

THE EYES and EARS

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Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA

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

2021 – 55 Years and the Detachment 131 Spirit Lives On: 1966 – 1971



October, 1967... A bright memory –

Nui Dat, Vietnam. 1967-10. Performers Patti McGrath (left) and Denise Drysdale chat with troops from the 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF) during a barbecue lunch at the base. At left is drummer Garth Thompson of "The Strangers" group.

The "Det" group is from l to r – Bruce Irvine, Ian Yerbury, John Vitkovsky and Joe Clendenin.

Little Patti mixed with all the group – she shared a “real” piece of Aussie Home.



At left with **Bruce Irvine** and at right with **Yarema (Max) Troynar**



Then it was **Vic Danko's** turn when Patti spoke to LP members over the radio...
Ps- Shame the AWW couldn't spell Vic's surname!



"ROGER, a big kiss, and out," said Patti after speaking on the radio with gunners of the 131st Divisional Locating Battery, Royal Australian Artillery, stationed outside Nui Dat. Assisting Patti, Bombadier Vic Danko, Newcastle, N.S.W.

THE AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S WEEKLY — November 22, 1967

Can anyone remember one song by both Patti and Denise?

***We note with great sadness the death of Patti's husband, Bert Newton, who passed only on 30th October 2021. He will be missed with lots of fun memories.**

...Another memory from an October, this time 1987 – 34 Years Ago

The following is an extract from a great historical recollection from **Peter Summers (SVN 1970-71)** as to ...

Det 131 Div Loc Bty Reunion and Dragon Banner 1987

"Dear Paul

06 September 2010

Please find below a brief history of the Dragon Banner, The Menz Club Portrait, The '87 131 Battery / Gun Batteries and Regiments re union at North Head and the origin of the 131 Battery Association.

The Beginning

After Anzac Day 1986, I got together with **Jeff Bassford** for a two-family gathering. During the afternoon, we discussed the idea of a battery reunion of blokes who were in Vietnam at the same time as ourselves. We were both disillusioned by going to Anzac Day parades and not finding anyone we knew from the Battery at the time we served. We also discussed the idea of marching under our own banner instead of the post-1945 Artillery.

One thing led to another and we met at Jeff's house on a Sunday to plan out how we would find everyone, as there was no Association then. The only thing we had was my South Vietnamese Flag, which all the boys had signed, plus our photo albums. The trouble was that only half the boys put any addresses on them. Even these addresses were suspect as they were often family addresses or the blokes had moved quite often in the last 19 years. On this first meeting a truly funny incident occurred that showed us how much you can get immersed in a situation and lose touch with reality. We had been looking at the flag for about 2 hours recalling names and incidents before we opened the photo albums. As we got to a group photo I remarked quite innocently that, "All these blokes have aged well - they haven't changed a bit". It still took me about five minutes after everyone else had erupted in laughter to realise that I was looking at almost 20-year-old photos. All the reminiscing had taken me back to that time even though I was well aware that I was in Jeff's lounge room with our families.

We then started to make contact with the blokes we could track down, as luck would have it each one knew of someone else and it soon gathered steam. As we got rolling some fellows had kept in contact with members from earlier and later tours so the lines started to blur in keeping it to only our tour. By this time, the **Welcome Home Parade** was being floated in earnest and we thought that this would be the ideal time for a reunion.

Jeff and I had served in the later years and we were fortunate to recruit onto the committee **Merv Nairn** and **Ged Carroll** who were there in the initial deployment in 1966. We also co-opted **Kev Browning** who had served in the later tour but had extensive contacts in the Battery. We were now a committee of 5 from different suburbs in Sydney so our meetings were now at the Liverpool RSL club. Things were now taking on a life of their own and we were building up an impressive database.



Left to right: Merv, Self, Kev and Jeff

Interesting things came to life as we looked for the more difficult to find members, and all the different tour years had similar experiences. It was nothing to remember a town that someone came from and find the same name in the phone book. After calling you were often diverted around the extended family including cousins till you found the right bloke. At times, you knew so much family history that you could have attended a family reunion and been accepted as part of it. As Jeff's and my phone numbers were on all communications the wives became a focal point by answering the phone. Jacqui, Jeff's wife, and Pam, my wife, were answering calls from strange men all the time. Pam remarked that although she only helped with queries etc she felt she knew a lot of these fellas quite well. Often, I would get home from work and Pam would fill me in on what so and so had been up to since the war. It was a very exciting time for all of us.

The Reunion

The next thing to address was where to hold the event and a number of venues were suggested. At one of our brainstorming sessions someone suggested that as we had all been through the school of Arty wouldn't it be a blast to have it there. Never ones to shirk from a challenge Jeff contacted the Commandant and set up a meeting. Jeff and I duly turned up at the school and had a good conversation with the boss and the RSM. We outlined that we would like to use the school to put the boys up and feed us, we were very happy to pay the costs. We also asked if the caterers would like to do a dinner for us after the march again at our cost.

As the School had never been asked for this before there were a lot of protocol issues to be dealt with. We found the School absolutely fabulous to deal with and without their assistance the whole procedure would have been much more difficult. After due course the RSM got back to us and said that the Army and the School thought the idea was so good that they extended it to the Regiments and Batteries as well. We were quite happy with this idea as the more the merrier.

The RSM also confirmed that the School would have a welcome BBQ on the Friday night and breakfast the next morning at their expense. He also said that all returned gunners could stay at the School Friday and Saturday nights at no cost as well. They would put up stretchers in the gym and use any rooms not occupied. This was a great help to us.

Next the RSM said the caterers would be happy to cater for our reunion lunch. So back to North Head for Jeff and I to discuss the details with the cooks. The menu selected and the times numbers etc worked out they worked out a price. We then contacted all the members we had located and advised the arrangements and costs involved and they were all happy to go.

It was incredibly special to regain contact with mates that in a lot of cases you had not seen since you left SVN and the years rolled back quickly. Before the BBQ was over we were all in our twenties again in our heads.

We all caught the ferry to Circular Quay for the march and again back afterwards for our dinner. The food and company was fantastic and the day just rolled on."

...what an effort and what a result.

We'll continue these recollections as anniversary dates continue to arrive. It's just so good to reconnect with events such as this.

Any other recollections you may have we'd be glad to share them through *Eyes and Ears*.

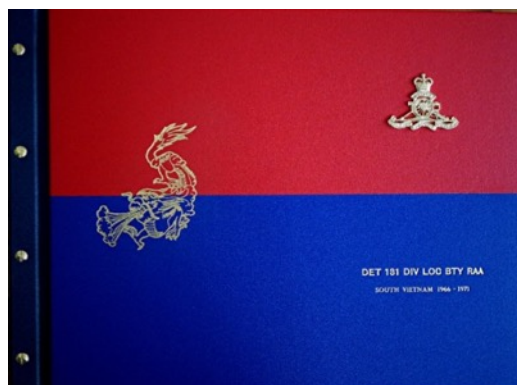
. The "Lost Locator Project"



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

Get in touch via 131eyesandears@gmail.com

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



. Insights and Recollections...

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

The series will continue on the receipt of more Insights and Recollections, so if you would care to contribute, please send your Insights and Recollections –

Paul Dickson at - 131eyesandears@gmail.com

. A continuation ...

Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War – the following is, I guess, a precis extracted from Wikipedia and in brief form covers most of the bases prior to, during and post the conflict.

I just feel it's something to read and maybe absorb that's if you haven't already...

59 years ago, the lead up...

Increased Australian commitment, 1965–1970

In August 1964 the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) sent a flight of Caribou transports to the port town of Vung Tau. By the end of 1964, there were almost 200 Australian military personnel in the Republic of Vietnam, including an engineer and surgical team as well as a larger AATTV team. In order to boost the size of the Army by providing a greater pool for infantrymen, the Australian Government had introduced conscription for compulsory military service for 20 year olds, in November 1964, despite opposition from within the Army and many sections of the broader community. Thereafter, battalions serving with 1 ATF all contained National Servicemen.

On 29 April 1965, Australian Prime Minister Robert Menzies announced that the government had received a request for further military assistance from South Vietnam. "We have decided...in close consultation with the Government of the

United States—to provide an infantry battalion for service in Vietnam." He argued that a communist victory in South Vietnam would be a direct military threat to Australia. "It must be seen as part of a thrust by Communist China between the Indian and Pacific Oceans" he added. The issue of whether a formal request was made by the South Vietnamese government at this time has been disputed, however. Although the South Vietnamese Prime Minister, Tran Van Huong, made a request in December 1964, Huong's replacement, Phan Huy Quat, had to be "coerced into accepting an Australian battalion" and stopped short of formally requesting the commitment in writing, simply sending an acceptance of the offer to Canberra the day before Menzies announced it to the Australian parliament. In this regard, it has been argued that the decision was made by Australian politicians against advice of the Department of Defence, to coincide with the commitment of US combat troops earlier in the year, and that the decision would have been made regardless of the wishes of the South Vietnamese government.

As a result of the announcement, the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1 RAR) was deployed. Advanced elements of the battalion departed Australia on **27 May 1965. Accompanied by a troop from the 4th/19th Prince of Wales's Light Horse as well as logistics personnel**, they embarked upon *Sydney* and following their arrival in Vietnam in June, they were attached to the US 173rd Airborne Brigade. Throughout 1965 they undertook several operations in Bien Hoa province and subsequently fought a number of significant actions, including Gang Toi, Operation Crimp and Suoi Bong Trang. However, Australian and US military leaders agreed to future deployment of Australian combat forces in a discrete province. This allowed the Australian army to "fight their own tactical war", independently of the US. In April 1966 1st Australian Task Force (1 ATF) was established in Phuoc Tuy Province, based at Nui Dat. 1 ATF consisted of two (and after 1967 three) infantry battalions, a troop and later a squadron of armoured personnel carriers from the 1st Armoured Personnel Carrier Squadron and a detachment of the Special Air Service Regiment as well as various support services under the command of the 1st Australian Logistics Support Group based in Vũng Tàu. A squadron of Centurion tanks was added in December 1967. 1 ATF's responsibility was the security of Phuoc Tuy Province, excluding larger towns.

