

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



. First Australian killed in Vietnam ...
some 57 years ago this month –

Vale

Warrant Officer Class Two Kevin Conway of the AATTV, was killed on 6 July 1964, side by side with Master Sergeant Gabriel Alamo of the USSF, during a sustained Viet Cong attack on Nam Dong Special Forces Camp, becoming Australia's first battle casualty.

Thanks to the Brisbane Courier Mail - **7th June ,2016**



The body of the first Australian killed in the Vietnam War has finally been returned to his family — 52 years after his death.

He was returned to Redlands and buried in an official service at Cleveland Cemetery in front of family, friends and Vietnam Veterans representatives. It is the fourth and final resting place for Warrant Officer Conway whose body was previously exhumed in Vietnam and then twice in Singapore.

Name	CONWAY, Kevin George
Service	Australian Army
Service Number	13097
Date of Birth	11 Dec 1928
Place of Birth	BRISBANE QLD AUSTRALIA
Date of Death	06 Jul 1964
Official Commemoration	Cleveland Cemetery, (Brisbane, QLD)
Commemoration Position	General Section
Rank	(Temporary) Warrant-Officer Class 2
National Service	No
Corps	Royal Australian Infantry Corps
Honours	None for display

Unit History

Unit Name	Start Date	End Date
Australian Army Training Team Vietnam	15 Nov 1963	06 Jul 1964

Vietnam serviceman **Kevin George Conway** will be buried for the fourth time on Monday, June 6, 2016, after his body was exhumed in Vietnam and then twice in Singapore.

He was awarded –

. The Vietnamese Armed Forces Honour Medal, 2nd Class,

- . The Meritorious Unit Commendation,
 - . The Gallantry Cross Palm Citation,
 - . The National Order of Vietnam (South Vietnam's highest award)
- and
- . The Campaign Service Medal with Clasp (South Vietnam)

Warrant Officer Conway was the only Australian serviceman attached to a United States Special forces team A-726, at Camp McBride, at Nam Dong.

May He Rest In Peace

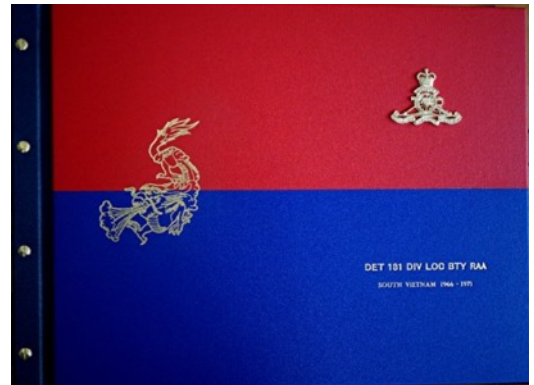
. The "Lost Locator Project"



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

26th July, 1971 – 50 years ago...

AUSTRALIA COMMENCES WITHDRAWAL FROM VIETNAM

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the cessation of combat operations by Australian in Vietnam, with the last combat elements, apart from AA TTV withdrawal from South Vietnam by March 1972.

In the months leading up to the closure of the Task Force base at Nui Dat and the withdrawal of most of our forces by December 1971.



Forces

... Operation Overlord ...a continuation of recollections from May's edition of Eyes & Ears -

Eddie Ticker served in SVN from May 1970 to August 1971 with 1 Australian Reinforcement Unit (ARU) and HQ, 1st Australian Task Force and forwarded this very factual Recollection -

"G'day Paul,

I have attached a short article on the D&E Platoon, 12 June 1971, horrendous incident.

These are my own words, taken from my firsthand experience of the event, and added to by comprehensive research carried out for a manuscript of my "adventures" in South Vietnam.

During Operation Overlord, I was Forward Scout, 2 Section, D&E Platoon, and for a short time Acting Section 2IC, 2 section, (we were short on Lance Corporals and Corporals for a little while.)

On the day, I was on top of Courtenay Hill, (but had been out the previous day), and when it happened at 1025 hours, I

ran down to my section's machine post and joined the network via that gun post's 25 set. So, I have a self-written firsthand account of the incident in my Field Note Book, even till today. As they are my words in the article, some from my manuscript, (not yet published), I have applied a copyright notice to the article.

Would you please be good enough to publish this article in your newsletter, as it is written. It will give out a lot of information that the average veteran will not be aware of, and will correct a lot of the errors in the material that was published in the *Eyes and Ears*, Vol 14, No.5 of 5 May 2021, (in relation to D&E Platoon's involvement.).

At the end of my article I have included the YouTube link to the recent "National Service For the 50th Anniversary of Operation Overlord, including the Battle of Long Khanh."

If you have any problems with publishing my article in your newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

eddie t

PS Excuse any typos in it."

The "material" referred to by Eddie following in his email is an extract taken from Kevin Browning's article in *Eyes & Ears*, Vol 14, No 5 May, 2021 No 154 which gives a description of the 'ambush' of the APC's on 12th June, 1971 during Operation Overlord. Kevin's contributions were taken from the DVA's Year Book 'Twelve in Focus', in which 12 Field Regiment reported on the operation.

"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."

...now to Eddie's factual Recollection -

12 June 1971, Operation Overlord Horrendous Incident

Written by and ©Copyright- Eddie S. M. Tricker.

As part of the forward planning for the June 1971, Operation Overlord, Defence and Employment Platoon, Headquarters Company, 1st Australian Task Force, [D&E Pl., HQ Coy, 1ATF], occupied Courtenay Hill from around about the middle of May 1971, after a Company of 2 RAR, left it vacant prior to their Return to Australia, [RTA]. During the weeks prior to the commencement of Operation Overlord, D&E carried out normal infantry TAOR patrols in the jungle around the Hill, amongst other things.

With the arrival of HQ 1ATF (Forward) to Courtenay Hill, D&E Pl moved to the outer perimeter of the Hill, providing the outer defence for all the personnel, one of the Platoon's normal roles every time HQ 1ATF moved forward from Nui Dat.

During the middle and latter part of Operation Overlord, D&E Pl carried out "Reconnaissance's In Force" with a section of APCs. Usually only the middle and tail end APCs had D&E Platoon soldiers on them.

On the 11th June 1971, 2 Section plus on a section of APCs followed the tracks of 8 to 9 persons for up to 3 to 4 kilometres. Clearly these persons were members of the 33 NVA Regiment and/or the local Viet Cong unit, that had scattered to the wider local area after the bunker battle with Platoons of 3 RAR. The tracks took us to the edge of a rubber plantation. Permission to go into the rubber was not given, with the patrol instructed to return to base.

The next day, another section plus of D&E on three APCs went back to the same area!

So, the "ground work" was being set for a very horrendous event to occur on 12 June 1971, to the south west of the Courtenay Hill. Twelves soldiers from Defence and Employment Platoon, Headquarters Company, 1st Australian Task Force were mounted on two of three Armoured Personnel Carriers of the 3 Cav Regiment, 84 independent Section when they were ambushed.

The lead APC had noticed an artillery flare canister container placed on the side of the track; drawing the attention of his Section Commander to this fact, the lead APC drove past it, allowing the middle APC, the Section Commander, to pull up alongside of this canister so that he could "examine" it. The "tail end" APC continued until it had filled the gap drawing up behind the Section Commander's APC. No sooner had the "tail end charlie" APC pulled up; it was attacked.

Personnel "on the ground" at the time reported that this APC had been taken out by a satchel or multiple satchel charges that had landed on top and in the back hold of the APC.

Why, I hear you ask? As we know most attacks on APCs in Vietnam were mainly by land mines, so the vehicle was blown up; blown apart; turned over or displaced in some way. Alternatively, they were hit in their sides or front by RPG rounds, which apart from the extreme damage caused to crew members, usually left a small, almost neat round hole in the side of the vehicle.

