

THE EYES and EARS

"FIRST PUBLISHED 22nd JULY 1967 in Nui Dat, South Vietnam".

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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 2025

59 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



Relaxing 1966



Out for a drive 1968



Building an LP 1968



Need Copter spare parts?

LEST
WE
FORGET
ANZAC DAY

ANZAC DAY 2025
COMMEMORATES
the
110th
ANNIVERSARY
of a day
WE should NEVER
FORGET



Allen Morley - the Sydney March.

On a sunny Sydney day the 131ers came out in good numbers for the 2025 Anzac Day march. Our numbers were again down on previous years, but not by a great deal. The crowds lining the march route were also fewer than in past years. Perhaps the forecast of inclement weather may have been an attendance factor. Nevertheless, after an extensive delay - typical military stand around and wait - we snuck into a space in the queue of service groups to reduce the time until our start off.

Our Detachment banner was proudly carried by cadets from the Dee Why Battalion which meant that we did not have to find banner guardians within our ageing group. So we set off down Elizabeth Street with no detour via the Cenotaph in Martin Place as in past marches. Gordon Malcolm placed himself on the port side of our group in order to catch the television cameras. Phil Endicott paced out until the end of the march despite some mobility issues. Others from our cohort strolled rather than marched, but still received applause from the public lining the barricades.

At march end the banner was unfurled as marchers headed off to their own destinations. A sub-group headed to *Barracks on Barrack* restaurant for an enjoyable lunch and friendly discussion.



Terry Erbs - "Despite wet weather in Brisbane for ANZAC Day 2025, large number of Locators marched behind Assoc. banners. ABC TV gave good coverage of the Centenary of Locating."

Brisbane ANZAC Day 2025

There was persistent heavy rain overnight in Brisbane and it continued on the pre-dawn drive to Gallipoli barracks. The usual large number cars were lined up at the main gate to enter the barracks, to attend Gallipoli's Barracks many unit's Dawn services.

The Royal Corp of Signals are commemorating 100 years of service, with 1 st Signals Regiment, 7 th Brigade Signals Regiment and 136 Signal Squadron all based at Gallipoli's Barracks. [they had many marquees erected to protect attendees].

My entry was made easy by Sgt Rod Alchin 133 Bty. being at the main gate with a list of visitors to 20 th Regiment [note- for those planning to visit Gallipoli barracks for the Regiment's family in June please complete the RSVP, on catingartillery.org notice board, to facilitate easy entry].

Like last year, the Regiment's Dawn service was held in the one of the Regiment's hangers and not at the Memorial wall in front RHQ. This was very fortunate for the large number of Locators, with young families; guests attending, they had dry seating out the rain.

This year the main address was given by Brigadier Fern Thompson commander of 16 th Aviation Brigade after which wreaths were laid by the CO Lt. Col. David Hickey for the Regiment, Russ Hamsey for LSTAA and Terry Erbs for 131 Bty Assoc. then families laid wreaths.

After the service, the normal gunfire breakfast was enjoyed by many and the two-up and crown & anchor games commenced.



From about 9.00 am Locators began gathering at the corner of George St and Charlotte St, where both banners had been delivered from the Regiment [thanks to the RSM Geoff Bruhn and Sgt. Rod Alchin for organising] Also thanks to the Regiment for the 4 banner carriers, who I suspect were "volunteered" by the RSM, they did a mighty job for us [well done fellas].



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Bob Billiards - got together in Largs Bay, South Australia



At left - Ken, Bob, Geoff and Barry



DAVID DOYLE- "From Dawn to Dusk ANZAC Day 2025 A time to remember, reflect, and honour those who gave and still give so much. Spent today with my beautiful family, making memories, grateful for the freedom they fought for. Lest we forget."



Hilton Holloway - "Hi Paul

I am in France, staying in Arras. Just woke up (1am) to get ready to go to the service at VB. Also attending the service at Bullecourt in the afternoon. Will send photos.

Cheers.

Hilton Holloway "

David Dougherty - MITTAGONG Video - <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1Bq6gSfyZr/> - of march at conclusion of mid-morning service taken by a member of Berrima District and Family History Museum. Carolyn (wife) laid the wreath on their behalf.

Regards, David."

Ed - The video is a good watch.

Rieny Nieuwenhof - attended the service in Port Arlington, Vic.

"A crowd of over 300 gathered for the Dawn Service and later the 11am service at Portarlington. About 10 Vietnam Veterans were present. Rieny."



Merv Nairn - "Anzac Dawn Service held at the Anzac Memorial in London, didn't know they had one. It was attended by my grandson. He said there was about 1000 in attendance. "

A 10 Year ANZAC DAY Memory Collage...Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Rockhampton, Brisbane, Perth, ANZAC Cove - some great memories...





Sandakan Death Marches

It's 80 years since "Approximately 2,400 Allied servicemen, including 1,787 Australians and 641 British soldiers died between January and August 1945 at Sandakan POW camp, along the track to Ranau and at Ranau itself. "By the end of August 1945, just six men survived the marches – all Australians.





Give me a Name?

The “Lost Locator Project”

This Project is being re-ignited for 2025.

Our current list contains the names of **84** Locators (as at 30.04.2025 – Ian “Scotty” McNicol advised Grahame Dignam of his contacting Ron “Sandy” Saunders) 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 May’s Birthday List, below, where there are **12** (two have now been noted as passing) 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.

However, this doesn’t mean that we still have contact with the total number of Battery/Detachment members we have Located over time as continuing correspondence has lapsed in a lot of cases. **I have 252 recipients (Association).** 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.

