

THE EYES and EARS

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

**Detachment 131 Divisional
Locating Battery RAA
South Vietnam 1966 – 1971
2024
58 Years and the Detachment
Spirit Remains**



Republic of Vietnam Cross of
Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation
Awarded to those who served
with the Detachment
from 01.04.66 – 19.08.71



Bravo Radar "Pioneers" 1966



31A Nui Dat Hill 1970



Monastery, Dinh Co 1970



Surveyors 1969



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

EKT/71/0640/VN

**Nui Dat
Formation and History**
– extracts from the AWM
Archives

Nui Dat was formerly a Rubber
Plantation

Nui Dat Formation and History – extracts from the AWM Archives

A simple introduction -The “Dat” (our “Home”) sprawled out from a low hill and by a major road which bisected Phuoc Tuy from north to south. By 1969 it housed 5,000 soldiers, and its defoliated perimeter of barbed wire was 12 kilometres long. Rubber trees provided useful shade across the base. Snakes, almost as plentiful, were less welcome, as was the constant noise from frequent landings and take-offs by aeroplanes and helicopters and intermittent artillery and mortar fire in support of operations.

A continuing series - Part 1 -

1966–1972

In 1966, when the area was part of the then Phuoc Tuy Province it was the location of a prominent 1 ATF military base in South Vietnam during the Vietnam War. The site was chosen by Lieutenant General John Wilton (Australia's Chief of the Defence Force, from 1966 until 1970. His eight-year tenure as senior officer of first the Army and then the Australian military spanned almost the entire period of the nation's involvement in the Vietnam War.) in 1966 and was built mainly by men from the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment.^[2] The occupation of Nui Dat in Operation Hardihood.



Operation Hardihood was a security operation conducted from 16 May to 8 June 1966 during the Vietnam War by the U.S. 503rd Infantry Regiment, the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR) and the 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (5 RAR) in Phuoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam to secure the area around Nui Dat for the establishment of a base area for the 1st Australian Task Force (1 ATF). The operation required the removal of all inhabitants from within a 4,000-metre (2.5 mi) radius of the base in order to ensure the security of the facility. Ultimately this policy—which was an unusual step among allied bases in Vietnam—required the resettlement of the villages of Long Hải, with a population of 1000, and Long Phuoc, with a population of 3000. Both villages were subsequently destroyed and the villagers rehomed in brand new and improved villages built by Australian engineers; a task which was complete by July 1966.

Formation a step back...

In March 1966 the Australian government decided to increase its commitment to the Vietnam War, ...

A background historical note - After the fall of French Indochina with the 1954 Geneva Conference on 21 July, the country gained independence from France but was divided into two parts: the Viet Minh took control of North Vietnam, while the U.S. assumed financial and military support for South Vietnam. The Viet Cong (VC), a South Vietnamese common front under the direction of the north, initiated a guerrilla war in the south. The People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN), also known as the North Vietnamese Army (NVA), engaged in more conventional warfare with U.S. and Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) forces. North Vietnam invaded Laos in 1958, establishing the Ho Chi Minh Trail to supply and reinforce the VC. By 1963, the north had sent 40,000 soldiers to fight in the south. U.S. involvement increased under President John F. Kennedy, from just under a thousand military advisors in 1959 to 23,000 by 1964. ...

...announcing that the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1 RAR), which had been serving as the third infantry battalion of the US 173rd Airborne Brigade in Biên Hòa since June 1965, would be replaced at the end of its tour by a two-battalion brigade—the 1st Australian Task Force (1 ATF)—with armour, aviation, engineers and artillery support; in total 4,500 men. Additional Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and Royal Australian Navy (RAN) elements would also be deployed and with all three services total Australian strength in Vietnam was planned to rise to 6,300. Meanwhile, 1 RAR's attachment to US forces had highlighted the differences between Australian and American operational methods. Whereas the Americans relied on massed firepower and mobility in big-unit search and destroy operations as part of a war of attrition which often resulted in heavy casualties on both sides, the Australians — although not eschewing conventional operations — emphasised deliberate patrolling using dispersed companies supported by artillery, armoured personnel carriers and helicopters to separate the Vietcong (VC) from the population in the villages, while

slowly extending government control. Consequently, 1 ATF which would be allocated its own Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) in Phuoc Tuy Province, thereby allowing the Australians to pursue operations more independently using their own methods.

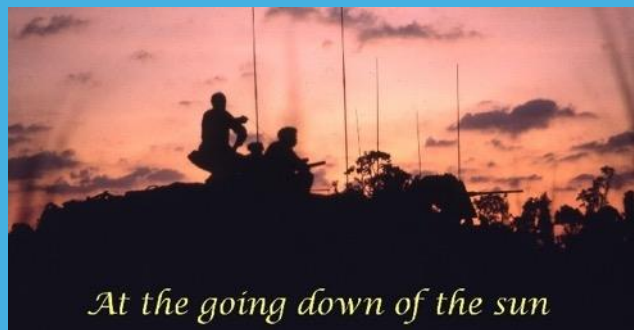
The southernmost province in III Corps, Phuoc Tuy had been selected by the Australians because it was an area of significant VC activity, was located away from the Cambodian border, could be resupplied and, if necessary, evacuated by sea, and enabled them to concentrate their efforts in a single area to achieve greater national recognition. Rather than being attached to a US division, negotiations between senior Australian and US commanders — including Lieutenant General John Wilton and General William Westmoreland — ensured 1 ATF would be an independent command under the operational control of US II Field Force, Vietnam (II FFV), a corps-level headquarters in Bien Hoa which reported directly to Commander US MACV. This would allow the force greater freedom of action and the chance to demonstrate the Australian Army's evolving concept for counterinsurgency warfare, developed in part from its operations during the Malayan Emergency. The task force would be commanded by Brigadier David Jackson, an experienced infantry officer who had served in the Middle East and New Guinea during the Second World War, and later in the Korean War and commanded the AATTV and Australian Army Force Vietnam prior to taking up the appointment. With the new force given less than two months to deploy, hasty preparations began in Australia to ready it. Meanwhile, the headquarters of the 1st Brigade was subsequently used to raise 1 ATF.