What these personnel "on the ground" saw was an Armoured Personnel Carrier with no damage to its sides, sitting on its normal tracks, not blown up. What they reported at the time is shown of the HQ 1ATF (Forward) Operational logs.

As a result of this horrendous incident, five D&E Platoon soldiers were KIA; three were WIA, one so seriously that he was flown directly to the American hospital at Long Bien.

Also, KIA were the APC Driver and Crew Commander.

So severe was the shock at the extreme loss of so many personnel in one incident that “Hard rock”, the Task Force Commander ordered an official inquiry into the incident.

Statements were taken from all personnel involved including the two D&E Platoon survivors, etc., etc.

So, what had actually happened?

The APC involved in this horrendous incident was Tango Alpha 84Bravo. All APC's carried a complement of Claymore mines, enough for their own carrier defence, plus up to three extra for infantry, if they were required by them. They usually carried these Claymore mines in large mini-gun liners, i.e., the large metal boxes that usually contained a continuous linked belt of 7.62 machine gun bullets for the Huey gunships. So, they were big water proof metal boxes.

The container on TA84Bravo had been mounted on the back-left hand corner of the Carrier, as you look at it from the front. But due to the jungle work the Carrier had been carrying out this large metal container was continually getting ripped off, so in the end its mounting point became broken. To overcome this problem, the Crew Commander relocated the mini-gun liner, mounting it behind the Driver's hatch cover and just slightly right of centre of the Crew Commander's Cupola.

D&E platoon soldiers always travelled on the top of the APC, so you can imagine that these large containers made good seats!

So, let's get back to the ambush! Once the “tail end” APC had stopped it was hit with an RPG round, most likely an RPG 7, fired at a very short acute range. Instead of whacking into the side of the APC, due to the range and angle it was fired at, the RPG clipped the very top edge of the APC, deflecting it into the middle bottom and side of mini-gun liner of Claymore mines. This mini-gun liner contained from 12 to 15 Claymore mines. The rest is horrendous history.

Killed in Action from D&E Platoon were: Privates Trevor James ATTWOOD; Roger William DRISCOLL; Donald Cameron HILL; Peter TEBB; and Michael TOWLER. Whilst Corporal Peter ILACQUA; Lance Corporal Gregory Hamilton MORGAN and Private Robert John ELLIS were Wounded In Action; Morgan very seriously.

From 3 Cavalry Regiment, Lance Corporal John Noel McCARTHY, (Driver) and Corporal Kenneth James BOARDMAN, (Crew Commander) were Killed In Action. Seven Australian dead in one extremely horrendous incident.

Operation Overlord concluded on the 14th June 1971. It was considered a success as it had disrupted the enemy in the area where they were conducting training for attacks on Phuoc Tuy.

For those interested, the National Service For the 50th Anniversary of Operation Overlord, including the Battle of Long Khanh, held on 7 June 2021, is available to watch on YouTube.

This YouTube link is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5s4PwM3hHg4>

. Nui Dat Locators Locations Project -

The following is a continuation of the **Nui Dat Locators Locations Project** for which information has been sought and gathered over time. This is still in the “rough” stage and corrections/ additions/ amendments/ adjustments are welcomed, so, as the Project can be archived complete as possible. This is the third part of the Project with more to come covering the various sections that made up the Detachment during the period of service in Nui Dat, South Vietnam.

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

Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA South Vietnam 1966 – 1971

“Locators Locations”

Dedicated to those who served.

By Paul Dickson

3. Artillery Intelligence Location – Nui Dat

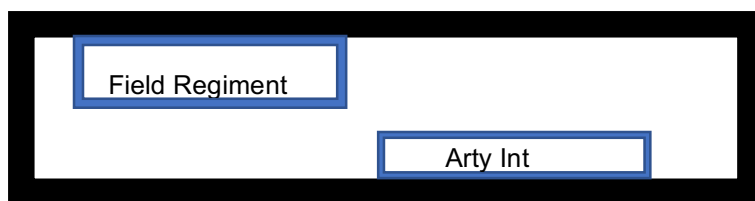
The Artillery Intelligence Section was located in the 1ATF Headquarters, aligned to the Artillery Regiment at the time. It was manned 24 hours a day, monitoring the Detachment's radio network and plotting incoming enemy movement and flash sightings from the various Listening Posts and Radars. Dual sighting reports from 2 or more Listening Posts, Radar made the task of cross referencing more accurate as it enabled grid referencing to direct defensive artillery action to be taken.

Artillery Tactical Headquarters (Arty Tac) Location – 1 Australian Task Force - Nui Dat – Call Sign 30

This snapshot is for 1967-69 as Arty Int moved locations in 1970.

Site map

Artillery Tactical Headquarters (Arty Tac) complex



← Detachment Headquarters

Locator Lane

Artillery Intelligence (Arty Int) Tent Lines (1967-68 Snapshot)

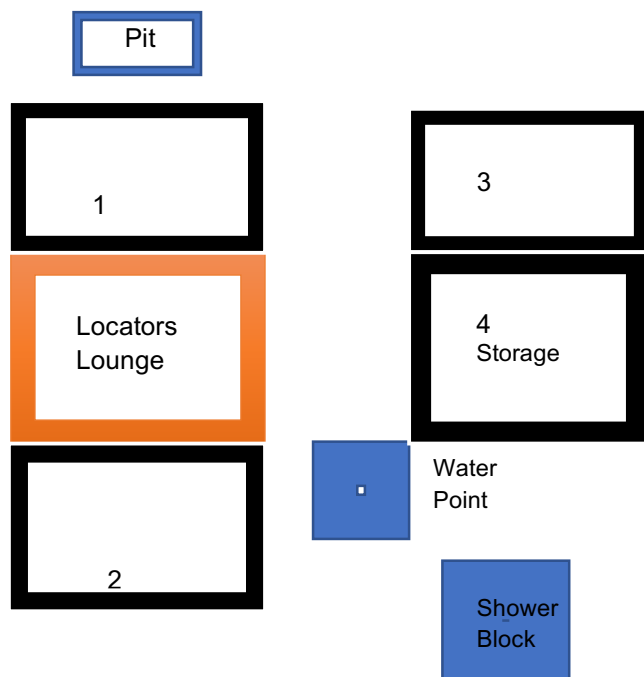


Photo: Ernie Newbold

Manning detail -

Overall – (the following list of names is, obviously, not complete.)

1966 – Hastings, N; Martin, D; Minns, R

1967 - Adams, A; Blackwell, G; Blink, B; Briggs, S; Campbell, B; Clark, G; Dickson, P; Fletcher, P; Dignam, G; McNicol, D; Newbold, E; Proskurin, N; Wilson, R

1968 - Atkinson, N; Chilton, J; Flavell, R; Fowler, S; Halligan, K; Hinde, D; Knight, Q; Leplaw, G; McKie, P; Ramsay, R; Robb, A; Williams, G; Wortlehook, N

1969* – Angell, P; Asmanis, O; Bennett, P; Browne, J; Chalmers, D; Chilton, J; Ciccolella, V; Clark, G; Csivincsik, A; Djatschenko, L; Farr, L; Hargreaves, R; Holdsworth, R; Lovell, G; Little, H; Luxford, A; Maker, K; Malloy, D; McGann, P; McLean, A; Meaney, P; Price, G; Smith, N; Smithlester, P; Spencer, A; Szabo, P; Salter, G; Stanford, J; Stanley, R; Todkill, S; Wheatley, A; White, T; Williams, G

Arty Int moved - 1969* (as above) – a majority of these members served through into 1970 and hence moved to the new location. Also as an addition, members did serve into the following year dependent on their arrival or transfer into the Arty Int section.