Date	Name	Regt No	DoB	SVN In	SVN Out	DVA Location
1	Dennis John Forster	39992	1949	30 04 1969	16 04 1970	Melbourne, Vic
4	Peter Kenneth Robertson Bdr	15543	1936	04 05 1966	29 04 1967	Brisbane, Qld
17	Kenneth Henry Spence Sanderson	3794846	1948	23 09 1969	13 08 1970	Wonthaggi, Vic
17	Laurence Paul Mion	3795762	1948	01 04 1970	03 12 1970	Melbourne, Vic
21	Michael James Coffey T/Sgt	36703	1937	20 05 1966	07 05 1967	Perth, WA RAAOC
21	Simon Anthony Willis	3797687	1948	02 12 1970	29 07 1971	Coonabarabran NSW
22	Andrew Cshivincsik	2790320	1947	02 12 1969	04 06 1970	Mannheim Baden, Germany
23	James Forbes Sellwood T/Bdr	1731045	1945	04 05 1966	30 04 1967	Brisbane, Qld
24	John Andrew Brewer T/Sgt (M.I.D.)	16220	1944	05 02 1968	07 02 1969	Brisbane, Qld 131
	" "			12 03 1970	25 02 1971	4 Fd Regt
28	Sytse Elzinga	3787318	1945	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	Netherlands
28	Frederick Brian Marwick L/Bdr	45285	1948	10 03 1971	28 06 1971	Adelaide, SA 131
	" "			28 06 1971	20 12 1971	12 Fd Regt
29	Charles Edward O'Neill	1735063	1946	15 04 1970	17 12 1970	Gordonvale, Qld
31	Stuart Ralph Philipson	3799990	1950	27 04 1971	17 12 1971	Melbourne, Vic

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

Paul Dickson

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

. Unknown/Known Dates of Deaths continues to be updated...as at 30.04.2025 –

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.

Sadly, we’ve added Michael James “Lofty” Coffey, Frank Halliday, Charles Edward O’Neill, Rex Terrence Arnold and Stuart Wyndham Sporn to the list below as they recently passed. (See Vales below)

10 Year Detachment/131 Battery Death Periods

Total

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	1	2	0	2	8
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	
1	4	4	4	2	9	5	6	5	4	44
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
8	4	5	5	6	8	10	10	10	3	69
Unknowns*										1
Total										156

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 **30.04.2025**.

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

This following sections have now been updated as of 31.01.2025 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 YOU give some thought to completing YOUR Locator Profile, which do add a personal background and also keeping in touch as it keeps us up to date with you and mates.

Ok, detectives, here’s more homework – still one more to find!

...continuing investigations –



131 Locators
“Cold Case Division”
 The Eyes & Ears of the Force

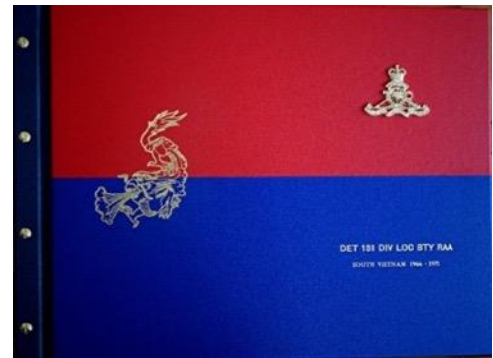
Paul Dickson – While catching up on some *Eyes & Ears* work I decided to have a check of the Ryerson Index website for Not Located names in various continuous editions and discovered the following links – to the passings of – **Michael James “Lofty” Coffey, Charles Edward O’Neill, Frank Halliday and Rex Terrence Arnold.**

I then communicated with **Chief Inspector Peter Meaney** who sadly delivered confirmations on the passings. The results can be seen in the Vales below.

Later, I discovered the Death Notice for **Stuart Wyndham Sporn** making it, sadly, **5 Lost Locators** located, but, not the outcome we’d hoped for.

May They Rest in Peace and Never be Forgotten

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



. Insights and Recollections...

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

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

Paul Dickson at - 131eyesandears@gmail.com

A small reflection as ANZAC Day marked a major memory for all of us, I noted that the 20th April this year was the 59th anniversary of my commencing my army service via the 4th Intake of National Service. 59 years is more than a life time for many others. I’m just so pleased to be able to share this anniversary with all of you, noting that I have known several of you longer than I shared life with both of my parents.

May we all be able to enjoy major anniversary dates.

Paul Dickson 1732012

...an email from Ernie Newbold – 20.05.2025 –

“G'day Paul,

Where I am located it is the 20th day of April, on this day in 1966 inductees of the 4th National Service Intake were to experience a life changing event and the opportunity to do things that the majority of them had never imagined. They would also meet people who would become lifelong friends who would share the experience as well as meet many others from earlier and later intakes.

That has made it all worthwhile, who would have realised all those years ago what it would lead to today, lest we forget those who shared the experience and are sadly no longer with us.

Regards, Ernie.”

...Allen Morley also sent an Anniversary email 20.05.2025 –

“April 20 2025 is the 59th anniversary of a group of scruffy civilians running the gauntlet of Save Our Sons at the Army's Swan St barracks. Take a bow 4th Intake! am.”



Rieny Nieuwenhof – forwarded the following information in relation to the placement of a plaque commemoration the 50th Anniversary of the GVVA's presence in the area -

In 2025 the Geelong Vietnam Veterans Association celebrates 50th years of existence providing welfare and advocacy support to veterans and their families in the Geelong region. During that time the Association has been located in various venues. The plaque commemorates the various locations (listed on the plaque) where members have provided help to veterans and their families. The plaque represents a significant social and historical statement of the Association's motto – “Honour the dead but fight like hell for the living”. The plaque is to be mounted on a rock and placed within the Geelong Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park.



David Dougherty – “Hi Paul,

This popped up on Facebook from Palmerston Forts and I thought it may be of interest.

The information comes from the Cutler Research Centre at North Head, Sydney, Australia.

Reference:

GARRISON ARTILERY DRILL. 1899 VOL. I. Part I. INSTRUCTION, II. COAST DEFENCE. SUBSECTION IV. - Electric Order, Range and Training Dials.

Full details available on the post on Facebook.

Click on the following link - <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1L6TKVjvUw/>

Regards,
David”

Ed – It’s an interesting read – a bit large for this edition, but click the link and get into it.



Bert Blink – “Hi Grahame & Paul

Please note the April Vetaffairs newsletter published a detailed description, a guide provided by RSL Australia, for Wearing Medals on Commemorative Occasions, see attached.

