

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



**May is a month of
Memories...**

John Dellaca's photo is a standalone memory of
Fire Support Base Coral, May 1966

. May, 1968

– Fire Support Base Coral – Balmoral

A couple of memories recalled –

Ian Finlay – “We share a lot of memories from this day Ken 12th May 1968, Thinking of all who served at Fire Support Base Coral from 131 Div Loc Bty 13th May 1968. Fin”

and

Gordon Malcolm – “53 years since possibly one of the most traumatic events in my life, this was taken the first morning after the initial attack, that’s me in the background, I can still remember writing that letter.

We got out of there 6 weeks later, still around fortunately. G”

Ian Finlay and Ken Jones, 13th May 1968



More photos taken from Ian Finlay’s post on the Association’s Facebook page –



. 1966, 4th May...

The first of the "Pioneers" arrived on 20th April, 1966

- The remainder of the very first 1ATF Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA departed Australia for SVN in 1966 from Richmond RAAF Base aboard a QANTAS chartered flight.

. 1967, 4/5th May...

– First of the Detachment "reos" arrive in Vung Tau.

One day earlier – "A 4th May, 1967 reminder" –

Grahame Dignam sent out the following email to the "First Rotation Reos" –

"Just a note to mark the 54th anniversary of our "Departure from Oz to SVN" in 1967. A day that most of us "first rotation reos" will remember along with those "Pioneers" who will remember for opposite reasons.

May the day be filled with sunshine unless of course you need the rain!

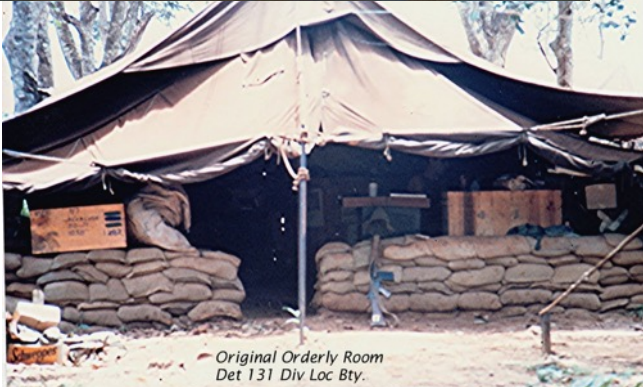
Travel well..."

Grahame Dignam – reported an anniversary note on the Association's Facebook –

"Leaving on a jet plane..."

I was farewelled by family departed and arrived in Darwin in darkness where we were billeted overnight. When we woke on the 5th, we were fed and loaded into a Hercules, serial "09", for the final leg into "Vungers". We were then transported to Nui Dat, welcomed by Capt. WR Hamilton and given the rest of the day off.

I reported to WO2 Sgt "Chalkie" Royal in the Det131 Orderly Room where I worked with Bdr John Vitkovsky. I doubled up doing sig. radio and plotting duties in Arty Tac during the dark hours to spread the load."



Original Orderly Room
Det 131 Div Loc Bty.



... 1942, 5th May... 24 years earlier –

1942 REMEMBERING THE BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA

ON 5 May, Australia commemorates the largest naval battle fought off our shores, the Battle of the Coral Sea.

The Hon Darren Chester MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Minister for Defence Personnel **MEDIA RELEASE**, Tuesday, 4 May 2021

REMEMBERING THE BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA

ON 5 May, Australia commemorates the largest naval battle fought off our shores, the Battle of the Coral Sea.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said the Battle of the Coral Sea had long been regarded as 'the battle that saved Australia' during the Second World War, ending Japanese attempts to take Port Moresby by sea.

"During the Second World War, the Japanese planned to cut Australia's supply lines from the United States, despatching a fleet to capture Port Moresby as part of its advance into the Pacific," Mr Chester said.

"Allied forces had cracked the main Japanese communication codes, and intercepted and deciphered radio messages regarding the attack."

A US carrier force, supported by Australian cruisers and destroyers, moved into position to stop the Japanese, and in the waters south-west of the Solomon Islands and east of New Guinea between 4 and 8 May 1942 the Battle of Coral Sea took place.

"The battle, though fought at sea, largely took place in the skies. Aircraft from both sides fought valiantly, until the eventual turn-back of the Japanese due to high losses from US air attacks," Mr Chester said.

"Though thankfully no Australians died, tragically more than 650 American lives were lost and the USS *Lexington* was sunk.

"Today we pay tribute to the brave service personnel who fought to protect us during the Second World War, specifically those who fought in the Battle of the Coral Sea."

Further information on the Battle of the Coral Sea and the events that followed can be found on the Department of Veterans' Affairs [Anzac Portal](#).

. 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



From the Co and RSM 20th
Regiment, Royal Australian
Artillery

20th Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery **Regiment Mid-Year Review – Q1/Q2, 2021**

Dear Sir, Ma'am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The purpose of this short presentation is to provide you all with an update as to what the Regiment has achieved so far this year, and what is ahead. As we re-commence business as usual we remain steadfast, flexible and resilient in the shadow of a global pandemic. As always, our Regiment has remained professional, positive, and agile to the needs of the nation.

Key achievements so far, this year include 131 Battery commencing its road-to-ready through the conduct of a number of activities focussing on readying detachment and troops, 132 Battery commencing their support to the School of Artillery and the maintenance of their ready skillsets, CSS Battery remains busy supporting the Regiment across multiple facets of operations and Ops Spt Battery has supported the Regiment and a number of external exercises whilst facilitating and executing a number of test and evaluation activities in support of current and future capabilities.

Over the next 3 months, 131 Battery will finalise their preparation for assuming the crown of ready sub-unit and will conduct a combined LFX with 4 Regiment, RAA and the School of Army Aviation to utilise the Regiment's allocation of 155mm Artillery ammunition and AGM-114 Hellfire missiles. 132 Battery, as the online sub-unit, will continue their support to the School of Artillery and unit test and evaluation activities. CSS Battery continues their provision of technical support to the entire Regiment, most notably supporting multiple lines of effort across all facets of logistics and maintenance, and the short-notice deployment of personnel in support of Operation COVID-19 ASSIST. Ops Spt Battery will continue planning and coordinating all Regiment tasks. and have done a great job planning future activities, which will see a focus on individual courses and low-level collective training, in conjunction with continued support to the School of Artillery. The Regiment continues to remain engaged with Army Headquarters in order to best support LAND29-3 efforts and other Army modernisation efforts. We continue to reaffirm our position as UAS SMEs within Army through our members who are posted to SOCOMD, and 2 RAR (Amphibious). Our junior leaders have been exceptionally busy this year having been involved in a number of engagement activities, most notably the Chief of Army Symposium and Junior Leader's Forum, where they interacted directly with Senior Leaders across all three services.

We would like to make special mention of the excellent work performed by the Australian Artillery Association and our affiliated unit associations. They have been very forward leaning in assisting with projects, especially preparations for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Royal Australian Artillery and have done a tremendous job in supporting the Regiment and our people in 2021.

Finally, a hearty thank you to everyone for your continued support, assistance and interest. This includes our members currently posted to the Regiment, those who are posted-out, and those who have been part of the Regiment's journey across all facets of our operations. We are thankful for those who remain interested and engaged from afar, and of course, our families and loved ones. Your support is critical to enabling us to achieve our mission and successes. Again, thank you.

Seek to Strike.

Shamus Armstrong
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer

Reece Hay
Warrant Officer Class One
Regimental Sergeant Major

To see more of the Regiment Sitrep then go to the following link: <http://collab/army/6bde/20sta/SitePages/Home.aspx>



. Quiz Time.

The following photo appeared in an *Eyes & Ears* a few years back – April, 2010 – 11 years!

E&Es April 2010

There's a couple of things the "Quiz Master" wants to know –

1. Where was the photo taken?
2. When was the photo taken (day, month & year)?
3. What was the occasion?
4. Who are the 5 blokes?

...now to the curly ones –

5. What's interesting about their names?
6. Who sent the photo to *E&Es*?

Ed – were these blokes shaving at this stage? They look more like "School Cadets" than Vets.



. **The** following is an introduction to 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 first 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



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

The following is a broad-brush attempt to Locate Locators Locations in Nui Dat, South Vietnam during the period of conflict in which we played an integral part.

I guess, or I hope, that we will continue to receive updates as the article continues to be read. However, the main gist is that this exercise shows the ever-changing equipment of the Detachment as locating enemy activity devices were updated.

Time is a major player in this project, as it is certainly some time since the Detachment arrived on 27th May, 1966 and departed 31st July, 1971, plus there are numerous members who served that are no longer with us as our research as at 13th June???, 2020, records show that there are **109** (as at 17.11.20) Detachment members who have passed, (out of a total of 476 who served). At any given time, there were more than 70 serving personnel.

The Detachment, unlike most Task Force components, was active the whole time of the Vietnam conflict with replacements arriving when serving members were due to return to Australia. The major component of serving members were National Servicemen, however, Regular enlisted members did repeat tours.