Following US and Australian negotiations, the New Zealand government was given the choice of continuing the attachment of the 161st Battery, Royal New Zealand Artillery to the US 173rd Airborne Brigade based at Bien Hoa or joining 1 ATF in Phuoc Tuy. As with 1 RAR, the New Zealand battery had served under US command since June 1965 and was New Zealand's only military contribution to operations in Vietnam at that time. The decision was subsequently made to integrate the New Zealand battery into 1 ATF in June 1966, and from 1967 New Zealand infantry and NZSAS.

Next month... Part 2 ...A continuation – Operations

.....

Ernie Newbold – A Reflection for ANZAC Day ...*The Ode* remembered in photos –





The “Lost Locator Project”

This Project is being re-ignited for 2024.

Our current list contains the names of **97** Locators (as at 31.03.2024, plus includes new Assigned members) that we have not had contact with since, basically, commencing communications in 2012, so, we are going to focus a little more on this programme to try and reduce this number.

Let’s have a look at MARCH’S Birthday List, below, where there are 6 Detachment and Battery Members listed as Lost Locators – see the names below.

So, we’ve done some great discoveries with Members Dates Of Death, I’m hoping we might muster some enthusiasm for this difficult task. I’ve added some more details as to full DoB’s and places of birth according to the DVA Nominal Roll for, maybe, some help.

We regularly check bereavement/funeral notices and this does not locate members in the way we really want to. So, we’re appealing for **YOUR** help in scouring all sorts of sources – local RSL’s may be a good starter.

I will keep an update and publish monthly results in *Eyes & Ears*.

Paul Dickson

Get in touch with me via 131eyesandears@gmail.com

Date	Name	Regt No	DoB	SVN In	SVN Out	DVA Origin	Location
4	William Francis Laughlan	2788465	1945	14 01 1969	27 08 1969	Deniliquin, NSW	
7	David Christopher Martin	2781662	1945	22 04 1966	29 04 1967	Sydney	
9	Terrence William Myers	217798	1950	09 05 1969	30 04 1970	Perth	
11	Michael Eris McDonnell	2781377	1945	04 05 1966	11 12 1966	Sydney	
11	Terrence Daniel Fox L/Bdr	1200934	1949	08 07 1968	02 07 1969	Not shown	
19	Barry Kenneth Dyson	3795956	1947	04 06 1970	04 03 1971	Melbourne	

. Interesting Detachment Assignments – The following details came about by my surveying the “**Lost Locators**”, in a general sense, and becoming curious about the number of Detachment members that were assigned to us from other Corps.

I understood the involvement by RAEME members with the connection with the Radar unit, but it wasn’t until communicating with **Kevin Browning** that a connection with members of the Australian Army Catering Corp came to light.

These members were involved in what was the Detachment Head Quarters Battery Mess, which serviced our HQ area and it looks as though there was one member approximately per annum deployed in conjunction with the Detachment.



The following table below highlights that there are a number of them that are amongst the “Lost Locators” who have had no contact with the Association since its inception.
 Sadly, we have had notifications of passings, as noted in the lower section of the table, though this list may be incomplete as per our Detachment/Battery members.

Name	Rank	Regt No	SVN	Corp
Brian John HAWKEY	Pvt	1200572	20.05.66-28.04.67	AACC
Keith Edward WHITE	Pvt	2783029	18.04.67-13.12.67	AACC
Michael Francis O'KEEFE	Pvt	2787168	08.01.68-14.01.69	AACC
Robert John HOLDSWORTH	Pvt	3793058	05.01.69-03.12.69	AACC
Brian Leslie PARKER	Temp Cpl	3793586	21.01.70-07.05.70	AACC
			28.05.70-14.01.71	1 st Arm Regt
See more names below...				
Barry Cooke	Sgt	54886	16.09.68-24.09.69	† 13.03.1999 RAAOC
Neil Fawcett-Smith	Sgt	17732	12.04.67-12.03.68	131/ROAAC † 02.02.1991
" "			08.07.70-08.07.71	2nd Ord Dep
Michael Francis O'Keefe	Pvt	2787168	08.01.68-14.01.69	AACC † 1980
Brian Johnson	Pvt	4720991	28.05.70-05.05.71	AACC † 31.01.2012

...Kevin continues – “I note that you found three other people that had served with the Det’s Workshop. Had a look at the DVA Nominal Roll for the Det’s Wksp and found some more, including your three there was a total of seven, overall the period of Det Wksp had 42 the other 35 were RAEME.

Michael James Coffey* SGT RAAOC 20 May 66 – 7 May 67

Ian Bruce McKenzie* SGT RAAOC 26 Feb 68 – 24 Sep 68

Raymond Leslie Bailey* CPL RAAOC 17-9-69 to 27-8-70

David John Padovan* SGT RAAOC 27 Aug 70 – 5 Sep 70

Brian James McDowell* BDR RAA 19 May 71 – 29 Jul 71

*Above have been added to the Associations Birthday list and Lost Locators.

I assume these RAAOC soldiers would have run their Q store. BDR McDowell may have only been a paper transfer and not an actual person moving into that position.”

All of this got me to thinking that these members assigned to the Detachment were unknown to Detachment members, in general, because of their remoteness?

- The “remoteness” raises the point as to where were their tent lines located?
- Did they have any connection with our Detachment HQ for Administration purposes – pay, leave etc?

Then, there is the connection to the Battery in Holsworthy, which we used daily. This thought lead to the following response from Kevin...