I believe this cleared up a lot of confusion.

(1) My main take on this was no matter what you first thought, for Army Unit Citations, they are worn on the Right Hand side.

(2) I was disappointed that protocol for wearing your Active Service Badge, on these occasions, was not mentioned.

Bert”

WEARING MEDALS ON COMMEMORATIVE OCCASIONS

A guide by RSL Australia

The Returned and Services League (RSL), established in 1916, has been at the forefront of commemorating the service and sacrifice of Australian servicemen and women for over a century.

The RSL leads the nation in commemorative services, working within communities to share the stories and history of those who have served, ensuring their legacy lives on. Commemoration reflects our commitment to educating Australians about the vital role the ADF has played, and continues to play, both domestically and internationally in shaping Australia.

This article serves as a general guide, offering suggestions for standardising the wearing of medals on commemorative occasions. It is intended to be a helpful resource, not a strict set of rules.

Placement of medals and badges

- Medals awarded to the wearer: These are worn on the **left** side of the chest or jacket. This includes campaign medals, bravery medals, and service medals.
- Ancestor's medals: Medals that were not awarded directly to the wearer, such as family medals, are worn on the **right** side of the chest or jacket. This indicates that the wearer is not the original recipient.
- State-issued medals: Medals for service and bravery issued by a state (e.g., for emergency service personnel) are worn on the right side of the chest or jacket.
- Association Badge (e.g., RSL): This badge is usually worn on the left side of the chest or jacket, typically above the medals.
- Combat Badge: This badge is also worn on the left side of the chest or jacket.

Medals Level: Medals should be worn in a horizontal line, with the top of the medals positioned at a consistent level. Your coat should be buttoned up to maintain a smart and respectful appearance.

Unit Citations

- Army and Air Force: Unit citations are worn on the **right** side.
- Navy: Navy citations are worn on the **left**, below the medals.

Anzac Day and Remembrance Day symbols

- Rosemary on Anzac Day: Rosemary is the traditional symbol of remembrance worn on Anzac Day in Australia. This is because rosemary grows wild on the Gallipoli peninsula, giving it special significance.
- Poppy on Remembrance Day: The poppy was formally adopted as the international memorial flower to be worn on 11 November by the Australian Returned Soldiers and Sailors Imperial League (the forerunner to the RSL). RSL Australia continues to uphold this tradition, encouraging the nation to wear a poppy on Remembrance Day.

The RSL is often asked about the correct protocols for wearing medals and we hope this guide will support those who have earned medals, and those who are wearing them in memory, to wear their medals proudly to honour our veterans and remember those who have served.

Lest we forget

24 Vetaffairs April 2025

Katrina Nairn is with Merv Nairn. 13th April, 2025 ·

Commemoration of Anzac service at Engadine today with dad. Normally the Sunday before Anzac day but because it falls on Easter it was today.

Lest we forget



Bill Taggart (1st/83rd US Artillery) – “Paul, congratulations on this wonderful milestone. What you have done is outstanding and I am positive is appreciated by all your loyal and grateful members, not to mention those of us from the 1/83rd who admire you and all of your hard work in taking the *E&E* up to issue number 200 it is a remarkable achievement!!
Bill.”

Bert Blink - the photo was taken at his ANZAC Day reunion in Canberra -

"LHS - Michael Bolitho, 1 RAR, Me, Jeremy Bishop, Various RAR visits.
RHS - Peter McCann , 8 RAR, his wife Elvi, Mary and Andrea Bolitho.

Note Peter self-published a book on his Vietnam experiences in 8RAR called "Where Have all the Birds Gone?".

Bert."



Derek Hinde - "G'day Paul,
I led the March (holding banner see the pic) in Tuncurry/Forster NSW today Fri 25th April 2025. Great turnout, lots of retirees living up here. 2 Pics encl.
Regards Derek Hinde.
President Great Lakes Vietnam Veterans Assoc. Sub-Branch."



Peter Dealy - "Hello Paul
ANZAC Day in the Goulburn Valley went very well with increased patronage.
I am part of the Numurkah RSL and we organise 6 separate ANZAC Services, big and small.
The local Secondary College organise the main service at Numurkah with assistance from the RSL. Primary and Secondary students are involved in all the Services.
All were a credit to themselves.
All the very best
Peter Dealy."



Mail Out ➡ **Ed** - I started this section in September, 2017 and have continued to write to Locators based on a year quarterly basis, by breaking down the names alphabetically into groups of one third of the then available list. The list has diminished over time, but, in general, there is a good core of blokes who communicate regularly 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.
Total Mail Out Members = 222 & Total Quarterly "Catch Up" Member Responders = 55

Mail In ← **- Here are the responses...**

George Clark – "Gooday Paul , I hope you and your boss are having a really good time on your travels. It is very sad the way some of our vets keep falling off the perch, but we all know that will come to all of us eventually. I am travelling to China later this year if that dickhead Trump has not started a world war in the meantime, and in August next year I am taking a 15 day river cruise through Europe, and I am really looking forward to that. It is something I have planned to do for some time .
Keep safe mate and I look forward to chatting with you again soon .
Yours sincerely,
George Clark."