Initially, the Detachment consisted of –

Detachment Headquarters, Artillery Intelligence, Listening Posts, Radars, Survey and assigned RAEME personnel (41 members in total).

Over time some Detachment units morphed into replacement units.

Change-over timeline –

. October, 1968 the Survey Section took responsibility for the introduction of Sound Ranging.

. July, 1970 saw the Sensor Section replace the radars as they returned to Australia and also in October the Sound Ranging base was returned.

. June 1971 the Survey Section along with the Sensor Programme was transferred to 12 Field Regiment with the return of the Detachment to Australia in July 1971.

All of these movements over the 5 years, 86 days – Det 131 DLB was the longest continuing serving Detachment in the RAA, plus internal relocations of Listening Posts, Radars and finally the Artillery Intelligence adds to the complication of this project.

During our time in South Vietnam we suffered two losses of life and members wounded. (Information pertaining to these personnel is recorded on the 131 Associations website <http://www.131locators.org.au>).

The Detachments contents are listed as such –

1. The Road map showing locations on a broad scale.
2. The Detachment Headquarters Locations.
3. The Artillery Intelligence location.
4. The Listening Posts.
5. The Radar Locations.
6. The Survey Locations.
7. The RAEME Location.

The maps, photos, descriptions all add the fluid state/s of basically most of the Detachment's sections. As we are all aware none of us were there from beginning to the end. I have added sections, maybe out of sequence, but they add personality to the history.

Acknowledgements -

I would like to thank the numerous members who contributed written details including photos to allow this project to come to life.

Initially, let me thank **Grahame Williams** for his extensive narrative and photos for giving more “life” to this exercise.

Then in alphabetical order, thanks to the following for their contributions -

Kevin Browning, Keith Dean, Grahame Dignam, Hilton Holloway, Iain Kennedy, Phil Mulgrew, Rieny Nieuwenhof, Ernie Newbold, Phil Sheedy and others who submitted information relevant to their Locations whilst serving in Nui Dat and the Horseshoe – there will be more to be added.

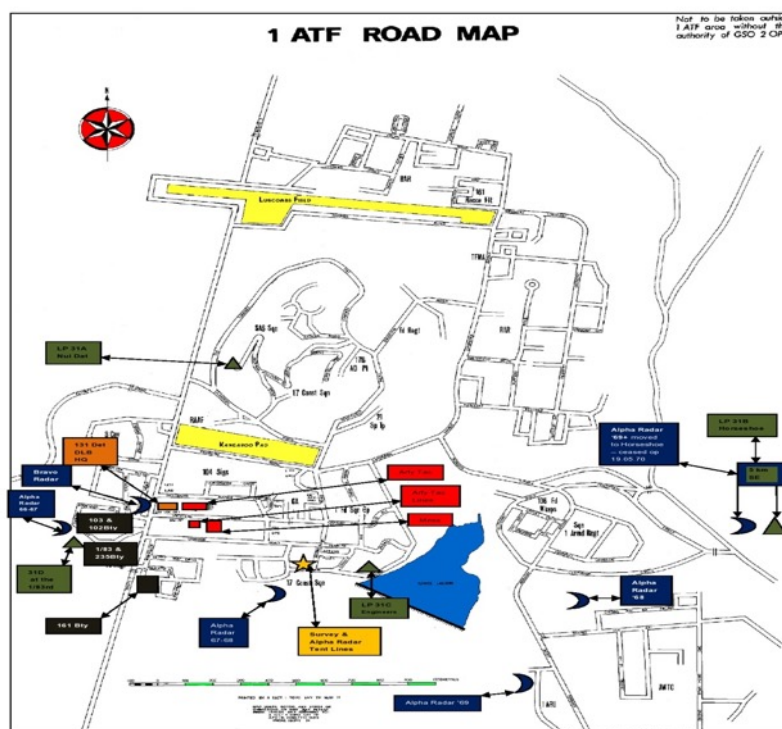
Paul Dickson

1. The Road map showing locations on a broad scale.

The following map is a “snapshot” of the Detachments locations as at 1966-69.

Note the movement of the Radars and Listening Posts in particular.

“The Road Map” supplied By Ernie Newbold



You will note the movements of sections, especially Alpha Radar from two locations within 1ATF then out to Horseshoe in 1969 before it ceased to operate 19.05.70. Also in a later Road Map, you note the settlement of Survey into the Detachment Headquarters area.



(Photo: Kevin Browning)

The photo above is an aerial overview showing the general area of the Task Force.

Next month we will continue on with Detachment Head Quarters and other sections month by month...

However, before we continue on, here's a "brain rattler" of a question for ALL and Sundry Det Vets – **Call Signs?**

We seem to remember the call sign for Arty Tac was 30, then the LP's started with 31A, B etc, Radar chimed in with 32A and 32B, that's easy, **BUT** what about Det HQ – did the Rovers have radios, how did Chalkie let you know you were going on R&R? Survey – they went out on Ops, worked with Gun Batteries etc – how did they contact HQ or whatever and of course the RAEME blokes – hey we need some support, how were they contacted?

So, c'mon fellas the Locations Project is going to look pretty lame if we can't come up with something!

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.

. Lost Medals Australia – now this is another interesting website dug up Ernie Newbold

First up **Ernie's email** that got things going – "G'day Paul, have you found Stephen Fowler, 217186 who served with the detachment from 16.09.1968 to 17.09.1969?"

If not, then here is a link that is very interesting, it is called "Lost Medals Australia" It seems that at some time past Stephen Fowler lost his Vietnam medals and the person who re-unites lost medals with their owners was able to track him down to return the medals.

We could offer our help to Lost Medals Australia with our contacts if ever required in the future. They may be able to offer to help us contact Stephen Fowler if we have been unable to do so.

What do you think about that?

Regards, Ernie -when you open the website scroll down to 26 October 2010 to read the Stephen Fowler story.

<http://lostmedalsaustralia.blogspot.com/>"

...and it produced some unexpected results. **Ed** did as he was instructed and contacted a Lt Col Glyn Llanwarne and it produced the following with a very prompt response –

1. An email address for Stephen which sadly didn't work. So, if anyone knows of his contact details – his address details are - Stephen FOWLER, 3 Irwin Road EMBLETON WA 6062 Telephone: (08) 9375 7038
2. It introduced us to Glyn and prompted **Ed** to get a bit of a biography...

Lieutenant Colonel Glyn Llanwarne -

Glyn was born in Perth, Western Australia and was educated at Christ Church Grammar School. In 1982, he enlisted in the Australian Army Reserve and posted to the Western Australian University Regiment. In 1985 Glyn enlisted in the Australian Regular Army and spent 6 years posted to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment. Glyn remained with 2 Cav Regt until June 90 having been promoted to Corporal on the way.

In July 90, Glyn entered RMC Duntroon and graduated in December 91. He was appointed to the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corp and has had postings to many units and locations in Australia. While his specialty is logistics he has had several staff and training appointments.

Glyn is a graduate of the Australian Staff and Command College and has a Masters in Management (Defence Studies) from Canberra University. Glyn's active service includes deploying to East Timor from September 99 to February 2000 and deploying to Christmas Island in support of the Australian Government's response to the MV Tampa crisis. Glyn was recently posted as the Commanding Officer of Joint Logistic Unit (North Queensland) located in Townsville and then spent six months in Iraq as an embedded officer with the US Head Quarters. He is now posted to Canberra.

26 October 2010

Fowler - Vietnam War pair

217186 Stephen Fowler served with 131 Divisional Locating Battery during the Vietnam War. He tells us that his medals went missing before 1982 when he moved from NSW to WA. The medals are in pretty good condition so have probably been sitting locked away all that time.

The returned medal tally is now 735 and these are from the NSW RSL box.



Let's see if we can help...

To the Editor of THE EYES and EARS 11th May, 2021

Dear sir, my parents have a friend in Laurieton NSW who is a Vietnam Veteran and was a member of 131 Div Loc Bty in Vietnam in 1968. His name is **Larry William Bridge** (2786506 LBDR LW Bridge in 1968). Larry is not at all well these days.

Larry is very keen to re-establish personal contact with a fellow member of 131 Div Loc Bty in Vietnam. Larry is looking for **John Crighton Martin*** (43613 LT JC Martin in 1968) and I was hoping they may be able to contact each other through your Association.

We would appreciate any advice on how to help Larry locate and contact John. Thank you.

Yours sincerely, Anthony McWatters

***John Crighton Martin**

	SVN In	SVN Out
Detachment, 131 Divisional Locating Battery	26 Feb 1968	21 Feb 1969

If you can be of any help could you please send information to me at -

Paul Dickson at – email: 131eyesandears@gmail.com

Mail Call...

The Great Escape Tunnel – this amazing historical article was submitted by **Barry Guzder** –

“Dicko,

Not about 131 but may interest the blokes about the REAL ‘Great escape’.

Regards,

Barry Guzder.”