“When I was BSM 1981-1982 we had five cooks and that were spread throughout the messes at Enoggera under the direction of the Area Caterer. He tried to build his own empire and have control of the cooks giving us a cook when required but it could have been any of those under his control. We told him our cooks would serve us which he had to accept. I know our cooks were very grateful for this and also allowed our Sgt Cook to train them in the field as needed. When I left they gave me a Catering Corp plaque in appreciation and being very professional soldiers it is inscribed:

Kev Browning

131 Div Loc Bty

It was and probably still is standard practice to have the cook’s as part of the units war establishment. In fact 131 Div Loc Bty had a Sgt, Cpl and 3 Pte cooks on establishment.

I assume the establishment for the Det would have included one cook who would have worked in the kitchen under the direction of the Regiments WO Caterer. I assume he would have been cooking in the HQ Bty mess and no doubt would have been used where the Caterer needed him.

It appears we had six cooks serve with the Det over the period May 1966 – May 1971, all Privates, although Parker was a temp Corporal but probably whilst with 1 Armoured Regt. where he may have been posted on promotion.

1200572 Brian John HAWKEY 20 May 1966 – 28 Apr 1967

2783029 Keith Edward WHITE 18 Apr 1967 – 13 Dec 1967

2787168 Michael Francis O'KEEFE 8 Jan 1968 -14 Jan 1969

3793058 Robert John HOLDSWORTH 5 Jan 1969 – 3 Dec 1969

3793586 Brian Leslie PARKER 21 Jan 1970 – 27 May 1970 (also served with A & C Sqn 1st Armd Regt)

4720991 Brian JOHNSON 28 May 1970 – 5 May 1971 (also served with A Sqn, 1st Armd Regt 14 May 1970 – 27 May 1970) - looks like an exchange with PARKER.”

To continue on in this vein, it raised a couple of questions in my mind -

- Were these blokes “Locators”? - well, in a sense, due to their association with us in both the Battery/Detachment, they were part of our “survival”.

b) Did they think they were "Locators"? Their DVA Nominal Roll states that they served with the Detachment.

I guess, this "assignment" bit would have had all of these members – AAACC/RAEME/RAAOC etc – serving with numerous Corps throughout their careers, so it wouldn't surprise me if they felt no alignment with those groups that they were assigned to.

It's a bit like Officers and NCO's that served minimum times in the Detachment, not always for any great length of time with their careers taking them off in many directions. Contact with these members were lost. However, groups like the Australian Artillery Association and the likes would have kept them close.

I would suspect that the cooks had originally been posted to the Battery at Holsworthy and from there they would have been posted to the Detachment. Whilst at Holsworthy they would have been employed in any of the messes, Officers, Sergeants or ORs as required but would have also been involved in exercises with the unit.

Kevin suggests – "I have no idea where they may have been posted on RTA but that might have been up to the Catering Corps. If Nashos they were probably discharged, if Regular unknown. For example some of the Regs went back to the battery, like myself but other went elsewhere like the School, Brian Smyth is an example here. The postings would have been arranged through the Directorate, not the Battery."

This is just a "thought/s" article and I would be interested in your thoughts and responses to my comments?

Paul Dickson

. 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.



The Photo Album Project -a personal appeal by Grahame Dignam

18th March, 2024

Hello, we hope you are well.

Your committee has been working for some time gathering photographs of the work performed by Locators during the Detachment's SVN deployment.

Our aim is to present a visual record of our activities during the South Vietnam conflict and our records indicate that you may have some photos that are suitable for our project.

While we have been supplied some, we know there are many photos and we remain limited by what we have access to. We know that other Vets have a great many photos that would be suitable for inclusion. Our mission now is to source those photos hence this personal appeal.

The best photos would show people using all or any artillery equipment in any form (at Nui Dat and in the field: cleaning: loading: packing, testing etc).

We have placed **some sample pictures on the website**. To have a look, go to - <http://www.131locators.org.au> . then to "Galleries, then " Assoc" and click on Photobook Album icon.

We would need a description and names of the equipment, and soldiers involved. This is due to the rotation of the soldiers over time and the changing roles the various sections were required to perform e.g. Sound Ranging, Sensors, Survey, different survey techniques, and various LP and Arty Tac and Workshop equipment employed.

Our appeal is to please take some time to gather photos as described above with

1. descriptions with names and dates and then
2. forward them via Disc, thumb drive or attached to an email for collation and eventual placement in the Heritage Photo Album (we will cover cost).

If you have any photos suitable or are unsure please contact me via email or mobile 0437 361 602 to discuss.

We thank you for your Service and the time we ask you to spend on this project. We know time is now running short. It really is

LEST WE FORGET

Regards,
Grahame Dignam



Secretary / Treasurer
131 Locators Assn Inc
ABN 92 663 816 973
Supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

...a follow on from The “Detachment Album Project” –

...Maybe... an Insight and Recollection...

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

Paul Dickson - On sourcing possible photos for the Association’s Album Project I re-discovered the photo of a “painter” which I took while I was out on Operation Lion, November 1967 at LP 31G with Sgt Trevor Waghorn and Gunners Joe Clendinen and Tony Goldsmith.

03 November, 1967 – I was deployed as part of a Listening Post along with Bravo Radar (A7) carried out the first operational air movement of a radar when it deployed by air into FSB LION which was established at Thua Tich – YS

6181 as part of Operation Santa Fe. Supporting artillery 108 Fd Bty and 106 Fd Bty

Setting up Bravo Radar



Sgt Trev Waghorn – on board the UH-1

Setting up 31G with Sgt Waghorn, self and Joe Clendinen



During Operation Santa Fe (26 October to 18 November 1967), another series of search-and-destroy missions included FSB Lion. At FSB Lion on the night of 4 November 1967. The enemy infiltrated the perimeter of the FSB and set up a mortally wounding Gunner Barry “Bluey” Tregear. More casualties would almost certainly have occurred had the other two mines not failed to detonate. The following day FSB Lion was subject to a barrage of 15 enemy mortar rounds. Later on the same day the battery used direct fire against suspected enemy movement along a tree-line north of the FSB. On 16 November the 108th Field Battery returned to Xuyen Moc. When Operation Santa Fe concluded two days later the battery joined 7RAR at the Horseshoe.

