1, Discharged 8th September 1978.

Enlisted Army Reserve 1978, Revert to WO2 (RSO)

Captain (PSO) 5/11 Field Regiment (BC, HQ Battery) 1982.

1 Training Group (WO/NCO Wing) 1983.

131 Divisional Locating Battery (Army Reserve)

Captain retired March 1993

A Vale Update -

Ian Campbell has supplied a complete YoD for **Ken Borgges**, who's Vale appeared in Eyes & ears Vol 12 No 4 April 2019.



Name: Kenneth Henry Borgges

Service No: 13543 Rank: BQM

DoB: 03 09 1936

DoD: 08 11 2018

Lest We Forget



More Vale Updates –

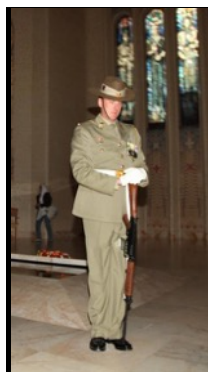
This is of real importance, as this section contains not only updates of dates, BUT actual additional reports of passings.

The connection, to this information, was forwarded by **Peter Ravelje** and is supplied by the **Australian Vietnam Veterans Mortality Listing - Honour Roll**.

Could you all please pay particular attention to the following and if any of you can correct/alter/update any of this information, and are able to factually confirm your findings please get in touch with me.

- Paul Dickson – 131eyesandears@gmail.com

Based on this data the Honour Roll now stands at **124**.

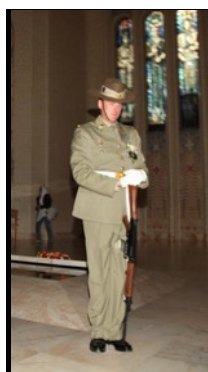


Name: William Ross Bullen

**Service No: 243083 Rank: T/Cpl RAEME
SVN: 1966**

DoB: 13 03 1942 DoD: 13 08 1983

Lest We Forget

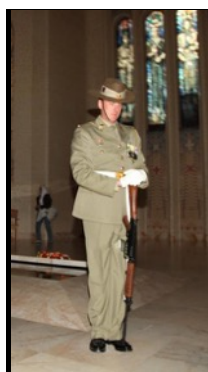


Name: Lesley Phillip Connell

**Service No: 13543 Rank: BQM
SVN: 1969-70**

DoB: 15 05 1948 DoD: 04 04 2011

Lest We Forget



Name: John William Davies

**Service No: 29351 Rank: Sgt
SVN: 1966-67**

DoB: 26 09 1937 DoD: 25 04 2004

Lest We Forget



Name: Graham Benjamin John Leslie

**Service No: 18614 Rank: Cpt
SVN: 1969-70**

DoB: 11 01 1942 DoD: 30 07 2015

Lest We Forget





Name: John Frederick Lucas

**Service No: 3796256 Rank: Gnr
SVN: 1970-71**

DoB: 01 08 1948 DoD: 06 12 1984

Lest We Forget



Name: Graham Benjamin John Leslie

**Service No: 18614 Rank: Cpt
SVN: 1969-70**

DoB: 11 01 1942 DoD: 30 07 2015

Lest We Forget



Name: Allan Maclean

**Service No: 32203 Rank: Cpt RAEME
SVN:1967**

DoB: 03 06 1928 DoD: 24 06 2013

Lest We Forget



Name: Brian Leslie Mitchel

**Service No: 2412582 Rank: Gnr
SVN: 1968-69**

DoB: 24 11 1946 DoD: 09 11 2015

Lest We Forget



Name: Jeffrey Leonard Reid

**Service No: 3790495 Rank: L/Bdr
SVN: 1967-68**

DoB: 29 03 1946 DoD: Unknown

Lest We Forget



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



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.

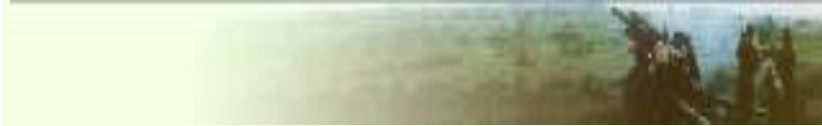
So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the *Eyes & Ears* regularly you could bite the bullet and email Grahame Dignam:sectreas131locators@gmail.com and he could forward you the relevant forms to join - Memberships are available for 1 year or longer deposit a DONATION direct (add 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...this is not accessible.



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



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

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

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