1970 - Boaler, R; Jux, A; McMillan, I

1971 - Falkai, L; Jaggard, J; Nieuwenhof, R Bdr

Year	Tent 1	Tent 2	Tent 3
1966			
1967	1967Adams, A; Dickson, P; - Fletcher, P [(Det HQ)]; Newbold, E	Blink, B; Evans, R; Troynar, M	Dignam, G
1968	Q Knight; G Williams; Wortlehock. N (Apr-Jul'69)	K Halligan; G Salter; R Stanley	Dignam, G

1969	P Szabo;	Dealy, P; McKie, P; Wortlehook, N	G Lovell; A McLean; T White;
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Artillery Intelligence's accommodation lines moved in June, 1970 to the vacated 31 Bravo Radar site. 1970 – See the photo on previous page 8 for the new Artillery Intelligence tent lines.

Additional notations from Graham Williams -

Arty Int up to the end of 1969 had extra tents added across the road near the radar lines. (see map) Also I recently spoke with Vic Ciccolella (Arty Int 16/12/69 to 17/12/70) on the phone. I could not place him in Vietnam at that time, but had a good chat to get acquainted none the less. Anyone who came into Arty Int after that time (December) the memories have gone pretty much and at that time I was in the Radar section. With relation to tent 1 the area in front on the roadside had been modified Sandbags had been laid from the tent to the roadside gutter and the area between landscaped by being filled with gravel. The addition of 2 rocks and a banana palm gave us an area to get the boots off during the rainy season without getting a tent full of mud and an area where we could throw back a beer while watching other locators playing footy and taking marks on Locators Lane. Just off to the side of the landscaped area was a small triangular area with another rock, like a large river rock, that was painted red. This rock had one white and one black stripe painted across it and the words "E type rock" painted on its side. To complete the picture there was a land rover gear stick planted in the ground behind it.

Next month we will continue on with Listening Posts.



. Quiz Time.

While doing a bit of fossicking around I stumbled across this shoulder insignia attributed to the Detachment by diggerhistory.info and was amazed! I have no recollection of it.



**Does anyone have any idea/knowledge in relation to the
'shoulder insignia'?**
Did anyone ever wear one?



**. Here's a continuing story in the
series with regards to
Locators' "passions" ...**

Bob Billiards forwarded in the following skilfully written piece by his wife Cathy for the Goggo magazine about the Coolangatta trip...

"COOLIE ROCKS ON" 2021- The "G" Team Perspective.

"CRO is a 6 day, 7 adults and 5 children event for the "G" team. Four days of travelling and three days at Coolangatta. It is my policy to drive at least one Goggo to this event so this year it was the Dart.

We arrive at our accommodation on Thursday night ready for the Friday event. Bob and I are really excited to be able to take the children from the school in our Goggo's. We are beginning to recognise some of the children and are really impressed at how they have grown over the past 2 years. We are especially privileged to receive gifts from the children this year and they will remain in a special place on "Goggo" shelf.



Saturday & Sunday saw large crowds viewing the cars and we were able to tell many stories about our trips and to listen to others tell stories of their Goggo experiences.



Our grandchildren kept themselves busy with card games, soccer, volley-soccer and building sand Goggo's on the beach. Oh, and the two girls attracted attention in the Carryall and past on a lot of "Goggo Information" to enquirers. (Not sure about the truth in the information though!). I think bringing the 'Dart Express' on Sunday was a success and already plans are afoot to have an engine on static display next year.



The “G” team would like to thank the organizers for the opportunity to attend CRO and all the members have expressed interest in attending next year (God willing).

Just to give all the Goggonutters some interesting facts:

My Dart travelled 1850km, used 120 litres of fuel. Averaged 6.5 litres/100km. That is not bad for a 1955 designed 2-stroke engine doing 5000 - 5.5000 RPM for most of the run.

We had absolutely no issues on the drive up or back and the car performed all weekend.
Cathy Billiard.”



Ed – Thanks Cathy – what another great read and experience.

. **“Danger Close”** - With Long Tan Day approaching in August, I watched “Danger Close” on 7+ / 7plus a couple of weeks ago and even though it was not classified as an official documentary, and my not being there, it prompted me to re-visit Long Tan for more details.

The film from what I knew and revisited did follow the actions, though maybe a little more ‘dramatically’ for filming, but the story does highlight the ‘shortcomings’ and the very gallant soldiering of those involved. It also highlighted the strength of mid-range officers (all units including the RAAF - Flight Lieutenants Cliff Dohle and Frank Riley - and the 161st Battery, RNZA), NCO’s and soldiers unexperienced to this type of conflict.

I would recommend it.

Here’s a link - <https://7plus.com.au/danger-close-the-battle-of-long-tan?episode-id=BONS02-001>



Mail Call...

. **Kevin Browning** forwarded on the following email which is such a classic – I had to share it...

“Paul,

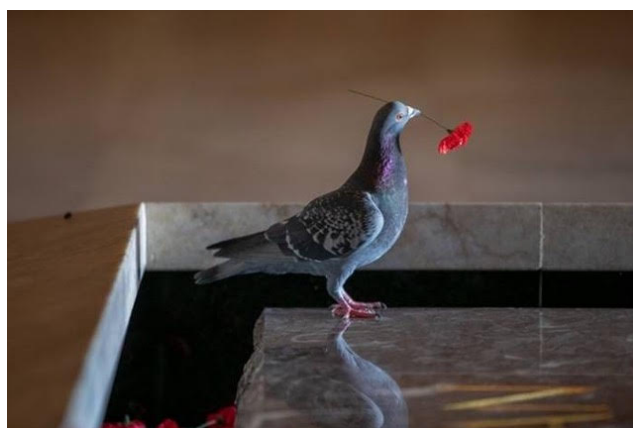
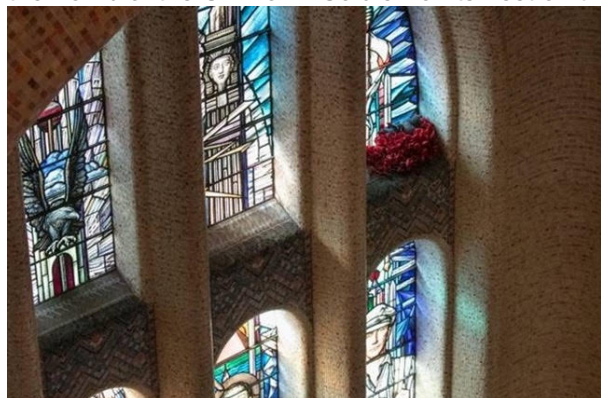
The attached was sent to me and a group of others by Kim McGrath. Thought it might be of interest.

Regards,

Kevin”

Subject: FW: **Pigeon & Poppies.**

In the Australian War Memorial, a pigeon sets its nest up high in the Hall of Memory. It has been stealing poppies from the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier for its nest on the ledge, below a stained-glass window. **Last photo, a baby pigeon.**





. **Peter Bins** sent in the following with photo –
 “Found this pic of LP 31C at Engineers picture taken
 December 1967 with me posing in front.
 Regards, Binnsy.”



. **Terry Erbs** sent in the following with a link to the latest edition of Army News –
 “G'day Dicko,
 Latest Army News has an article about 131 Bty using ‘Shadow 200’, uncertain of copyright issues but good
 story and a couple of photos too.
 Cheers Terry”



Having trouble reading this email? [View in a Web Browser](#)

Army News is the official publication of The Australian Army. Links in this email are safe to click

Click [HERE](#) to read the latest fortnightly edition of **ARMY**, The soldiers' newspaper.