Steve Wynn – "G'day mate,
Good to hear you are both well, and still firing on all eight. I must confess, I haven't read E&E yet, got it on my PC, but with so much going on - read it soon.
I am getting even more slack than I was, just can't get up to turn the PC on, more truthful is probably couldn't be bothered. I don't watch TV or listen to news, not interested in bad news, and nothing ever changes politically, so no one is telling me anything new.
What a damn hide, how dare you take a few weeks off. Is there anywhere in the world you haven't been in the last couple of years, don't answer that, I am sure you will find somewhere, like Antarctica or outer space. Sounds like you are doing what you should be doing mate, before it is too late and you can't.
I would be very careful around people with sterilization gear, don't fall asleep or look the other way, although I 'got done' back in 75. I thought it best that the world could do without too many more of me running around.
You must be an expert at shaving now, I look like I've lost a knife fight after using a razor blade, electric only now for me and even that is dangerous ha, ha.
Unfortunately I have been stuck at home or visiting GP's, specialists or having a few days in my regular hotel (hospital). My family call it my hotel. I did have my long distance eye fitted/implanted with a new lens, yippee, I can see for miles with clarity but the other eye, short distance (monovision) is blind, so still can't see things, unless I shut my short eye. Then next month I get a new short vision lens implanted. Marvellous what they can do now, I have ordered the focal lengths I want, or I could have had multi-focal lenses implanted, brilliant. Has cost me \$6K though, private hospital again. Next eye is in public hospital, run out of money. Can't complain about the private costs though, it leaves the public for dead in every way.
The next three months wasted with hospital (2 stays), GP (4 visits), Pathology (4 visits) Ophthalmologists (3 visits), and Cardiologist (hopefully only 1 visit), that is currently known. You can see why I don't have any time, or couldn't be bothered anymore.
Still, could be worse eh, I could live in Mexico and get free sterilization, although I am not sure about you doing it, especially the shaving bit.
Take care you two, and look after Helen mate,
Steve."

Merv Nairn – "G'day Paul,
Great to hear from you after your obviously interesting trip. You must have stayed safe as your home in one piece. Great that you have managed to get back into the home routine and back to your social work. Congratulations on that. I have been doing my usual in going to see music shows, musicals and concerts have been to see some very good country artists out from the states and doing national tours. I have a liking for country music in particular but really like all types of music. I go to Tamworth every year for the Country Music Festival. I have been going there for 5 years and this year had a bit of a record in that I saw 13 shows in 10 days some ticketed and some free.
I am going to Thailand in a few weeks with family and friends for my 80th. will spend a few weeks there and have already decided on a restaurant that we know has a view over Patong and the ocean, if we get our timing right we should get a sunset. Not all my kids can come so we are having a dinner here locally the week before. We will have all 5 of my kids here for that and one of my sons made the statement that this will be the first time that we have all been together since my wife's funeral 8 years ago. So will be quite emotional.
Well enough of my waffling see you on the next zoom I believe it will be all zoom again this week due to renovations at the club so adios for now. Merv."

John Richmond – "Hi Paul
Just back from a few days down the south coast.

How could any want to go any other place than to go to the NSW south coast. We spent our time based at Narooma. weather great and the accommodation very comfortable. we normally go to Batemans Bay. Why would u want to go north, when we are only a couple of hours drive from Canberra

Am just recovering from another cause of radiation treatment for my prostate cancer treatment. Have now been under treatment for over 10 years viz Operation in 2014, adiation 2015, male hormone treatment 2014 and 2020, pet scan earlier this year found a small cancer. Should get the result later this month

Sad to see so many blokes dying in the past time. Shows that it is 50+ years since Vietnam was ended.

Canberra is at its very best. Cool to clod mornings at very pleasant days.

See U.

JR."

John Vitkovsky – ‘G'day Dicko,

Boy, you certainly get around!

Nothing much to report, except got a Red Dot scope for my Pardini target pistol operational finally. Had to get the special dovetail mounts made in USA. Certainly improves the scores, as don't need to line up back and front sights, but just put the red dot on the bullseye and shoot. By the way, it is a Red Dot scope, not a Laser red dot. Now used by most armed forces. Rested, 30mm groups at 25 metres - yippee!

Grandson Felix has been terrorising us for the last week after flying down from Brisbane on his own - he is 14! Would never have happened in my younger days. Just about wore out my Diana air rifle shooting holes through tin cans - took him down to the Goolwa Gun Club on Wednesday, and he shot a very respectable 93% over 50 metres with my old Brno .22, which I bought 46 years ago.

Starting to plan our next extended caravan getaway up north in early May - this time around the top end from Darwin to Karumba and north of Cairns. Then, in September, the annual South Coast Veterans camp at Mannum on the Murray River for a few days. That's about it. Pic. of what a modern airgun does to tin cans - straight through both sides....

Cheers, JV."



Ken Osborne - "Dear Paul, just a short note to let you know I am still alive though I am finding it harder to get around, that's the trouble in getting old.

I am still at home but I do have a man who comes once a fortnight to do some unescorted shopping and some tasks around the house which I struggle to do myself. I also have finally got a gardener to do some weeding and to tidy the garden up. Veterans Affairs kept telling me I had been allocated a certain number of hours per month for the tasks but it took nearly two years before the provider actually got a person to do the tasks, so better late than never. I had been paying a couple of people to do the tasks beforehand waiting for DVA to come good but as I couldn't handle myself and I could not expect my children to do them, so I paid.

My children live around 300 kilometres away and they do things when they visit, but that is not the purpose of a family visit. How long they will continue the support I do not know, however I expect to be making another request soon after the next visit from the gardener .

Apart from these problems, I keep busy doing my Wordle every morning, then some family history, read a bit, watch the news programmes and try to work out how my mobile phone, laptop and digital voice recorder work. They all have functions that I haven't mastered yet, but I am trying hard to do so. They all have a small number of buttons that each do several functions depending in which order you press them, so it gets a little confusing at times, or more likely very confusing, but working on it.

So keep well, sorry to hear of a couple of the Arty blokes I knew having passed, makes me worry as I am older than they were, so my sympathies to all of their families,

Regards Ken Osborne."

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

Locator's Centenary Reunion Brisbane 20/21/22 June 2025

As a result of increased exercise commitments (a testimony to the popularity and importance of the unit), 20th Regiment has had to delay their unit Family Day and parade. To remain in lockstep with the Regt. the LSTAA Committee has decided to delay the Reunion by one week.

The Committee wishes to apologise to those who have been inconvenienced by the changes. Unfortunately, these changes have been unavoidable but do reflect the importance of our supported unit and their role.

Friday 20th June

5pm, Kedron Wavell RSL, Chermside, to attend the LSTAA Annual General Meeting in the boardroom. 6pm Cocktail Party for Locators, wives & partners in "Long Tan Room" to commemorate 100 years of Locating. Drinks & nibbles in the Sky Lounge, dress smart casual. COCKTAIL PARTY COST PER PERSON \$60 It's President's Bar Tab then drinks at own cost.

