

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



A background story to
The Detachment's Plaque,
a recollection recounted...



Lionel Outen forwarded to following article with regards to **WO2 "Chalkie" Royal's** involvement in the design and the birth of Detachment's Plaque -

The following story was written by former WO2 R.V. (Chalkie) Royal and explains the story behind the plaque used by the Detachment in South Vietnam and which formed the basis of the design for the Battery's present plaque.

As an RAA unit stationed at Nui Dat, South Vietnam, we had no home. Unlike the Gun Batteries, who were all together in their positions, the Detachment, consisting of LP, Radar, Survey and Arty Int elements, was spread all over the Nui Dat area, and the Det HQ consisted of a tent.

Captain Hamilton, the OC, said we should build a home, and so the HQ went to work with help at times from parties from Radar, Survey, LP and Arty Int. On completion we had an orderly room, Q Store and a Rec hut with a unit sign surveyed in to tell all who we were. The road in front of the sign was called Locators Lane. At this time, September/October 1967 the flag pole went up and the Australian National Flag hoisted, but alas we were told to take it down because only Regimental HQ could fly the National Flag.

The unit plaque then came into being. Having no guns, we were going to be different. So Captain Hamilton and I got to work. We wanted something to relate to being in the Orient, - not gaudy, but with a meaning. The good Captain had a U.S. envelope which portrayed a dragon in flight, not dissimilar to a map of Vietnam.

Survey had a fine artist in their midst and he drew a dragon for us. So began the build up of the plaque. Something else was needed and I thought of the atom symbol having a Bty centre with all sections rotating around it, indicating their work demanded them to move around at all time, but they had to come home (to the HQ) to get their mail, the latest news, R&C, R&R, etc. It was placed on a black background to indicate all worked night and day. The name of the unit was included on each plaque - 1 ATF Det 131 Div Loc Bty RAA. It symbolised the good work the Det was to do from 1966 to 1971 as "The eyes and ears of the Task Force".

The Rec Hut had its big opening for us, as we were host to a concert party in Oct 1967 and rotating shifts came in to welcome the party with a Bty BBQ. At long last we knew we had a home. The design of the plaque met with a good response and quite a number were ordered so that each member could have one.

The Dragon

The Dragon is the emblem of the Emperor and there are two forms of this fabulous monster: that of the sea, called LI, and that of the sky, called LUNG.

The dragon LUNG has a head like a camel, eyes like a hare, the horns of a deer and the ears of a cow, - it's body covered with fish scales and the claws are like those of a hawk. At each side of the mouth are whiskers and in the beard is sometimes seen a pearl.

The Oriental believed that this animal was capable of breathing out fire and water, and that its voice was like the jingling of metal fans.

It's great that this part of the Battery's history remains and continues today with Association.

. 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



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

Allen Morley gets a well-deserved break from travelling to the supermarket and back with a dream excursion...

Italy versus Australia

Our holiday to Puglia in the south of Italy and then Tuscany was postponed several times as a result of Covid controls. Hence, we decided that a local holiday was the only possible option. A cruise on the MV *Coral Discoverer* was the solution.

A flight direct from Sydney to Broome started this adventure. I’d never been to Broome before and what a delightful little town it is. But the former naval officer premier’s requirements were stringent. A beer at ‘Matsos’, an expensive drop into ‘Paspaley Pearls’, and a wander around town filled the first day in. The warmth after Sydney winter was a real treat. Our first cruise day started with a temperature check and confirmation that our very recent Covid test had been negative. We boarded the ship and set sail up the northwest Kimberley coast of Western Australia. The first stop was the Horizontal Falls, where rough seas are caused by tidal action through a narrow gap in the sandstone cliffs. Our boat was a zodiac and Dan the driver tested us out through the falls gap.

We continued north marvelling at the towering sandstone cliffs and mangroves a plenty. When the anchor was dropped the smaller *Xplorer* – with capacity for 60 people but minus the Victorians who were ineligible to enter WA due to

lockdown – the smaller bays and creeks were investigated. A multitude of birds of many species, the odd crocodile, a shark and many small fish were on display.

The food was good, although disaster almost led to mutiny as the Great Northern beer ran out. Each morning the nurse checked our temperatures. Tables of six were the go and no buffet due to Covid constraints. Internet was available if you paid for 1Gb at \$50, however the service was slow and at times intermittent. Great excitement when we sailed by Koolan Island, where the iron ore mine is harvesting some of the richest iron in the world, and an internet signal was received. Great excitement as people grabbed their phones and used the opportunity to become less isolated.

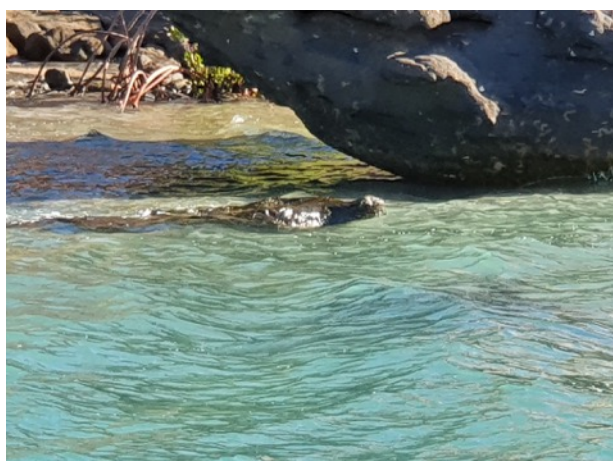
Day 4 offered the amazing Montgomery Reef experience This phenomenon is where the reef appears to rise from the sea, but is actually the tide falling against the reef. Birds, tortoises and other animals were ready for their buffet.

Fortunately, the zodiacs were able to get us close to this amazing sight. After dinner, it was most enjoyable to sit on the foredeck and watch the colourful sunset with a glass of beer for company.

Our day 5 highlights from our journey up another narrow creek included a small patch of rainforest, a White-Bellied Sea Eagle and a substantial sized crocodile sunning on a large rock. On the Careening Bay beach Diane found a rarely seen baby Flat-Backed Turtle heading to the water. Then up the Prince Regent River to the King Cascade named by explorer Phillip Parker King in 1821. That night we enjoyed sunset drinks and canapes on Naturalist's Beach (no nudists there) until the tide nearly caught us out necessitating a wet rush to the *Xplorer* for return to the mother ship.