In this edition:

150 YEARS: The Royal Australian Artillery will celebrate a milestone on August 1 - Page 10

COMBINED FORCE: Australia, the US and Japan join forces for Exercise Southern Jackaroo - Pages 16-18

ON TARGET: Joint live fire is on the mark at Exercise Dragon Sprint - Pages 20-22

. **Peter Ravelje** sent in the following extract from **CONTACT** -



Flying drones a specialist skill

07/07/2021 Mike Hughes 271 Views 0 Comments

You would be wrong to think unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) operators are professional video gamers.

*Unmanned aerial vehicle captain **Lance Bombardier Lewis Day** operates a Shadow 200 from a ground control station during Exercise Dragon Sprint at the Townsville Field Training Area.*

Story and photo by Petty Officer Lee-Anne Cooper.

With UAVs subject to the real-world combination of physics, weather and light, when it's flying at 15,000 feet, the operator has to know what they can and cannot do.

Shadow 200 operator **Gunner Steven Pisani** said flying a military UAV required constant concentration.

"Inside the box, you are in control of a live UAV and things can go wrong; you have to be alert the whole time," Gunner Pisani said.

"There is a lot to know. There are always publications and restrictions coming out and there is a lot of doctrine and a lot of rules."

For the first time since 2017, the **131st Battery** designated targets for missiles and bombs using laser during exercise Dragon Sprint at the Townsville Field Training area.

Aircraft captain **Lance Bombardier Lewis Day** said the exercise allowed the operators to clock up hours on a live system.

"This has meant flying at different altitudes and in support of different call-signs for extended periods of time, day and night," Lance Bombardier Day said.

The battery worked in a forward position away from airfields, where operators worked shifts and created a defensive position with weapons and radio pickets.

Working within a forward ground control station, operators considered weather, fuel, transit and airspace while providing target locations for the artillery and helicopters.

Inside, the left-side operator controls the UAV while on the right, the payload operator controls the camera and laser. They received orders from a dislocated mission commander who provided a grid square to monitor.

The exercise provided a unique opportunity for laser designation, as UAVs do not routinely operate with the laser connected for laser safety reasons.

"We sought out a target and the laser gave us a high-confidence grid that was passed onto the guns and ARH (helicopter)," Gunner Pisani said.

"There are simulators back at the unit and it is easy to fly in a simulator and click buttons and just make things happen, but it's the stuff you cannot plan for that provides real training value.

"Instead of just sitting on a flight line and just doing technical flying, this is more about a tactical posture and tactical flying set-up.

"I enjoy flying. It is intense at times, and there is a lot of hours just staring at a screen looking for something."

The Shadow 200 system has deployed multiple times since entering service in 2011, and as recently as 2020 on Operation Resolute.

"I have been fortunate to deploy on multiple missions in the past where we have been able to help troops on the ground," Gunner Pisani said.

"There are a lot of things we can do, and this exercise is a perfect example."

. **Terry Erbs** – "G'day Paul,

I was sorting through an old folder today and found a copy of "The Ballad of Cheap Charlie" [was there any truth in the ballad?] ... it prompted a few memories of bar visits during R & C to Vungers! From memory, the Locators were respectful guests but did enjoy a beer or three! I wonder if recent Locators, who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, had similar experiences?

I don't think we left behind any Aussies babies but others may remember differently.
Doing a little further research, I found this story on the NPR website July 2018, terrible fate of some babies but finally the USA did the right thing!

The Americans left behind an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 babies and finally in 1987, Congress passed the Amerasian Homecoming Act, which allowed children in Vietnam who were born of American fathers during the war years to immigrate to the U.S, interestingly 75,000 immigrated!

<https://www.npr.org/2018/07/12/628398153/one-mans-mission-to-bring-home-amerasians-born-during-vietnam-war>

Cheers, Terry."

**"THE BALLAD OF CHEAP CHARLIE
or
THE BAR GIRL'S LAMENT"**

Uc Dai Loi cheap Charlie
He no buy me Saigon tea
Saigon tea cost many, many Pi
 Uc Dai Loi he cheap Charlie

Uc Dai Loi cheap Charlie
He no part with MPC
MPC worth many, many Pi
 Uc Dai Loi he cheap Charlie

Uc Dai Loi cheap Charlie
He no go to bed with me
 For it cost him many, many Pi
 Uc Dai Loi he cheap Charlie

Uc Dai Loi cheap Charlie
He makes me give him one for free
 Mam San go crook with me
 Uc Dai Loi he cheap Charlie

Uc Dai Loi cheap Charlie
Baby San he gives to me
 Baby San cost many, many Pi
 Uc Dai Loi he cheap Charlie

Uc Dai Loi cheap Charlie
He go home across the sea
 Baby San he leaves with me
 Uc Dai Loi he cheap Charlie"

Ed – I urge you to click on the above link in Terry's correspondence it's a really good read.

. Steve Wynn got in touch after missing the Association meeting via ZOOM –

"My apologies gents, for missing the meeting, I was too crook to even know what day it was. Seems I have Pneumonia again only this time it is taking longer to recover from.

I should be on deck again in a week, hopefully.

Cheers all, Steve Wynn."

Ed - I replied...

"Steve,

You were missed!

KEEP BLOODY WARM - THAT'S AN ORDER!!! (not that I'm qualified to give orders - just do it please for me mate)
Paul."

...then Steve responded -

"Hi Paul,

I can take an order like that, even if it is from someone who cannot remember any of his Military training, other than how to shout an order. On the mend, I think, thanks mate.

Covid has sent everyone insane here, the GP is shut, and stopped online bookings, only phone visits now and booked by talking to a live person, a temporary measure (Covid). I now have to have a Covid test before I am allowed to go ANYWHERE. My GP has given me another more vicious pill to take, with bloody awful side effects and so addictive you can't stop taking them without slowly reducing the quantity and frequency of use, but hey, they work, and I did not have to stay in hospital this time. I spent the first night in bed, last night, for over a week. Sitting up in a chair, for over a week, dozing all the time, watching bloody YouTube (variety) was giving me a pain in other places. I have Netflix, Amazon etc

but the rubbish that is being produced under the guise of entertainment is criminal, and I have seen anything worth watching, which is not much.

I now have to have another X-ray (radiation poisoning next) which normally would be done in our town's little hospital, but because I have had a cough (Pneumonia), I have to get Covid tested and take a 'Covid clearance' to the next town and get an X-ray done privately from the specialists in Port Macquarie, fair dinkum. Puzzling how one gets a Covid test, and clearance, without going out somewhere, maybe Covid knows when you are just shopping, or having a test, and only attacks for certain activities.

Our Oz Covid is smarter than most, it 'detects' whether you are sitting or standing while drinking a beer and does not attack if sitting. It can count too because if there are 5 of you it stays away but if there are 6 of you it attacks. Insanity prevails. As soon as the free beer is announced I will get my 'jab' but only if Pfizer or Moderna (mRNA).

We have State Premiers drunk on power and using THEIR Police to control the general public as if in a Communist country - got any spare rooms over there.

I don't mean to make light of Covid but most government re-action to Covid is to induce fear and take more control. Stay safe mate, Steve Wynn."

. Rieny Nieuwenhof – "Hi Paul,

This is the Victorian VVAA newsletter 'FSB' I mentioned at today's Zoom meeting. Rieny."

Ed – a great article. Take a break, click the following link and read the newsletter – it'll give you, amongst a heap of other things, the plans for the Vietnam Veterans Day at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance on Wednesday, 18th August, 2021 - www.vvaavic.org.au

. Peter Ravelje sent in the following extract –

"Queensland military training bases boost

Daily Telegraph JESSICA MARSZALEK

A NEW military base will be built in North Queensland and Shoalwater Bay's facilities will be extended to host military exercises for Australian and Singaporean soldiers each year.