The RAAF contingent was also expanded, growing to include three squadrons—No. 35 Squadron, flying Caribou STOL transports, No. 9 Squadron flying UH-1 Iroquois battlefield helicopters and No. 2 Squadron flying Canberra bombers. The Canberras flew a large number of bombing sorties, and two were lost, while the Caribou transport aircraft supported anti-communist ground forces and the Iroquois helicopters were used in troop-lift, medical evacuation and as gunships. At its peak, it included over 750 personnel. During the war RAAF CAC-27 Sabre fighters from No. 79 Squadron were also deployed to Ubon Air Base in Thailand as part of Australia's SEATO commitments. However, the Sabres took no part in direct hostilities against North Vietnam, and were withdrawn in 1968. The Royal Australian Navy (RAN) also made a significant contribution, which consisted of a destroyer on six-month rotations deployed on the gun-line in a shore bombardment role, the RAN Helicopter Flight Vietnam, and a RAN Clearance Diving Team. The ageing aircraft carrier HMAS *Sydney*, after being converted to a troop-ship, was used to convey the bulk of Australian ground forces to South Vietnam. Female members of the Army and RAAF nursing services also served in Vietnam from the outset, and as the force grew the medical capability was also expanded with the **1st Australian Field Hospital established at Vung Tau on 1 April 1968.**

From an Australian perspective, one of the most famous engagements in the war was the Battle of Long Tan which took place on 18 and 19 August 1966. During the battle a company from 6 RAR, despite being heavily outnumbered, fought off a large enemy assault of regimental strength. 18 Australians were killed and 24 wounded, while at least 245 Viet Cong were killed. It was a decisive Australian victory and is often cited as an example of the importance of combining and coordinating infantry, artillery, armour and military aviation. The battle had considerable tactical implications as well, being significant in allowing the Australians to gain dominance over Phuoc Tuy Province, and although there were a number of other large-scale encounters in later years, 1 ATF was not fundamentally challenged again. Regardless, during February 1967 1 ATF sustained its heaviest casualties in the war to that point, losing 16 men killed and 55 wounded in a single week, the bulk of them during Operation Bribie. 1 ATF appeared to have lost the initiative and for the first time in nine months of operations the number of Australians killed in battle, or from friendly fire, mines or booby traps, had reversed the task force's kill ratio.

Such losses underscored the need for a third battalion and the requirement for tanks to support the infantry; a realisation which challenged the conventional wisdom of Australian counter-revolutionary warfare doctrine which had previously allotted only a minor role to armour. Yet, it would be nearly a year before additional Australian forces would finally arrive in Vietnam. To Brigadier Stuart Graham, the 1 ATF commander, Operation Bribie confirmed the need to establish a physical barrier to deny the Viet Cong freedom of movement and thereby regain the initiative, and the subsequent decision to establish an 11-kilometre (6.8 mi) barrier minefield from Dat Do to the coast increasingly came to dominate task force planning. Yet ultimately this would prove both controversial and costly for the Australians, and despite initial success, the minefield would become a source of munitions for the Viet Cong to use against 1 ATF and later the decision would be made to remove it in 1969. Meanwhile, with the war continuing to escalate following further American troop increases, 1 ATF was heavily reinforced in late-1967. A third infantry battalion arrived in December 1967, while a squadron of Centurion tanks and additional Iroquois helicopters would also be added in early 1968. In all a further 1,200 men were deployed, taking the total Australian troop strength to over 8,000 men, its highest level during the war. This increase effectively doubled the combat power available to the task force commander.

Although primarily operating out of Phuoc Tuy, the 1 ATF was also available for deployment elsewhere in the III Corps Tactical Zone. Indeed, with the province progressively coming under control, 1968 saw the Australians spending a significant period of time conducting operations further afield. The communist Tet offensive began on 30 January 1968 with the aim of inciting a general uprising, simultaneously engulfing population centres across South Vietnam. In

response, 1 ATF was deployed along likely infiltration routes in order to defend the vital Bien Hoa-Long Binh complex near Saigon, as part of Operation Coburg between January and March. Heavy fighting resulted in 17 Australians killed and 61 wounded, while communist casualties included at least 145 killed, 110 wounded and 5 captured, with many more removed from the battlefield.^[42] Meanwhile, Tet also affected Phuoc Tuy Province, and although stretched thin the remaining Australian forces there successfully repelled an attack on Ba Ria, as well as spoiling an harassing attack on Long Dien and conducting a sweep of Hoa Long, killing 50 Viet Cong and wounding 25 for the loss of five Australians killed and 24 wounded.^[43] In late February the communist offensive collapsed, suffering more than 45,000 killed—against South Vietnamese and allied losses of only 6,000 men. Regardless, Tet proved to be a turning point in the war, and although it had been a tactical disaster for the communists it proved a strategic victory for Hanoi as confidence in the American military and political leadership collapsed, as did public support for the war in the United States. Tet had a similar effect on Australian public opinion, and caused growing uncertainty in the government about the determination of the United States to remain militarily involved in Southeast Asia. Amid the initial shock, Prime Minister John Gorton unexpectedly declared for the first time that Australia would not increase its military commitment in Vietnam. The war continued without respite however, and between May and June 1968 1 ATF was again deployed away from Phuoc Tuy in response to intelligence reports of another impending offensive. In May 1968 1 RAR and 3 RAR with armour and artillery support fought off large-scale attacks during the Battle of Coral-Balmoral. 25 Australians were killed and nearly 100 wounded, while the North Vietnamese lost in excess of 300 killed. Later in June 1969, 5 RAR fought one of the last large-scale actions of the Australian war, during the Battle of Binh Ba, 5 kilometres (3.1 mi) north of Nui Dat in Phuoc Tuy Province. The battle was unusual in the Australian experience, involving infantry and armour in close-quarter house-to-house fighting through the village of Binh Ba against a combined force of Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army. For the loss of one Australian killed at the communists lost 107 killed, six wounded and eight captured in a hard fought but one-sided engagement. However, such large-scale battles were not the norm in Phuoc Tuy Province. Indeed losses suffered at Binh Ba forced the NVA to move out of Phuoc Tuy into adjoining provinces and although the Australians did encounter main force units in the years to come, the Battle of Binh Ba marked the end of such clashes.^[50]

More typical of the Australian war was company-level patrolling and cordon and search operations which were designed to put pressure on enemy units and disrupt their access to the local population. To the end of Australian operations in Phuoc Tuy this remained the focus of Australian efforts and was this approach arguably allowed the restoration of government control in the province. **Australia's peak commitment at any one time was 7,672 combat troops and New Zealand's, 552, in 1969.** New Zealand first committed a detachment of engineers and an artillery battery, and then started sending special forces. New Zealand infantry units were also integrated into RAR battalions serving with 1 ATF after March 1968. These combined battalions being designated "ANZAC Battalions".

Australian counter-insurgency tactics...

Historian Albert Palazzo comments that when the Australians entered the Vietnam War, it was with their own "well considered ...concept of war", and this was often contradictory or in conflict with US concepts. The 1 ATF light infantry tactics such as patrolling, searching villages without destroying them (with a view to eventually converting them), and ambush and counter ambush drew criticism from some US commanders. General William Westmoreland is reported to have complained to Major General Tim Vincent that 1 ATF was "not being aggressive enough". By comparison, US forces sought to flush out the enemy and achieve rapid and decisive victory through "brazen scrub bashing" and the use of "massive firepower." Australians acknowledged they had much to learn from the US forces about heliborne assault and joint armour and infantry assaults. Yet the US measure of success—the body count—was apparently held in contempt by many 1 ATF and battalion commanders.

In 1966 journalist Gerald Stone described tactics then being used by Australian soldiers newly arrived in Vietnam:

“ The Australian battalion has been described ...as the safest combat force in Vietnam... It is widely felt that the Australians have shown themselves able to give chase to the guerillas without exposing themselves to the lethal ambushes that have claimed so many American dead... Australian patrols shun jungle tracks and clearings... picking their way carefully and quietly through bamboo thickets and tangled foliage... .It is a frustrating experience to trek through the jungle with Australians. Patrols have taken as much as nine hours to sweep a mile of terrain. They move forward a few steps at a time, stop, listen, then proceed again.”^[56]

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Looking back on ten years of reporting the war in Vietnam and Cambodia, journalist Neil Davis said in 1983; "I was very proud of the Australian troops. They were very professional, very well trained and they fought the people they were sent to fight—the Viet Cong. They tried not to involve civilians and generally there were fewer casualties inflicted by the Australians." Another perspective on Australian operations was provided by David Hackworth, Vietnam's most decorated US soldier. "The Aussies used squads to make contact... and brought in reinforcements to do the killing; they planned in the belief that a platoon on the battlefield could do anything."

For some Viet Cong leaders, there was no doubt the Australian jungle warfare approach was effective. One former Viet Cong leader is quoted as saying; "Worse than the Americans were the Australians. The Americans style was to hit us, then call for planes and artillery. Our response was to break contact and disappear if we could...The Australians were more patient than the Americans, better guerrilla fighters, better at ambushes. They liked to stay with us instead of calling in the planes. We were more afraid of their style." However, as a junior partner, Australians had little opportunity to influence US strategy in the war. "The American concept [of how the war should be fought] remained unchallenged and it prevailed almost by default."

Overall, the tactics used by the Australian Army in Vietnam were not successful. Like the Americans, Australian tactics were focused on seeking to engage the Communist forces in battle and ultimately failed as the Communists were generally able to evade Australian forces when conditions were not favourable. Moreover, the Australians did not devote sufficient resources to disrupting the logistical infrastructure which supported the Communist forces in Phuoc Tuy Province and popular support for the Communists remained strong. After 1 ATF was withdrawn in 1971 the insurgency in Phuoc Tuy rapidly expanded.