On our last full day *Xplorer* ventured up King George River to King George Falls. Again, there was a surfeit of birds and a fairly large croc nearby. As on most days we attended lectures from a naturalist and a bird specialist, which helped us to better understand the uniqueness of the area we had sailed through.

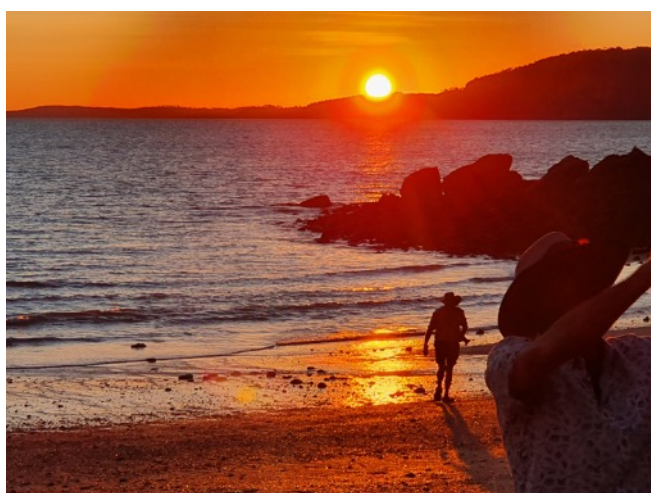
A wonderful experience came to its logical conclusion as we headed north-east to Darwin and another colourful sunset. Allen Morley.



A close 'croc' encounter



MV Coral Discoverer



Sunset in the Kimberley



Horizontal Falls



Interesting rock strata
Cable Beach warning, Broome



. **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 second 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

131 Detachment Head Quarters – Complex – 1967 Snapshot

Luscombe Field

Nui Dat
Hill -31A

Kangaroo Pad

4 Fd
Regt

Q
Store

Q Store
Accom
Test

?

?

Mess

Bravo
Radar



Locating Lane

Arty Tac HQ →

131
RAEME

1970+ 131 Detachment Location.

Nui Dat Hill
31A

Kangaroo Pad

4 Fd Regt

4 Fd
Accom



Stand to
Bunker

Survey Lines

Mess

Det
Transport
Office

Shower

Hut 1

Hut 2

Storage Hutt

Det Q Store

Survey
Office

131 HQ
Orderly Room

Arty Int Tent

Water
Towers

? Accom

Sound
Ranging CP

Menz Club

Arty Int Tent

WC

Artillery
Tactical HQ
– Arty Int

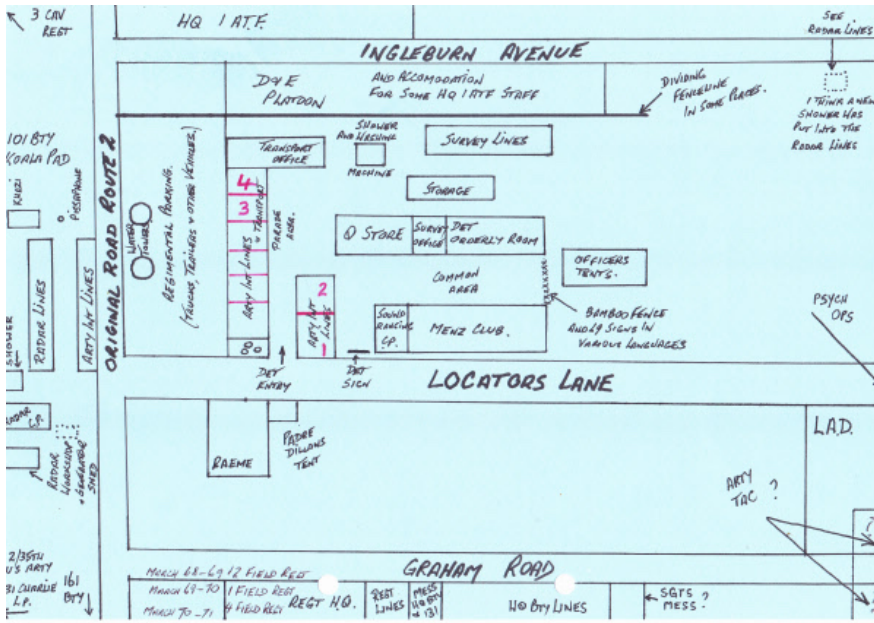
Further down Locating lane →

Locating Lane

RAEME

Graham Williams – June 1969 – March 1970 - elaborates on his map (following) –

The rough map of how the Detachment looked from June 1969 until March 1970 and my R.T.A.



- . Our Officers had their own tents as shown on the map as did those in transport.
 - . The Q staff and clerks possibly a tent which I have marked 4 but I cannot be sure of that.
 - . As you entered the main Detachment lines on the left there was an area of red coloured oil drums holding water and fire extinguishers in case of fire.
 - . Behind the Arty Int tents on the left were the water towers and 1 Field Regiment parking so trucks, trailers etc.
 - . Between tent #1 and the Menz Club was the Detachment sign and a small patch of open ground which led to an underground space where many of us developed their own photos. I am not sure if that still remained when the Sensor C.P. was set up there later in 1969.
 - . Behind the Survey lines was the D&E Platoon, guardians of H.Q. 1 A.T.F. We could go through a fence separating to watch their movies or vice versa. I think a number of "cannot identifies" in photos around the Menz Club may have been from D&E Platoon and also H.Q. Battery and know for a fact 2 mates who hailed from the same country town met up at the Menz Club regularly. Ian Menzies from H.Q. Bty and Neville (can't recall his surname) from D&E.
 - . In the common area near the open ground were various weights for exercise most fitted with concrete. There were also weights I believe similar in both Survey and Radar lines.
 - . Also in the **common area**, there was a football cut out with a hole in the middle similar to "Rex Mossop's pass the ball" through the hole and hear the elephant bellow on TV. This was used often for a time with league players practicing passing skills and AFL junkies handballing through the hole in the centre. The common area was used for impromptu BBQ's and also larger gatherings to farewell those going home. E.g. 10th Intake National Service in August 1969, 11th Intake in November 1969. If there was a bash for my own Intake (12th National Service) I missed it...probably on my late R&R after dipping out on the first after missing the plane. Also, there would have been another large celebration prior to most of the guys returning home from the 13th Intake in early June 1970. There were also the movies. (not sure but think a new screen may have been added in late 1969 early 70)
 - . Survey had it better than most sleeping in a long hut behind the H.Q. area. Between the Menz Club, Orderly room and Officers tents was a bamboo fence along the front of which were signs painted with the year 1969 in various languages. .
 - . Directly opposite from tent 1 on Locators Lane was Padre Dillon's tent adjacent to the RAEME compound where our drivers serviced their own vehicles.
- I am not sure if the original route 2 marked on your Task Force map had been renamed in 1969 but at that time there was a ring road that ran around the Eastern edge of the task force area re-joining the original route 2 North of Luscombe Field.