Untouched for almost seven decades, the tunnel used in the Great Escape has finally been unearthed. The 111-yard passage nicknamed 'Harry' by Allied prisoners was sealed by the Germans after the audacious break-out from the POW camp Stalag Luft III in western Poland. Despite huge interest in the subject, encouraged by the film starring Steve McQueen, the tunnel undisturbed over the decades because it was behind the Iron Curtain and the Soviet had no interest in its significance.



But at last British archaeologists have excavated it, and discovered its remarkable secrets.

Many of the bed boards which had been joined together to stop it collapsing were still in position. And the ventilation shaft, ingeniously crafted from used powdered milk containers known as Klim Tins, remained in working order.

Scattered throughout the tunnel, which is 30ft below ground, were bits of old metal buckets, hammers and crowbars which were used to hollow out the route.

A total of 600 prisoners worked on three tunnels at the same time. They were nicknamed Tom, Dick and Harry and were just 2 ft. square for most of their length. It was on the night of March 24 and 25, 1944, that 76 Allied airmen escaped through Harry.

Barely a third of the 200 prisoners, many in fake German uniforms and civilian outfits and carrying false identity papers, who were meant to slip away managed to leave before the alarm was raised when escapee number 77 was spotted.



Tunnel vision: A tunnel reconstruction showing the trolley system.

Only three made it back to Britain. Another 50 were executed by firing squad on the orders of Adolf Hitler, who was furious after learning of the breach of security. In all, 90 boards from bunk beds, 62 tables, 34 chairs and 76 benches, as well as thousands of items including knives, spoons, forks, towels and blankets, were squirreled away by the

Allied prisoners to aid the escape plan under the noses of their captors.

Although the Hollywood movie suggested otherwise, *NO* Americans were involved in the operation. Most were British, and the others were from Canada, (all the tunnelers were Canadian personnel with backgrounds in mining) Poland, New Zealand, Australia, and South Africa.

The site of the tunnel, recently excavated by British archaeologists

The latest dig, over three weeks in August, located the entrance to Harry, which was originally concealed under a stove in Hut 104.

The team also found another tunnel, called George, whose exact position had not been charted. It was never used as the 2,000 prisoners were forced to march to other camps as the Red Army approached in January 1945.

Watching the excavation was Gordie King, 91, an RAF radio operator, who was 140th in line to use Harry and therefore missed out. 'This brings back such bitter-sweet memories', he said as he wiped away tears. 'I'm amazed by what they've found.'



Gordie King, 91, made an emotional return to Stalag Luft III.

In a related post:

Many of the recent generations have no true notion of the cost in lives and treasure that were paid for the liberties that we enjoy in this United States. They also have no idea in respect of the lengths that the "greatest generation" went to in order to preserve those liberties. Below is one true, small and entertaining story regarding those measures that are well worth reading, even if the only thing derived from the story is entertainment.

Escape from WWII POW Camps — starting in 1940, an increasing number of British and Canadian Airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the Crown was casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape.

Now obviously, one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where stuff was, but also showing the locations of 'safe houses' where a POW on-the-lam could go for food and shelter.

Paper maps had some real drawbacks -- they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear out rapidly, and if they get wet, they turn into mush.

Someone in MI-5 (similar to America's OSS) got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads and, unfolded as many times as needed and, makes no noise whatsoever.

At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington Ltd. When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort.

By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the U.K. Licensee for the popular American board game Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category of item qualified for insertion into 'CARE packages', dispatched by the International Red Cross to prisoners of war.

Under the strictest of secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany, Italy, and France or wherever Allied POW camps were located. When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece.

As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add: 1 A playing token, containing a small magnetic compass

2. A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together

3. Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian, and French currency, hidden within the piles of Monopoly money!

British and American air crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly set – by means of a tiny red dot, one cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the Free Parking square.

Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POWs who successfully escaped, an estimated one-third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British Government might want to use this highly successful ruse in still another, future war.

The story wasn't declassified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honoured in a public ceremony.

It's always nice when you can play that 'Get Out of Jail' Free' card!

Some readers of this email are probably too young to have any personal connection to WWII (Sep. '39 to Aug. '45), but this is still an interesting bit of history for everyone to know.

Ernie Newbold – “A Holsworthy Tour” – sent in the following email with photos attached. It's an interesting read with regards to Holsworthy and a comment on **“FSB Berryman”** ...

“G'day Nick,

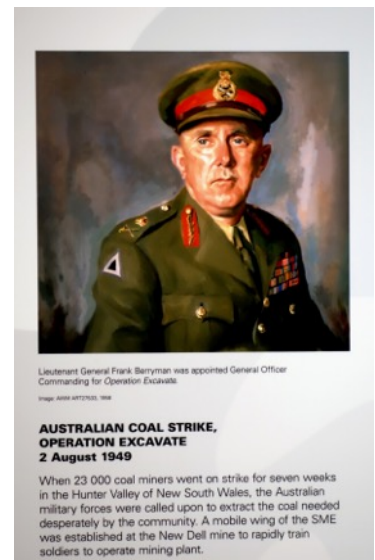
we were sorry that you were unable to make it to Holsworthy today, Grahame had organised a great day out and the museum was really good, they have done a fantastic job with the set up and display.

Remember **FSB Berryman**? I never thought to enquire as to the origin of the name used to identify that particular FSB but today came across a clue, see photo attached.

They have even saved and restored two of the old Holsworthy accommodation huts that were the type we lived in when we were there. Now used to house the MPs museum - see second attachment.

The accommodation for the troops is very different to when we were there, now all are housed in multi-storey buildings, with individual single person rooms with en-suite. A huge gymnasium and indoor swimming pool and a huge mess hall operated by contracted caterers.

Regards, Ernie.”





...then the following Facebook post by Bob Billiards continues on – Australian Army Museum of Military Engineering



Had a great day visiting the Holsworthy base and the Engineer's and MP's (Military Police's) Museums with a few of the boys. I hardly spent any time at Holsworthy and when I was there I lived out at Cabramatta and drove in every day. I also only did one Guard duty in the 6 weeks I spent there after SVN. The museum is worth the visit and the two military curators were extremely knowledgeable of what was on display.

From left – Gordon Malcolm, Kevin Browning, Ian Amos, Allen Morley, Grahame Dignam, Bob Billiards, Jim Fitzgerald, Ernie Newbold and Ged Carroll.

Back to Holsworthy – School of Military Engineering...Allen Morley – A brief run-down...

On a wet May morning, a group of 131 Gunners assembled at the Army base at Holsworthy. Grahame Dignam had organized a site tour and visit to the **School of Military Engineering**.

The site tour was in an Army bus driven by Sgt Amy. We observed living quarters, Museums, gymnasium and training facilities. But after more than 50 year's absence I didn't recognize anything. There were some comments of recall, but not many. The old Holsworthy we remembered is now covered by Holsworthy railway station.

The Museum building is large and filled with all sorts of interesting equipment. And most of these are pretty big. My favourites were:

. A Centurion tank resting on top of its 60tonne trailer



Furphy lager

. The WW1 Furphy wheeled water tanker – however not containing

. The 40mm Bofors ant-aircraft gun



. Various mine detector/disposal vehicles.



Our group spread out all over the museum, individually checking out the vast display. One exhibit was what most of us would call a steam roller. But the sign said it was a diesel roller – no steam today. Getting them back for a group photo was challenging. But the fine upstanding 131 Gunners in this photo suggested a sort of return to the 1966+lineup. Remind me not to stand next to Ian Amos in photos because he shows me up as a short arse. We thank an anonymous Engineering Captain for his photographic skill.

Sgt Amy then invited us into the MP's (Military Police) Museum. Interestingly, this Museum is located in two of the old Holsworthy huts we remember so well – well, not you Kevin. The huts have been refurbished, air conditioned and repainted. On display were uniforms, some lovely motor bikes and batons of all dimensions with the blood rinsed off. We furled our umbrellas (wimps) and returned in the bus to the check in/out point. From here the group dispersed for their own activity. The visit was memorable and most interesting.

Allen Morley

Steve Fody added – “Only spent from 77 till Christmas 79 At Holsworthy, we drove all the rovers and unimogs up to Enoggera to start work in Jan 1980”

. **Kevin Browning** is back with vengeance and has kept the keyboard hot (I wonder if it was the visit to Holsworthy with the crew above that kicked-started it?)–

1. “Hi Paul,

Congratulations on another great edition of *Eyes and Ears*. I haven't been ignoring your messages seeking updates on how things are going but really there is nothing to say. So, for a change thought I might pass this on for information. Don't ask why but I receive media reports from Asia Pacific Defence Reporter and the following article was included in today's report. Shows how far things have come between our two countries in the past 50 years.