If needed, free transport is planned for visitors, leaving Brisbane's ANZAC Square at 4.30pm for Kedron Wavell RSL, returning to ANZAC Square approx. 10.30pm.

Saturday 21st June

10am, 20th Regiment RAA will host a "family day" at **Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera**.

There will be a Formal parade of 20th Regiment RAA, to commemorate 100 years of Locating, the re-raising of 133 Bty. and the presentation of a Theatre Streamer for service in Iraq. Veterans, jacket and medals for the Formal parade.

After the parade, the Regiment's equipment will be displayed and a Family barbeque will be available in the Checkley Annex.

If needed, free transport is planned for visitors, leaving Brisbane's ANZAC Square at 9.30am and returning approx. 3.30pm. There will be car parking available at the Regiment attendees must provide your Car Rego via RSVP for vehicle entry.

Cocktail party payments to LSTAA treasurer via direct transfer to Westpac BSB 032 082 a/c 229365 and please include your "name" and the word "Reunion" on the payment as reference.

Sunday 22nd June

For those interested, Brunch is proposed at the **Ship-Inn Hotel at South Bank**.

Because of security requirements for entry into Gallipoli Barracks & for catering purposes, please indicate your intentions day by day and your car details on the RSVP form...

Submit RSVP FORM <https://forms.gle/MM4SJCfa47FproHUA> by 31st May

The program will be posted on the relevant artillery Facebook sites and the notice board of the LSTAA website www.locatingartillery.org notice board, also in 131 Locator's Association's "Eyes & Ears" <https://www.131locators.org.au/newsletter/latest-edition.html#notice>

Terry Erbs President LSTAA

58 Years
April 1966 – April 2024



Have you tried to source us or your mates via Facebook?

Why not give it a go, if you haven't already, just click onto the Association's Facebook via the link below, then let us know what you think...

Hey, you don't have to have a Facebook page of your own...

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

Ernie Newbold forwarded in the following link – copy paste and read April’s edition -

SALUTE

Official Journal of the Totally and Permanently
Incapacitated Veterans' Association of New South Wales Limited
Winter 2024

The link below will take you to the TPI NSW’s latest Newsletter – It’s a worthwhile read as it contains information from DVA and some great stories...

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=55f192afee&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1802742395713089188&th=1904a0a85603eea4&view=att&disp=safe>

Peter Ravelje forwarded the following in relation to the 2025 Vets Act...

Claims processing data – January 2025

The Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) continues to process outstanding claims as quickly as possible, to deliver much needed help to veterans and families sooner.

As part of our commitment to routinely, publicly, and meaningfully reporting on claims processing progress, each month DVA releases updated data via the [claims processing](#) page.

A snapshot of January 2025:

- DVA received **7,187** claims in January bringing the total for the financial year to date (FYTD) to 56,462 claims – 19.8 per cent higher than the same period last year.
- DVA made **7,468** determinations and has finalised 55,983 claims in the FYTD, 0.7 per cent more than the equivalent period last year.
- **75,600** claims were with an officer for processing and **6,056** claims were yet to be allocated for processing.
- The average time taken to process a MRCA IL claim was **296 days** in the 2024-25 FYTD (1 July 2024 to 31 January 2025), compared to 391 days in the corresponding 2023-24 FYTD.

2025 (the VETS Act).

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide recommended the Government simplify and harmonise the framework for veteran rehabilitation, compensation and other entitlements in its Interim Report in August 2022.

The legislation means that from 1 July 2026, the *Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA) and the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related claims) Act 1988* (DRCA) will close to new compensation claims. All claims received from 1 July 2026 will be determined under an improved *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act* (MRCA).

Payments being received under the VEA and DRCA prior to 1 July 2026 will be grand-parented – this means they will continue uninterrupted (and will continue to be indexed).

The VETS Act does not change the existing arrangements for income support payments such as the Energy Supplement, Income Support Supplement or Service Pension. Veterans with Qualifying Service will also continue to be eligible for the Gold Card at age 70.

The start date of the new arrangements gives veterans, families and advocates time to understand how they might be impacted and make plans for their individual circumstances.

Consolidating the legislation into one Act will result in a system where it is easier for veterans and families to understand their entitlements. A single Act for all new claims will also be simpler to administer, benefiting veterans and families over time through claims being processed in a consistent and timely way.

The Act will implement a range of improvements:

1. A new Additional Disablement Amount (ADA), similar to the Extreme Disablement Adjustment (EDA) available under the VEA, will be introduced. Like the EDA, the ADA will compensate veterans who are of Age Pension age or older and who have a high degree of incapacity due to service-related conditions. The ADA will be subject to the same offsetting arrangements that exist for the Special Rate Disability Pension (SRDP) under the MRCA, taking account of Commonwealth-funded military superannuation payments.
2. The Repatriation Commission will be able to specify injuries and diseases that can be accepted on a presumptive basis where they are known to have a common connection with military service.

3. DRCA veterans with high levels of impairment may, for the first time, be able to qualify for Special Rate Disability Pension and a MRCA Gold Card (subject to meeting the relevant MRCA criteria).
4. Eligibility for household services and attendant care will be expanded to VEA veterans.
5. The higher travel reimbursement amount, regardless of kilometres, will be available to all veterans when a private vehicle is used to travel for treatment.
6. The automatic granting of VEA funeral benefits will be retained, with the benefit increasing to \$3,000; and funeral expenses up to \$14,062 for all service-related deaths will be reimbursed.
7. Allowances and other payments will be standardised, including acute support packages, education schemes, and additional compensation for children of severely impaired veterans.
8. Veterans receiving DRCA incapacity payments will automatically transition to MRCA incapacity payments on the date of commencement.
9. Where the Repatriation Medical Authority updates a Statement of Principles (SOP) between the veteran's primary and reviewable decision, the version of the SOP which is most beneficial to the veteran's circumstances will be applied.
10. The Repatriation Commission will be able to determine circumstances where a vulnerable veteran must receive financial advice before receiving a lump sum payment, helping recipients make the right decisions.