Timeline -

- 8–14 January—1 RAR participates in Operation Crimp in the Ho Bo Woods as part of the first divisional-sized operation of the war, targeting an underground Viet Cong headquarters.
- 23–24 February—1 RAR is involved in the Battle of Suoi Bong Trang, while providing protection to US engineers building a tactically important road in the vicinity of Tan Bihn, in central Binh Duong Province.
- June—Prime Minister, Harold Holt visits the United States to discuss the war with US President Lyndon B. Johnson. Holt confirms the Australian government's full support for the United States' Vietnam policy, and in a speech on 30 June adopts the slogan 'All the way with LBJ'.
- 18 August—Battle of Long Tan, a decisive Australian victory is fought by D Company of the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. The Company earns a US Presidential Unit Citation (Vietnam).
- October—US President Johnson visits Australia. Demonstrators protest fiercely in the streets of Sydney and Melbourne.
- 7 April—Major Peter Badcoe dies leading his company against more powerful opposition. He is posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery, conspicuous gallantry and leadership on more than one occasion.
- 6 August—A Company, 7 RAR was involved in heavy fighting in the eastern Hat Dich area during the Battle of Suoi Chau Pha. Australian casualties were heavy with five killed, one died of wounds and 19 wounded. A sweep of the area resulted in the recovery of only five dead Viet Cong, however drag marks and extensive blood trails indicated that they had suffered heavily, with perhaps another 33 killed or wounded in the contact, while a further 200 casualties were estimated from artillery and mortar fire, as well as a number of airstrikes.^[96]
- 30 January—Tet Offensive is launched by the National Front for the Liberation of Vietnam, more commonly known as the Viet Cong. The offensive lasts until 8 June 1969.
- 12 February—Prime Minister, John Gorton, announces that Australia will not increase its commitment to Vietnam.
- May—The National Service Act is amended to impose a two-year civil gaol term for draft resisters.
- 13 May—Battle of Coral-Balmoral takes place and becomes the bloodiest engagement for Australians in Vietnam when 25 Australians are killed and nearly 100 wounded during 26 days of fighting in AO Surfers, north-east of Saigon. The operation lasts till 6 June 1968.^[97]
- 14 October—John Zarb is the first person to be found guilty of having failed to comply with his call up notice during the Vietnam War. He is convicted in Melbourne and sentenced to two years gaol. He loses his appeal to the full High Court on 25 November 1968. He is released on compassionate grounds in August 1969 after serving 10 months and 7 days in Pentridge Prison.
- 6 May—In Kon Tum Province, Vietnam, Warrant Officer Class Two Rayene Stewart Simpson rescues a wounded fellow warrant officer and carries out an unsuccessful attack on a strong enemy position. On 11 May, he fights alone against heavy odds to cover the evacuation of a number of casualties. Simpson is later awarded the Victoria Cross for his gallantry in the face of the enemy.
- 24 May—At Ben Het, Kon Tum Province in Vietnam, Warrant Officer Class Two Keith Payne shows outstanding courage and leadership in saving the lives of many of the soldiers under his command, leading his men to safety under most difficult circumstances after an attack by the enemy in superior strength. He is awarded the Victoria Cross.
- 6–8 June—Australian forces destroy a large communist force in heavy house-to-house fighting during the Battle of Binh Ba.
- 20 July—At a United States Marine non-commissioned officer's club, 7 km (4 mi) from Da Nang, a civilian pop entertainer, Cathy Wayne, becomes the first Australian woman killed during the Vietnam War.^[98] US Marine Sergeant J. W. Killen is found guilty of her unpremeditated murder.^[98]
- 8 May—First of the moratorium demonstrations: 200,000 march in Australian cities to call for an end to Australian involvement in the war. The largest turn out was in Melbourne where 70,000 people marched down Bourke Street, Melbourne.^[99]
- 18 September—Second moratorium: 100,000 march in Australian cities; over 300 people were arrested.

Withdrawal of Australian forces, 1970–1973 - will be continued next month...

. Nui Dat Locators Locations Project -

The following is a continuation of the **Nui Dat Locators Locations Project** for which information has been sought and gathered over time. This is still in the "rough" stage and corrections/ additions/ amendments/ adjustments are welcomed, so, as the Project can be archived complete as possible.

This is the third part of the Project with more to come covering the various sections that made up the Detachment during the period of service in Nui Dat, South Vietnam.

Note: the photos have been reduced to fit into the Eyes & Ears format.

Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA South Vietnam 1966 – 1971

“Locators Locations”

Dedicated to those who served.

By Paul Dickson

6. Survey Section – Nui Dat – Call Sign 31G

Manning detail –

1967 –

Armstrong, N; Boutlis, S; Brooker, W; Bruce, T; Evans, R; Fuhrmann, P; Green, G; Greenaway, J; Hackett, B; Hogno, J; Holden, G; Hopper P Bdr; Irvine, B L/Bdr; Long, R; McDonnell, R; McFadden, J; McNamara, K; Menz, J (KIA 68); Poustie, M; Sanderson, K; Van Driel, M; Webb, R; Whitaker, P; Woodbine, K; Yerbury, I Lt

Photo: Warwick Brooker



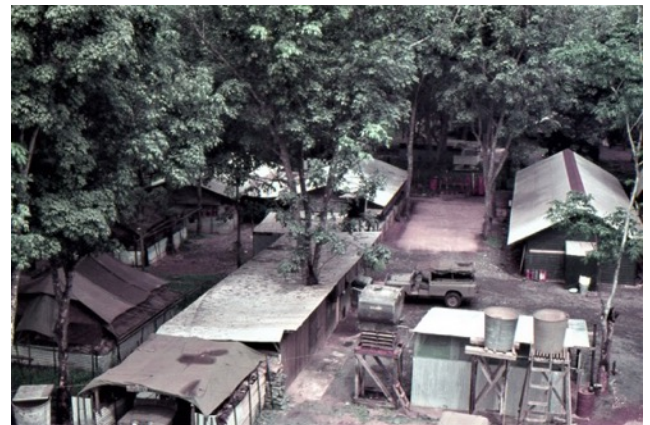
1968 –

1969 –

1970 –

Butler, M; Buzacott, R; Falkai, L; Fielden, P; Fowler, S; Holloway, P; Judd, W; Molenkamp, J; Plunkett, A; Ryan, R; Saint, P Bdr; Turner, A Bdr; Walker, L; Welsh, T; Whittaker, R Bdr; Willis, S

Photo: Hilton Holloway



1971 –

Molenkamp, J

Next month we will continue on with RAEME.

. Quiz Time.



This is not necessarily a typical (whatever that means) “Quiz Time” article but we need answers, so let’s get started with a question...

This photo was extracted from Ray Smith’s collection, thought we’d follow on from the “October, 1967” opener of this edition.



Who is this entertainer who graced Nui Dat?

...last month's solutions verified by **Ian Amos** - Ok, who are these four "characters" ...

The four blokes at Coffs in 2009 are –

John Vickary, Stuart Sporn, the late Hans Weber and the most photographed Locator of all – Ian Amos



Peter Ravelje has something to add re: **Hans Weber** in the above photo...

"Who's who in the zoo"

I went to school with Hans Weber, RIP (always skinny, black check shirt). SVN 5/67 - 4/68

He was discharged in '68 as I was called up. Went to him for advice re my upcoming 2 yr stint.

As I knew nothing about the Army, corps, units he gave me a lowdown on 131. So, I got Arty as my Corp.

Due to another orderly room Fk-up I was given leave to go back home in Vic. for a long w/end as there were no Radar Op courses happening in the near future.

When I returned 4-5 days later my hut was near empty as most had departed to N. Head for a R. Ops course which had suddenly eventuated.

Only option for me was a clerk's course at Randwick to replace the clerk (Denis Smith) in the Dat who was due home in Dec.69.

Had I applied to be a Gun Number I would have gone to SVN with another school mate Bobby Savige with whom I did Canungra in Dec. '68. He dep. oz with 1Fd Regt in 3/69.- 2/70

Such is life...."

. **John Vitkovsky** - got interested in **Bob King's** "Splintex" photo in last month's *Eyes & Ears*...

"Hi Dicko,

Warwick Hamilton and I cut one of these rounds in half to see what was inside.

That particular Splintex round (in the photo at right) was fired from the canon on a Centurion tank and used for base defences.

Inside, wrapped in coils of what looked like hessian, were 1000's of tiny steel darts. Used for anti-personnel, not necessarily to kill, but disable.

Your photo of "splinter" does not look like the one we opened up. John V."

. **Ian "Scotty McNichol** - Hi Paul. Further to John Vitkovsky's article in the September edition of *E&E* (above).

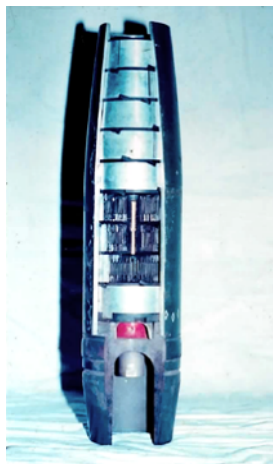
As stated in my email, this particular 105mm round was dissected by a US Engineer Unit at Vung Tau, picked up by myself & Bdr Ray Hutchinson to be placed in the museum section of the James Menz Club at Nui Dat.

As I recall, the round carried about 8000 steel darts, (aka flechettes), placed end on end alternately in sections of numerous aluminium rings. (See photos). The fuse could be timed to explode the round from point blank range, & were effective up to 100m. I believe a large quantity of these rounds were used during the Battle of Coral. They could also be fired from Centurion Tanks.

I have read that this type of ammunition has been banned by the Geneva Convention. Other articles suggest that they are still being used.

My apology for the quality of the first 2 photos. These were scanned from a print to a usb stick, before being attached to this email.





105mm Splintex Artillery Shell.

Splintex Darts.



Splintex fired from a Centurion Tank. Nui Dat 1968.

Another piece of Memorabilia - DO YOU REMEMBER THESE?

Good old AFPO – Armed Forces Post Office



Hey has anyone still got one secreted away somewhere?

This is a COMPELLING read...

Australian MIAs of the Vietnam War

Author - Ashley Ekins

Ashley Ekins is a Senior Historian in the Military History Section at the Australian War Memorial. He is co-author, with the late Ian McNeill, of "On the offensive: the Australian Army in the Vietnam War 1967–1968", Allen & Unwin in association with the Australian War Memorial. Available in all good book stores or online through the Memorial's [online shop](#).

The term "missing in action" has long brought anguish to the families of servicemen lost in war. Of the 60,000 Australians who died in the First World War, over one-third were recorded as "missing". Almost half the Australians who died on Gallipoli have no known grave. Many bereaved families were haunted for a generation by the memories of sons, brothers,

fathers and husbands who had disappeared without trace. The scale of the loss made this a shared national experience, starkly recalled today in scores of overseas war cemeteries with headstones inscribed with Kipling's simple words:

"An Australian Soldier of the Great War... Known unto God".