After four years of negotiations, Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk will on Wednesday announce a deal to secure 302,000ha at Greenvale, 200km northwest of Townsville, for an advanced military training area and land at Shoalwater Bay, north of Rockhampton, to continue an expansion there.

The Australia-Singapore Military Training Initiative will bring up to 14,000 Singapore Armed Forces personnel to Queensland every year for 25 years, training for 18 weeks at a time.

"Our defence industry has great potential for growth," Ms Palaszczuk said.

"We're working hard to grow this sector to rebuild our economy and create opportunities for locals."

Ms Palaszczuk said getting "shovels in the ground on new projects" such as these would stabilise the economy and create jobs post-Covid.

Queensland Resources Minister Scott Stewart said the sites would be transformed into state-of-the-art training facilities.

"Construction of the Greenvale facility will provide a boost of over \$36m to the North Queensland economy every year of its operation," he said.

"It will bring around 590 new jobs during development and up to 150 permanent jobs across Queensland when the facilities are operational."

Special Mail of Note...

Ed – The following email from Vic Danko to the Association is one that should be read by a very wide audience to highlight the ongoing concerns with post 'conflict' type activities. The word 'conflict' covers a wide range of happenings not just related to war involvements.

Wars/Conflicts are not new, but, maybe Vietnam began an extremely strong wave that took an extremely long time to lap against the shore, but it is good to see the support continues...

Vic Danko – "Hi Gents,

I am introducing you smeac.org.au . Veterans Helping Veterans. Suicide Prevention.

I became a volunteer member about 2 months ago after I read an article in the press.

The group is made up, largely, of ex- 3RAR guys. It's been 4 years in its development.

They took the name from the 3 RAR mantra: Situation, Mission, Execution, Administration, Communication.

I ask you to take a look at the website www.smeac.org.au. Particularly the About Us, Camp X Ray section.

And I'll now describe briefly the reason for this note.

We (SMEAC) are about to complete a long-term lease for the subject site. SMEAC is the only prospective Lessee.

The Lessor will be SEQ Water and we believe we have answered all the relevant questions raised by the Lessor. We have complied with questions of environment and water and sewerage treatment.

This note goes to the question from SEQ Water ... "will it be used by members over the longer term...?"

SMEAC is asking for letters of support

from relevant entities. I'm asking for Allen and Grahame and the Committee to send a letter along the lines of ...

"131 Assoc is aware of SMEAC and camp X- ray, and we support the concept and will make the availability of the facility known to our colleagues and other relevant members ...etc, etc ..."

I am contacting as many RSL sub-branches as I have direct access to. Separately I ask you to contact others. Ernie, can you advise the TPI Assoc.?

I've met with Vietnam Vets in Granville and they committed to send support.

I submit below the contact details and address for SMEAC.

Will the Facility be a positive long term service? You bet!

Each year the Military discharges approximately 5,400 persons, some on retirement, some on minimum service. Camp X Ray will accommodate about 150 persons, some ex- service, some disadvantaged youth. "Youth" is defined as being between 10 and 17 yrs. At any point in time we have about 3,500 youths in detention throughout Australia. Whilst in the past couple of years the total number has not increased significantly, it's been found that the average number of "offences " per detainee has increased. Go figure!

Live -in is a far more effective treatment process than regular consultation or telephone access.

My experience had been 3 weeks live in at John of God in Burwood, Sydney, followed by consultation.

I am always available for questions.

The address for reply is -

Email: smeachq@gmail.com

Mail Address:

SMEAC Inc

44 Ellen St, Woody Point, Queensland 4019.

See video: <https://vimeo.com/540962629> .

Regards to all.

PS: Camp X Ray is some 23 km from Caloundra. It will be available for service persons and youths from all States. However, as the first camp could 131 get stuck into this as a commemoration for **Leigh Hemming** (being nearest his home)?"

...Ed – I continue on in this vein with an extract form a following email in “Mail Out – Mail In” below, from Ian Campbell and his involvement with the Bently RSL in a similar activity extending an “invitation” to service personnel. Ian calls it “low key” – it only takes any sort of “key” to open a door -

Ian Campbell – the extract...

"While joining in the recent 131 committee ZOOM meeting the subject of our brothers-in-arms returning from Iraqi and Afghanistan and how they were coping came up. In addition to the impending announcement of a National Day of Commemoration or the equivalent of our "Long Tan" day for them was to be decided. Several options have been tabled including the day of first deployment, the date of withdrawal and my least favourite, 11th September in recognition of the Twin Towers attack.

I mentioned to the committee members on the ZOOM meeting, that at my RSL, Bently, we have embarked on a low-key initiative to reach-out to any recent returnees who live in our local district, to invite them to visit the RSL where they would be shouted a coffee or drink and brought up to speed on the services that are available to them as returned personnel at Bently.

I have already met one RAEME member who had served 20 years in the Army, some on deployment, (and remember these are Regs, not Nashos), and had a great chat over a beer with him, joined later by our Welfare Coordinator Sylvia, and our club President, Warwick. A most entertaining and enlightening hour and half sitting in the very comfortable lounge at Bently.

We (Bently), intend to cast our net wider to find more ex-service people who may benefit from becoming a member of the RSL in general and Bently in particular. As privacy laws prohibit the Army and DVA from providing details of these returnees we intend to use social media to alert the various units that were deployed overseas to have them advise their members of this plan. I will let you know how we go. As Paul Kelly sang, "From Little Things..."

Ed – Is there anyone else involved in the fishing exercise casting nets in this manner – we would really like to hear from you?



Mail Out



I started this in September, 2017 and have decided to continue running down the alphabet of names and sending 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...

. Brian David Auld – "G'day Paul, we're back to wearing masks again they're bastard when doing exercises, this morning finds me still in Brisbane, we are up here looking at units for my daughter who is going to move up this way with her two daughters, weather wise nights a couple of times got down to 9 degrees but day have been hovering around 16-19 so not too bad, had my first shot last month next one next month, I don't know how our government are distributing the vaccine but it doesn't seem to run very efficiently, they're not using the military systems which from my memory appears

to work efficiently, so at this stage their system is extremely slow, my wife Rosemary hasn't had her first one yet, when they first announced my age group to receive their jab it was two months waiting before it arrived in Coffs, anyway take care."

. **Warwick Brooker** - "G'day Dicko

Sounds pretty good where you are at 1920 metres! Our winter is also wetter than the past few, as was autumn, and our mornings not as cold so far. However, yesterday remained cold all day, maxing out at 6C because the fog didn't lift until very late. We got down to -4 this morning but expect to reach a more reasonable 11 today.

The current COVID outbreak that has Sydney in lockdown again has also increased the COVID preventive measures in the ACT, although we have no active cases of COVID19 here. Activities aren't restricted much, but masks and QR code check-ins at an increasing number of places (even at Woolworths stores) are compulsory.

Good to hear that you and Helen are still enjoying some outdoor life.

Best wishes to you both. Brookey."

. **Steve Wynn** - "Hi Paul,

Thanks mate, you guys are what true Ozzie mateship is all about, sadly missing these days.

I am worse today so, if no improvement by tomorrow, I will call my GP for a phone interview. That is what we do now here, the GP rings you and sorts it out over the phone, yippee, no sitting for an hour in a doctor's waiting room full of sick people.

My wife has to go in to see the GP for her results next Wednesday. I don't know what I would have done without her the last 54 years. Take care and stay safe mate, Steve Wynn."