From the origins in 1966 the Detachment Headquarters 1ATF became more established and consolidated more sections of the Detachment, as is noted by these photos following -



(Photos: Kevin Browning) -



Over time the Survey Section was moved along with the Artillery Intelligence tent lines, there was the establishment of the Sound Ranging Command Post, plus the Menz Club becomes more noticeable. These photos (supplied by Kevin Browning) were taken from the water towers.



Next month we will continue on with Artillery Tactical Headquarters (Arty Tac). If you have any comments / information etc please communicate them, because once this is all completed it's going to be archived for posterity.

. 131 DLB...? – “a head scratcher” ...

This was the subject line to an email I sent out after the latest Association meeting, which I attended via ZOOM along with Terry Erbs, Ron Mason, Steve Wynn, Bert Blink and Bob Billiards.

I raised the subject of 131's naming origin – typical of me being some 50 odd years ago that I was serving in it, that I throw in a head-scratcher now.

Here's the email –

“This is just a follow-on from the Assoc meeting by a thought raised by yours truly - typical!

“Why 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA?” was the question I raised?

A few points -

1. Where did 131 originate from? Yes, there were/are 130, 132, but why the 130's etc? Was/is there a 120 to 129 or even a 134 and so on?
2. Divisional - where did that come from? There is no other unit called "Divisional" in the Australian Army. Does it mean that we could only be part of a Division - that's a large force?
3. Locating - I sort of understand via Radar, LP's, Sound Ranging and so on. Though it does bring my query up, again, why the Survey section in Locating?
4. Battery - I thought a Battery was an armed unit in the Artillery? Yes, we were armed, but only for defence. Why not be designated a Unit?
5. RAA - how did we get assigned to Artillery? Why not Intelligence? Why not just a Unit in the Task Force/Division/ Brigade not aligned to any specific military grouping?

Let's get to Vietnam - where did "Detachment" come from? There was only one other unit assigned such a name...

- Australian Army Training Team - 1962-72

. A couple of Engineer Squadrons and a Troop

. 161 Recce mob

. Signals:104 Sig Sqn (April 1967 – December 1971)

. **Detachment**, 1st Divisional Intelligence Unit (April 1966 – November 1971)

- . 1st Australian Logistics Support Group (1 ALSG) – Vung Tau (April 1966 – October 1971)
- . 1st Australian Civil Affairs Unit – Nui Dat and Vung Tau (March 1967 – November 1971).

Here's a perfect Unit not aligned to anything in name (as per some above), except the Intelligence lot who were a Detachment along with us -

The **161 (Independent) Reconnaissance Flight** was an Australian Army aviation unit of fixed-wing and rotary aircraft. In June 1965, the 161 Reconnaissance Flight was raised as part of the No. 16 Army Light Aircraft Squadron based at RAAF Base Amberley for deployment to the Vietnam War. In September that year the flight deployed to South Vietnam with two Cessna 180 planes and two Sioux light observation helicopters in order to support the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment based at Bien Hoa air base. The unit deployed to Vung Tau on 13 May 1966. The Flight was re-designated the 161 (Independent) Reconnaissance Flight. When unit strength was increased, so, making it an Independent unit (and able to draw its own rations and rations). Following the expansion of the Australian commitment, the Flight continued to serve in this role as part of the 1st Australian Task Force, with an enlarged, established and expanded responsibilities, operating out of Vung Tau and Nui Dat until the end of 1971 when it was withdrawn to Australia. In March 1967, the 16th Army Light Aircraft Squadron was renamed the 1st Aviation Regiment.

In retrospect, why weren't we aligned to 161? It would have been a perfect combination. Just as an aside - Their living quarters were not from the Arty Tac lines in Nui Dat - I got my hair cut by one of them!

Paul “

Ernie Newbold – got back to me with a very quick full response –

“G'day Paul, have you forgotten so much of what you learned while you were in the Army?

It has certainly been a long time since we were soldiers / gunners etc.

#1 131 is a number used to differentiate and identify different units, during WWII 131 Bty was a Heavy Anti-Aircraft battery, located on Horn Island north of Cape Yorke. The number appears to have been recycled in post WWII years.

#2 At full strength a Divisional Locating Battery could support an Army Division (three task forces) therefore, it could be divided into three detachments.

#3 Locating was what we did, i.e. locating enemy guns and targets for our gun batteries & field regiments to use for target practice and defence. We could also locate our own radar units / LPs and our own artillery using the Survey section for precise, pin point location in the field for more accurate plotting of target information. This gave us a precise point on the map rather than just a generalised location

#4 A Battery is an artillery unit of strength usually with six guns and a set number of personnel commanded by an officer of the rank of Major. The divisional locating Battery was equipped with six radar units (two per detachment) and a set number of personnel at “full strength” also commanded by a Major. Each of the three detachments would be commanded by an officer of the rank of Captain.

#5 RAA, we were primarily there to acquire / provide target information to the gun batteries / field regiments so it makes sense that we would be an Artillery unit. The Intelligence Corps covered a lot more than just artillery intelligence matters. LPs could also be used to direct artillery fire missions on rare occasions, an example was provided by Ross Gunnell one evening from the LP at c/s 31A when lights were seen from the LP on the Route II bypass road to the west of the Task Force location.

#6 Detachment as previously indicated there was only one Australian Task Force present in South Vietnam so, the 131 Divisional Locating Battery, based at Holsworthy was only required to send one Detachment at a time to SVN. In effect, it was a single Detachment with personnel rotated during the conflict.

#7 161 Independent Reconnaissance Flight was an Army Aviation unit used for aerial reconnaissance and they would have had certain limitations which would have made it difficult to do our job. We were on the ground and on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days per week etc. from accurately and known surveyed positions able to perform tasks that would be difficult to perform in all weathers from a light aircraft. At least you can remember having your hair cut by someone from 161 Ind Recce Flt.