Regards, Kevin”



Australia supports Vietnam's mission to South Sudan: Australia has supported Vietnam's contribution to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) by airlifting Vietnamese military personnel and equipment. A Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) C-17A Globemaster provided the airlift during late March and late April, allowing Vietnam to rotate its UNMISS Level Two Field Hospital contingent. Chief of Joint Operations Command, Lieutenant General Greg Bilton, said the Australian Defence Force's work alongside Vietnam demonstrates the close ties between our two countries. “Vietnam is an important partner for Australia in the Indo-Pacific, and I am proud the ADF has supported their deployment to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan,” Bilton said. “The peacekeeping partnership between our two countries is a key element of our defence relationship. It

highlights our shared vision of a peaceful, inclusive and resilient region actively supporting global security.” Over the last two months the airlift transported more than 120 passengers and over 55,000 kilograms of cargo between Vietnam and South Sudan. The cargo included medical and dental equipment, pharmaceuticals, electrical equipment, food stores and cold chain. Australia has now provided airlift support to three rotations of Vietnam's UNMISS contingent, the first in October 2018 and the second in November 2019. All Australian Defence Force personnel involved in the airlift complied with Australia's and Vietnam's COVID-19 protocols and control measures.

2. “Paul,

Readers might be interested in plans for North Head.

https://www.harbourtrust.gov.au/en/community/public-consultation/north-head-sanctuary-consultation/?gclid=EAlaIqobChMlnbD5qI2x8AIVw66WCh21cAz6EAAYASAAEgKmEvD_BwE

Regards, Kevin”

... here's an extract from it -

Consultation (1 May To 11 June): **Have your say: North Head Sanctuary**

Located at the northern entrance to Sydney Harbour, North Head / Car-rang-gel in Manly, is one of Australia's most spectacular landmarks...

This treasured public destination has significant ties to First Nations culture and Australia's military history, and hosts some of the nation's most precious natural ecosystems.

In 2020, the Harbour Trust had a conversation with the community about their values and aspirations for North Head Sanctuary. Community aspirations spanned themes of preservation and conservation for the natural environment, Indigenous culture and military history.

Informed by these collective aspirations, the Harbour Trust has released a Draft Concept that proposes signature initiatives aimed at preserving, restoring and reinterpreting North Head Sanctuary as an invaluable community destination.

North Head Sanctuary – Draft Concept (pdf)

The Harbour Trust is now seeking to continue its conversation with the community to understand the level of support and additional feedback for the proposed initiatives. Opportunities to have your say include completing an online survey (*further below*). Consultation closes 5pm on 11 June 2021.

3. This is a great account, especially the actual recounting of information by Kevin to close it -

“Hi Paul,

I saw in the Veterans' Affairs paper that on 7 June 2021 DVA will commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Operation Overlord, including the Battle of Long Khanh. This should not be confused with the slightly larger Operation Overlord in France in 1944. It is quite a significant event for the Detachment, especially the survey section.

In their Year Book 'Twelve in Focus', 12 Field Regiment reported on the operation:

'By the end of May, 1971 the Intelligence Staff, 1st Australian Task Force, had gathered enough information to pin point a large enemy training camp in an area about two miles north of the Phouc Tuy Province boundary near the Courtenay rubber plantation. The target was sufficiently large for the Task Force Commander to plan a three-battalion operation, the third battalion to be "borrowed" from our neighbours the 3rd Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division. It was the first task force sized operation for a long time and a lot of the drills were rusty or unknown.

'The plan for Operation Overlord was one of cordon and search. The cordon was to be placed along the Suoi Luc and Suoi Ran Rivers and the searching troops were to sweep the area in between. 4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment/New Zealand (ANZAC) Battalion, 2nd/8th US Battalion and most of 'A' Squadron 3rd Cavalry Regiment were to form the cordon. 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, most of 'C' Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment and elements of the cavalry squadron were to sweep the area. For the first time for many months Task Force Headquarters was to be established in the field. The site chosen was Courtenay Hill, which, at the time of planning, was conveniently occupied by the Defence and Employment Platoon of Headquarters 1st Australian Task Force.

'The artillery plan involved the establishment of three new fire support bases (FSB). 'A' Field Battery combined their sections at FSB Ziggy and Nui Dat to form a new base called Pamela just to the west of the main target area. 104th Field battery moved a section from Nui Dat to FSB Trish to the south of the area. 'C' Battery of 5th battalion 42nd (US) Artillery moved three of its howitzers from Nui Dat to FSB Cherie just next to Task Force Headquarters. For once in a while all guns less three at Nui Dat could engage the same targets. Regimental fire missions were a possibility.

'An important ingredient for success was the achievement of surprise. To achieve the surprise required, the forces involved were to be inserted simultaneously into their places on the cordon and the start line.

'The movement plan to meet this requirement was complicated, especially the air element. It was planned to move four Australian infantry companies and two sections of artillery by air.... Altogether, eighteen Iroquois and four Chinook were used and they took two hours to complete their mission except the move of defence stores. The move of men and guns by vehicle had been co-ordinated with the helicopter lifts.

'D day was the 5th June, just one day short of twenty-seven years since Allied Forces landed on the Normandy beaches in the original Operation Overlord.'

...Kevin continues...

The year book goes on to describe the Operation but for those interested in the details I suggest Google Battle of Long Khanh. But briefly the main enemy bunker system was contacted about 1700 hrs on 6 June by 5 Pl C Co 3 RAR. The platoon was withdrawn sufficiently to allow the system to be struck by all available artillery. Two plans were fired at 2200 hrs 6 June and 0400 hrs 7 June using a total of 700 rounds of 105 mm and 150 rounds of 155mm. Next morning 5 pl moved forward and soon suffered casualties. Whilst reinforcements were moved in 104 Battery fired danger close missions. Further contacts were made about 350 metres to the south west by D Co 3 RAR. The action continued until about 1500 hrs. The Forward Observer for D Co was **Captain Ian Yerbury** who on his first tour of Vietnam had been Survey Officer with the Detachment. Casualties for the action included the FO with B Co and a resupply RAAF Huey. During the contact 'A' battery fired over 1000 rounds, 104 Battery over 400 and Battery 'C' 175 rounds. That night the

infantry companies reported movement outside their perimeters which proved to be the enemy slipping through the cordon.

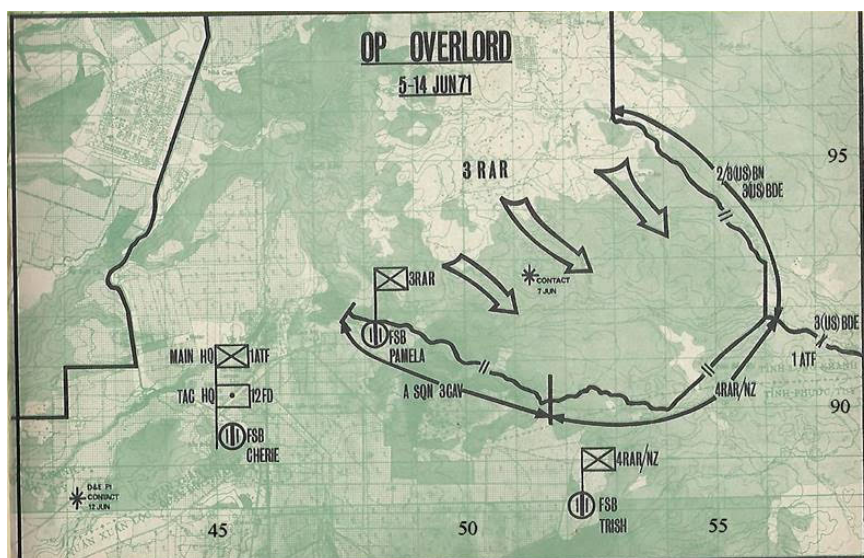
Another very unfortunate event occurred on 12 June the west of Courtenay Hill. Defence and Employment Platoon mounted on three APC were ambushed. Whether it was an RPG or satchel charge is not clear but it struck the second APC and detonated a box of claymores. The explosion caused severe damage to the APC and killed seven. The operation was concluded on 13 June. It was considered a success as it had disrupted the enemy in the area where they were thought to be conducting training for attacks on Phouc Tuy.

You have to read between the lines to understand the significance of this operation to the Detachment, especially the Survey Section. For without accurate survey it would not have been possible to conduct 'regimental' missions. The other significant fact is the fact all three FSB were deployed at the same time and therefore the survey work required all three to be done as part of the one scheme. Seldom was there a requirement for more than one FSB to be deployed and surveyed at the same time. For instructional purposes the theory at the time was a Divisional Front was 10,000 metres and within the Division there were three Field and one Medium Regiment. Each Regiment of three batteries would be deployed within a 2000 metre area and they would be surveyed in by their Regimental survey section (10 surveyors). The Regiments would be brought onto a common grid with each other by the Div Loc Survey Troop (some 40 surveyors). Whilst Operation Overlord involved three batteries they were deployed over an area similar to a theoretical Division deployment. To achieve the work, we had six observing pairs.