. **Nick Armstrong** - "Thank you for your email. Life here seems to move along without dramas. I have had my second Astra Zeneca, without any noticeable side effects. I was one of the earlier recipients, with Country Fire Service members classified as 'Essential Services'. I even have an official certificate confirming my full vaccination. Robin is a little later, with her second due in early August.

Robin and I are currently in WA, visiting our son and grandsons in Narrogin. There was a slight delay getting into WA, although the restrictions were for the Perth metro region and not the Southwest of the State. We decided to wait until WA lifted all restrictions, rather than get caught in extensions to 'Lockdown' areas.

We drove over in just over two days, arriving here two days ago. Our youngest son has arranged to fly over from Tasmania, arriving tomorrow. Travel was somewhat more complicated for him. There are no direct Virgin flights from Launceston to Perth, so his route was through Sydney. Initially there were two problems. He could not transit through Sydney, because WA would not accept travellers from NSW, and if he did get to Perth, he could not leave the Perth Metro area to travel to Narrogin. When the WA government lifted the restriction on leaving the Perth Metro area, my son still had the dilemma of transiting through Sydney. The WA Government would not differentiate between an NSW resident, and someone transiting through Sydney airport from a non-excluded originating departure point. My son eventually rescheduled a Virgin flight through Melbourne, so now all is clear to get to Perth.

It must be very frustrating for people who must make long term plans, which are subject to last minute cancellations. We were driving, and retired, so our plans were completely flexible.

Life around home is not particularly complicated, although remembering to register with the 'Q' code at each business a slight delay. Carrying my mobile phone is more important now than before. Previously, if I forgot my telephone, I would go without.

We are well into winter here, looking forward to warmer weather in about four months. Autumn was quite dry, but this month, rainfall has improved. The rainwater tanks are over 75% full, from being nearly empty in May. We have 50,000Lts, which provides all our house needs for two people. We water the garden too, although by February we revert to water mains, to conserve water for the house.

Since installing a 12kW Sonnen Battery to take surplus power from our roof solar panels, I have been more conscious of our solar generation. We have a 25kW roof system, which generally keeps our batteries charged from September to May. We are now in the period where shorter days, and heavier demand for heating find the solar panels struggle to meet our demands. We could increase our solar production, but while it would help through winter, it would result in a greater surplus to feed into the grid through summer. The 'Feed in Tariff' is quite low, so of limited financial benefit. The uptake of solar panels has resulted in rooftop production and feed into the grid is exceeding the ability of the network to handle the surplus. The power authorities want the ability to limit the output from domestic producers, by switching off solar systems during peak production. We probably will not consider installing further solar panels for now.

I am interested in your comment about living at 1920 metres. In 1966, while with RA Svy Corps, I was involved in Topographical Survey work in New Guinea. We were based at Mount Hagen between July and October. The altitude was about 5,500ft, which is a similar altitude. The climate was very pleasant, although I believe the Landrover Carburettor jets had to be changed for the higher altitude. My father was in the British Army and spent some time at the end of World War 2 in Nairobi, Kenya. That was a similar altitude. He always remarked on the pleasant climate there.

I have not been out in my boat for about three months, while fitting a newer motor. The old motor, a Yanmar 2QM20, was performing well but was obsolete. I believe the motor was superseded in the late 1980's! Most parts are still available, although expensive. A local yacht owner in Port Lincoln was selling a current model Yanmar 3YM30 with 120hrs use, for less than half new price. I decided the offer was too good to miss and set about the changeover. The engines were of similar dimensions, but the engine mounts had to be altered. I spoke to a marine engineer specialising in propellers, who suggested my existing propeller would be suitable, but would require alteration to blade pitch. The propeller has taken rather longer than expected. The engineer is about my age and works alone. He does work on fishing boats, so I

suggested they should take priority, since they earn their living with their propellers, while mine is only recreational use. It seems my propeller has been relegated over the recent weeks. I am hoping I will have it when I return from Narrogin. CFS call outs have reduced since winter rains have arrived, although house fires and road crashes continue from time to time. I still get asked to do school bus and charter driving, which gives a nice boost to the pension. There is usually something needing extra cash. Changing boat engines is a recent example.

Since January I have been attending weekly one hour gymnasium therapy through DVA. It is two half hour sessions, Monday, and Friday. I do not expect to be representing Australia at the Olympics any time soon, but it is useful to record improvements in strength, endurance, and balance.

I think that is about all for now.

Best wishes from, Nick."

Pete Fletcher – "Hi Paul,

It is good to hear from you once again. My apologies for not getting back to you following the Anzac Day proceedings. I didn't make the dawn service at Terrigal as planned but did manage to attend the service at our local club at Wamberal at 11.00am followed by a lunch which was nice.

We had planned to head to Pt Macquarie to visit my two brothers as well as some friends but have been restricted by lockdowns, so we have not made the trip as yet.

We are currently in a 2-week lockdown which has now been extended to three weeks as of today.

We have had our first Astra jab and the second is for the 8th August.

We have both been playing golf regularly which has been good and walking. We ran 4th in the Medley event last Saturday. We missed out on prize money but won a golf ball each. My handicap is down to 18 at the moment.

It has been extremely cold for the last few weeks and have not managed to get into the surf. Ha, Ha. A recent shark attack at Crescent Head has also discouraged me somewhat for my comeback.

All is well health-wise. A recent blood test had good results. Venice is always healthy. I am extremely thankful and fortunate to have her to look after me.

Hope you and Helen are keeping well. I am sorry I do not have anything exciting to report but that is the way it is with this virus.

Stay safe my friend, Pete."

. Keith Dean (aka Diane – thankfully!) – "Hi Paul,

Nice to hear from you. Yes, we are into our winter gear here in Newcastle. Bloody cold the past few days.

We had our second Astra Zeneca needle last Saturday. I had a really bad reaction after the first one and Keith had no reaction. After the second one I was nauseous for 2 days and again Keith no reaction.

We are not in lockdown like Sydney and the Central Coast but still must mask up when we go out to the shops etc.

Cannot wait to get some normalcy back into our lives. Cannot wait to travel overseas again too. God only knows when that will happen.

Thanks for keeping in touch.

Regards, Dianne and Keith Dean."

. Peter Creedon – "Hi Paul.

Thank you for the catch-up note, answering this allows me to do something a little different than doing not much of anything.

We are currently in our second week of restricted movement and they have just announced an extension of a week, seems people are not towing the line.

Our vaccine roll out in the early stages was very poorly handled, the doctors surgery that I attend has six doctors and they were allotted just 50 doses of vaccine between them for the week. Things have improved since then, my wife and I have had our first injection of Astra Zeneca with the second shot due early August.

As you say the weather is cooling down 1deg in the night but most days are pleasant enough.

Pretty boring though I have even planted some vegetables, never done that before, and still walking the golf course once a week which is good, so life could be a lot worse.

All for now. Peter"

. Keith Ayliffe – "G'day Paul,

Good to see your still kicking on and getting about. The *E&E* is still a good read so you haven't lost your faculties as of now.

All good here, as you said warm clothes are in order.

I am trying to obtain a bit of interest in a reunion for the LSTAA next year. I have suggested that we work with your Assoc to make a huge Reunion on ANZAC weekend next year.

A rough Agenda would be to start on the Saturday with a Free Bus trip from Brisbane to Fort Lindon and a luncheon (paid by the Assoc). A Free day Sunday. Sunday evening Wait for it - A cocktail party - no dinner - no dress up with invited guests - Patrons? CO and RSM of 20 Regt. Maybe even BC's and BSM's of the Bty's.

Monday Anzac Day March.

As none of us are getting any younger and we are supposed to be vaccinated by then it might be a good chance of a get together.

Anyhow those are the thoughts I've put to our assoc. Look forward to a large genuine reunion.

Thanks for your time Paul. Keith."