Here’s what was unearthed...

I happened to see a soldier painting and went over and said “g’day etc”. After a brief conversation I took the photo **at right**.

All of this prompted me to go searching for the “painter” and believe it or not I discovered – **Ken McFadyen** and the following information via the **DVA Nominal Roll** -

Name: MCFADYEN, Kenneth Charles Service No. 350590
Date of Birth: 17 Jan 1932 Place of Birth: Regent, Victoria
Rank: Lieutenant Corps: Royal Australian Army Educational Corps
SVN – Citizen Military Forces – Officer Visit 13 Jul 1967 – 12 Mar 1968
Died: March 17, 1998 (age 66 years), Millgrove, Australia

And then this was discovered...

Australian War Memorial archives –



Ken McFadyen was born in Preston, Victoria in 1932. He studied at the National Gallery School from 1954 to 1960. While working as a set designer at the Australian Broadcasting Commission in 1967, McFadyen was appointed an official war artist to cover the Australian involvement in the Vietnam War. Like Bruce Fletcher, the first official war artist in Vietnam, McFadyen did jungle warfare training at Canungra, Queensland, before travelling to Vietnam. McFadyen and Fletcher were expected to perform as combat soldiers if required, not just wield their paintbrushes. McFadyen arrived in Vietnam in mid-August 1967 and served there for seven months. During that time he was posted at the 1st Australian Task Force base at Nui Dat, but he made frequent visits to the 1st Australian Logistical Support Group base at Vung Tau on the coast. He also briefly joined the RAN destroyer HMAS Hobart while it patrolled off the North Vietnamese coast.

Despite the uncomfortable physical and climactic conditions, McFadyen was able to produce finely detailed drawings of activities on the bases, as well as some large, technically accurate drawings of helicopters and Caribou transport aircraft. Painting and drawing while on patrol was even more trying. In one statement to the Memorial McFadyen recalled "feeling very tired, wet and muddy, covered in small black leeches competing with thousands of amber coloured ants for a place on my body".

In addition to putting up with stifling heat, humidity and torrential rain, McFadyen had to carry full combat equipment on top of his art materials. He also shared the tension felt by the patrols, working in the shadowy presence of enemy that was rarely seen. The paintings McFadyen did on these patrols depict the terrain of Phuoc Tuy province, images of helicopter "insertions" and "extractions" and scenes from search and destroy missions.

After his return to Australia McFadyen continued to work on his Vietnam paintings for the Memorial. Later he received a further commission to produce a large commemorative painting of an action involving HMAS Murchison on the Han River during the Korean War.

Although he resumed his job with the ABC, McFadyen later resigned to devote himself to painting. During the 1970s he experimented with abstraction but remained firmly a realist painter.

Amazing what Memories can be reconstructed with a bit of digging! Paul Dickson

. 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

. Unknown Dates of Deaths continued to be updated...as at 31.03.2024 –

...thankfully, there were no additions during the month of March,2024

– please let it remain this way for the foreseeable future.

A continuing Reflective Thought with regards to Vales as we progress on in years.

The following table reflects Members passings over the years since our 'journeys' into South Vietnam which began back in May 1966.

It reflects on 10 year periods since, and including, 1966. The figures speak for themselves, and if you exclude deaths in SVN, of which there were two, the initial period does show a dark period considering the ages of our mates.

10 Year Detachment/131 Battery Death Periods

										<u>Total</u>
1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	
1	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	7
1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	
0	1	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	7
1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	
0	0	2	2	2	1	2	1	0	0	10
1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	
3	2	2	2	0	3	2	1	2	1	18
2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
0	4	4	4	2	9	5	6	5	4	43

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
8	4	4	5	6	7	10	10	2	0	56
Unknowns*										2

Total **143**

Please note that these figures represent data provided by Members, from what was, and is stated to be reliable sources (official notices/family/mates etc). Data as at ??.??.2024.

***Unknowns** – Sadly, we have only been advised of the Members’ passings only.

This following sections have now been updated as of ??.??,2024 and show a clear picture of Battery/Detachment Members that have incomplete Date of Death details.

Here are the names and details –

Name	Rank	Regt No	Section	SVN	DoB	DoD
Robinson, Marcus Lee	Gnr	2791229		1970	14.02.48	Unknown

If you can help in any way to update this data it would be greatly appreciated – You can send information to Paul Dickson at email 131eyesandears@gmail.com Subject: Vale update

Ed - As a closing thought, can we give some thought to completing Locator Profiles, which do add a personal background and also keeping in touch as it keeps us up to date with you and mates.

However, as a continuation, this has been extended to cover more Unknow details... such as Rank, Regt No (not an easy discovery), Section, DoB and then day.month for DoD’s.

Ok, detectives, here’s more homework – 7 gaps to go!

Name	Rank	Regt No	Section	SVN	DoB	DoD
O’Keefe, Michael Francis	Gnr	2787168		1968-69	26.11.46	00.00.80

Ed – Michael O’Keefe, sadly, remains as the last Locator to have his details updated. Our thanks go to those that have given more meaning to those “mates” who are no longer physically with us.

AN INVESTIGATION 181 Days

. The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal (RVCM)

This is continuation of this important subject of those who were not awarded The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal (RVCM) –

“Paul, (15th March 2024)

Open up the link and see and hear Senator Paul Scarr’s powerful address in the Senate on 28 February 2024.

His speech should leave no-one in any doubt about our feelings on Minister Keogh’s unsympathetic and inequitable ‘decision’ to not make a decision about our Campaign.

Hope all is well. Regards Richard Barry.”

Here’s the link – it’s really worth watching...