Committee Members:

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

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>



59 Years
April 1966 – April 2024



DET 131
DIV LOC BTY
RAA
IATF
SOUTH VIETNAM
1966 – 1971
Lest We Forget



. **Pertinent Points** – extracted from the 131 Locators Association Committee **Zoom** meeting...
Date: Tuesday, 8th April, 2025 at 1105hrs... via Zoom internet \ on Tuesday 8th April 2025

Present on Zoom were **Allen Morley, Paul Dickson, Grahame Dignam, Terry Erbs**

Bert Blink, Brian Campbell, Kevin Browning, Bob Billiards

Gordon Malcolm, Ged Carrol and Merv Nairn (both Merv and Ged had no screen images)



Apologies: Apologies were received from George Lane, Ian Amos. Barry Guzder, Jim Fitzgerald, Nick Proskurin and other **State Reps**

Financial Membership is currently ...**118**, plus Associates **2** plus Affiliates **16** Total **144**
Plus Lapsed as at 1/04/2025 **40** members

Presidents report. Allen referenced.

- Anzac Day in Sydney has been arranged . Meet at the usual place on the Cnr Bent and O'Connell sts under the banner. Lunch will be at Barracks on Barrack street at 12.01PM.
- He has had a win with the DVA after they accepted his medical conditions as "war caused with a resulting increase in pension of 0.60c per pay.
- He has been in contact with 131 Bty and 20 Regiment and is waiting for clarification of their preferences in regard to the digitization of the Photo album.

Public Officer Report. Gordon has no issues to report. He advised he will be in Europe for the next 2 meeting.

Webmaster Update. Robert advised Facebook members are 511. We are being selective in approving new members. Those with no links to 131 and those selling non sponsored merchandise are barred.

Health. We have received info regarding Steve Wynn needing a welfare check. We have approached Wauchope RSL, but they don't have the resources to assist. We will contact Port Macquarie RSL, a larger club in his local area.

General Business and around the grounds.

Discussions ensued on the following:

- . Members advised their travel plans for the near future - One going to Southeast Asia in May another to Germany from late May to late June – another to Europe and will be away until the July meeting (names have been omitted for personal security reasons).
- . Gordon is attending his local school's Anzac Day activities.
- . Dicko requested photos of Anzac Day activities wherever you are.

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, 13th May, 2025 at 1100hrs

Venue: Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club, 26 Humphries Rd, Wakeley NSW 2176
and via Zoom internet link to be advised



. Birthdays in the Battery...May –

Date	Name	Regt No	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	Dennis John Forster	39992	30 04 1969	16 04 1970	Melbourne, Vic
2	Nicholas Andrew Holt Armstrong T/Bdr	43316	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	
2	Michael Murray Young	2786087	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	† 08.10.2023
2	Brett Geoffrey Rainsford	4719790	19 12 1968	28 11 1969	
4	Brian Ernest Killworth	2782129	04 05 1966	02 03 1967	
4	Peter Kenneth Robertson Bdr	15543	04 05 1966	29 04 1967	Brisbane, Qld
5	David George Cornell	5713808	07 08 1966	30 04 1967	
8	John "Beau" Leslie Roberts	3787005	04 05 1966	29 04 1967	† 20.11.2018
8	Graeme Arthur Owen	39453	08 11 1968	19 11 1969	
10	Kenneth Oliver Woodbine	2786077	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
10	Michael John Quinlan	2788865	08 11 1968	05 11 1969	
11	Robert Bruce King	2785420	10 06 1967	23 04 1968	
12	Mervyn Douglas Nairn	2781450	20 05 1966	01 05 1967	
12	Gordon Benton Williams 2Lt	2783891	13 05 1968	26 03 1969	
13	David Derek Keech	311588	04 06 1970	10 06 1970	131 † 08.12.1999
	" "		11 06 1970	26 05 1971	AATTV
15	Leslie Phillip Connell	6709098	23 09 1969	13 08 1970	† 04.04.2011
17	Paul Arthur Angel	2790740	23 09 1969	04 06 1970	

17	Kenneth Henry Spence Sanderson	3794846	23 09 1969	13 08 1970	Wonthaggi, Vic
17	Laurence Paul Mion	3795762	01 04 1970	03 12 1970	Melbourne, Vic
18	Peter William Colman	2791655	22 12 1969	17 12 1970	
19	Dennis James Dye	2412366	27 11 1967	26 11 1968	
19	Terrill "Terry" John Weekes	3787197	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	† 03.09.1996
19	John David Tickle T/Sgt.	214000	03 03 1971	13 08 1971	131
	" "		14 08 1971	09 09 1971	12 Fd Regt
20	Nicholas Proskurin	2785002	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
21	Michael James Coffey T/Sgt	36703	20 05 1966	07 05 1967	† 13.04.2006 RAAOC
21	Peter Ravelje	3794461	16 12 1969	04 06 1970	
21	Stuart John Telford	2791930	20 01 1970	03 12 1970	† 28.03.1972
21	Simon Anthony Willis	3797687	02 12 1970	29 07 1971	Coonabarabran NSW
22	Brian Eric Turner	2412230	20 05 1966	02 05 1967	
22	Andrew Csivincsik	2790320	02 12 1969	04 06 1970	Mannheim Baden, Germany
23	James Forbes Sellwood T/Bdr	1731045	04 05 1966	30 04 1967	Brisbane, Qld
24	John Andrew Brewer T/Sgt (M.I.D.)	16220	05 02 1968	07 02 1969	Brisbane, Qld 131
	" "		12 03 1970	25 02 1971	4 Fd Regt
26	Kenneth Allen Whittle	2781996	20 05 1966	27 03 1967	
26	Bert Eppo Blink	3789692	10 06 1967	21 05 1968	
26	Raymond John Mitchell	218731	30 05 1970	10 12 1970	† 24.09.2011 - 131
	" "		10 12 1970	11 03 1971	4 Fd Regt
27	Peter Westcott	553640/8230876	26 10 2000	20 04 2001	EAST TIMOR
	" "		02 11 2005	10 06 2006	IRAQ
28	Sytse Elzinga	3787318	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	Netherlands
28	Frederick Brian Marwick L/Bdr	45285	10 03 1971	28 06 1971	Adelaide, SA 131
	" "		28 06 1971	20 12 1971	12 Fd Regt
29	Charles Edward O'Neill	1735063	15 04 1970	17 12 1970	† 22.02.2024
29	Roger Anthony Pryke	312827	30 05 1970	26 05 1971	
30	Roger Crellin Long	3788775	05 06 1967	12 12 1967	† 22.05.1990
30	Ronald Adrian Webb	1411172	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	† 29.03.1977
30	Anthony Sherwin Eaton Capt.	17090	14 01 1969	30 07 1969	
30	Warwick Stephen Brooker	1732289	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
31	Stuart Ralph Philipson	3799990	27 04 1971	17 12 1971	Melbourne, Vic