Jeff Evans, enjoyed two jobs, Survey Section Commander and Duty Officer in Arty Tac. As Duty Officer, he saw the planning for Operation Overlord and realised the problem it presented for the provision of survey. He obtained permission for an aerial reconnaissance but could not obtain permission to be released from his duty officer role (Jeff had been officially transferred from Det 131 to 12 Fd Regt on 2 June). I was on a sensor course at Vung Tau and that morning had just sat the trial exam when I was called into the office and told I was to immediately return to Nui Dat. The course exam was to be held in the afternoon – it was the same paper. Upon arrival, back at Nui Dat, Jeff briefed me on what was happening and that the Task Force Commander had approved the aerial reconnaissance but at no time was it to compromise the operation.

So, it was off to 161 Recce where the 2 i/c in his Bell helicopter awaited. When told of the importance of not compromising the operation he said that was no problem and off we went. As we approached the area it appeared we would overfly it at considerable height and it was explained to the pilot the need to view the area from ground level so fields of view could be determined. Absolutely no complaints and within seconds we were skimming the ground so close you braced as you approached dips expecting it to be like a car on a bumpy road. And, I suppose, to anyone looking at us we appeared to be two idiot joy riders out for a fun time.

That night Jeff and I completed the survey plan and the rest is history. All three FSB on theatre grid by close of play on day 1, 5 June 1971. This could not have been achieved without the excellent professional of the surveyors who scattered over a large area upheld the fine tradition the Detachment Surveyors with the assistance of other Detachment members had set. On 30 June those members of the Det Survey Section that were to remain were transferred to 12 Field Regt to carry on with the same work, other members of the Section were returned to Australia about the end of July and some were replaced by surveyors from the Regimental survey section who required refresher training as they had been employed in Arty Tac.



Ed - a continuing note on Binh Ba and the Detachments involvement in the 1970 era in SVN. Ongoing correspondence with Kevin Browning has brought a plethora of items originally collated by **Jeff Evans** which need to be read and consumed, not only by the '70's era Locators, but to all our Locators in general – it's going to be an eye opener.

Lionel Outen – dug the following out of his archives – it's an absolute classic...

Ed - For those of you who knew the (late) Roger “Mudguts” Long would realise that this “award” is appropriately called the

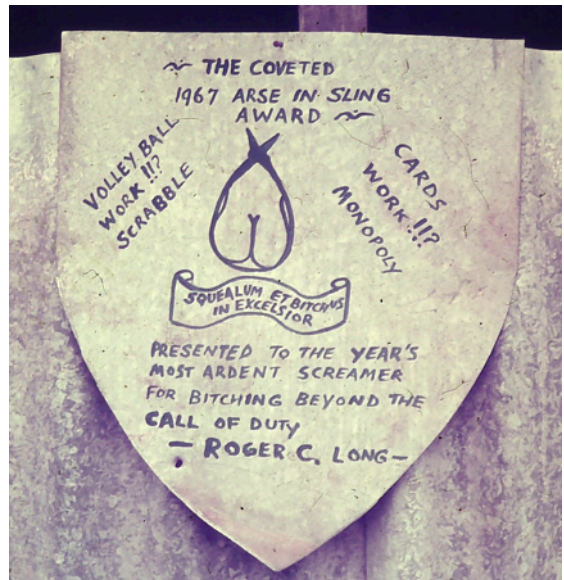
“Longy Award”

Allen Morley in compiling Roger's Locator Profile, from recollections, added this photo plus a comment by **Ian Amos**

The following is an interesting comment about Roger from Ian 'Stretch' Amos (from E&E November 2009) -

“I have had no contact with Roger Long since we left Vietnam. Roger made my first few months in country very entertaining. Roger never stopped whinging and he argued about everything in a very laconic way. All this prompted Stuart Sporn to make and present to Roger the award for bitching beyond the call of duty.”

May we stay strong as a group as these memories continue to make us what we are today – mates.



Ken Osborne – “Dear Paul, not much going on here in Portland at the moment. We had an ANZAC Day service but the crowd numbers and marchers were limited because of Covid, but the Floral display was still put in place though this year I had no involvement in it at all. The RSL Sub-Branch and volunteers did another wonderful job, our guest speaker was Brigadier Steven Lee, a retired signals officer and the central motif of the display was their Corps Badge. Have attached some photos of the display.

Also after reading the latest newsletter and reading the letter from John Vitkovsky, it reminded me of when I was in Vietnam and the detachment hosted whatever show it was that had Denise Drysdale and Patti McGrath in it. I had taken some slides of the occasion, so I dug them out again. I might have sent them to you once before but will attach them once again. One shows John Vitkovsky and my radio Mech "Doc" Pimm with Denise Drysdale and another has Warwick Hamilton in it and others with the cast and crew of the show and a few other shots whose names all elude me.

Neridah and I had our first Covid shot just over a week ago with the next one scheduled in twelve weeks' time, it still has not made any changes to our lifestyle, still have to practice social distancing and other restrictions but no real inconvenience to us as we were not doing anything to start with. So, I hope to be more informative when I next write, so keep well, regards Ken Osborne.

PS I saw the name **Allen Bensley*** come up in the last newsletter, he was one of our radar mechs and he died some years back, will have to check out my Apprentices web site to check the date. He served with me at Holsworthy and was rather a character, but smart and I last saw him at an Apprentice's reunion in 2011. Ken”

***Allen passed away 20.12.2011**





Ken continues... "Dear Paul, Sometimes I think I am an idiot. I sent you an email saying attached is a photo of John and the only bloody thing I left off was the photo I specifically mentioned. Well this time I hope don't make the same mistake."

Ed – We'll have a crack at adding a few more names – Let's start with the real star – Denise Drysdale, then in the background 2Lt Bill Wight, 2Lt Ian Yerbury, Grahame Dignam, ?, and of course John V with a beer.



I have also added a photo of the overall view of our ANZAC Day floral display and a couple of other photos from Vietnam namely one of myself and one of Des Bailey outside our workshop in the LAD area late 67. So, my apologies, I have been trying to find a couple of photos of an award I was given in 1957 but so far have had no luck. I know I have them somewhere as I was actually looking at them earlier in the year but where I put them afterwards has me baffled, will probably turn up when I am looking for something else, regards Ken Osborne."

Ed – the ANZAC Day photos are amazing.

Pater Ravelje sent in the following item which should be of real interest –

Proposal of Gold Card Entitlement Partners of TPI/SRs

"G'day all,

A while back I sent out an email about the proposal of the Gold Card being issued to partners of TPIs when the TPI partner had reached the age of 65 years. This in effect was that the partner may get the Gold Card before the TPI had passed on. A reward, if you like for looking after the TPI for many years and not having to wait until the TPI passes on before receiving the Gold Card.

I had a face-to-face meeting with Minister Chester on Sunday, 2nd May 2021 here in WA when he was visiting with Andrew Hastie MP – Assistant Minister for Defence. We discussed the subject proposal and Minister Chester acknowledged that it was a well thought out and reasonable proposal and that the cost of implementing such a proposal for TPIs would not be prohibitive. He added that the cost of Medicare would come off the Gold Card costs. The Minister is going to ask for costings to be provided by his department on his return to Canberra.



In addition, to my meeting with the Minister, I had sent the proposal to the TPI Victorian Branch which has broken away from the TPI Federation and they have included it in the upcoming Senate Inquiry into the TPI Special Rate Disability Pension.

I also put a Notice of Motion to TPI WA as I want the TPI Federation to accept it as one of their policies for improved benefits of TPIs. After I informed TPI WA that I had spoken directly to the Minister at the Sunday meeting, they emailed me back to say that they are having a Committee meeting today and that they should get the proposal accepted. They can then send it to TPI Federation Canberra who can then ask all State Branches of TPI to accept the proposal as a policy of the Federation.

So, it appears there is support for the proposal coming from several sources now and hopefully that will aid in pushing the Minister for Veterans Affairs to take the proposal to cabinet for approval.

Take care and Persevere,

Rick Ryan (WA)*"

Ed enquired via Pete as to who Rick Ryan is and here's the response he got from the TPI Association, WA –

“*Rick Ryan, is in fact a member of TPI Assoc WA.

He did serve, he is currently President of the AATV Association.

He has been doing quite a bit of Lobbying recently and has been sending a lot of emails about the Operation of The TPI Federation and also The TPI association of WA.

A lot of his emails are not Condoned or Sanctioned by our Association.

However, the suggestion of Issuing the Gold Card to Partners of TPI's at age 65, is one that we and the Federation and Partners of Veterans and several other ESO's support.

Kind regards

Colin Benporath

Assistant Secretary, TPI Association WA”



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...

John “Kanga” McFadden – “Hello Dicko

Hoping your health remains in good shape. That's a pretty good altitude! Mt Kosciusko territory. Yeah humidity would not be a concern.