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!AgwOekjTEE7vjmcyuBaqWqV64iuM?e=4lGmLu>



MORE LISTENING NEWS –

Grahame Dignam advised me of the following podcast of the 2GB (Sydney) Ben Fordham live interview with Senator Scarr where the DVCM topic was discussed – it’s worth listening to.

I just typed into Google “2GB Ben Fordham podcast 28 March 2024” and then clicked onto the 2GB icon – the interview starts at 15 minutes into the programme – you can fast forward it to the beginning of the interview. Fordham intends interviewing the Hon Matt Keogh, Minister for Veterans Affairs/Defence Personnel during the week commencing 1st April.

Paul Dickson

“Nothing ventured, nothing gained.”

. Quiz Time.



This is not necessarily a typical (whatever that means) “Quiz Time” article but one with questions included, so let’s get started...

Ernie Newbold continued on from last month’s topic...

“G'day Paul

Well now, starched greens are something I had completely forgotten about and for good reason too. Soldiers in starched greens may have looked good on parade but starching wasn't done to increase the comfort of those wearing them. Now I am going to try and forget all about starched clothing again for another 50 or so years.”



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...

Phil Mulgrew – with a great “catch-up”...

“Hi Paul.

Winter is where you reside. Summer is where we reside along with some pretty humid and hot conditions most days in Brisbane at this time of the year. It's stormy today, Monday, March 4th, with thunder claps overhead, humid and wet. The best place to be is inside. If there's a break in the weather, I'll get out and mow the grass, trim climbing vines on the fence, and keep the cat from hunting down water dragons, they, along with the vegetation love the conditions.

My reply to you in my last email about my open heart surgery was almost criminal in its brevity. So I will elaborate some more about it.

I have known about my heart valve issue for about twenty years when it was found in a physical for a student pilot's licence I was going for, but was dismissed by the examining DAME (Designated aviation medical examiner) as an early leaky heart valve and I passed the physical, no problem. What he and subsequent dames didn't tell me was that the condition would get worse as I got older and around six years ago, I really started to feel the effect of some blood being pumped through the heart, regurgitating back through the weakened valves to both upper chambers of the heart. The result was increased pressure on the heart, fatigue, severe headaches, you name it.

After two ultrasounds, including a thoracic one where they stuck an ultra sound probe down my throat to get as near to the heart as humanly possible (without cutting into me) to monitor the action of the heart valves. I was out cold for that. So it was deemed by my two heart specialists at St Vincents Private Hospital in Auchenflower that I should have my mitral valve and tricuspid valves repaired or replaced with artificial valves.

Both were duly repaired without needing artificial replacements and for good measure, I was given another procedure in the upper right atrium chamber of my heart to alleviate any blood clotting that could occur. This happened in September/October of last year.

I still get a little fatigued at times, especially if I overdo things around the home or when exercising and it is still early days. But, and this is a big but, my recovery time from strenuous activity is as quick as it was years ago.

You probably look as scary with your lower eyelids operation as I did a couple of years ago when I had a skin cancer cut out of the left side of my neck with a long row of stitches going from my ear to my adam's apple. Shades of Dr Franksteins monster.

In a couple of days, Helen and I are setting off on a mini road trip to see the new grandson and help around my son's house down in Melbourne, He is my youngest son Brendan and his wife Kim's second child. Brendan has parental leave from the Army. This makes five grandsons. We don't have any granddaughters at all to add class to the family. But all the boys are all healthy and raucous.

We will be going to the Western Plains Zoo at Dubbo and also taking in the Parkes Telescope over three or four days on the way down. Over the years, I think we have driven past these attractions more than a few times, but were always on the way to somewhere else.

Apologies for not getting back to you in previous emails. There has been a lot happening since my open heart surgery, plus another operation three months after that one which was of shorter duration but no big deal.

All the best to you and Helen.”

...Phil, true to his word sends us an update on his travels south –

"Hello Paul

At the moment, Friday 15th March, Helen and I are staying with my youngest son Brendan and his family in Chirnside Park in Melbourne's outer North East. Think Yarra Ranges wines, beautiful scenery and multimillion dollar homes on acreage. Brendan's wife, Kim, recently gave birth to a baby boy, who at the moment is coping with a lot of wind after feeding and a very rowdy older brother going through the terrible twos stage. We're giving a hand with house work and maintenance around the house. So it's all go go at this time.

I have included some photos of our trip down the Newell Highway which is still in a state of perpetual repair as it was years ago when we last travelled the route. We spent a day at the Taronga Open Plains Zoo outside Dubbo and could easily have done another day as the admission covered a two day visit.

The Zoo is massive in area. You need a vehicle or a battery cart to see the majority of the animals as they have large areas to roam, fenced in usually by moats and ha, ha ditches. We did the Savannah Safari around a large part of the park and got up close to African animals you would only see behind bars in a regular zoo, and it's cheaper than doing Africa. The photos are fairly self-explanatory.

A female cheetah
waiting for a feed
from the keeper.



**Giraffes feeding from
a hay basket.**

One was sitting down
which a giraffe will
never do in the wild as
would be too
vulnerable to predators,
but a different story in
the Savannah Park.
Safe behind the wire, so
to speak.



The elephant sculpture



We took in the **Parkes Observatory Telescope**, otherwise known as the 'Dish' the next day. The photographs show it sitting vertically, which usually happens during high winds or undergoing maintenance. The dish isn't attached to the pedestal, but simply sits on it, kept there by its massive weight, similar to battleship turrets sitting on their barbettes by weight only.

No guided tours any more except by special arrangements, usually only for school groups anyway. The instrumentation on and around the dish is continuously being upgraded and is a working science institute. It was involved in the recent moon landing by NASA and SpaceX's lunar explorer, the one that landed on its side!

The visitors centre has some great interactive space related exercises for the kids both inside and outside the centre. The quality of merchandise sold at the centre is so good that the working scientific staff shop there for their children's toys.

We are heading home on Thursday, 21st March, but going via the Pacific Highway, overnighing at Goulburn and then Port Macquarie the next.