There was no such solace for the next of kin of servicemen listed as missing in action during the Vietnam War. Over 500 Australians died in Vietnam. Among them were six Australian servicemen – four Army soldiers and two RAAF airmen – who were initially recorded as "missing in action" (MIA) in four separate incidents. In all six cases their classification was subsequently amended to either "killed in action" or "missing in action – presumed dead". All six servicemen are perhaps more correctly described as having no known graves.

These are their stories -.

1. The first Australian combat unit to fight in Vietnam, 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR), was also the first to have soldiers recorded as missing in action. In November 1965 1RAR joined an American battalion of the US 173d Airborne Brigade on Operation Hump, a five-day search-and-destroy operation into the enemy dominated territory of War Zone D, about forty kilometres northeast of Saigon.

This area was known to contain a Viet Cong stronghold and the base for an enemy regiment as well as enemy supply routes linking the communist war zones to the Ho Chi Minh Trail. For the first two days, the rifle companies of 1RAR had sporadic enemy contacts as platoons patrolled through swamp and thick jungle. Then, on the afternoon of 8 November, while the soldiers of A Company were pushing through dense rainforest near the top of the Gang Toi hills, they struck a strongly-defended Viet Cong bunker system.

As they crested a ridge, the leading Australian platoon suddenly came under a hail of fire from machine-guns in well-sited bunkers, supported by rifles and grenades. Five men were hit almost immediately at close range. The rest of the platoon quickly went to ground and began returning fire as the wounded men withdrew or were dragged back - all except for **Lance Corporal Richard "Tiny" Parker**, who had been commanding the point section. Parker had fallen directly in front of the enemy bunkers. He was lying face down and was not moving. He could not be reached and he did not respond to shouts from his comrades.

This was the first time the Australians had encountered a Viet Cong main force unit who fought and stood their ground. They could tell from the sounds of heavy firing that the American battalion across the river from them had also run into trouble. 1/503 Battalion had assaulted an enemy bunker system and was now engaged in fierce close-quarters fighting with a Viet Cong regiment.

With his forward platoon pinned down, Major John Healy, commanding A Company, ordered another of his platoons to assault the enemy bunkers from the flank. As they advanced, this platoon was also caught in a heavy cross-fire from enemy machine-guns concealed in bunkers. **Private Peter Gillson**, a machine-gunner with the forward section, was hit by a burst of automatic fire as he stepped around the twisted roots of a tree. He fell just fifteen metres from the enemy position, propped against the roots.

Gillson's platoon sergeant, Sergeant Colin Fawcett, crawled forward under fire to help the wounded soldier. Fawcett reached for Gillson's arm but could feel no pulse at the wrist. He saw that Gillson had been hit several times. He attempted several times to drag Gillson's body out of the line of fire but both the soldier and his machine-gun were wedged tightly among the tree roots. He was forced to move back. Fawcett was later awarded the Military Medal for his brave actions.

The assaulting platoon was now at risk of being encircled by the enemy and was compelled to withdraw under enemy fire. Dusk was approaching and Major Healy was forced to order his company to break off contact and withdraw, reluctantly leaving the bodies of Parker and Gillson behind. He had no choice. His company had struck a determined enemy force of equal strength; the Viet Cong were well-armed and their bunkers dominated all approaches. In the judgement of official historian Ian McNeill,

it would have been foolhardy for him to have pressed the attack... Healy had done all he could and his company had performed creditably [but] the men were depressed at leaving two soldiers behind.

The Australians wanted to return to the Gang Toi hills. A full battalion attack operation was planned later in the month but it was never conducted. Over two years later Australian soldiers returned to the old battleground of Operation Hump when units of the 1st Australian Task Force conducted Operation Coburg during the communist Tet Offensive. But no trace of the missing soldiers was ever found.

Peter Gillson's wife later wrote to his platoon commander with stoic resignation:

I am really proud to be called a soldier's wife, even though it is heart breaking at times, but I suppose we all must expect these things and when it does happen we must be as brave as our men were - but in a way, I am very lucky because I have a son which Peter never saw. He is only four months old but he'll never know just how much strength he has given me to go on. I only hope that his son will grow up to be as fine a man as Peter was.

A court of inquiry conducted by 1RAR shortly after the action recommended that Private Gillson be recorded as "killed in action"; and Lance Corporal Parker be recorded as "missing in action, presumed dead". Both soldiers were officially listed as missing in action, however, because their bodies were not recovered.

**Next month we will continue with the extract from Ashley Ekins historical account of
Australian MIAs of the Vietnam War**

V2 Rocket...at Holsworthy?

Graham Williams has an inquiry –

"I would appreciate it if you can ask your readers in *"Eyes & Ears"* if anyone has photos of the V2 rocket that graced the lines at Holsworthy. Am trying to round up a photo of that for myself.

Cheers, Graham Williams."

Here's a response from Kevin Browning



. Kevin Browning – responds to Graham William's query...

"Hi Paul,

Well done on another great edition.

I noted Graham Williams inquiry about a photo of the V2 rocket at Holsworthy. If successful could I too get a copy? Have been chasing one for some time. You ask me what I am up to and probably noticed I infrequently respond. Well among many other things I have been working on a record of all historic artillery in Australia. Latest count is just over 2000 records. Included are the two V2 rockets we have in Australia both of which are now at the Australian War Memorial. The one that was at Holsworthy is in poor condition but in good hands.

At present, each record I hold repeats information common to that type of weapon but hopefully when the records are placed on the web the common information will be linked. Have attached one of the records for a V2, not the Holsworthy one and added the Holsworthy specific date at the end. You may find it interesting.

Regards, Kevin."

A-4 V2 Rocket
Location:
Treloar Centre
Australian War
Memorial



History (REL/12324)

The Vergeltungswaffe 2 (Retribution Weapon 2) or V2 was developed during World War II by the Germans as a vengeance weapon to attack Allied cities. It was the first long range guided ballistic missile. Initial plans were made to launch the rockets from massive underground bunkers but when these were targeted by the allies' mobile launchers were employed. These allowed the missiles to be launched practically from anywhere, roads running through forests being favoured. The V2 mission was taken over by the Waffen SS in September 1944 and V2 attacks began on 7 September 1944 when two were launched at Paris. Over the following months some 3,172 V2 rockets were launched their targets being:

Belgium: Antwerp (1610), Liege (27), Hasselt (13), Tournai (9), Mons (3), Diest (2).

United Kingdom: London (1358), Norwich (43), Ipswich (1).

France: Lille (25), Paris (2), Tourcoing (19), Arras (6), Cambrai (4)

Netherlands: Maastricht (19)

Germany: Remagen (11)

More people were killed building the V2 rocket than were killed by its use. Each operational V2 to come off the Mittelwerk line cost about six workers lives.

Two V2 rockets arrived in Australia in 1947 following tests conducted by the British as part of Operation Backfire. This rocket is the second given by the Department of Supply and upon arrival was sent to the Long-Range Weapons Research Establishment at Salisbury, South Australia. In 1948, it was briefly placed on display in Adelaide before being returned to Salisbury where it was stored. In January 1957, it was given to the Australian War Memorial.

Arrangements were made for its move and following display in Sydney as part of Air Force Week in August it arrived in Canberra in October 1957. It is presently in store in the Australian War Memorial's Treloar Centre. It is mounted on a Meillerwagen. The Meillerwagon was used to transport the V2 to the firing site and used to raise the rocket.

Development

In 1930 Wernher Von Braun attended the Technical University of Berlin where he assisted Hermann Oberth in liquid-fuelled rocket motor tests. After the Nazi Party came to power Captain Walter Dornberger (an artillery officer, appointed to the Ballistics Council of the German Army Weapons Department as Assistant Examiner in April 1930, to secretly

develop a military liquid-fuel rocket suitable for mass-production that would surpass the range of artillery) arranged an Ordnance Department research grant for von Braun, who from then on worked next to Dornberger's existing solid-fuel rocket test site at Kummersdorf. The group successfully launched two liquid fuelled rockets by the end of 1934 that reached heights of 2.2 and 3.5 kilometres.

In 1936, they began thinking of a much larger rocket based on a 25,000-kg thrust engine. Design and construction was ordered in 1938/39. By late 1941, the Army Research Centre at Peenemünde possessed the four key technologies essential to the success of the V2 - large liquid-fuel rocket engines, supersonic aerodynamics, gyroscopic guidance and rudders in jet control. The first successful test flight of the V2 was on 3 October 1942 but several other problems had to be resolved. A production line was nearly ready at Peenemünde when RAF Bomber Command launched an attack on 17/18 August 1943 forcing the Germans to move production to the underground Mittelwerk in Kohnstein near Nordhausen in central Germany where 5,200 V2 rockets were built.

Technology

One of the most important new technologies developed for the V2 was an automatic guidance system, which operated independently of controllers on the ground. With the destination 'programmed' into the on-board analogue computer, once a rocket was in flight, its gyroscopes could continuously track the craft's position in three dimensions. Rudders fitted to the fins on the side of the rocket would automatically adjust the heading and trajectory to keep it on target.

At the heart of the V2 was a powerful motor capable of taking the rocket more than 80km (50 miles) above the Earth in a trajectory of some 190 km (120 miles). Fuelled by liquid ethanol and oxygen, it was much more sophisticated than anything built before and effectively the world's first space rocket. The warhead weighed 975 kilograms (2,150 lb) and contained 910 kilograms (2,010 lb) of amatol 60/40 explosive. It was detonated by an electric contact fuze.

The psychological effect of the V2 was considerable, as the V2, travelling faster than the speed of sound, gave no warning before impact. There was no effective defence and no risk of pilot and crew casualties.

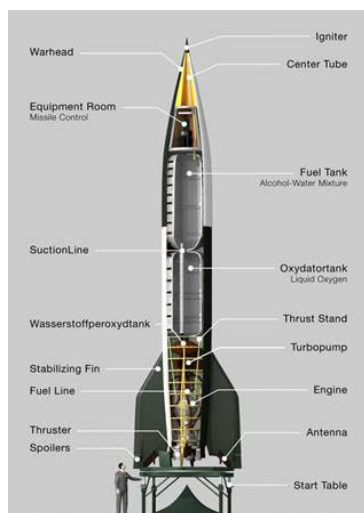
The painting of the operational V2s was mostly a ragged-edged pattern with several variations, but at the end of the war a plain olive green rocket also appeared. During tests the rocket was painted in a characteristic black-and-white chessboard pattern.