Thank you for your timely insight into what's happening Covid wise in your neck of the woods. Really interested that you've had your 2 Pfizer shots. Bill from 1/83rd has had his as well. Seems the Americas are right on the ball and getting it out there. We're still standing in line for AZ. It takes a while to reach rural climes with no hope in hell of Pfizer making it. Thankfully we've had no reported rural outbreaks but how long that will last might well be numbered. We have slackened off with measures and that's just the chink that might undo us.

Yeah different world with strange seasons.

Keep Well

Kanga”

Russ Jackson – “Hello Paul,

Thank you again for the contact and for your acknowledgment of Margot.

We do appreciate the regular update.

It is good to hear that things are starting to loosen up for you and that restaurant visits are back on the agenda.

ANZAC day in Melbourne was a bit of a disaster as you have most likely heard. The RSL seemed to badly mismanage the organisation of the March and the Dawn Service. Numbers were restricted for both with a wire fence put up around the Shrine as a means of crowd control. Only 1400 were allowed into the Shrine precinct with many watching through the wire fence.

All on the day that 78,000 were allowed into the MCG to watch the ANZAC Day AFL match. Not a good look for Melbourne and certainly not for the RSL.

Our day consisted of a quiet commemoration at home.

All being well it will be great for our group to be able to get together again in 2022.

Mothers' Day here today and we are being treated to the traditional breakfast at our daughter and son in law's place.

The fare is a little different for us as we are normally into “healthy breakfasts”. Mothers' Day though it is full on with a thick piece of large toast carrying two fried eggs smothered in fried tomatoes, hash browns, bacon and grilled mushrooms.

All of this is washed down with large mugs of strong black coffee. Our daughter's man does all the cooking and there is always plenty available for seconds if you can fit it in. Needless to say, lunch usually ends up being a small bowl of soup. If that.

We have had a very dry Autumn with only sporadic rain, including one good dump, but things are very dry. The nights are getting quite cool with a 5C temperature overnight and more cool ones coming. The upside of the cool clear nights though is that we have had days filled with sunshine in typical Autumn fashion.

The last year has been a chequered one for me health wise with a dose of pneumonia and its after effects lingering and laying me low.

I suppose in the whole scheme of things it was a good time to be laid low as we couldn't go anywhere.

AstraZeneca is our Government supplied vaccine and we have had our first shots but there is a twelve week wait for the second. We would have preferred Pfizer but it was not available for us. There has been a bit of hysteria about AstraZeneca regarding the blood clotting risk and the uptake of the free vaccine has been affected. The roll out has been rather slow with only a small percentage of the country now vaccinated. We have been very fortunate to date in that outbreaks have been pretty much contained and community cases are very rare.

In most places in our home city masks have been dispensed with. At this stage though we cannot fully relax.

Things are very worrying though for our son and his family who are in Sweden, where cases are rife and the vaccine rollout is a shambles.

Well done with your continuing work on *Eyes and Ears* and for your willingness to regularly keep in touch.

Regards Russ."

Philip Mulgrew – "Hi Paul

Good to hear from you. Nice day here on the north side of Brissy. It's 26 degrees with 67 per cent humidity according to my weather station in the alfresco. Storms are supposedly on the way up from the NSW north coast, so we are expecting some wild weather. but looking out through the office window, it's blue skies and light scattered clouds over the Glasshouse mountains. The best indication of an impending weather event is still to look out the window, check the sky and listen for the sound of training aircraft from nearby airfields. No aircraft, storm is close. But I don't think I'd make the grade at the Bureau of Meteorology using that methodology in forecasting.

Helen and I have had our first Astra Zeneca shots, plus flu shots this last Sunday two weeks later. We front up for our second jab of Astra Zeneca, mid-July. No side effects for either of us, apart from a slight headache for a day or so. You feel like a pin cushion with all these injections.

And that reminds me, before heading off to SVN in 1968, the Battery discovered I was well behind in my vaccinations for overseas service, so I was told to front up to the RAP for a series of injections. I ended up getting five injections in my left arm and four in the right, one after the other. I wasn't sure which arm hurt the most the following day.

It's surprising that so many people I know, whether family or friends have no intention of getting vaccinated against CoVid-19. My sister in law recently said that she would not get vaccinated because she believes the vaccine interferes with DNA in your body. Duh. So, it looks like we, the cattle are having our shots to give the non-vaccinated herd immunity. There's no problem here with getting out and about. Everything is open. The Gold Coast has a shortage of chefs apparently. Guess they're found more lucrative employment flogging real estate or similar as house prices have gone up substantially due to increased demand. We are flying to Victoria for a few weeks to catch up with family and friends Monday week. and have had to fill out permits to enter Victoria on our travel date. There is a traffic light system in Victoria of compliance with green being open to all interstate travellers. Red, I guess, means nick off, we don't want you. So I hope there isn't an asymptomatic Co-Vid infected individual running around here or down south undetected.

It's great for you to have the warmer weather coming over your way. I can't remember the last time I wore jeans and a jacket. T-shirt and shorts with thongs mandatory footwear here. I'll have to get used to rugging up from next Monday on, and nope, I won't be getting on the plane in a t-shirt and shorts.

Take care and all the best to you and the family. Phil."

Harry Lynas – "G'day Paul,

Not much happening around here at the moment. Last week was a write off, I had a bad reaction to the AstraZeneca jab and developed a rotten case of the flu, my throat was so sore that on one day I sipped a half bottle of rum starting before 11.30 am. Thankfully, I am over it now and starting to have proper meals again to put back the 2 kg that I lost. I was in self-imposed lockdown again for a week because I didn't feel like going out.

Anyway, we have started to rearrange the Fort Lytton website and record a lot of Australian artillery history from the colonial period up to the Hamel L119 gun, which is now on display at Fort Lytton along with an L5 Gun, both from 1 Regiment RAA. Our preparations are ongoing for the big day on 1st August where 1 Regt is going to fire their part in the salute down at Fort Lytton. Should be a good day.

Might have more to tell you next time.

Cheers, Harry Lynas"

Russ Hamsey – "Paul:

Good to hear from you mate and great to hear you are travelling well. As you know, the COVID situation here is not nearly as bad and life is almost normal some days. I remain the happiest Australian you know. After two years of deliberating (and procrastinating) my wife and I are busy with renovations to our apartment. Considering my wealth of experience at demolishing things, we wisely engaged a contractor to do the work and it progresses well.

20 Regt has a new CO, LTCOL Shamus Armstrong and he has taken up the reigns enthusiastically. The batteries have started the year strongly and with COVID in check for the moment, training has renewed with vigour.

The Shadow Unmanned Aerial System is showing its age and requires a little more care than in the past. The project to replace Shadow is progressing well. We should have a better idea of the replacement by the end of this year.

The Regt is doing a lot of work to prepare for the future and all of that work is being fed back into the project. Considering the bulk of project office works in the Regt lines, they don't need to go far for answers.

The Regt has supported OP COVID ASSIST for several months now. That has normally involved the deployment of a Troop to support the operation of a Quarantine Hotel here in Brisbane.

Well, that's about it for the moment mate. Take care of yourself.

Russ Hamsey."

Iain Kennedy – "Paul,

Anzac Day this year, was a little better than last. As we could at least get past the end of our driveway. This year Glen Waverley RSL had their march the weekend before and we attended that and on the actual Anzac Day we attended the dawn service at the Glen Waverley Cenotaph, before a Gunfire breakfast back at the RSL. We are getting out and about a bit more, even to going to Phillip Island (that's about as overseas as we can get) for a long weekend. It just happened to be the weekend the wind and the rain came in abundance. Rain was both Horizontal and Vertical and management still wanted to go and see the penguin parade!

Changed the car, again, but in my defence, it was almost two years since my last car change. Still a MB, but gone from a B250 to a C250. Janet still happy with her A as its not done 15K yet in 4 years.

Work side has been a little patchy with Feb being very quiet, but March/April picking up. Also, was fortune to be offer another equipment agency for a German owned Italian Printing machine manufacturing company. Just received my box of brochures and print samples this week. So now can get out and talk to potential customers. Went to the Box Hill RSL for dinner on Thursday 13th May to celebrate 53yrs since we were in that place called Fire Support Base Coral. I put a message in Facebook, let's not wait until 2028 before we catch up again. It's too long between drinks.

Anyway, enough from me, take care, wear your mask and stay safe.

Cheers, Iain."

Bert Blink – circulated the following with regards to the following link to "What a Gentleman" – his name is **Vinh Tran***. It's a short video with regards to a very ingenious Vietnamese-Australian and his story based in Bowral, NSW.



Just click the photo and watch – it's amazing.

Or cut and paste the following link -

<https://www.google.com.au/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwiU35HPpM3wAhXW8XMBHdSsBKwQFjAAegQIBBAD&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.abc.net.au%2Fnews%2F2021-04-21%2Fvietnam-war-vehicles-bowral-restored-for-fundraising-and-healing%2F100066190&usg=AOvVaw0IPUaPxxGjl13BU5dAAf3p>

***Vinh Tran** grew up as a survivor of the Vietnam War hearing stories from his father about the different military vehicles he drove in his work as a US transport officer.