. Phil Connor – “G’day mate, how are you?”

Basically, all good here aside from the normal ongoing health issues for Miriam and myself.

A lot colder here over the last few weeks, but we battle on here on the Sunnie Coast with our shorts and T’s....HAHA. Had a fall in the garden couple of weeks ago and broke a couple of ribs, but all good.

Here, the Government/s are now getting kicks in the proverbial butts as to the slow roll out of the vaccinations. AND, all of a sudden, a BAD wave/s have broken out in a number of areas in Sydney and the Central Coast. Don’t get me started on the certain areas where it is breaking out, together with no testing and vaccinations.

Miriam and I have had our first AZ vacs and seconds due first week of August. Masks are the go until 16 July, unless something happens.

Great newsletter last issue. Cheers Phil.”

. Mike Butler – “Hi Paul,

Thanks for the note of 6 July.

We are still wearing masks in Victoria but not as bad as NSW where they have an out of control outbreak that you’ve probably seen on the news. Getting to the stage where I’m over all the news about Covid just do what we’re told and get on with things.

The VVA, of which I’m a member, is running a BBQ at the local Bunnings prior to the 18th August so I’ll probably volunteer to lend a hand - otherwise not a lot going on with regard to veterans. We can go to the RSL but cannot have more than 15 people in the home. Our grandsons first birthday had to be cancelled because my daughter had invited more than 15 guests so we might have to have a delayed birthday with reduced numbers. As you say weather is getting a bit cooler but we have had some sunny days which brightens up the mood. Am doing a lot of inside tidying and throwing out stuff that I’ve had for years and never used.

Our annual reunion with the 6 of us getting together is still on hold given the Covid situation. We all agreed to get our shots first then see when we can arrange a meeting - probably next year now.

Keep safe.

Cheers, Mike Butler.”

. Al Adams – “Hi Paul.

Thanks for your email. You aren’t missing much with a Melb winter. We had some very cold mornings last week 2 & 3 degrees.

I did play golf on one of those mornings and it was a bit chilly.

We managed to get away before the last lock down, spent 5 weeks at Sunshine Beach which was good to get away from Melb. Maggie and I drove up taking 3 days with a couple of stop overs. We did a bit of maintenance at Kirsten’s villa and caught up with some friends. Kirsten is having major renovations done at their house and we put up our hand to say that they can move in here while the work is done. We have a full house - 4 adults, 2 boys, 3 dogs. They expect the reno to be completed by Xmas, but with the shortage of material I think that it will run into next year. You do these things for family.

Hopefully we can get away again for a few weeks here and there. Maybe up around the Murray. With all of the Covid lockdowns it’s too hard to make plans.

I have got back into the gym, the RSL runs 1 hour weekly sessions and a one on one session also. The local RSL is very active for its members.

Maggie and I are both well, although I’m still on medication and hope that finishes next year.

Hope all is well with you and Helen. Al.”

. Ian Campbell – “Hi Paul, greetings from Melbourne.

Thanks for your **G’day email** received on 6 July. At time of writing, it is 15 July and hasn’t the world, well Victoria and Australia, changed in one short week! Thanks, COVID Delta Strain!

It’s not news to all who will be reading this that most States are now in some form of lockdown. The holiday my family and I were looking forward to in Port Douglas has gone to hell in a handbasket, fortunately all monies have been refunded and we are attempting to read the tea leaves to rebook sometime in the near future.

While joining in the recent 131 committee ZOOM meeting the subject of our brothers-in-arms returning from Iraqi and Afghanistan and how they were coping came up. In addition to the impending announcement of a National Day of Commemoration or the equivalent of our “Long Tan” day for them was to be decided. Several options have been tabled including the day of first deployment, the date of withdrawal and my least favourite, 11th September in recognition of the Twin Towers attack.

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returnees we intend to use social media to alert the various units that were deployed overseas to have them advise their members of this plan. I will let you know how we go. As Paul Kelly sang, "From Little Things..."
Hope your life is cruising along nicely Amigo.
Regards, Ian"

DVA media releases

The Hon Andrew Gee MP was sworn in as the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel on 2 July 2021.

Minister Gee has held previous roles as the Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister from 25 January 2019 to 6 February 2020; Minister for Decentralisation and Regional Education from 6 February 2020 to 2 July 2021 and Minister Assisting the Minister for Trade and Investment from 6 February 2020 to 2 July 2021.

Minister Gee is the Member for Calare in New South Wales and was first elected to Federal Parliament in 2016 and re-elected in 2019.

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.

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

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

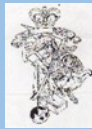
Just send an email and I'll post it. Ed

WARNING ORDER FOR 2022



In association
with





Proposed LSTAA Reunion Programme

Reunion Programme:

23,24 and 25 April 2022

REUNION = 131 DLB, 132 DLB, 133DLB, 130 Gun Loc Bty, 20 STA Regt 131 STA Bty, 132 STA Bty, LSTAA members, 131 Loc Assc. Current 20 Regt, 131 Bty, 132 Bty,

Location; - Brisbane – Queensland –

Event dates:

23 April 2022 - 10 – 3pm Saturday Fort Lytton LSTAA/20th Regiment family day. Regimental catering with LSTAA subsidising costs.

24th April 2022 5-8pm Sunday Drinks and War stories: - Kedron Wavell RSL

25 April 2022 Monday ANZAC DAY: Dawn service at 20th Regiment. Brisbane ANZAC Day March, post drinks at The Stock Exchange Hotel.

If you would like to attend contact Keith Ayliffe aylif@westnet.com.au

There is no obligation at this stage, we need possible attendance numbers in our attempt to keep prices down.

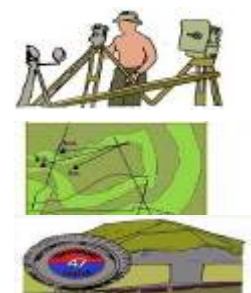
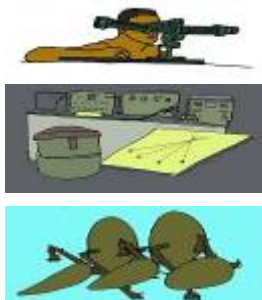
Let us know if there is a possibility of you attending.

Should you wish to become a member LSTAA. For details contact the Secretary Bob Morrison

robmor47@ozemail.com.au

LOCATORS FOREVER

VVA Granville site: VV Day 18 August 2021 CANCELLED due to Lockdown



Committee members:

President – Allen Morley, Vice President – Bert Blink, Treasurer/Secretary – Grahame Dignam,
Webmaster – Bob Billiards, Research Officer – Ernie Newbold, Designs and Development Officer – Nick Proskurin,
Eyes & Ears Editor – Paul Dickson

General members – Ian Amos, Ged Carroll, George Lane.

Regional Representatives: ACT – Bert Blink, Qld – Terry Erbs, SA - Geoff Blackwell,

Vic – Alan Adams, WA - Barry Guzder

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

A few well chosen words of wisdom from the Sec/Treas - "A note that a **REMINDER** was emailed on 2 July 2021 to **those members who fell due to renew memberships on 1 JULY 2021**. If anyone has any concerns an email to sectreas131locators@gmail.com will sort out any confusion.

Email sectreas131locators@gmail.com , Grahame"

Presidential perambulations

Unfortunately, with Covid lockdown in Sydney my perambulations have become quite limited. Restrictions on out of home exercising, geographical controls, mask wearing and plenty of rozzers around we seem to be currently resident in some sort of eastern European 'paradise'.

It has been amazing to me that identified and self-appointed 'experts' have popped up from all sorts of places. Academics have scrambled to be featured on tv, especially in news segments. Many have the prefix of Professor before their name and the tv people usually fawn over them. And the health bureaucrats appear so knowledgeable, conservative and inexperienced in the real world. The problem to me is the focus, rather than the solution.