Did you ever attend an Artillery Intelligence Course at North Head? That was where I learned most of the above information. hoping that this may have helped you to understand what it was all about over there. It was all such a long time ago now and sometimes it seems as though it was “just the other day”.

Please note that the above is straight from my own memory and the many years since we served in SVN, may have had an effect on what I remembered.

Regards, Ernie.”

...and of course, I had to respond -

“Ernie,

Let me start with, in your case with regards to your memory, "age shall not weary them" - it's a great response.

My memory of the time at North Head completing an Arty Tac course does not include recalling anything regarding any of that information - maybe I was out overlooking the Pacific on a sunny day on the radio or recovering from a night at The Pacific Hotel!

All of what you say is spot-on as far as military history goes, but does not mean that it is logical coming from that source.

Just some responses -

#1 - 130's - can't understand why they would recycle a gun battery's number. Wouldn't the WWII ex-members be a little upset at losing their connection to a locating unit?

#2 - we were never at full strength. Luckily, there were no more insurrections going on? We wouldn't have had enough personnel, maybe more people being conscripted would have helped, though the Regs would have been exhausted.

#3 - exactly.

#4 - The description of a "battery" doesn't gel with what we did and continue to do. I still think we should have been a number, then Royal Locating Unit /Squadron.

#5 - no dramas

#6 - no dramas

#7 - our connection with 161, i.e. Army Aviation, would have been more logical with a connection to radars, LP's etc. The aircraft could have communicated intelligence back to Arty Tac and passed on for action via the artillery, armour, even infantry (out on ops etc), and would have led the way to morph into 20th Regiment today. We would have been and continue to be "number" Unit, Australian Army Aviation (AAA). We fly aircraft now.

Just another addition - there was no continuing service (continuity) in the Detachment. Regular Army Members "appeared" then "disappeared" - none of them, except, maybe Kevin Browning "reappeared". OC's had to be trained just before serving in SVN and I guess for most of the other members.

e.g.

Jim Townley - joined 131 in early 1965 ex Gun Bty. Post - post SVN Larkhill, UK, Gunnery Staff

Barry Campton - Malaysia to 132 in 1966 then later in 1966 sent to replace Townley in SVN. Never back to 131

Warwick Hamilton - joined 131 in Sep 1966 after being a Radar and Locator Instructor at the School.

Phil Perrin - Aug 1967 posted to 131 for SVN posting. Post SVN posted to AGWTU Woomera.

Anthony Eaton - 131 Mar 1968 - Interesting comments by Tony - "At that time the Battery was part of 19 Composite Regt (which subsequently became 8 Medium Regt). Prior to my posting to the Battery, I had virtually no knowledge or experience of locating apart from fleeting contact with the CMF 132 Div Loc Bty in Melbourne. I was attached to the Bty while undertaking post RMC Duntroon civil schooling. This attachment involved only very occasional contact and I don't remember gaining much of an insight into the world of Locating at that time." Around the middle of July, the 131 Divisional Locating Battery Commander, **Ian Darlington**, who had recently succeeded Bob Donaldson, arrived from Australia to visit the Detachment. One aspect of his time with us was a planned visit that he and I were to make to the US Marine Corps base at Đông Hà the northernmost town in South Vietnam just south of the Demilitarized Zone. Of interest to us was the employment by the Marines of a sound ranging base to locate artillery sites north of the border.

We arrived at Đông Hà around the 25th July. We had barely settled in and met our hosts when I received word that my second daughter had been born with a significant disability and I was to return to Nui Dat as soon as possible. I returned to Nui Dat the following day and then on to Australia a few days later. Subsequently it was decided that I should remain in Australia thus cutting short my posting to the Detachment by some five months. My understanding is that Ian Darlington extended his visit to Nui Dat to bridge the gap between my departure and the arrival of my successor Brian Kennedy."

We have no history/recollection from either Brian Kennedy or Tim Ford to add to this.

The above extracts are taken from the OC's Recollections and highlight the facts that it was all a bit let's learn on the run. This is not a reflection on the OC's, but more on the "system" or lack thereof.

Yes, I'm still being ancy - you know me, but I still just can't see an artillery connection.

This communication/s may not be dead!

Paul."

...there's more...

Steve Wynn responded with the following...

"G'day mate,

God, you are nosy, you want to know everything. My guess about 'Detachment' was because only part of the unit was deployed, not all 131 went to SVN, same for most others called 'Detachment', although 4Bn only sent some of its companies to SVN with two NZ companies (Whisky & Victor) in the 70s, but kept the RAR title, probably because it was still a Bn although oversized, with an extra fifth Company.

I will send you an email, with a description of a sound ranging job. We needed Surveyors to survey our microphones in position, with relation to one another, and relation to the CP.

Cheers, Steve Wynn."

...well, it got **Terry Erbs** into further action by forwarding on the email to our Designated Historian, **Keith Ayliffe**...

"With all your knowledge of Locating history, maybe you could answer all Paul's questions?

Cheers Terry."

...this got the following response from **Keith**...

"G'day Guys,

Extremely good questions Paul. Let me say many of those were in my head prior to starting the Book. The Book started as a personal interest and evolved.

I feel these questions are important and I would like to answer them giving references. So, give me a bit of time. I could answer most of them now, but I think more effective with references.

Firstly, in a couple of days I will put a PPS on Dropbox I had been working on not quite finished but will answer a number of your questions.

Regards, Keith."

...then Keith added -

"G'day Paul and interested Locators,

First let me say in answer to your more personal enquiry.

I am starting to get going, it has been a hard 8 months basically learning to walk all over again. Getting around well now finally no longer need a cane.

Now onto your inquiries, Reading Ernie's answers he is certainly not far away. He is pretty spot on.

First, I would make a short introduction in regards to the standard of accurate history in regards to Army history. Not in my experience has history been so convoluted.

As an example, at present Arty is conducting 150 years of Australian Artillery. This is impossible as Australia did not exist until 1901. However, by slipping over a few small details it fits the story.

The first four of our "Skills" Observation, Survey, Sound ranging, Flash spotting all came into use in WWI by the British Engineers.

After WWI, Artillery argued they had the rights to these skills as they were the end users, this was agreed so started the beginnings of "Locating" Artillery, agreed, no guns but, all related in gathering targets for the guns to fire at.

Locate the Target, Destroy the Target can only be done by an artillery associated unit. Hence Locating and its skills Joined Artillery.