Key points:

- . Vinh Tran has imported a number of ex-military vehicles used during the Vietnam War
- . He hires the vehicles for special events and donates the proceeds to a Vietnamese charity
- . His organisation in Bowral is also becoming a popular meeting place for Australian veterans

With the seed sown for a lifelong love of military Jeeps, troop carriers and Land Rovers, Mr Tran has created an impressive collection of vehicles.

He uses the vehicles for joy rides, hires them out as photoshoot props and donates the proceeds to a Vietnamese charity called Maison Chance.

"The Vietnam War was like many wars, it was very costly," he said.

"Even 50 years on, the effect of Agent Orange is really bad in Vietnam, so I tried to find a solution to help the kids."

Ed – The Association is going to be planning a trip down to Bowral in mid to late June. Contact Grahame Dignam, if you are interested, for further details at: sectreas131locators@gmail.com – Subject: "Bowral Military Vehicle Visit".

Terry Bruce – Ed had sent Terry a link to the above article sent in by **Bert Blink** with reference to **Vin Tran** and his **Bowral Military Vehicle Museum**. As you all might be aware Terry is an ardent collector/restorer of military jeeps (as per the photo at below right showing a couple of his collection), so I knew he'd be interested. The following is Terry's response -

"Paul,
Thank you for sending the video – I'll definitely try to get down to the place.

By coincidence, whilst I was recently in hospital (yes, for a second time due to an incident that occurred in the house paddock whereby I 'passed out' and Judith had difficulty waking me -so ambulance to hospital where I stayed for four days for brain MRI, and several other tests – still have some outpatient visits to attend including inserting a 'Loop Recorder' (beneath the skin) to monitor heart function remotely) a fellow patient, who lived in Bowral, showed me some photos on his phone of some of the vehicles on display at the place shown in the video.

Meanwhile, I'm currently still recovering from the knee replacement operation – I'm feeling stronger each day, although the recent hospital visit set me back a bit.

Keep up the good work on behalf of the battery members!

Regards, Terry"



Steve Jux – "Hi Paul,

Thanks for the e-mail.

In between looking after my 94-year-old mother in law in Coffs Harbour we've managed a three-week trip down to see our youngest daughter in Melbourne via Apollo Bay for a well-earned rest.

Sadly Sharon fell on a blasted tram and ended up a Royal Melbourne Hospital. X-rays etc plus rest at a Coburg caravan park where they were filming a Netflix drama series *Surviving Summer* which comes out later this year. Lots of young teenagers, crew, lights and cameras. Very little rest.

As our motor home is a six-speed manual and as i don't drive and with Sharon and her left arm in a sling I had to engage 3rd and 5th gears on our way home with several stops.

We had a quite Anzac Day here watched the sun come up over the Solitary Islands on Mullawarra Headland.

Who are they in last month's *Eyes and Ears*.

It was our reunion in 1999 at Coffs Harbour.

I remember some of the crew –

Standing at the rear - Blair Sheppard, Pete Sali, Pop Jeanke, ? ? Ted Jux, Graham Greenland, ? Joe Kocka, John Lucas, ?.

Front row - ? Graeme Smith, Ron Boaler, ? Dave Doyle.

Hope this helps.

Regards Ted Jux."



Pam Dellaca – some late news on John...

"Hello Paul,

Just letting you know that John had a triple bypass on Tuesday, he is recovering quite well in hospital.

He did not have a heart attack, was a bit of an incidental discovery.

Family history was a factor.

Regards

Pam Dellaca."

Notice Board – Hey, see what's coming up?

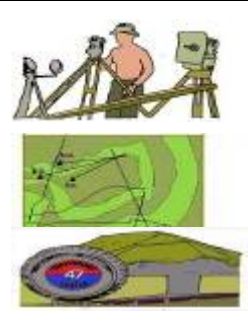
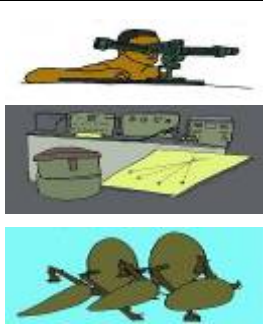
There's plenty of room for notices – has anyone got or getting any events planned?

Just send an email and I'll post it. Ed

Bob Billiards posted the following on the Association's Facebook site –

50 years since the conflict officially ended for Australia. If you are in Canberra on 6th June maybe head to the following presentation.





Committee members:

President – Allen Morley, Vice President – Bert Blink, Treasurer/Secretary – Grahame Dignam,
Webmaster – Bob Billiards, Research Officer – Ernie Newbold, Designs and Development Officer – Nick Proskurin,
Eyes & Ears Editor – Paul Dickson
General members – Ian Amos, Ged Carroll, George Lane.
Regional Representatives: ACT – Bert Blink, Qld – Terry Erbs, SA - Geoff Blackwell,
Vic – Alan Adams, WA - Barry Guzder
<http://www.131locators.org.au>

Presidential perambulations

Cars used to be fairly simple to own and use. Now computers rule our motor cars too.

I have a relatively new European vehicle. Only three years old. Thus, far it has been largely reliable and economical. On a recent Tuesday, I was prepared for our 131 Locators monthly Committee meeting. We are a one car couple. Diane, my wife said she would nip down for her daily coffee before I left for the meeting. The car won't start she told me so I checked and she was 100% correct. Then all hell broke loose.

The dashboard began cycling warning messages. ABS braking was out; tyre pressure indicator was next, followed by gearbox fault then key not detected, etc etc. This was beyond my capabilities, so I phoned the car breakdown number.

"We can't send anyone out; you will have to have the car towed". I said I would call the service people first. Their response was identical, so it was back to the assistance people who despatched a tow truck.

Contrary to my mental picture of a tow truck driver he was a bearded Frenchman without visible tats. After checking it out he said it was probably the car battery. Off to his truck he went, brought up a jumper charger and got it started again. He warned me not to turn the car off. The cycling warnings had disappeared as I drove it to the service centre. Two days later, so much for 'service', with the battery replaced all was well.

Better news still was that because of a five-year warranty, the battery was covered and therefore no cost for me.

50 Years
April 1966 - April 2016



The Memories Remain
1966 - 1971



find us on

Facebook

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

. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 8th June, 2021 at 1100hrs

Venue: Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club, 26 Humphries Rd., Wakeley.

Ph (02) 9604 9975 and for directions - <http://www.canleyheightsrsl.com.au/contact-us/> You're all welcome
And available via **ZOOM** link to be advised.

. **Pertinent Points** – extracted from the 131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 11th May, 2021 at 1105hrs...

Attendees were: Grahame Dignam, Ged Carroll, Merv Nairn, Ernest Newbold, Nick Proskurin, Ian Amos, Gordon Malcolm

ZOOMers: Paul Dickson, Allen Morley, Ron Mason, Ian Campbell, Laurie Sawyer, Rieny Nieuwenhof, Bob Billiards, Bert Blink and Terry Erbs



Ed: The double photo of Rieny shows off his Geelong “Cats” T shirt dedicated to the early beginnings of the football club back in 1859. I don’t think Rieny is an original member! It must be great quality to

have lasted this long!

Financial Membership: currently ...**128**, plus Associates **2**, Affiliates **12**. Total **142**. Lapsed **33** members (as at 1.5.21)

Presidents report.

Allen:

- . Thanked G Dignam for organizing the 4 May excursion to the SME museum.
- . Reported that he and Terry Erbs both intended to stand for the LSTAA committee in upcoming elections.
- . Advised he has had contact with Lionel Outen, one of the original 131 Locating Association organizing committee. He would like to see an appreciation piece written commending those involved for their efforts in the early trying times of getting the association going. We would not be here without their involvement.
- . Noted that the Army is to receive 4 new Chinook helicopters

. Webmaster Update:

- Bob advised the Face book page now has 231 members and activity is picking up. 136 members access the *Eyes & Ears* newsletter from that avenue.
- . We are displaying an item “Return to Mt Pleasant ACT” in the Events section of the website.
 - . Maintenance is being considered for the membership section of the website.

Health:

- . We have been in contact with Larry Bridge who is undergoing treatment for a serious illness at the moment.
- . Keith Ayliffe is still struggling with recovery from his last OP.
- . Steve Wynn has reported he is undergoing treatment for a serious bug infection.

General Business and around the grounds:

Discussions ensued on the following:

- . Ian Campbell reported a new female arrival in the family which promoted him to Grandfather.
- . A discussion re using Face book pic's in our Newsletter. Once they appear they become public. Newspapers require an acknowledgement for pictures used.
- . Terry mentioned that the 150th Anniversary celebration would be on 21 August in Canberra and November in Sydney refers to website for details.
- . The bi-annual reunion which coincides with the Regiments birthday on 9th October at Caloundra would see 20 Regiment join with 1st Regiment and later a Family Day and visit to Fort Lytton. Details are available refer to website.
- . Rieny - mentioned that Royal Commission terms of reference should be as wide as possible.
 - Also, due to a shortage of burial sites there may be a push to renew some war graves areas— more to come.
 - Also, that the report into the DVA in 2019 stated that the DVA was not fit for purpose. The government so far has not responded.
 - Also, reported that this year's census will ask questions re service to country.
- . Bert mentioned a film "a Vietnamese- Australia from Boral" which proved an interesting item and has sparked interest in a day visit.