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

Ed – 12 blokes not highlighted is looking bloody terrible. **That's 11 out of 36 (still with us) or about 33.3% not Located. This needs attention!**

. Locator Profiles – we've received **181. Ed** – Maybe we need to draw in a deep one so as to hold our breathes 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.

Vale - A comment for ALL Locators mentioned below...

Bill Taggart (1st/83rd US Artillery) – “Paul, Sadly I see this has been a difficult day for the 131. As always, please pass along the condolence of the 1/83rd to the families if the 3 recent locators who just passed. Lest We Forget.
Bill

1/83rd Website link... www.1stbn83rdartilleryvietnam.com “

...**16th April, Bill** added another heart felt thought on Stuart Sporn's passing – “Paul, I am so sorry for the rash of bad and sad news for your group lately, a sad sign of our times. Once again, please pass along the condolences of the 1/83rd to Stuart's family. Lest We Forget. Bill.”

Vale

Paul Dickson - I was just going through the **Lost Locator** segment for the April *Eyes & Ears* edition today (7th April, 2025) and sourced the Reyerson Index and came across matching leads as to our Lost Leaders and contacted **Peter Meaney**, and as usual, Peter confirmed the information supplied by the following cemetery memorial plaque in the Stanthorpe Cemetery.

Michael served with the Detachment in the Royal Australian Army Ordinance Corp from 20th May, 1966 to 7th May 1967.



W.O.1 Michael James "Lofty" Coffey

BIRTH	21 May 1937
DEATH	13 Apr 2006 (aged 68)
BURIAL	Stanthorpe Cemetery Stanthorpe, Southern Downs Region, Queensland, Australia Add to Map
PLOT	Columbarium Wall 4 Row A Niche 8
MEMORIAL ID	188489213 · View Source



Name: Coffey, Michael James "Lofty"

Service No: 36703 Rank: W01
Royal Australian Army Ordinance Corp

SVN In: 20.05.1966 SVN Out: 07.05.1967

DoB: 21.05.1937 DoD: 13.04.2006

Lest We Forget



Vale

Paul Dickson - I was just going through the **Lost Locator** segment for the April *Eyes & Ears* edition today (7th April, 2025) and sourced the Reyerson Index and came across matching leads as to our Lost Leaders and contacted **Peter Meaney**, and as usual, Peter confirmed the information supplied of **Frank Halliday's** passing by the following cemetery information at the Morpeth General Cemetery...

Frank Halliday

BIRTH	30 Mar 1937
DEATH	22 Feb 2024 (aged 86)
BURIAL	Morpeth General Cemetery Morpeth, Maitland City, New South Wales, Australia Add to Map
PLOT	Church of England Cemetery, Section A Plot 4
MEMORIAL ID	277645570 · View Source



Name: Halliday, Frank

Service No: 215105 Rank: Sergeant

SVN In: 02.01.1967 SVN Out: 13.12.1967

Bravo Radar

DoB: 30.03.1937 DoD: 22.02.2024

Lest We Forget



Bill Wight – “Hi Paul

Just a few words on Sgt Halliday. Frank or as I knew him as "Doc" arrived in Vietnam 10 days prior to my arrival. Doc was my right-hand man during 1967. He was a sergeant's sergeant. Always level-headed and one of nature's gentlemen.

As a junior officer Doc supported and advised me throughout our time together.

Doc was my "ROCK of Gibraltar" in SVN.

Rest in Peace Doc. Gone but never forgotten.

The attached photo was taken at the back beach bar at Vung Tau during a R&C break.

Sincere Regards

Bill Wight.”



Vale

Paul Dickson - I was just going through the **Lost Locator** segment for the April *Eyes & Ears* edition today (7th April, 2025) and sourced the Reyerson Index and came across matching leads as to our Lost Leaders and contacted **Peter Meaney**, and as usual, Peter confirmed the information supplied by the passing of **Charles Edward O'Neill** by the subsequent Death Notice posted in the Cairns Post on 18th February, 2023...

Death notice for

O'NEILL, Charles Edward



Publication: The Cairns Post



Date Listed: 18/2/2023



Location: Cairns

Late of Caravonica Waters Aged Care and formerly of Freshwater. Charles passed away peacefully, at Caravonica Waters, on Friday 10th February 2023, aged 76 years. A private family farewell was held for Charles on Friday 17th February 2023, prior to his cremation.

Rest In Peace.

10/02/2023



Name: O'Neill, Charles Edward

Service No: 1735063 Rank: Gunner

SVN In: 15.04.1970 SVN Out: 17.12.1970

DoB: 29.05.1946 DoD: 10.02.2023

Lest We Forget



Vale

Paul Dickson – On another search through our **Lost Locator** archives on 9th April 2025 I found a match for **Rex Terrence ARNOLD** on the Reyerson Index which **Peter Meaney** verified by the following grave search as per below.