Q1; below

Not a problem. Because, at that stage, the numbers were generally followed by the type of unit. Just another of the many displays of poor history keeping.

ie; 20 Survey Regiment > 20 STA Regiment > 20 Regiment

Every 20 - 30 years a new Commander of Artillery comes in and changes names to leave his mark on the Artillery. This has very little help for historians

Q2 - Unit ever high enough on list to receive Extra Soldiers.

Infantry then Engineers, Tankies etc.

The Army is a Unit of the Australian Defence Force.

It is comprised of interlocked units. Each unit comprises a HQ and many sub units depending on the Corps.

Squad. A small **military** unit consisting of ten to eleven soldiers, normally led by a staff sergeant.

Platoon. A platoon is four squads: generally, three rifle squads and one weapons squad, normally armed with machine guns and anti-tank weapons. ...

Company. ...

Battalion. ...

Regiment. ...

Brigade. ...

Division. ...

Corps.

[https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwigi43-](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwigi43-pY_xAhXeqksFHbnYAsIQFjABegQIBBAD&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cfr.org%2Fbackground%2Fmodern-military-force-structures&usq=AOvVaw2cVRe4_w9LRJizi241xvn)

[pY_xAhXeqksFHbnYAsIQFjABegQIBBAD&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cfr.org%2Fbackground%2Fmodern-military-force-structures&usq=AOvVaw2cVRe4_w9LRJizi241xvn](https://www.cfr.org/background%2Fmodern-military-force-structures&usq=AOvVaw2cVRe4_w9LRJizi241xvn)

I think I Agree with Ernie, he didn't sleep during his training.

You must take into account, in that era locating was entirely new and had only been formed a few years. The regular army people who would eventually man positions came from many other army units and some had little to do with locating.

The ANKPQ1 had only been virtually baptised into being with very few trained. The unit itself was still being trialled.

When they first went to SVN the SVY party was not envisaged of doing LP Work, but work in the CP yes.

One of the reasons given why we could not get the UCG past down to current unit was the fact they simply would not accept the fact that 131 was designed to support 3 Task forces.

There should have been a name change to 131 not to call it a detachment.

I hope that this does answer some questions?

I have dug into my Power Points and have come across a few unfinished ones that I hope to post on Dropbox over the weekend

Best regards to all, Keith."

...There is more to come – let's see what develops Watch this space
to see what gaps are filled in...

Terry Erbs forwarded on the following notification from **Russ Hamsey**, President of the LSTAA with regards to forthcoming establishment of the Puckapunyal Combined Arms Heritage Learning Centre –

Museum Factsheet: Puckapunyal Combined Arms Heritage Learning Centre -

“Gentlemen:

The RSM provided the attached fact sheet on the future museum in Puckapunyal. I know they have:

- a. AN/KPQ-1 MLR
- b. AN/TPQ-36 WLR
- c. EVA
- d. Survey Equipment
- e. Ground sensors
- f. Ground Surveillance Radars
- g. Skylark UAS

We will need to think about how we support the museum and 20 Regt with the preservation of history. Unfortunately, the museum is a long way from the Regt and while a museum visit can be part of trg at SoArty, we need history in the Regt to remind the young soldiers where they come from.

More to follow no doubt.

Allan: This can be posted on Facebook or emailed out to the membership, whichever you think is best.

Russ Hamsey

President LSTAA

p.s. Ma'am/Gents,

From my last briefing, work was scheduled to commence in next 12 months.

Intent is to include a drone display too.”

From the Advocate's Desk...

Our professional Advocate's contact details: -

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

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

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



Mail Call...

Steve Wynn – ‘G'day mate,

I hope you are all staying safe, and keeping well over there.

You reminded me, update so far is, I am still alive - I think - trying some different antibiotics but won't know if they worked till middle of next week at the earliest. I will let you know how I get on.

Cheers, Steve Wynn.”

John Stanford – responds to an article by Graham Williams in April's *Eyes and Ears*...

“Paul

Baria - friendly fire incident.

In response to the article from Graham Williams, I am able to add a little more info.

In my new digs here at Southport, one of my neighbours is **Ian Darlington**, who was the BC at Holsworthy in 1969. Recently, over a few beers, he related this story to me.

During late July and early August '69 he visited the Detachment in Nui Dat. As Graham has quite accurately written this was the period that the friendly fire incident occurred and it was the Kiwi battery involved.

Crater analysis was conducted by 131 personnel and Ian was in charge of this group. The crater analysis confirmed it was an artillery round, not a rocket as previously thought, and after recovering the fuse and then back tracking its trajectory, its point of origin was determined.

Regards, John S"

A footnote from an email from Ed that John responded to: Ian Darlington - was visiting the Det (in SVN) whilst on his way up North to inspect some US ground surveillance radar unit. He stayed a little longer in Nui Dat because the OC (Tony Eaton) came home earlier than expected. So, all up I think he was only there for a few days.

Ron Mason – "Hi Paul, the 47tac sign was mentioned during this morning's meeting which reminds me that I came across one on the wall of "The Lion's Den Hotel", a small pub on a track up the north end of the Daintree area & not far south of the Black Mountain National Park. I have often wondered who donated it to the pub!

Take care, Ron"

Ed – Has anyone got any clue to Ron's question – it has to be a Locator?

Ron Mason – "Hi Paul, just to add to Ernie's comments and to extend my comments at the meeting.

The ANKPQ1 computer required the exact grid reference of the antenna entered into its memory (yes, I know it did forget sometimes) so the target readout could be passed on to the guns. It was then up to the guns to work out range and direction or at least Arty HQ. I'm not sure which now, it was a day or two ago. So, I guess my quip of which way the radar was looking may have been misleading. The computer readout was in eastings, northings and altitude which could be plotted on the map.

Stay safe, Ron"

Terry Erbs – RAAA Liaison Letters... - this originated from a discussion with regards to the RAAA and Military location and what they are now.

It's worth a look at, especially Grahame's where he notes pages (it's a fairly hefty document) – open the link...

"Hi Paul and Grahame,

here is the link to the RAA Liaison Letters, the last one Winter 2020 has CO's details and 132 Bty article.

https://australianartilleryassociation.com/liaison_letter/liaison_letter.htm

Also note, at the end of the letter are the contact details for the all Artillery associations... LSTAA details are incorrect, Russ is going to have them corrected!!!