That's about it, Paul. Stay healthy. Good Eyes and Ears editors are hard to find."

Russ Hamsey – “Paul:

Good to hear you continue to fare well. All is good here in Brisbane. With my daughter posted to Brisbane and my son returned from Canada, we have our family in one place for the first time in 14 years. It is very nice. 20 Regt is travelling along well. 131 Bty finished the year deployed to the Northern Kimberley, flying Shadow in support of Maritime Border Protection Command. We expect everyone back towards mid-year. The introduction of Shadow's replacement, Integrator, continues with equipment delivery in mid-year. 133 Bty was re-raised in January, with an initial cadre of 20. They will be supporting training and testing of the new system.

As always busy. There is light on the horizon though. I am due to retire in November. After that, we intend to hit the road and travel the world, again.

Take care of yourself and continue to enjoy life!

Russ Hamsey.”

Harry Lynas – “G'day Paul,

You are right - life just seems to be going faster and faster. IT will be Christmas again before we know it. Hopefully though now we have the wet, wet, hot days behind us and can turn the aircon off. I can't remember when it has been so humid.

At long last I have distanced myself from being a Committee member at Fort Lytton. Although at the moment I am the defacto Secretary still as no one else wants the job.

Health is still so so, but at the age of 81 I am trying out acupuncture on my back and so far I think it is working.

That is all for now.

Hear from you soon.

Cheers

Harry Lynas.”

Allen Morley – “Hello Paul and Helen.

The sun is shining today and we are getting a late warm spell after an only average summer. I think you call that an Indian Summer in your part of the world. The Bureau of Meteorology said we would have a hot, dry summer. Instead we had a cool, wet one. Can't trust those meteorologists!

Our house has been sold and the sale price was good. Subsequently we carried out an extensive search for our next accommodation. So, we bought a two-bedroom apartment close to the centre of Lane Cove. It provides all the things we wanted on our list. Apartment prices are relatively high in Lane Cove because of its proximity to the city, good transport and a great school choice, not that we need the latter. We move in on May 1st.

Life will be different there with no pool to clean daily, no gardening, no steep backyard. We saw some pretty average apartments and even a couple of small houses on level land and townhouses in our search.

I had a cardiologist appointment last week. I knew that I had a noisy heart valve. But, he told me it had gone from average/serious to serious. Therefore on Monday I am off to hospital for the cardiologist to carry out an angiogram via a wrist artery. Depending on the outcome of that they will do a valve replacement starting with a groin artery or alternatively open heart surgery, which doesn't have a lot of appeal. I'll keep you posted.

Phil Mulgrew in **E&E** explained his artery replacement. So i called him and chatted about that and plenty of other things.

That's our news for the moment. March has been a challenging month with all of the above going on.

We hope that you are both well and enjoying the approaching warmer weather. The recent snows in California that we saw on tv suggest you had a cold winter, even though you are further south.

Best wishes

Allen & Diane.”

...an update -

“I'm home again after being prodded, poked, stuck and starved. Angiogram showed neither artery narrowing nor clogging. A good result. Now they will focus on aortic valve. The fix will probably be TAVI (look it up). Not sure when. am”

...Grahame Dignam adds a quick-quip response to Allen's update...

“I did look it up and it sounds like a doddle - nothing a Locator can't handle!!

But the first news was also good...”

I thought I'd try to explain “TAVI” - What is a TAVI? TAVI stands for Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation. It's a procedure that helps to improve a damaged aortic valve. During a TAVI procedure, an artificial valve made of natural animal heart tissue (usually from a cow or a pig) will be implanted into your heart.

Iain Kennedy – Subject: “Ahoy land lubber”

“Paul,

As you can see from the subject Janet and I have been at sea, hence the delay in our response to your letter.

We went on Royal Caribbean's Brilliance of the Sea out of Sydney to visit 5 Island in the South Pacific. Going for my birthday as it was on the second day of the trip.

Had a cabin with a non-opening porthole and a reasonable size, but the bathroom was definitely showing the ship's age. You would love the food, the choices, the amount and being looked after. The buffet was most people's favourite, as timing and dress code is more relaxed than the more formal main dining room.

After two days of cruising through there Coral Sea we reached Lifou Island, part of the Loyalty group of Islands. we had to go ashore in tender boats as the island does not have a wharf for big ships. Did a Melanesian cultural tour and just as well we did, because that was the end of our Cruise (so to speak).

When everyone was back on board, the Captain announced we had a Technical issue and we would be returning to Sydney at a reduced speed. It turns out the ship had hit a submerged shipping container and damaged one of the propellers, so could only use one engine and to insure it lasted back to Sydney. We needed to go at half speed. 2 days to get out, 4 days to get back. The cruise was reduced in days and only 1 island instead of 5.

Still it was a relaxing time, food and service was good, some of the evening entertainment as good, others where a bit average. Still they are going us 50% of our money back + a Future Cruise Voucher valued at 50% of our cruise price. So a fair deal. Now we are back home, needing a rest to recover from our holiday.

Some photos attached.



Cheers,
Iain K."

A Note – If you're not getting any of the "Catching up to say g'day" quarterly emails and would like to join in, or re-join, just drop a line to Paul Dickson at 131eyesandears@gmail.com and come and join the "family".

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

Enjoy this read at the latter part of Easter, then rest up, and get prepared to celebrate the 108th Anniversary of ANZAC Day with family, mates etc – Keep well.

I look forward to sharing photos and stories. Paul Dickson



WHAT'S HAPPENED TO VETERAN RESPECT- is this our Legacy?



The Vietnam War Memorial in Canberra has been defaced by vandals on the 10th March, 2024.

Pro-Palestine and **anti-colonial** messages were scrawled across the memorial in red paint at Anzac Park overnight.

Do these activities really help the offenders' causes?

Does this sound familiar...what's changed? –

An extract from MSM website 26.03.24...