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...June –

DATE	NAME	REGT NO	SVN IN	SVN OUT	COMMENTS
1	GEOFFREY SULLIVAN	3798292	02 12 1970	03 05 1971	131
	" "		03 05 1971	20 10 1971	12 Fd Regt.
3	ALLAN MACLEAN Capt.	32203	24 05 1967	28 06 1967	RAEME † 24.06.13
5	PETER DEALY	3411983	18 02 1968	21 02 1969	
5	JAMES LOCKHART	6709144	03 06 1969	21 02 1970	† 12.04.14
5	VITO CICCOLELLA	2791669	16 12 1969	17 12 1970	
6	JOHN I'ANSON	2787424	12 04 1968	16 04 1969	
7	BRUCE IRVINE	2783695	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
8	EDWIN FIELD Sgt.	242577	22 04 1966	31 07 1966	RAEME † 20.07.96
10	KEITH WHITE	2783029	17 04 1967	13 12 1967	AACC
12	IAN AMOS	2785676	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
12	LAWRENCE SAWYER	3787393	04 05 1966	03 03 1967	
13	JOHN JOSEPH MCNEILL	18814	16 04 1968	14 05 1969	RAEME † 14.11.20
14	PAUL BUSS	2781443	22 04 1966	28 04 1967	† 28.09.11
15	KARL DOEHRMANN Sgt.	38119	{20 05 1966	29 04 1967	† 10.08.09
	" "		{28 01 1970	27 08 1970	
15	EDWARD WEBB	29964	27 01 1970	21 01 1971	
16	RALPH PEARCE	214806	22 04 1966	30 04 1967	† Unknown
18	ROGER WHITTAKER	2184592	19 08 1970	05 08 1971	† 01.12.08
20	JOHN CHILTON	215855	09 12 1968	03 12 1969	
23	WILLIAM PRENTER WO1	64258	22 04 1966	07 06 1967	RAEME † 01.10.97
	" "		20 08 1970	09 06 1971	4 Fd Regt
25	PAUL BUTCHER	3411454	01 04 1969	25 03 1970	
26	LINDSAY MEAD	3790714	27 03 1968	26 04 1968	
26	GERRY CARROLL	2781311	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	
28	BARRY COLLINS	2793213	20 08 1970	20 08 1970	131
	" "		20 08 1970	07 03 1971	4 Fd Regt.
	" "		08 03 1971	09 06 1971	12 Fd Regt.

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

Ed – 8 blokes not highlighted is looking decidedly better, but surely we can colour them all in? Doesb/t anyone know the whereabouts of **Geoff Sullivan, Keith White, Lawrence Sawyer, Edward Webb and Lindsay Mead**? Ok, let's get into it and actively get out there locating a few more!

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received #168 and we've sent out #167?. Ed – Ok, we're waiting for #169 and beyond.

. **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 on 14th May –

"Brian Collins, Secretary of the 101 Battery Association has passed on the following information.

"It is with much regret that I inform you of the passing of 326409 **David Troedel**. David passed away yesterday 13th May 2021 after a bout with cancer. David served in Malaya 4 Oct 59 to 29 Oct 61.

David was a Life Member of the Association and was the backbone of the 101 Battery Malaya Association, he will be greatly missed.

Funeral details will be advised when known."

David had formed a wealth of knowledge regarding 101 Battery and has prepared detailed notes of all individuals and the Battery's time in Malaya. He will be sorely missed.

RIP David Troedel

Ubique

Peter Bruce

Obituary Resource Officer, RAAHC"



Name: TROEDEL, David John (Troddy)

Service No: 326409 Rank: WO2

Malaya: 04 10 59 - 29 10 61

DoB: 10 08 1939 DoD: 13 05 2021

Lest We Forget



ANZAC Day 2019 (extracted from *Eyes & Ears*) - KAWANA WATERS, Qld –

David Troedel – reporting in – "Good Morning Paul. Had a good Anzac Day at Kawana Waters with **Kevin Salter (RIP 25.03.20)** and **Ken Murphy**. Attached are some photos taken in the club rooms after the service. Hope all went well for you."

At right: Me, Ken and Kevin



David's Locator Profile -

Locator Profile

Surname: Troedel **Given Names:** David John **Nickname:** Troddy **DoB:** 10.8.39 **State of Origin:** Victoria

What did you do before the Army: Insurance Clerk 1957. Herd Tester 1958.

Army Service Dates: 17.5.58 – 29.7.58. 20 National Service Training Battalion, Puckapunyal. 4 Pl. A Coy. 3/781349...and beyond...

30.7.58 - Enlisted in the ARA. 3/6409. I enlisted in the ARA direct from National Service. After 7 days leave I was posted to the School of Artillery, where I spent 13 weeks as a GD and completed the Basic Gunnery Course on the 25 Pdr's. 6.11.58 - Posted to 1 Fd Regt, 101 Bty. Holsworthy.

18.9.59 - Sailed for Malaya on MV Flaminia. 101 Bty stationed at Butterworth.

17.10 60 Moved to Terendak, Malacca as part of 26 Fd Regt RA.

29.10.61 Sailed for Australia arriving in Sydney on 12.11.61.

13.11.61 – 101 Bty. 4 Fd Regt. Wacol. 10.4.62 Posted to Svy Tp. 4 Fd Regt.
1962 Aug/Sept. Class 3 Regt Svy Course. SofA (Instructor Sgt Ray Hooker) 11.2.64 Promoted L/Bdr. 1964 March/April.
Advanced Artillery Survey Course (Jeff Gebb & Les Kidd, Instructors) 29.7.64 Discharged from ARA. 30.7.64 Enlisted
Regular Army Reserve. 11.2.65 Enlisted in Regular Army Emergency Reserve, E36409. Discharged 10.2.69. 1.12.70.
Enlisted CMF. Gnr 15 Fd Regt. 14.11.71. Transferred to 132 Div Loc Bty. Svy Tp. 22.8.72 Promoted Bdr (3/72 Recruit
Course-CMF. conducted by 22 RVR at S Block Puckapunyal) 25.10.74 Discharged from CMF. 27.10.75 Re-Enlist.
ARES. 15.11.75 Promoted T/Sgt. 27.10.78 Sgt. 29.6.81 Promoted S/Sgt 1981 September Transferred to OCTU/3 Trg
Gp 1982 Promoted WO2. 1986 Transferred to OCTU/1 Trg Gp

17.5.87 Discharged.

Units served in and postings. Charlie Tp. 101 Bty. Tara in Australia. Gun No in Malaya. Regt Medical Orderly with 101
Bty/26 Fd Regt. RA Line Sig. Alpha Tp. 101 Bty. Wacol. Regt Svyr 4 Fd Regt. OCPF 15 Fd Regt. Svry Arty. Svy Tp. 132
Div Loc Bty. Svy Sect Sgt. 132 Div Loc Bty. PI Comd. OCTU Puckapunyal. Instructor. OCTU Puckapunyal. Instructor.
OCTU Wacol.

Who were you in the service with: Too many names to remember and a lot have now passed on.

Last Rank: WO2

What did you do after the Army: On discharge from the ARA in 1964 I worked for Golden Poultry Processing at
Somerville, Victoria for 8 1/2 Years. Then John Lysaght's Cold Mill at Hastings for 12 1/2 Years and Lysaghts/BHP, Qld
State Sales Office for another 12 years. Took early retirement in 1997 and then worked for Union Steel for another 2 1/2
years.

Now live: We moved from Brisbane to Toowoomba in 2002 and an acre of lawns and gardens keep me busy.

Some recollections/comments...

Charles Brewer – “Good morning Paul – Charles Brewer ex 7Fd Regt and 133 Div Loc Bty.

It is so very affirming for all Members to see how you, and other key Members of Associations, forward information like
this for David.

These Members who served, and in so many ways like David continue to serve into the future, honouring others Service.
Seeing David's service, reminds me that he may have known Don Simmons, 131 Div Loc, who also served in Malaya.
So; thank you! Blessings, across the miles, from Coffs harbour NSW.

Charles, and Helen.”

Phil Connor – “Rest easy, Good Warrior.”

Kim McGrath – “Hi Peter,

That is very sad news indeed. David was a very active 'Old Guard' Gunner.

He will certainly be sadly missed.

Ubique, Kim.”



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 Det 131 Div Loc Bty SVN.)

. Locating, Surveillance & Target Acquisition Association...



LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION

The Eyes and Ears of The Battlefield



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



www.artilleryhistory.org



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

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

. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE

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

. 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery...



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

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