But in my view, there is a downside associated with the tv interactions. Presumably the expert, politician or specialist has been asked to be interviewed based upon what they might contribute to any discussion. And yet in many cases the interviewer interrupts, speaks over the interviewee and then frequently cuts them short. This is always under the guise of journalism.

Perhaps that has been obvious because of tv being a more watched outlet under lockdown conditions.

Stay safe, wear a mask and watch less tv. Books are always better.

Regards

Allen



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

. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: **Tuesday, 10th August, 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, 13th July, 2021 at 1105hrs...

Attendees were:

Terry Erbs, Ian Campbell, Gordon Malcolm,

Grahame Dignam, Allen Morley, Paul Dickson,

Rieny Nieuwenhof, Bert Blink, Bob Billiards,

Ian Amos and Merv Nairn



Apologies: Jim Fitzgerald, Steve Wynn, Ern Newbold, Nick Proskurin, Ged Carroll, George Lane and State Reps.

Financial Membership is currently ...138, plus Associates 2, Affiliates 8. Total 148. Lapsed 13 members

New Member report:

. **W02 Melvyn TUCK** (who was unknown to us - but served with Kev Band others) joined this last month as a financial member.

. **Judith Retrot** of QLD requested membership and was added to our numbers as an Affiliate. Judith joins **Margaret Mason** who joined as an Affiliate along with husband Ron. Maybe we might gather some more **BETTER HALVES** to join us?

Presidents report.

Allen Reported -

. He and Terry Erbs had been elected to the committee of the LSTAA at their AGM.

. He also reported that ASSN had added another category to their membership profile being a "Perpetual" Member at a once only cost of \$100.00.

. He also reported the presence of the Virtual War Memorial Australia which is an interesting site for browsing our military history. <https://vwma.org.au/>
 . The Census due in August this year has a question regarding your military service.

Webmaster Update.

Bob advised the number of Facebook members was now 239 with new members being able to join without requiring Moderators approval. Moderators are able to block member posts if they are breaching Site rules. Indications are that Facebook members are using that link to access the Newsletter rather than the website.
 An account for O/S ISP cost will be provided at next meeting.

Health.

. Sec/Treas Dignam confirmed he had received 2nd Astra jab with no side effects. He also advised that a cancer on his leg had been removed with a review needed late August.
 . Terry Erbs confirmed that Keith Ayliffe is recovering as the emails have begun flying in earnest again.

General Business and around the grounds.

Discussions ensued on the following:

. Sydney Vietnam Vets day 18 Aug 2021 may be affected by Covid Lockdowns. More news TBA
 . Rieny advised that Geelong will hold a local commemoration and Melbourne will proceed with a smaller invite only event.
 . Rieny also mentioned that the meaning to DVA of "Veteran" has been clouded since the Army changed the service requirements to "one day's service" and is further blurring the lines of the value of those who gave service over a period of time and their entitlement to benefits. A movement by Max Ball to redress this has been launched and may need our support in the near future.
 . Terry advised that Keith's' main focus has been a proposal for a major 131/ Locator/20 Regt reunion in SEQ in 2022. Due to our advancing age, the chance to re gather and refresh friendships are dwindling. A committee has been formed to develop a plan.

**If you've got more photos that you want added, just send them to: - Paul Dickson – web Photos
 131eyesandears@gmail.com– BUT DON'T FORGET TO ADD TITLES/NAMES ETC.**

. Birthdays in the Battery...August –

DATE	Name	Regt No	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	PHILLIP ROSS	3794468	06 05 1969	30 04 1970	
1	JOSEPH LOSIAK	218302	04 11 1969	05 11 1970	
1	JOHN LUCAS	3796256	20 02 1970	11 02 1971	
2	JOHN GREENAWAY	3790617	24 10 1967	22 10 1968	
3	LES SMITHLESTER	1201202	23 09 1968	24 09 1969	
3	MICHAEL BUTLER	3796958	04 06 1970	09 06 1971	
3	GRAHAM GREENLAND	2792441	15 04 1970	29 07 1970	† 17.11.14
4	ANDREW OVERALL Lt.	235330	22 02 1969	21 02 1970	
7	MARTY VAN DRIEL	38954	27 11 1967	13 03 1968	† 08.08.98
7	RANDALL JONES	2788775	29 01 1969	28 11 1969	
8	ARTHUR LUXFORD Sgt.	212803	20 01 1969	28 01 1970	† 01.01.08
8	EDWIN LEWIS Sgt.	53909	18 03 1970	11 03 1971	† 26.08.92
9	TERRY WELSH	4721779	03 03 1971	29 06 1971	131
	" "		30 06 1971	30 10 1971	12 Fd REGT
9	GARRY GRIMWOOD	2795771	24 03 1971	01 07 1971	131
	" "		01 07 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd Regt.
10	DAVID JOHN TROEDEL	326409	N/A		132DLB † 13.05.21
12	ALAN THOMSON	42308	20 05 1966	22 06 1967	† 07.10.15
13	BRIAN HACKETT	2783449	03 01 1967	12 12 1967	
13	STAN BRIGGS	1731999	27 11 1967	17 09 1968	
13	BOB BRUCE	4718049	11 06 1967	13 12 1967	
15	JOHN POLLOCK	53860	{17 04 1967	24 05 1967	131
	" "		{05 02 1971	07 04 1971	12 Fd REGT
15	KEVIN TAYLOR	2791357	29 07 1969	23 07 1970	
15	NORMAN McMANUS WO2	26202	09 11 1970	19 08 1971	† 04.10.2016
17	PIERRE GOSS	213990	24 03 1969	25 03 1970	† 06.08.2011
20	PETER BINNS	356367	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
21	NORMAN JONES	5717611	04 05 1971	01 12 1971	12 Fd Regt / AACC

22	JOHN VICKARY	1732218	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
22	STUART SPORN	4718471	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
22	ANTHONY COUTTS	1733291	29 01 1968	21 01 1969	† 1988
23	ROBERT ETHERINGTON	66962	04 11 1969	19 11 1970	
24	JOHAN MOLENCAMP	2795074	03 03 1971	30 06 1971	131
	" "		02 07 1971	09 08 1971	12 Fd REGT
25	LES FROST	215230	22 04 1966	28 04 1967	† 26.03.14
25	KENNETH JONES	2786931	27 11 1967	26 11 1968	
25	COLIN WEST	2152525	20 01 1969	21 01 1970	
26	MAX TROYNAR	3790244	05 05 1967	30 01 1968	
26	STANLEY PATTERSON	38451	29 01 1969	28 11 1969	
27	LAWRENCE FARR	1734257	27 08 1969	25 02 1970	† 2009
27	KEN PIESLEY	2787174	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	† 26.03.14
27	GORDON MALCOLM	2785906	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	
27	PETER WHITAKER	2786848	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
27	PETER CREEDON	2790207	31 01 1969	28 01 1970	
27	GRANT PERRINS	1734509	27 11 1969	04 06 1970	
28	DAVID PIMM	215746	17 04 1967	23 04 1968	RAEME
29	TIM FORD Capt.	235300	19 08 1970	05 08 1971	
31	STEPHEN PALMER	18820	12 04 1968	30 04 1969	RAEME † 03.12.72

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

Ed – 9 blokes not highlighted is not great and needs attention – maybe one day! Time waits for nobody.

. **Locator Profiles** – we’ve received **168** and we’ve sent out **168**. Ed – Now where’s 169?

. **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



www.artilleryhistory.org



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

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

. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE

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

. 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery...



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

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



The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association

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

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

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