Department boss denies 'blind spot' on veteran suicide...

The boss of the defence department denies suicide among veterans was until recently a "blind spot", while also revealing his understanding of the issue had changed.

Department secretary Greg Moriarty addressed the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide at a hearing in Sydney on Tuesday.

Counsel assisting Erin Longbottom KC asked Mr Moriarty whether it would be fair to say the department had a "blind spot" on veteran suicide before the 2020 Afghanistan Inquiry, also known as the Brereton Report, and other probes. "No, I wouldn't accept that," Mr Moriarty replied.

"Those reports and our experience of recent years has intensified focus on these issues."

He revealed there are not enough mental health workers able to assist defence members due a nationwide shortage of trained professionals.

At least 1600 Australian veterans and serving defence force members died by suicide between 1997 and 2020, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

The inquiry previously heard there was a backlog of more than 30,000 veteran compensation claims made to the Department of Veteran Affairs.

Australian Defence Force chief Angus Campbell will address the inquiry commission later in the week, with the final report due to be handed down in early September.

The final hearing on Thursday (28th March, 2024) concluded with the chief of the Australian Defence Force General Angus Campbell apologising "unreservedly" for the shortcomings of the military.

"Defence is committed and I am committed to doing better," he said.

Sadly how many times has this been stated over decades, if not longer. Paul Dickson



Committee Members:

<u>President:</u>	<i>Allen Morley</i>
<u>Vice President:</u>	<i>Bert Blink</i>
<u>Treasurer/Secretary:</u>	<i>Grahame Dignam</i>
<u>Public Officer:</u>	<i>Gordon Malcolm</i>
<u>Webmaster:</u>	<i>Bob Billiard</i>
<u>Research Officer:</u>	<i>Ernie Newbold</i>
<u>Design Development Officer:</u>	<i>Nick Proskurin</i>
<u>Eyes and Ears Editor:</u>	<i>Paul Dickson</i>

General Members: *Ian Amos, Ged Carroll, George Lane. Merv Nairn*

Regional Representatives: ACT- *Bert Blink*, Qld – *Terry Erbs*, SA – *Geoff Blackwell*, Vic – *Alan Adams*,
Vic Nth: *Ron Mason*, WA – *Barry Guzder*

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



Presidential perambulations

In February's *Eyes and Ears* I noticed that Phil Mulgrew described in a reply to Dicko that he had experienced open heart surgery for heart valve issues. Because I was undergoing tests for a faulty aortic valve I was interested in talking to Phil to check up on how he was progressing and to try to better understand what he had been through medically. We had a pleasant half hour chat covering the heart valve operation, our respective times in Nui Dat, that our paths within 131 had not crossed, downsizing our houses and he, as originally a Victorian, was now resident in Queensland whilst I was resident in NSW having left Victoria in 1974. Phil is doing very well which was pleasing information.

Recently I spent a couple of days in hospital having tests done which included an angiogram and a CT scan, plus blood tests and other checks. The angiogram was interesting as it involved a check via a tube inserted in my right wrist artery which then inspected the heart and surrounds. There was no general anaesthetic involved, just a mild sedation. To me it was over very quickly and I did question whether they had finished as the time seemed too short. Staff assured me that it had been completed and all was well. A cardiologist came to talk with me. He explained that up to age 70, open heart surgery was generally favoured. Over 80 the favourite was a TAVI (look it up on Google). At age 78, I was closer to the latter than the former, however he assured me I was an ideal candidate for a TAVI. After discharge from hospital a couple of weeks ago, I have not heard anything about my follow-up. Surgeons advised that there was no narrowing of my arteries around the heart and no blockages, which was reassuring.

With Easter with us in late March and the move into our new apartment due on May 1, my wife is concerned that there may be a timing clash between moving and surgery plus recovery. One post-TAVI conditions was no driving for a month, so the timing clash is real. Ah!, a call from the cardiac coordinator came in when I was driving this afternoon. I rang back but the phone call just rang out. Obviously it was news about the surgery timing which I'll have to wait until tomorrow to discover. Fortunately, the cardiologist told me the final decision between open heart and TAVI was largely up to me, as was the timing. Another aspect of timing was for the Sydney Anzac Day march and subsequent lunch may not be possible for me to be involved.

I explained my situation to my old 1st/83rd mate, Bill Taggart, who passed the news on to his group members. I was inundated with get well wishes, offers of prayers and general positive thoughts. That generous outpouring was unexpected but really appreciated. I'll let readers know how it all goes in April *Eyes and Ears*.

Regards
Allen



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

Minutes for the General Meeting of the 131 Locators Association Inc.
Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club, 26 Humphries Rd, Wakeley NSW 2176
and via Zoom internet on Tuesday 12 th March 2024

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

Attendees were:

Present were: Grahame Dignam, Gordon Malcolm,
Ernest Newbold, Ged Carroll, Bob Billiards,

Zoomed members were: Ron Mason, Paul Dickson, Bert Blink,
Brian Campbell, Ian Campbell, Warwick Brooker,
Rieny Nieuwenhof, Ian Campbell



Apologies: were received from Allen Morley, Terry Erbs, Steve Wynn, Ian Amos, George Lane, Jim Fitzgerald
Merv Nairn, Nick Proskurin and other State Reps

Stand in Chair Grahame Dignam welcomed those attending and those joining via Zoom.

Financial Membership is currently **126**, plus Associates **2**, plus Affiliates **16** Total **144**
Plus Lapsed as at 1/03/2024 **36**.

Presidents report.

Allen advised items for mention:

- . Anzac Day Marchers are asked to congregate as normal on the Corner Bent/Phillip Sts. Chifley Square. Then follow on to a Luncheon at BARRACKS restaurant in Barrack St at 12.30PM -booking arranged.
- . DVA has completed a draft proposal to merge the 3 separate ACTS covering Veterans welfare issues.
- . The Issue re the placement of plaques at the re-modelled Land Warfare Centre (old CANUNGRA JTC) needs investigation (see general Business).
- . Early report to-day (Tuesday) of vandal attack on the Vietnam Veterans War Memorial in Canberra by prop Palestine activists.