A V2 rocket on the Meillerwagen. The ragged edge colour pattern indicates it is one of the rockets during its operational phase. The Meillerwagen was used to transport the V2 to the firing site and used to raise the rocket



The Meillerwagen was used to transport the V2 to the firing site and used to raise the rocket.

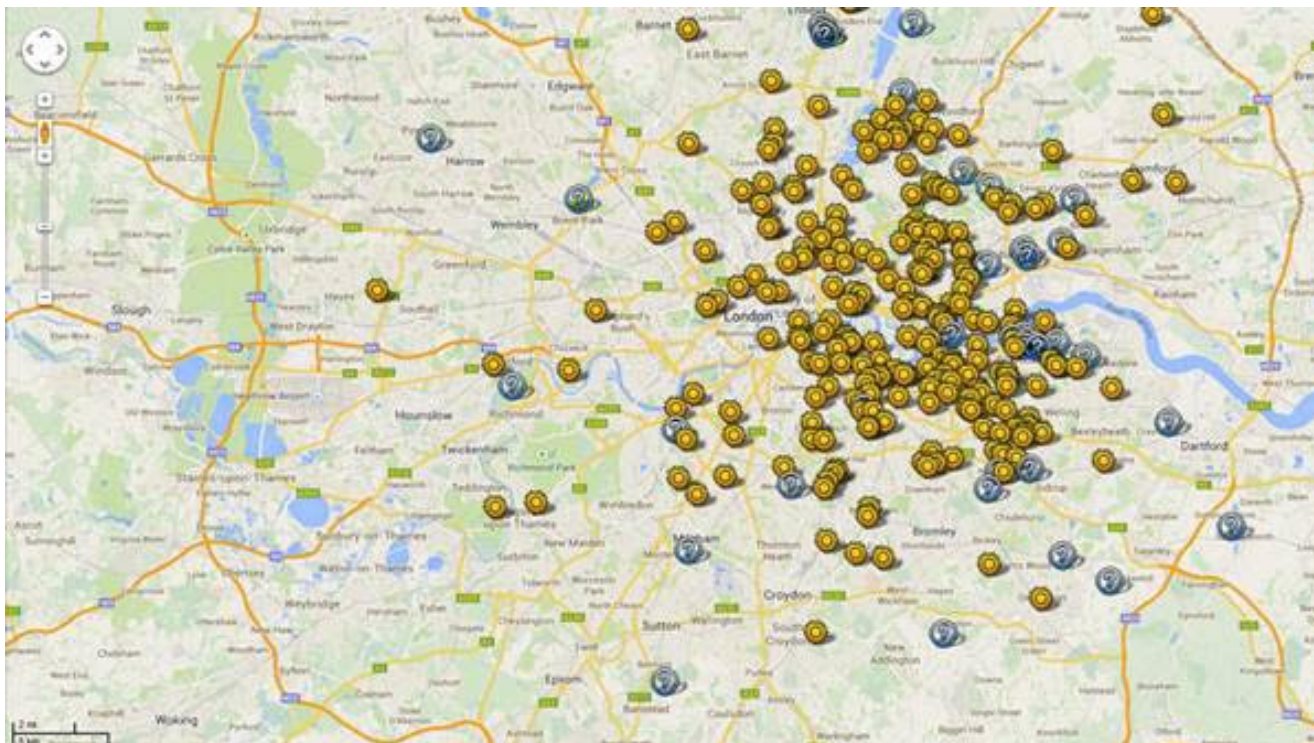


The Meillerwagen was used to transport the V2 to the firing site and to raise the rocket.



Damaged caused by a V2 in London April 1945.

Map of London area showing the V2 strike sites



second V2 at Point Cook before being disassembled.

Two V2 rockets arrived in Australia in 1947 following tests conducted by the British as part of Operation Backfire. This rocket is the first given by the Department of Supply and was mounted on a Vidalwagen when it arrived as deck cargo from the UK. It was sent to the Royal Australian Engineers at Monegeetta, Victoria for technical evaluation of the trailer. It was then used on War Bond Savings Rally before being displayed in a number of towns between Melbourne and Sydney.

It was displayed at Gallipoli Barracks near the entrance to Holsworthy Army Camp near Liverpool NSW. No one knows when the internal parts of the V2 were removed but over the years the shell of the V2 deteriorated despite several coats of paint. When 8/12 Medium Regiment moved to new accommodation in Holsworthy in the early 1970s and the old Gallipoli Barracks demolished the V2 was found to be in poor condition and was transferred to the Royal Australian Air Force No 2 Stores depot at Dubbo NSW. When this Depot was closed the V2 was sent to Point Cook in Victoria, treated against further corrosion and stored in one of the hangars. To make space in the hangar it was eventually disassembled. Eventually it was moved to the Australian War Memorial's Treloar Centre in the ACT where it is stored in parts under a cover.

No one knows what became of the Vidalwagen although it is believed it ended up as scrap in a local rubbish dump when it was moved to Holsworthy. The Vidalwagen was used for road transport before the rocket was transferred to the Meillerwagen launch trailer.

Thanks Kevin – that was very comprehensive as usual.



. Graham “Wheels” Campbell re: Locator Profile #169: Erbs, Terry...

“Paul,
Thanks very much for the entertaining Terry Erbs Profile.
As a little aside, when I was working at RAAF Williamtown the BOM office was next to mine. Grant, the senior meteorologist and other staff remembered Terry with great affection. Terry can spin some yarns about his Williamtown experience at the next reunion. Ubique, Wheels.’

. Bert Blink showed us his RAA Historical Company 150 Anniversary badge and the last 131 Locators Association ZOOM meeting and I asked him for a photo –

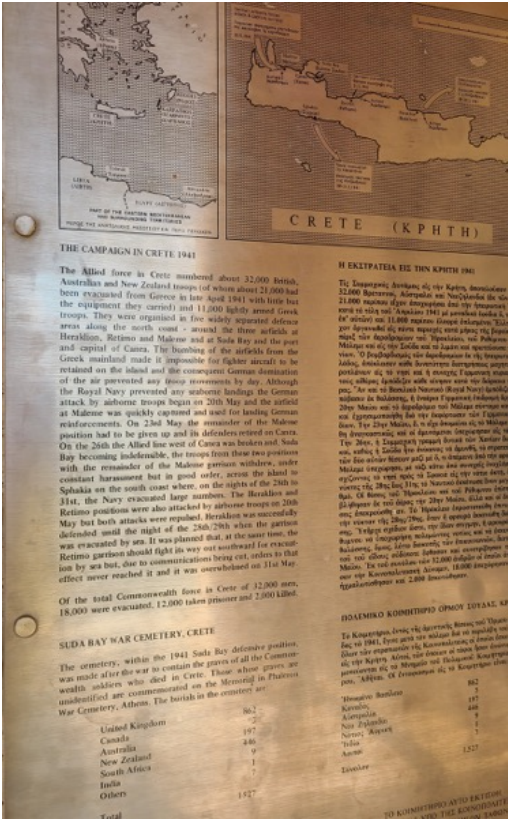
“Hi Paul,
This was sent to me earlier in the month by the RAA Historical Company of which I am a member. Their website is <http://artilleryhistory.org/membership.html>. I get a quarterly "Liaison Letter (current RAA)/ Cannonball (RAA History)" a very glossy magazine. I also receive a regular email eNewsletter.
Cheers, Bert”



. An interesting piece of History –

The following email was sent to me by a couple of very dear friends during a trip to Crete...

“Dearest Paul
As we drove to Chania this morning we stopped for a visit to the Allied Cemetery from WW11 at Souda Bay. The remains of 197 Australian soldiers are interred there alongside many comrades from the Commonwealth. Too many remain "known only to God" and far too many were in their 20's when they fell. We felt your presence as we honoured your countrymen.
Love Ruth and Jack”



The Souda Bay War Cemetery is a military cemetery administered by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission at Souda Bay, Crete, Greece. It contains 19 burials from World War I and 731 World War II burials.



. **Terry Erbs** - "G'day Paul, drove to 20th Regiment Thursday for the LSTAA committee meeting while Allen was still in lockdown Sydney, but he did attend via zoom.

I checked the 131 Bty sign [at right], It's in good repair, no need for a repaint yet and the UCG stick-on label has stood up to Qld weather!

Brisbane still getting a few Covid cases but hasn't gone into lockdown yet - cynics reckon we will after Sunday's the Rugby League grand final!

Planning for ANZAC weekend

2022 reunion continues, awaiting decisions from DVA & RSL re applications for funding support, hopefully we'll know before Xmas! The vaccination rollout is gathering pace, with the Federal Government finally sourcing more doses from O/S. The plan is for 80% vaccinated nationwide by Xmas, then hopefully state governments will lift pandemic restrictions. I'm concerned that when these restrictions are lifted, that like UK & Singapore, there will be another pandemic wave, but hopefully by Feb/April life will return to "near normal".

Cheers, Terry."



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...**AND THERE ARE SOME "COVID CLASSICS"**
...WHAT'LL WE BE LIKE IN 12 MONTHS TIME???

I CAN SEE THE SCRATCH MARKS UP THE WALL FROM HERE.

. **Brian Auld** - "G'day Paul, we both have had our second shot with the tick in our phones, spent two weeks out at Moree helping our son and daughter in law painting their new house and going out next week to finish the old house, Also taking our middle son grandfather and granddaughter whom have scored jobs with GrainCorp for the harvest, take care mate."

Warwick "Brookey" Brooker - "Thanks Dicko. Good to hear you're sort of 'COVID normal'!

We've been locked out of restaurants, etc. since 12 August. That will change a little on 15 October with restaurants, clubs, etc. allowed up to 25 customers as long as they can social distance at 1 person per 4 sqm! It might not be in the clubs' interests to open for indoor dining at that level, but from 29 October they hope to welcome back up to 100 patrons, and from the end of November we should be back to 'COVID normal'.