Rex Terrance Arnold

BIRTH	10 Jul 1949 Loxton, District Council of Loxton Waikerie, South Australia, Australia
DEATH	1 Jun 2021 (aged 71)
BURIAL	Carinya Gardens Mount Gambier, Mount Gambier City, South Australia, Australia  Add to Map
PLOT	She-Oak Garden, Row X, Grave 27-6
MEMORIAL ID	278035955 · View Source

Rieny Nieuwenhof – “I served with Rex in 1971 with 131 at Nui Dat and the Horseshoe. Rex was a country boy from the Wimmera. Condolences to his family. Sorry no photos of Rex to share.”.

Vale

Paul Dickson – a pause in communication between myself and **Stuart**, and a suggestion of a possible passing of **Stuart**, lead me to discover the following Death the following notice was extracted from **Simplicity Funerals** stating all the correct details.

Death notice for

SPORN, Stuart Wyndham

 Share

 Publication: NT News  Date Listed: 11/1/2025  Location: Larrakeyah

Husband of Jan and father to Scott (Dec), Kelly and Kristie.

Known as Stu, Dad, Uncle, Digger, Legatee, friend and colleague and sometimes names that won't go to print.

A victim of illness which slowly took his life. He put in a gutsy performance until a fall ultimately knocked him off the perch.

There will be no funeral service however a memorial service will be held in May. Details will be announced closer to the time.

22/08/1945 – 03/01/2025





Name: Sporn, Stuart Wyndham

Service No: 4718471 Rank: Gunner

SVN In: 05.05.1967 SVN Out: 30.01.1968

DoB: 22.08.1945 DoD: 03.01.2025

Lest We Forget



Locator Profile

Surname: Sporn

Given Name: Stuart

Nickname: Gottlieb

What did you do before the army: Bank Johnnie

Service dates from: 14/7/66 to 12/07/68 **Intake No:** 5 **State of Origin:** NT **Recruit training centre:** Puckapunyal

Dates in Nui Dat: 5/5/67 to 30/1/68 **What was your location/s in Nui Dat:** 32 Bravo Radar

Who were you there with: Sgt Frank (Doc) Halliday, Bdr Tom King, Lbdr Chris Bouilly, Gnrs - Mick Luff, Mick King, Frank Ipsa, Roger Long, John Vickary, Lionel Outen, Ian Amos, Frank Pepper (Can't remember the others)

What did you do after the army: Returned to the Banking Industry spending most time in Darwin.

Survived Cyclone Tracy Christmas Eve 1974 on the day our first daughter was due to be born. I left the industry in 1983 after 20 years. (Transferred back South where we were not keen to live and jumped ship)

Joined NT Health Dept shortly after and retired in 2006. I spent most of those 20 odd years working with and developing mainframe accounting systems including Secretary of the National User group for 7 years.

I did a couple of trips to Sri Lanka while a mate was operating a construction business there. Visited Vietnam in 1995 with my wife for a month backpacking from Hanoi to Saigon, (A surprisingly great experience)

I have been heavily involved with LEGACY NT for over 20 years which has been a challenging but rewarding experience for our small outfit.

Anything else of interest: Married Jan in March 1967 and still married!!!! (To the same woman?????)

National Service has had a significant effect on my life. Attended a Locators Reunion in June 2009 catching up with old comrades I haven't seen for 40 years.

What city do you live in now: Darwin NT



Gnr Sporn off to FSB
Santa Fe Jan '68



Gnr Ian Amos passing
@ 32 Bravo



Stuart Sporn 2008



Gns Hans Weber & Stuart
Sporn having early "tinnies" (Coffs 2009)

Paul Dickson – a couple of photos from Stuart's archives – the one on the left has to be the Bravo Radar crew...



Allen Morley – “Dicko, I first met Stewie Sporn at Holsworthy. He was a cheery Gunner. At Nui Dat I visited my mate Roger Long at Bravo radar. Met up with Stewie again who was complaining about Longie - a pretty common situation. In the end Stewie made up a metal award for Longie celebrating his constant grizzling. I know there is a photo of the award, but I couldn't find it in my photos.

In our post-Vietnam get together Roger and I often met up at the Cricketers' Bar in Melbourne. He talked about Stewie's award each time, still not understanding why he had been recognised this way.

Two characters that I had enjoyed the company of. Together again.

RIP Stewie Sporn.

am”

John Vitkovsky – “Hi Paul, he was a good bloke: although I didn't realise that he served in SVN from May 66 to Jan 68?. Cheers. JV.”

Barry Guzder – “Dicko,

This is terrible.

I remember Stu from when we first met up at Holsworthy.

We discovered that we both worked for the E S & A bank(later swallowed by ANZ). I was 5th Intake as well.

Getting a bit too close for comfort !

Anyway, so long Gunner.

Barry Guzder.”

Ernie Newbold – “G'day Paul,

Sad news regarding Stuart Sporn, slowly we are losing the guys we served alongside all those years ago. I have attached a photo of the group of locators who returned to Australia on the 30th January 1968 which included Stuart, centre of second row, taken at the Detachment HQ prior to travelling to Luscombe Field for one last Caribou flight to Saigon, then on board a Qantas Boeing 707 headed for home. As the plane headed down the runway of Tan Son Nhut airport the Tet offensive of 1968 was just commencing less than 24 hours after this photo was taken their feet were on the ground at Sydney airport.

Regards,

Ernie.”



May They Rest in Peace, and Never be Forgotten.



Vales and Locator Profiles...

This is just a request to all and general, that we need to complete, and perhaps, update Locator Profiles, because as of times past and as time moves forward we have lost and will continue to lose mates.

Let's keep a memory alive.



The Vale section in *Eyes & Ears*, can at times be very scant of personal and service details, yes, there is the DVA Nominal Roll which contains tour dates, but supplies nothing for those who did not serve overseas, and contains no personal details.

Is it possible that we can have Locator Profiles completed with photos, where possible, and/or updates to make this section more honouring to those mates who pass and may be unknown to others to help make the Unit and Detachment archived history have more heart?

Take 10 minutes, please, to complete a Locator Profile as it is important to all of us.

For a blank Locator Profile contact Paul Dickson at 131eyesandears@gmail.com



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



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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