Public Officer Report. Gordon advised he has no issues to report.

Webmaster Update.

- . Robert advised Facebook members are now 417. We are attracting some who want to market non sponsored merchandise to our members- these are being barred.
- . We are also learning of posters connection of our veteran members (wider family members).

Health Report:

- . Allen reported that he is undergoing heart related tests. To date he is waiting for the results of an angiogram.
- . Most attendees are in good health although some have family matters to deal with.
- . Both Ern Newbold and Gordon Malcolm reported that cataract removal has been very beneficial for them.

General Business and around the grounds:

Discussions ensued on the following:

- . Photo Album advances – 40 odd sample pictures have been loaded onto the website to show what we need. Links to the website and gallery will be added to the Minutes and email appeal. See link below.
- . A discussion regarding a plaque suitable for placement at the Land Warfare Centre (old Canungra Jungle training Centre) agreed that we approach the trustees for the size of plaques acceptable. We have used varying sizes so should be able to replicate an appropriate plaque on behalf of the Detachment. Open link here ...
https://rslgld.org/-/media/rslgld/stock-images/news/article_canungra-vietnam_1.jpg
- . **Rieny Nieuwenhof** reported that the next Veterans HUB will be in Geelong opening 2025. The Hub will feature paid Advocates for the first time.
- . The Riverboat Cruise has been re-scheduled for 7 th May with all conditions to be re -advertised.

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.

. Upcoming Events Calendar –
131 Locators Association Committee Meeting
Date: Tuesday, 9th April, 2023 at 1100hrs **Venue: Canley Heights RSL & ;**
Sporting Club, 26 Humphries Rd, Wakeley NSW 2176
and via Zoom internetto be advised



. Birthdays in the Battery...April –

Date	Name	Regt No	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	Desmond John Spencer Temp/Bdr	3787905	03 01 1967	13 12 1967	
1	Ian Morris Capt.	243062	10 03 1970	09 07 1970	RAEME
	" "		09 07 1970	11 03 1971	106 Fd Wkshp
2	Hilton George Holloway	1736606	17 12 1970	02 05 1971	131
	" "		03 05 1971	26 10 1971	12 Fd Regt.
4	KEVIN Raymond "Soul" MAKER	2251507	27 08 1969	13 08 1970	† 24.05.2020
4	William Francis Laughlan	2788465	14 01 1969	27 08 1969	
7	John Alexander "Kanga" McFadden	2783243	05 05 1967	27 09 1967	
7	David Christopher Martin	2781662	22 04 1966	29 04 1967	
8	Richard John Bristow	1733143	12 04 1968	16 04 1969	
8	Leon Djatschenko	312532	27 08 1969	13 08 1970	
9	Terrence William Myers	217798	09 05 1969	30 04 1970	
11	Michael Eris McDonnell	2781377	04 05 1966	11 12 1966	
11	Terrence Daniel Fox L/Bd	1200934	08 07 1968	02 07 1969	
12	Kevin Raymond Bevans	3798316	13 02 1971	06 06 1971	131
	" "		07 06 1971	02 11 1971	12 Fd Regt
15	Rieny Anthony Nieuwenhof T/Bdr	3798241	11 02 1971	05 08 1971	
19	Ronald "Chalky" Vincent Royal WO2	23552	02 03 1967	20 02 1968	† 01.05.2002
19	Peter Andrew Clarke	3792212	11 11 1968	27 08 1969	† 20.02.2001
19	Barry Kenneth Dyson	3795956	04 06 1970	04 03 1971	
20	Anthony Charles Turner	1202849	27 01 1971	30 06 1971	131
	" "		01 07 1971	15 11 1971	12 Fd Regt.
21	Jeffrey Ronald Bassford L/Bdr	2792419	30 04 1970	14 04 1971	† 19.06.2022
21	Neville Peter Arthur Davis	5716997	11 02 1971	12 08 1971	
22	Barry Leonard Campton Capt.	61270	{14 07 1963	22 07 1963	
	" "		{12 08 1966	28 04 1967	
22	Mark Szypulski	313270	20 08 1970	07 03 1971	† 03.11.2016
	" "		08 03 1971	17 03 1971	131
23	Murray Lionel Smale	5411587	27 11 1967	20 08 1968	
24	JohannesGerard Anthony Las	3792338	23 09 1968	18 06 1969	
25	Kevin William Banks T/Bdr	3794366	27 11 1969	04 06 1970	
25	Quenton James Knight	2412578	10 12 1968	24 09 1969	† 18.01.2020
26	Graheme Charles Dignam	2784745	05 05 1967	20 02 1968	
26	William David Crowther	215416	22 04 1966	31 10 1966	† 14.01.2020
27	Gerald Ian Young Maj.	311460	{06 03 1967	04 04 1967	RAEME

	" "		{25 05 1967	22 06 1967	RAEME
28	Gary Wayne Lovell	218160	08 05 1969	30 04 1970	
29	Ronald Frederick Mason	3787154	04 05 1966	03 03 1967	
29	Kevin Anthony Thornton	2781420	04 05 1966	31 01 1967	
29	Bernard George Erica (Earwicker)	3787334	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	† 23.11.2016
29	Peter Robert Fuhrmann	3789807	21 06 1967	02 04 1968	
30	Ian Arthur McMillan	215117	16 07 1970	07 09 1970	

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

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 **175** and we've sent out **175**. Ed – Maybe we need to draw in a deep one so as to hold our breaths for a while longer.

. 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...

. Locating, Surveillance & Target Acquisition Association...



LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION
The Eyes and Ears of The Battlefield

Website: <https://www.locatingartillery.org>



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company www.artilleryhistory.org



Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia

Honour the dead, but fight like hell for the living

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

. 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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