We haven't been to the shops for some time and medical appointments are via Telehealth, although I have a couple coming up that will required face-to-face visits. Some check-ups shouldn't be deferred indefinitely, COVID or no COVID. Yes, quarantining is a necessary evil. Even though NSW is coming to life again and we might be able to travel interstate. We'd still have to quarantine upon return to the ACT. As with your travel plans, looks like ours will also need to be deferred for several months yet.

The weather's warming, even in Canberra. The new season's flies and ants have re-emerged and the magpies are swooping, although I haven't been attacked in our area. They get to know the friendlies, but it's expected that mask-wearing could confuse them.

Best wishes to you and Helen. Stay well! Brookey."

. **Phil Connor** - "Paul, giddyay. Great to hear from you and, again, congrats for the last Newsletter it is a perfect example to other groups/communities about presenting a package to members for their enjoyment and information. All is reasonably well here on the Sunnie Coast. At the moment, the aspects of Covid procedures for us here is similar to your location. Although fraught with the knowledge we may receive an influx of the Delta variant, from over the border from the southern states. A news article today, as I write to you, from Vic stated over 1500 cases and 11 deaths. So, we are sitting on the edge of our seats hoping that Delta does not arrive here (although some have said it is already here and we need to keep a lid on it).

You may recall our son and daughter in law in the States, who are front line medical, had Covid earlier in the year, now recently 3 of our 4 grandies have it. However, they are progressing well.

In amongst this Covid, my dear Miriam, has had a relapse with one of her conditions which requires blood transfusions. She is as tough as nails and keeps on keeping on....

That's about it. It is starting to warm up and the 'cement pond' is looking better every day. Stay safe.

Cheers,
Phil."

. **Kevin Browning** – "Hi Paul,

Thanks for rubbing it in with all your freedoms but as of Monday we, New South Welshmen (or should that be "Welshpeople") get some freedoms and soon we will be able to go overseas, and return, but pity about going to Queensland and Western Australia. Must admit I am looking forward to some freedoms, especially a trip to the barber. I have had plenty to do in the past months. Actually, finished tasks I had avoided for years. Have been bust with 150th Birthday work for the Artillery and of course continue with the record of historic artillery in Australia. That has certainly introduced me to some interesting people and even stumbled across a few Locators in the journey. Received an email this morning from the Curator of the Russian Artillery Museum in St Petersburg, we had communicated before about the Crimean War cannons here in Australia. Interesting thing about our communications is obvious from the start and finish, Здравствуйте Кевин!"

. **Wade Cooper** – "G'day Paul,

Good to hear from you.

Long service leave going well for me – plenty to keep busy with on the farm.

Canberra still in lockdown – out of lockdown soon!

Good to hear all is well over your part of the world. Vaccines are getting rolled out to students here, it's promising.

I hope the golfing is going well, but your handicap remaining forgiving!

Warm regards,

Coops."

. **Keith Ayliffe** – "G'day Paul,

Well mate I am flat out at the moment trying to prepare a reunion for ANZAC weekend next year. I have been sending letters out to all the airlines asking for reductions in their airfares for our people flying in. At this stage, we have only heard from QANTAS who are at least willing to discuss a reduction. Terry Erbs has been contacting the Hotels in Brisbane and has come up with three that will reduce costs for our members. I've put in claims for grants with DVA and South East Queensland RSL HQ. So, in the last couple of months I have hardly had time to do much else. I had the pleasure in working with Graham Dignam and Bert Blink on this project both very helpful. I have also been able to place the reunion on a number of Facebook sites which is helping to get the data out.

Good to hear from as always, Keith"

. **Diane and Keith Dean** – "Hi Paul,

Life here in Newcastle is about to change for us come Monday 11 October. Freedom Day. A day where we fully vaxed people can start to get some sort of normalcy back into our lives. Keith and I have been fully vaxed for over 3 months so we are eager to get out of the house.

Looking forward to going out to dinner again with friends. Just being able to mix with our friends will be great.

Our daughter lives in Sydney so we are still not able to see her and her family till god only knows when.

Keith is hanging in there to go for a beer at our local Diggers. We have just been notified that they are re-opening at 12.03 am Monday till 3 am, closing then re-opening at 9am for normal trading. We are not that keen to go out!!!

Great to hear from you, stay safe.

Regards, Dianne and Keith Dean."

. **John Bayford** – "Hi Paul

Nice to hear from you.

The days are just a little warmer after a very cold September and we are now able to play golf, albeit playing in pairs only and wearing a mask. The locals are not too concerned with the restrictions imposed as they are visiting each other for drinks and meals which is not permitted at this time. We are all double vaccinated and there are few of us that spend time in Melbourne so why not. Keeps us sane. Some people have suffered though. Particularly those who are running small businesses in retail, eateries, tourism and related services. The country is very divided at this time with the Premiers squabbling over border issues with each other as well as with Canberra.

That sounds rather gloomy doesn't it but we are getting there. Things will be back to normal by next year.

Cheers for now, John."

. **Vic Danko** – "Hi Paul,

Thanks.

First things first. I'm attaching a copy of the letter I sent (by email) to Gee and Hastie – re: RVCM. I've sent a copy to Ross. After sending it dawned on me that maybe I should have sent to you and you send to Gee etc?

Now the **depressing stuff** –

I've really had a gut full of the lockdown/home detention /whatever. My comments here must be tempered with the fact that:

(a) I have not suffered in any way financially

(b) I live in a house rather than apartment so I have a garden / whatever

(b) my family is fit and healthy

(d) my 5km radius restriction still allows Balmoral Beach and a very large park nearby.

So, what's the problem? My days are full of lethargy and yet the time passes so quickly!!!

Next week, permitted or not I'll drive up to the Hunter Valley to my home town, Greta. I'm told there is a plaque on the war memorial, Vietnam vets. 12 names.

I remember the first time I saw the "plinth" or whatever these memorials are called, I was about 8 yrs of age and in awe of it all.

I'm holding a ticket to Frankfurt, via Saigon. Soon as travel is re-opened etc. I'll accept the quarantine. What else will I do with my time??

Well the "what else" introduces **SMEAC**. Acronym Situation, Mission, Execution, Admin, Communication. I mentioned at the meeting that we were trying to get a long-term lease over an abandoned Schools camp about 25 km west of Caloundra.

Well we've made very good progress and may be able to pull it off. The idea of a camp / train for our youth in detention or facing detention has appealed to many. The ex-services transition process is improving. Each year we have about 5,500 persons enlist and about the same number retire/ get discharged etc.

We'll see how it unfolds.

But my contribution will be a race between the lease being signed with Sunshine Coast Council / SEQ Water and travel being re-opened. I can't do too much if I'm on a golf course in Da Nang or St Andrews!

I've given myself an idea of how much I can spend between now and 3 yrs from now when the wheelchair is delivered! If I go over the figure I can still sell one of my apartments!!

More later. Regards, Vic."

. Ian Campbell – "Hi Paul, always good to see your "What's goin' down" emails, although in these times it's a bit difficult to reply with an innovative email cos bugger all has changed over the journey!

But nevertheless, here we go!

Victorian update in brief.

Lockdown now makes us Mexicans the world record holder for number of days in lockdown IN THE WORLD. I struggle a bit to compare us to other cities, Infections in Vic are up, deaths are still minimal, hospitals are still doing it tough, children are ready to return to school, Year 12 kids are lamenting another year without a (legal) Schoolies.

Paul, did you see the Melbourne demonstrations by building workers (and other mobs of a particular political leaning just looking for a punch-up) over mandatory vaccinations? A little bit worrying. They stormed The Shrine of Remembrance on one day, loitering and littering and pissing on the walls of The Shrine. Vaccination Hesitancy is one thing, pissing on dead service personnel is just a step (or 3) too far, well they got their comeuppance, many arrested and well done the Coppers! Illegal AFL Footy parties in Victoria (The Grand Final was in Perth, and weren't the Sand Gropers being smarty arses about it) have caused infections to spike, FFS, the more of this behaviour that goes on the longer the lockdown will exist - ya Dummies!

In lockdown, our cafes and restaurants are only doing take-away, so, not wanting our local places to close we are doing take-away 3 or 4 times a week, I did the maths, only a bit more expensive than buying ingredients and cooking ourselves so Order Up!

Swimming pools are still closed in my 15km radius, so I am swimming in Port Phillip Bay and brother let me tell you, it's freekin' cold! but you do get a great feeling of conquering it!

My Christmas present from last year of an E Bike is getting a great work-out. I'm no lycra clad middle-aged man, preferring a gentle 30km out & back with a mate, but it sure assists on the hills and when there is a big headwind!

OK Paul, that will do for this time. Hope this is a balanced view of the world in Victoria.

Regards, Ian."

. Peter Dean – "Thanks for update Paul – Peter."

. Mike Butler – "Hi Paul

Well, things aren't getting any better here. Still in lockdown but at least the vaccinations are increasing. Hopefully there will be some relief in a couple of weeks. We have managed to see a couple of the grandkids in the local park but still cannot visit anybody in their houses. We are coping OK but continually frustrated by idiots who don't seem to think this is a life and death pandemic and contravene the rules when it suits them.

All of our social get togethers at the RSL or with VVAA have been cancelled so we haven't seen anybody for weeks.

There was an absolutely despicable display of disrespect at the Shrine a couple of weeks ago when protesters gathered around the Shrine wanting their "freedom". They should live in Russia or China to see what lack of freedom really looks like.

We are tentatively looking forward to Xmas hoping that we can get the family together - have already ordered the turkey and ham as they reckon we could see shortages. Probably won't get the caravan out until after Xmas at this rate but keep our fingers crossed. Have been playing in the garden and doing maintenance around the place to keep busy so not getting bored.

Sorry that there's not too much good news but tomorrow's another day as they say.

Cheers. Mike."

. Ken Osborne – "Dear Paul, nothing really much to say. I think I told you both my wife and I have both had the two jabs against Covid, not that does any good as we are probably only going to be allowed out to play next week. Our

fearless Premier Dictator Dan Had a short sharp lockdown for seven days that have extended to 70 days which will total about 75 on Sunday. We also have had curfews which they have not told us what benefits they give, we have had mothers banned from drinking coffee at playgrounds while supervising their kids and going to the toilets at tennis and golf courses was banned in the fear that we will catch covid there. You were allowed to play golf or tennis but locking up the toilets and the reasons for doing so were never explained on medical grounds, just seemed like a bastard thing to do. There have been other banns put in place that make no sense, but if you do not comply you can get a hefty fine that most people cannot pay as they are not working and that is the thing hurting most.