Cheers,

Terry"

...**Grahame Dignam add this link email...**

https://www.australianartilleryassociation.com/liaison_letter/2021/RAA-Liaison-Letter---2021-Edition-One/index.html

...Pages where 131,132 etc are mentioned, page 10 left col, P18 20 Regt, P59 Canungra, p61-63 132 bty p98/105, p115, p120.

Grahame."

Grahame Dignam forwarded in the following -

"Keith Ayliffe called to advise that Russell Hamsey and Harry Lynas both appear in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for 2021 today...

Major Russell Wayne HAMSEY - For meritorious performance of duty in advancing the Australian Defence Force's unmanned aerial systems capabilities.

Mr Harry LYNAS - Burpengary QLD 4505. For service to community history.

We send our congratulations to both gentlemen on their recognition of careers well served and service given.

Well-deserved those men!!!

Grahame Dignam
Secretary / Treasurer
131 Locators Assn Inc
of Veterans Affairs
ABN 92 663 816 97



Supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

...**Terry Erbs** adds the following in recognition of other recipients of Honours bestowed in the Queen's Birthday Honours List –

"Their well-deserved recognition adds to the number of OAM's awarded to Locators and illustrates the quality of those who served with 131!

From memory - **Kev Browning, Wally Franklin, Dave Doyle Joe Kaplan, Graham O'Toole and Graham Whelan**

[LSTAA padre], all awarded the OAM,

and of course, there is **Tim Ford AO** and **Keith Ayliffe BEM**. I obtained this list from the LSTAA database but I think there are others who are members only of the 131 association.

Cheers, Terry."

Peter Ravelje – sent in the following cutting from the Courier Mail – ‘**Army CO unfit for the job**’...



Hilton Holloway – “Hi Paul

Not sure what the Covid situation is where you are but trust you are keeping out of harm's way.

All good here in Queensland (at the moment). Just returned from a three-week tour of Kakadu and the Kimberley's. It was a great adventure.

While in Darwin visited the Military Museum, and came across the attached map. You may already have it but thought I would pass it along in case it helps with the Nui Dat Locations project.



When reading the *Eyes & Ear's* bit on 'Operation Overlord' I remembered I had a few photos from there. Apologies for the quality (scans of 50 year 35mm slides). Can't help too much with names as my memory is as blurry as the photos.

In the photo (right) pretty sure that is **Lt Jeff Evans** bottom right back to the camera, and top left is **Adrian Plunkett** (with glasses) and possibly **LBdr Bob Buzacott** facing the camera in that group of four.



That may be Jeff also in photo on left.



In the above photos, I am pretty sure the guys on the APCs are Surveyors but it is just not clear enough for me to put names to individuals.
Cheers, Hilton Holloway”

...Operation Overlord – some notes - Named after the Allied invasion of Normandy with whose anniversary it coincided, Operation Overlord was undertaken after intelligence suggested the North Vietnamese Army was using a buffer zone between the Phuoc Tuy and Long Khanh provinces to train and equip troops. The operation required permission from then Prime Minister John Gorton, as it would see Australian troops move into Long Khanh province for the first time since being deployed.
Operation Overlord began on **5 June 1971 (50 years ago)**, when Australian troops were deployed to prevent the enemy from gaining a foothold in Phuoc Tuy Province.
On 7 June, Australian troops saw over eight hours of intense fighting, resulting in the defeat of enemy troops and the discovery of a bunker system comprising more than 100 bunkers. In the following days, the bunker system was explored and subsequently destroyed.

The Battle of Long Khanh saw three Australians killed and numerous others wounded, with a further seven Australians killed five days later.



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 Vitkovsky – “Hi Paul,

On and off lockdowns are creating havoc in the hospitality industry, with many teetering on the brink of bankruptcy. We are just sitting it out - however this Covid thing could go for another 5 years, and that puts me over 80... Trying to sell the resort. Lots of dreamers without the necessary equity, and no success yet, as who would want to buy a hospitality business in an on-off lockdown? Anyway, someone will turn up, we hope.

Driest year here since 2006 according to our records. Our 120,000 litre water tanks have only about a foot of water. Our 5 megalitre dam is about the same. Our records show that the winters are earlier and getting colder. We had frosts in May - normally in mid-July. Combustion stove working overtime, but luckily, we have an inexhaustible supply of firewood on our place.

Naomi and I had our first Covid needles. I had no reaction at all, but Naomi did for a few days. So, we are into doing some maintenance on the resort and on our house next door to keep us occupied. Just joined Netflix. Amazing what you can watch for \$19.99/month. Saves shelling out \$30 for a DVD which you realise you do not like after the first few minutes. That, together with a new 65" TV and sound bar makes watching movies like being at the cinema. Could become addictive.

Our plans to visit grandkids and daughters in Adelaide thwarted again. South Australia would not let us in. Booked a cabin at Brownhill Creek caravan park and the lousy buggers would not refund our deposit. Restrictions in regional areas such as ours are lifting as of yesterday, but Melbournians can't travel here.

That's about the only news from here. Just doing up the roads on our property.

Pix is of me with my proper 4WD
– 1960 Caterpillar No.12 diesel grader with petrol donkey starter motor. I have had it for 25 years and it still runs perfect. Same machine that Len Beadel used on the Gunbarrel Highway et al. No hydraulics or electrics to go wrong in the remote outback.



Cheers, John.”



Peter Pioro – “Paul,

It is good to hear from you on this bright sunny morning with temp to be 16 - 17 degrees.

The advocacy work which we undertake (myself and my wife Ann) absorbs many hours leaving just enough time to crash.

We see a never-ending stream of "young" many are badly affected by injury, PTSD, Depression etc.

We have trainees (Compensation & welfare) which are close to Level 1 exams.

My health is as with all of us is giving me issues especially pain. I have to see my Neurosurgeon in July to see if I need another stint with him digging around my spine. (5 down and ???)

Medicinal Cannabis has been approved as a pain killer so I will be looking into this.

I note your time now is 7.08pm. If possible after get back from the shopping duty with the boss shall try you on SKYPE.

All the best.

Regards, *Peter Pioro*”

Ed – I did catch Peter for a Skype chat.

Rieny Nieuwenhof - "G'day Paul,

Thanks for your welfare check.... appreciated.