Most of the time now all I do is read, try to solve a few cryptic crosswords and eat. Sit on the back verandah with a cup of coffee if the sun is shining and vegetate, drive the wife nutty with my inane conversation and comments and generally try to keep out of trouble, hardly see another soul as everyone seems to be scared of even short visits in case of getting the dread Covid. My daughter and son in law have cancelled two visits to date because of banns but hopefully the one they are planning for November will go ahead.

At present, we are having a mixed bag as far as the weather is concerned, but spring is in the air, the fruit trees are starting to blossom and hopefully we will have some warmer days soon, global warming doesn't seem to be working here. So I hope this short note finds you fit and well, all I can say about myself is that I am getting to the stage where I find it difficult to move around, my legs and back don't want to work as well as I would like, but I think my brain is still functioning OK, I would dread the thought of going gaga , so count my blessings there. So, to next time, regards, Ken Osborne."

. John Dellaca – "Hello Paul, great to hear from you and filling us in with what's happening over in your part of the world.

I'm slowly recovering from my recent surgery and feeling back to some normality. Lock down in Regional Victoria hasn't been nearly as bad as Melbourne. We have been able to move around a bit more freely which has made a lot of difference.

I have been able to continue working on my Mini project and that has helped with filling in the time. Looking forward to enjoying some warmer weather and being able to enjoy the outdoors.

I managed last week to play my first round of golf in 6 months, all be it just 12 holes as the course has been very wet and little golf being played at all. We hope that competition Golf will start in the next couple of weeks.

All our family and friends are double Vaxed.

After 13 weeks of having our family of 4 living with us while they had renovations done, they are now living in their newly renovated home so we are enjoying some quiet time again.

For the second year in a row our Legacy Week fund raiser was cancelled due to Covid. I spent a lot of time preparing for it so was very disappointing to have called off again.

With a son living in the UK, like you, we are hoping International flights back into Australia will make it easier for him to come home for a while. Can't see us traveling to there in the near future.

Hope this finds you well and safe and keep up the good work you do in producing the 131-news-letter.

Kindest Regards, John Dellaca."

. Nick Armstrong – "Tue 12th Oct 2021

Hello Paul

Thank you for your recent email. Life here seems to continue peacefully. Covid is not active here on Lower Eyre Peninsula, but we are required to wear masks when close to others. As you may be aware, Covid has escaped into Greater Sydney and parts of provincial NSW, and Melbourne and parts of provincial Victoria. South Australia is still battling to keep control of Covid, but Interstate truck drivers are regularly spreading infection as they pass through SA, enroute to WA. With NSW and Victoria effectively giving up on controlling the spread of Covid, it is probably only a matter of time before it breaks out in SA.

I expect between now and Christmas, will prove how well our political leaders have prepared for life with Covid. I believe the SA Health Department will continue with Tracking and Quarantining, but it seems there has been noticeable laxity when using the 'Q' code to check in to sites.

My 'Relief School Bus Driving' is continuing, with the workload increasing. For much of last term, and next term, I have been asked to drive full time. The work is not well paid, mainly because the hours are limited. As a supplementary payment to my pension, it is quite helpful, but would be a struggle if it was a sole income. With the summer harvest approaching, any possible bus drivers can get better paid work there. Having the appropriate heavy vehicle driver's licence is only the start of becoming qualified.

A separate passenger transport authority licenses bus and taxi drivers. To hold a licence, an applicant requires a current national police clearance, and clearance to 'work with children and vulnerable people'. Equipped with those approvals, school bus drivers must obtain a current 'Report Abuse and Neglect' authorization. As a 70+ year old, an annual medical examination is also required.

The cost of maintaining all the above, is a personal expense, and quite time consuming. I continue to make the effort, as it allows me to continue to be involved as a driver with the Country Fire Service and pick up occasional truck driving and earthmoving.

The bus driving has provided the cash to fit the replacement motor to my boat. Fitting the engine took longer than anticipated but is now complete. The bus driving does tend to limit my time to USE the boat. Having a 'Current' model engine is quite comforting, knowing parts are all available. The old engine had been obsolete for about 30 years! My next expense is fitting a reconditioned engine in my 1997 Landrover Discovery 1. The current engine has done nearly ½ million kilometres and recently began losing coolant into the engine. For the past four years, it has been the 'second' vehicle. It had become a work vehicle, and the vehicle used to tow the boat to the launching ramp. I had considered disposing of it but finding an affordable 4wd vehicle with a 3.5tonne towing capacity, was the problem. This Discovery was the last 'Analogue' Landrover built, before changing to Common Rail diesel and computers. Under the bonnet still resembles an engine!

Sunday 24th October

Just got back to this letter. It really does not pay to stop and start if it can be avoided!

During the last two weeks, I drove to Adelaide for an 80th celebration lunch with my cousin. Her 80th not mine. Wherever possible I avoided the main Highway 1 route and bought fuel in a small town away from the regular truck stops. And Covid hotspots.

I also underwent a heart stress test at the port Lincoln Hospital. It is the first test I have had since having a pacemaker installed about four years ago. Apparently, everything is alright, although the significance of doing the test in the same building as the morgue, seemed ominous!

My Heavy vehicle and school bus driving accreditation is now completed for another three years, although I will have to do the medical assessments before then. The bus driving accreditation is the tedious part and began about four months ago.

Something of a mixture this weekend. Saturday, I spent eight hours ferrying a party of 20 on a pub crawl between Port Lincoln, Coffin Bay, Cummins, Tumby Bay and back to Port Lincoln. The group were a Buck's Party from an outer southern suburb of Adelaide. The original plan was to go to Byron Bay. Returning to SA from NSW is somewhat problematic, so Port Lincoln seems to have been the 'Fall back' option. Apart from being rowdy, they were generally well behaved. There was an older person with them, who seemed to be the 'wrangler'. I don't know if his grey hair was recently acquired.

Sunday was the annual training session for the local 'CFS Air Support' for the imminent Bushfire season. In recent years, there have been two 'Air Tractors' based at Port Lincoln Airport for the fire season. Lower Eyre Peninsula season begins in Mid-November and ends around early April. The end date is flexible. It may be extended if conditions are still dangerous.

The use of aircraft for firefighting has gradually increased during the last ten years. Aerotech is an agricultural aviation company who supply the aircraft on a contract. The aircraft carry about 3 tonnes of water and additives. Filling takes about 2 minutes, so an adequate supply can be a problem. Pairs of aircraft are located throughout the State and can be sent to assist where needed. Two years ago, a fire which was threatening Port Lincoln, eventually had eight aircraft working from the local airport. Three filling points were established, and the water supply was unable to meet the demand. The water shortage coincided with sunset and a drop in winds, so the supply recovered.

During the last major fire on Kangaroo Island, 190 loads of water were dropped in one day. I was not there, but I expect the aircraft loaded from different airstrips, and would have tested the water supply. The CFS fire trucks carry an average of 3 tonnes of water. Therefore, the aircraft would have delivered the equivalent of about 190 Fire trucks.

The aircraft are very useful in slowing the progress of the fire and can also assess the fire so trucks can be tasked to greatest advantage. Keeping the fire ground small can greatly reduce the time fully extinguishing the fire. Initial response to a fire is fine if adrenalin rushes are your thing, but the biggest job is the constant patrolling for hotspots in the following days, and weeks in the case of big fires.

I think that is about all for now.

Cheers, Nick and Robin."

. Ron "Mook" Evans – "Greetings Dicko, lovely to hear that you are well and still avoiding arrest South of the Border.

This Covid bizzo has had no effect on me at all. We use those Q-code thingies of course but that is about all. South Australia has had a total of a whole FOUR deaths from Covid, so the whole shemozzle has pretty well passed us by. Not the case with the other states though.

I observe that you play golf for some strange reason. I have never been attracted to any exertion which could be legally avoided. Was it George Bernard Shaw who called golf, 'the waste of a perfectly good walk'? Whoever it was got it about right.

My health is as good as I could expect, given my dissolute lifestyle over the years. I continue to be physically inactive but mentally as engaged as ever.

Take care Old Friend. Mook."

AN INVESTIGATION

181 Days



. The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal (RVCM)

This is just a continuing update with regards to the progress being made with the submissions on behalf of Defense Force Members, who for no reasons of their own, were not awarded

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal (RVCM) –

An update email from Richard Barry, OAM –

“Dear Paul Dickson

Coordinator & Editor of "Eyes & Ears". 131 Divisional Locators.

I had a very positive progress meeting with Minister Gee’s Chief of Staff on 20 October 2021.

While it is taking longer than expected, the Minister has assured us that he remains committed to achieving an equitable outcome for us.

The Chief of Staff and other attendees clearly understand our case and our wish to obtain a favourable decision from the Minister before Christmas this year. I have accepted his assurance that Minister Gee is doing his best for us.

Kind regards

Richard Barry OAM

Convenor for some 3,000 National Servicemen Vietnam Veterans.”

Paul Dickson

“Nothing ventured, nothing gained.”



A topic for thought and maybe discussion...

Both **Kevin Browning** and **Terry Erbs** broached this subject at the last (September) Association ZOOM meeting as to what’s the possibility that the 132nd UAV and CSS Bty may be taken over by **Australian Army Aviation (AAAvn)**? Just a point to weigh up - The 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment became **just** 20th Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery back in 2006 – no more mentioning “Surveillance” and Target Acquisition”.

The advancing technology and increasing “airspace” activity by 20th Regiment does lend itself, especially 132nd Battery, to becoming more “Aviation” oriented.

Your thoughts...?

From the Advocate’s Desk...