After a few days of beautiful weather the elements have shifted into winter mode with bitter (wild) winds from the south-west, rain and much lower temps. Today, after the storms, much of the State of Victoria is cleaning up and there are flood warnings for our rivers, especially in Gippsland. Large areas without power.

We had an interesting event the other morning our power was off when we woke up. Upon examination, I saw that the pit cover on the main power inlet into the property was off. I contacted Powercor (supplier) who sent two maintenance guys to inspect. Apparently, water had entered the pit and a short had occurred, big enough to cause the concrete pit cover to ascend into the sky! The underground crew (there are ground and underground crews and one doesn't do the work of the other in fear of a demarcation dispute) returned that afternoon and proceeded to dig a very deep hole. Meanwhile, we are without power, no heating and worst of all no Netflix, and it is getting dark!) Power restored luckily.

We remain in the 4th Lockdown in Melbourne, regional Victoria has been spared the worst restrictions. I can't imagine the impact of small businesses. We try to support them where we can. The Federal Gov't has had a shambolic approach to getting people vaccinated and each government blames the other for the very slow roll-out of the Astra-Zeneca and Pfizer vaccines. Then there has been scare tactics by the media about blood clots caused by Astra-Zeneca. My wife and I are due for our second jab on 21st June. Physical activity has been difficult and so I am developing a Covid induced spare tyre! I hope to let out some air out in the near future when gyms open again.

Apart from these various challenges life rolls along.

On the political front the Brereton Report on alleged war crimes is in the news with a court defamation case initiated by Ben Roberts-Smith VC, he is accused on criminal acts whilst in Afghanistan and his SAS unit has lost its citation.

Meanwhile the Government has caved in and announced a Royal Commission into veteran suicide. The minister called for submissions to the RC and over 1,800 have already been received! The issues emerging that soldiers highlight include abuse, bullying and toxic culture in the ADF and the pathetic procedures when soldiers transition out of the Armed Forces. As you know the ADF are not much interested in sick (physical and psychological) soldiers and hasten their discharge on medical grounds, they then become clients of the DVA who make the process of moving into civilian life much more difficult. Veterans have to battle an adversarial system to access the help they need. No wonder many give up and 'top' themselves... it is a national disgrace!

The Vietnam Veterans Ass. continues to 'fight like hell' for all veterans and are involved in both of the above campaigns.

Our National President is advocating on behalf of the National body for better treatment of our veterans.

Till next time. Regards, Rieny"

Ed – a really great catch-up. Keep keeping in touch Rieny.

Michael Quinlan – "Hi Paul.

As always good to hear from you, you are lucky with Pfizer we over fifties had to take the Astra Zeneca.

After Anzac Day in Sydney we took off in our caravan to Canberra for an art exhibition called "Botticelli to van Gough".

Then to Batemans Bay for some great seafood, then meandered to Lakes Entrance Victoria. The weather was less than ideal however ... we endured.

Central Vic looked enticing so after visiting the magnificent Vietnam Memorial at Seymour we travelled West to the SA border at Murrayville, then into Adelaide for a week.

Unfortunately, Helen's sister died suddenly of a stroke so we flew from Adelaide to Port Macquarie for the funeral, all very sad.

We then set sail for Perth via the Nullarbor which we have crossed several times before, alas half way across at Madura WA I had an error message on the dash of my VW Touareg - "Engine management fault". After advice from the VW dealer in Sydney we had the car and caravan towed to the nearest dealer, 1250 kms away at Albany...the cost \$6,900 ug!! We are currently still in Albany waiting in line for the car to be fixed. It has been a good excuse for us to explore Albany in detail, a great place to visit.

I'll let you know of the outcome, Margaret River wineries are our next stop.

Regards, Michael."

Ed – watch this space for the next episode – the Margaret River Reds might be handy!

John Richmond – "Hi Paul.

Nice to hear from U.

This message was well timed. Had chance to watch the 50th year celebration of the Operation Overlord including the Battle of Long Tan. I must admit I had forgotten about this battle.

It was a great ceremony at the Vietnam Vets Memorial -?

Had two good speakers:

. The CO 3RAR

. A Section or Platoon commander.

Both very good to hear, however they are old men and makes u realise how long ago we are speaking about.

Must admit winter seems to have hit relatively quickly this year. Even before the official start of winter we had a number of very cold mornings Around -5C and -6C.

I cannot complain in Canberra we have been very lucky so far with the dreaded Covid 19.

Had to laugh. My wife and son went to Melbourne on the Sunday before the s..t the fan, got out on the Friday.

All the best. Regards, JR"

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

The Royal Regiment

will celebrate its **150th Anniversary on Sun 1st of August 2021** in SE Qld at Fort Lytton.

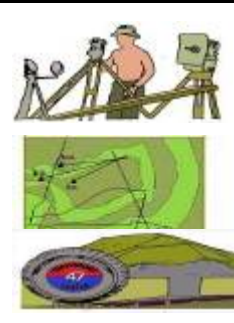
Commencing at 1030h with current and historical equipment displays, music and a gun salute.

The gun salute, of 150 rounds, will be timed to integrate with similar salutes across Australia. It'll be an outstanding occasion and great opportunity to meet up with mates!

Led by 1st Regt, RAA, with 20th Regt, 9th Regt and the gunners of HQ 1 Div, the artillery associations are invited to attend. As parking and attendance is limited, tickets will likely to be required. If interested, please provide ticket request by Wednesday 30 June to LSTAA committee

President. Russ Hamsey

VP Terry Erbs



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

Last week I was in Darwin for a couple of days. That was at the end of an 'Aussie' cruise along the Kimberley coast of Western Australia.

I was reminded of us 131 secondi's overnight stay there back in May, 1967. We did not get the chance to visit the town back then, so it was good to check out this formerly 'wild west' town.

Our stay was at a fairly new hotel on Smith St, the main drag. Some older buildings remain, although the town has a superficial newness about it. Mitchell St, the next street parallel to Smith is the backpacker area. Needless to say, standards are lower here and the pubs were open early in the morning. They were well patronized which possibly meant some link with the Supercars' weekend.

Thursday is the time for the infamous Mindil Beach markets where thousands gather to observe the sunset, listen to the music and sample a range of foods. So, we joined the crowd. Next morning it was off to the waterfront area where restaurants and bars abound. There is a huge saltwater pool which in the 32c days is well used.

There is an excellent aviation museum just outside the Darwin CBD. An F-111, a B-52, a Mirage fighter and plenty of other interesting aircraft. The bus trip cost only \$1 for return within three hours. As I looked at the aircraft outside the hangar two new F-35 Lightning 11s roared off just above the museum.

'Twas then time to head to the airport and home on a much-delayed Qantas flight.

Regards

Allen



. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 13th July, 2021 at 1100hrs

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

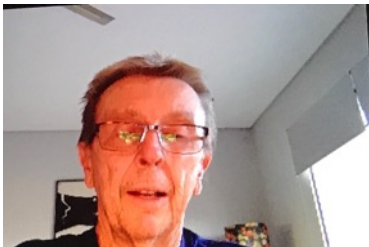
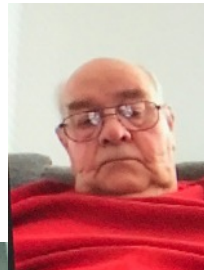
Ph (02) 9604 9975 and for directions - <http://www.canleyheightsrsl.com.au/contact-us/> You're all welcome.

And available via **ZOOM** link to be advised.

. **Pertinent Points** – extracted from the 131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 8th June, 2021 at 1045hrs...

Attendees were: Grahame Dignam, Ernest Newbold, Nick Proskurin, Ian Amos, Gordon Malcolm

ZOOMERS: Photos - Bob Billiards, 'The Group', Merv Nairn, Ron Mason, P Dickson, Terry Erbs and Bert Blink.



Welcome: Stand in Chairman Sec/Treas Grahame Dignam opened the meeting and thanked all in attendance in house and those who had logged in via ZOOM.

Financial Membership is currently ...138, plus Associates 2, Affiliates 12. Total 142.

Plus, Lapsed as at 1/6/2021 33 members

Presidents report. Nil report due to absence.

Health.

. Bob advised prior to the meeting that he and Cathy, as first responders in RFS, have had 2nd Pfizer jabs with only Bob suffering any mild reaction. Cathy was unaffected.

. Terry advised that Keith Ayliffe is recovering from recent op and is slowly getting active in the LSTAA again...

. Steve Wynn has reported he has just finished 4 weeks of treatment for a serious bug infection. He is waiting to judge if it was successful.

. Merv confirmed the mini stroke with the only limitation is no driving for 4 weeks.

General Business and around the grounds.

Discussions ensued on the following:

. Bert advised that the AWM has had a \$500m make over approved and will take years till completed.

. Discussion of re-order of lapel pins (see above).

. Terry advised that plans for the Army Artillery museum for Puckapunyal had been approved. We await further developments.

. Dicko questioned if landmarks for the Holsworthy area were still available from maps available.

. Vietnam Vets day 18 Aug 2021 reminder

. The day at Bowral Military Vehicular Museum is targeted for 19 or 26th June –more to come via email

. 20 Regiment and 131,132 received a couple of mentions in the RAA Liaison Letters summer 2021.

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...July

Date	NAME	REGT NO	SVN IN	SVN OUT	COMMENTS
1	STEPHEN FOWLER	217186	16 09 1968	17 09 1969	
2	PETER O'DONNELL Sgt.	213115	24 03 1970	05 11 1970	
3	BRUCE FOWLER	2795238	16 12 1970	29 07 1971	
4	GEORGE WEARN Capt.	2251140	05 08 1968	20 08 1968	133 Div Loc CMF
7	PETER JOSCELYNE	2792023	03 06 1970	17 12 1970	
12	NEVILLE ATKINSON	1733449	08 11 1968	05 11 1969	† 14.12.96
13	DEREK GRIFFITHS				† 02.04.05
10	BILL FINLAY Sgt.	37818	20 05 1966	01 05 1967	
10	ROBERT PELHAM	55342	16 11 1968	19 11 1969	
10	REX ARNOLD	424096	16 12 1970	29 05 1971	
	" "		29 05 1971	16 09 1971	Ind 161 Recce Flt.
11	JOHN JAGGARD	4721862	03 03 1971	02 08 1971	131
	" "		02 08 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd Regt
12	HARRY LYNUS	176377			
13	ALASDAIR GOUGH	2105130	27 03 1970	04 03 1971	
14	EDMOND DOUST Sgt.	53111	04 05 1967	02 04 1968	† 26.12.14
14	FREDERICK KRUMINK	6708867	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
15	IAN EARLE	3166824	19 08 1970	10 12 1970	131 / 4 Fd Regt.
	" "		11 12 1970	23 06 1971	33 Dental Unit
16	GEORGE ADDISON WO2	2410040	16 04 1969	16 04 1970	† 27.12.12
18	KEITH AYLIFFE Sgt.	217354	18 12 1967	03 12 1968	131
	" "		08 07 1971	24 07 1971	HQ AFV
18	ALAISTAIR McLEAN	312524	21 02 1969	21 02 1970	
18	JOE KOCKA	1202703	20 08 1970	29 07 1971	
19	MAXWELL McPHERSON	3795560	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	†19.05.16
21	GRAHAM WILLIAMS	2789698	03 06 1969	25 03 1970	
21	WILLIAM SLAPE	44464	22 12 1969	17 12 1970	† 12.05.12
21	WILHELMUS Van ZETTEN	3794919	17 03 1970	17 12 1970	
21	PETER SUMMERS	3796803	09 11 1970	09 06 1971	
22	JOHN HOMER	5717596	17 03 1971	02 08 1971	131
	" "		02 08 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd Regt
22	THE EYES & EARS		1967	1967	
23	DAVID DODD	2790139	03 06 1969	04 06 1970	
25	WILLIAM DOYLE	4719912	17 12 1968	04 01 1969	4 Fd REGT
	" "		05 01 1969	28 11 1969	131 † 05.09.78
25	JOHN SMITH	610231	16 11 1968	12 11 1969	
25	PETER BARRY	2794949	17 03 1971	04 08 1971	131
	" "		04 08 1971	02 11 1971	12 Fd Regt
28	MALCOLM MUSGRAVE	214359	03 06 1969	04 06 1970	
29	RICHARD EDWARDS	218595	03 06 1970	14 05 1971	
30	KEITH HOLLOWAY	15851	20 05 1966	10 10 1966	

*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 still not acceptable! Ok, let's get into it and actively get out there locating a few more!

. Locator Profiles – we've received 163 and we've sent out 163. Ed – ??????????????????????

. 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.



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



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

www.artilleryhistory.org



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

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

. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE

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

. 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery...



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

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