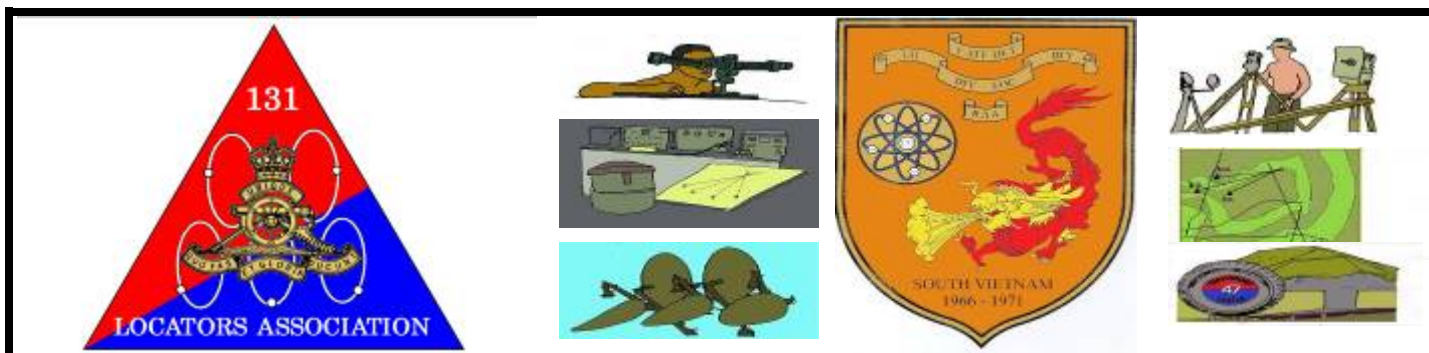
Our professional Advocate’s contact details: -

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.



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>

50 Years
 April 1966 - April 2016



find us on

Facebook

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

. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting – Annual General Meeting

9th November 2021 at 11.00 AM at Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway

Street Address: Killoola St, Rhodes Park, Concord. Postal Address: PO Box 127, Concord 2137

And available via Zoom link to be advised.

ZOOM MEETING: Date: Tuesday, 12th October, 2021 at 1105hrs...

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

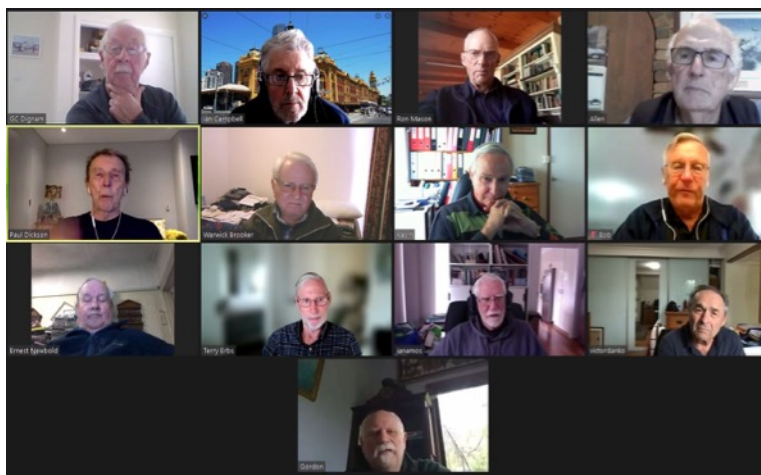
Attendees were:

Grahame Dignam, Ian Campbell, Ron Mason,
 Allen Morley

Paul Dickson, Warwick Brooker, Kevin Browning,
 Bob Billiards

Ernie Newbold, Terry Erbs, Ian Amos, Vic Danko

Gordon Malcolm



Apologies: Jim Fitzgerald, Steve Wynn, Merv Nairn, Rieny Nieuwenhof, Barry Guzder, Bert Blink, Nick Proskurin, Ged Carroll, George Lane and State Reps.

Financial Membership is currently ... **125** plus Associates **2** plus Affiliates **15** Total **142**

Plus, Lapsed as at 1/10/2021 **36** members

Presidents report.

Allen Reported:

- . He noted that 1/83rd USA arty association have a group "Locating a vet" mentioned in their latest newsletter.
 - . The DVA was allocated \$98 million to align their computer systems to provide a faster more efficient service to veterans.
- Hope springs eternal!
- . The Reunion at Enoggera in 2022 will be a gathering of vets from many theatres of action and might be an opportune time to add to our merchandise sales.
 - . The December meeting might be held at Canley Heights RSL following the success of our vaccination rate and the falling infection rate.

Public Officer Report.

- . No item of current interest to report.
- . However, the subject of proper access to records was raised. A process where "Dropbox" might be utilised is being investigated.

Webmaster Update.

Bob advised the number of Facebook members was now **246**. Access to the *Eyes & Ears* newsletter has shown a 10% increase with the Facebook link being the influencing factor.

Health.

- . Steve Wynn mentioned in an email that he was back under the Dr's care having some more nasties removed.
- . Everyone agreed that Lockdown will be soon forgotten as States move to open up borders and allow wider travel.

General Business and around the grounds.

Discussions ensued on the following:

- . Ron Mason report he was at the centre of the Victorian Earthquake. He was shaken but not stirred! and no damage was incurred.
- . Paul Dickson mentioned the retraction of the Vale item for Geoff Carthew. It was unfortunate that the timing of the notification fell at the same time as the Newsletter was being published. Efforts to confirm the information were in train but contact was made after the newsletter was published. Contact with Geoff and Judy was made and the true situation was confirmed with the family.
- . Kevin Browning advised that the "15 Pounder" gun which was the subject of an Association donation to aid the restoration had been completed. The ceremonial unveiling will take place in Werribee, Vic and the plaque will note the involvement of the "131 Locators Association".
- . Terry Erbs advised that new buildings are being added to 20 Regiments' footprint to accommodate the new UAV arriving.

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...November –

Date	Name	Regt No	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	DENIS SMITH	2789286	15 04 1969	17 12 1969	
1	VAUGHAN MILLAR	3411742	27 11 1967	26 11 1968	
1	WAYNE JEFFERY	2794772	04 11 1970	29 07 1971	† 26.10.17
2	TREVOR PRIDEAUX (WAGHORN)	52837	05 05 1967	06 02 1968	
2	KENNETH HALLIGAN	2788319	16 09 1968	27 08 1969	
4	JOHN HENSHAW	3793057	20 01 1969	28 11 1969	
4	HAROLD LITTLE	2789038	21 02 1969	28 11 1969	† 02.04.18
5	DAVID DACRE	5716803	20 08 1970	20 08 1970	131
6	PETER WERTHEIMER	355747			† 23.11.19
	" "		20 08 1970	05 05 1971	4 Fd REGT
10	BARRY UREN	214715	28 10 1966	02 05 1967	
11	WILLIAM TAGGART		00.10.1966	00.11.1967	US 1st / 83rd
12	JOHN RICHMOND	2784289			
12	THOMAS LEMPRIERE	3412000	02 12 1968	21 01 1969	
13	MICHAEL CAMPBELL	6708462	05 05 1967	13 12 1967	† 1984
16	KENNETH LONG	2783232	04 05 1967	28 10 1967	
16	ALLEN MORLEY	3788972	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
17	WARWICK HAMILTON Capt.	235190	17 04 1967	12 02 1968	† 26.08.2019
17	TERENCE (LOFTY) HAYES	214973	{04 05 1966	29 04 1967	† 14.12.2011
	" " "		{10 12 1968	10 12 1969	
17	JORG KIENE	3797963	09 11 1970	05 08 1971	

17	BARRY JOHN WILLIAMS	3796729	16 12 1970	08 02 1971	†29.09.2004
18	DESMOND BURY	1411072	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	
19	FRANTZ JOHN PERRY WO2	36026	22 04 1966	07 09 1966	† 17.10.2016
20	MICHAEL FLETCHER	352778	29 04 1969	16 04 1970	
20	LESLIE BATES	218053	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	† 07.08.2013
22	MURRAY POUSTIE	3787941	04 05 1967	14 08 1967	
22	BRIAN RUDDUCK (M.I.D)	216134	{29 01 1968	21 01 1969	
	" " Sgt.		{03 02 1970	04 02 1971	4 Fd REGT
24	DONALD SIMMONS Sgt.	212769	22 04 1966	21 12 1966	† 25.04.2015
25	STANLEY TODKILL	1201908	04 11 1969	17 06 1970	
25	JIM TOWNLEY	3793586	20 01 1970	27 05 1970	AACC
	" "		28 05 1970	14 01 1971	1st Amoured Regt
26	MICHAEL O'KEEFE	2787168	08 01 1968	14 01 1969	AACC † 1980
26	FRED WALTER Sgt.	342848	11 05 1967	23 04 1968	RAEME
26	JEFFERY SCHAFFER	2788886	12 02 1969	17 12 1969	
27	PAUL HOBSON	2799714	N/a	N/a	
28	JOHN BAYFORD	3791019	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
30	RONALD SAUNDERS	38516	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
30	GARY STRATTON	2788161	08 11 1968	27 08 1969	
1	DAVID DOUGHERTY	2786594	17 01 1968	04 02 1969	

*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 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 169 and we've sent out 169. Ed – Ok, who's next?

. **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

. **Peter Bruce** sent the following email with regards to the following Vales –

"Good afternoon to all.

27th October, 2021.

Allan Harrison, Treasurer of the Locating Surveillance & Target Acquisition Association has advised via the Australian Artillery Association of the death recently of **John Uniacke** on 27 September and **Wayne Nash** on 30 September.

John served with 130 Gun Loc and 133 Div Loc Batteries, rising to the rank of SGT. He arrived in Australia probably in the early 1970's after seeing service with a Brit Territorial Locating Regiment. He was a long serving member of the LSTAA.

Wayne likewise served in both 130 and 133 Batteries, preceding John as Sound Ranging Command Post Sergeant. He rose to the Rank of WO2 as BSM 133 Div Loc Bty. Wayne was a foundation member of LSTAA and served for a time as Treasurer. Sadly, his death follows closely on that of his wife Jan, a double blow to their family.

RIP two fine Locators.

Ubique

Peter Bruce

Obituary Resource Officer, RAAHC."



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...

. Locating, Surveillance & Target Acquisition Association...



LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION

The Eyes and Ears of The Battlefield



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



www.artilleryhistory.org



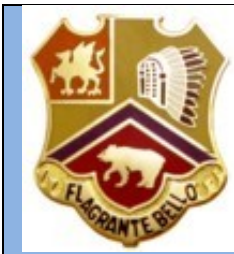
Website link - <http://www.vvaa.org.au/>

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

. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE

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

. 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery...



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

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



The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association

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

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

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