

THE EYES and EARS

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



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ANZAC Day 2014 starts in Adelaide...

Peter Ravelje got the first report in with the following...



"G'day Paul,
I was hosted by Peter & Annie Meaney this Anzac Day. Myself, Peter & Phil Johns (68-69) were the small 131 contingent that marched under the RAA banner in Adelaide. A very enjoyable day.
Peter Ravelje"

Then the flood gates opened – next was **Sydney** with a great collection of photos from **Bob King**...



Allen Morley reported in with the following

-
“Rain but no Royalty. That was Anzac Day 2014 in Sydney.

We were shuffled around all up and down O’Connell St by the marshalls. Eventually Cadets Sean Lewis and Jennifer Horne volunteered to carry the Detachment banner. Gunners appeared slowly from all directions to chat and wait for action. Then through the crowd came former Det 131 Div Loc Bty OC, Tim Ford. It was good to see him. The photo shows Ernie Newbold and Nick Proskurin with Tim. (below)



A good turn up. They all look in good health - Wirey has beaten cancer, Merv has an as yet unidentified mass on one kidney. A good mob.
A total 25 marched behind the banner. I’m not sure who a couple of ring-ins were, but that was not an issue.
Overall it was a good day despite the rain
At the march end we dried out a bit, repacked the banner and headed off for lunch at Zest restaurant in City Tatts club.

A total of 11 131ers broke bread together and caught up with all the news. We welcomed Dave Crowther and Kevin Thornton for their first lunch with us. And it was terrific to see Ged Carroll marching after his recent hospitalisation.
Cheers, Allen”



Roundup of the suspects at right - Jim Fitzgerald, Kevin Thornton, Merv Nairn, George Lane, Allen Morley, Ernie Newbold, Dave Crowther, Ged Carroll, Nik Proskurin, Brian Hackett, Bob King and Ken McNamara (Brig ret'd).

...then there is the collection sent in by **Dave Crowther**..."Hi Dicko, Hope you had a good one today. A couple of snaps from Sydney.



Keith Dean & grandson
Zac at right

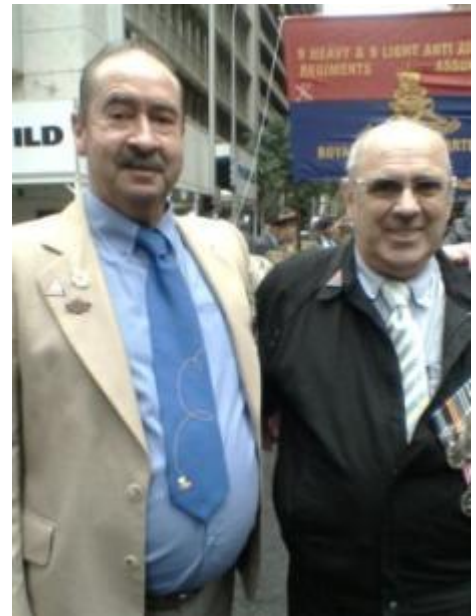
and

Kevin Thornton, George
Lane & Gerry Carroll at
left



At left -George Lane & Gerry
Carroll

Dave Crowther and Kevin
Thornton at right



John Lochore contacted us with this – “Hi Paul,
The only 131 guys I know of at the Perth march were Joe Librizzi and myself. I know Peter Hopper was otherwise committed, and didn't see Barry Guzder or Chris Chapple.
Got a chap to take a picture with my iPhone, but he took it as a video by mistake - just 1 sec long. So I guess it won't be any use to you.
Cheers, John Lochore”

Terry Erbs reported in with a note to **Grahame Dignam** – “Giddy Dig, Anzac Day march in Melbourne went well, about 20 behind 131 banner - we are still traveling and won't be back in Brisbane till 4th May -will forward report and photos when home. Cheers Terry Erbs”

Mike Butler gets a few words in – “Hi Paul, Had a good day. Kevin Browning and a few other guys came down to Melbourne from Sydney. Good to catch up with them. Several good group photos were taken by Alan Adams and my daughter in front of the banner. I will get ours to you shortly. Regards Mike Butler”

John Lucas –“On my way to the Kirribilli Club. John Lucas”



Peter Piore got in touch with this – “Allan & Paul,
The attached photo was taken at the Woonona/Bulli Sub-Branch 25th April 2014.
With me (neck collar) is **Harold Little** who departed South Vietnam on 28th
November 1969. He was Radar I think.
I arrived in South Vietnam on 27th November 1969. We did not meet in country
only when I joined the Sub-Branch.

The collar is a protection from snapping the work the surgeon did.

My lower back was badly affected by activity in SVN and as I collapsed prior to
discharge the Army doctors told me I will need surgery. Well it has taken all this
time for me to agree for a slice and dice.

I know I have issues with discs and other problems in the lower back. One the
sciatic nerve has been sorted however on checking my total spine the surgeon
found two discs in the neck had collapsed and were pushing the spinal cord
against the spine. (I was getting issues with my arms) The issue is no one
checked the total spine till now.

All this originated in SVN. (I have been on a TPI Pension since 2008 as a result)

I have been campaigning since 2008 for Ex-Service personnel to have
themselves checked if they have back or other problems and or see an ESO and submit a claim to DVA.

As a Welfare / Pension Officer I have seen and referred over 30 who fall into this hole. I have released Leaflets
“YOU’RE NOT ALONE” in Townsville and am working with the sub-branch to do so again.

I am getting WW2 diggers with various problems who have not claimed and or not had their pension reviewed.

Anyway all the best to all. I will look to catching up soon. Next year my wife and I having booked and paid for a cruise
will be in Gallipoli for ANZAC Day.

Regards, Peter Piore”



Al Adams sent in some Melbourne activity news – “Hi Paul,

Yesterday was one out of the box, perfect weather. There were a lot of faces that I didn’t know, you may know them.
You may see on the group photo the following, John Delacca, Ian Kennedy, Mike Butler, Peter Bennett, Terry Erbs,
Mitch Miller, Graeme Owens and Self. I don’t know the others.

I haven’t seen Damien McManus for a couple of years, somebody had thought that he had move back to Rye and
wasn’t well.

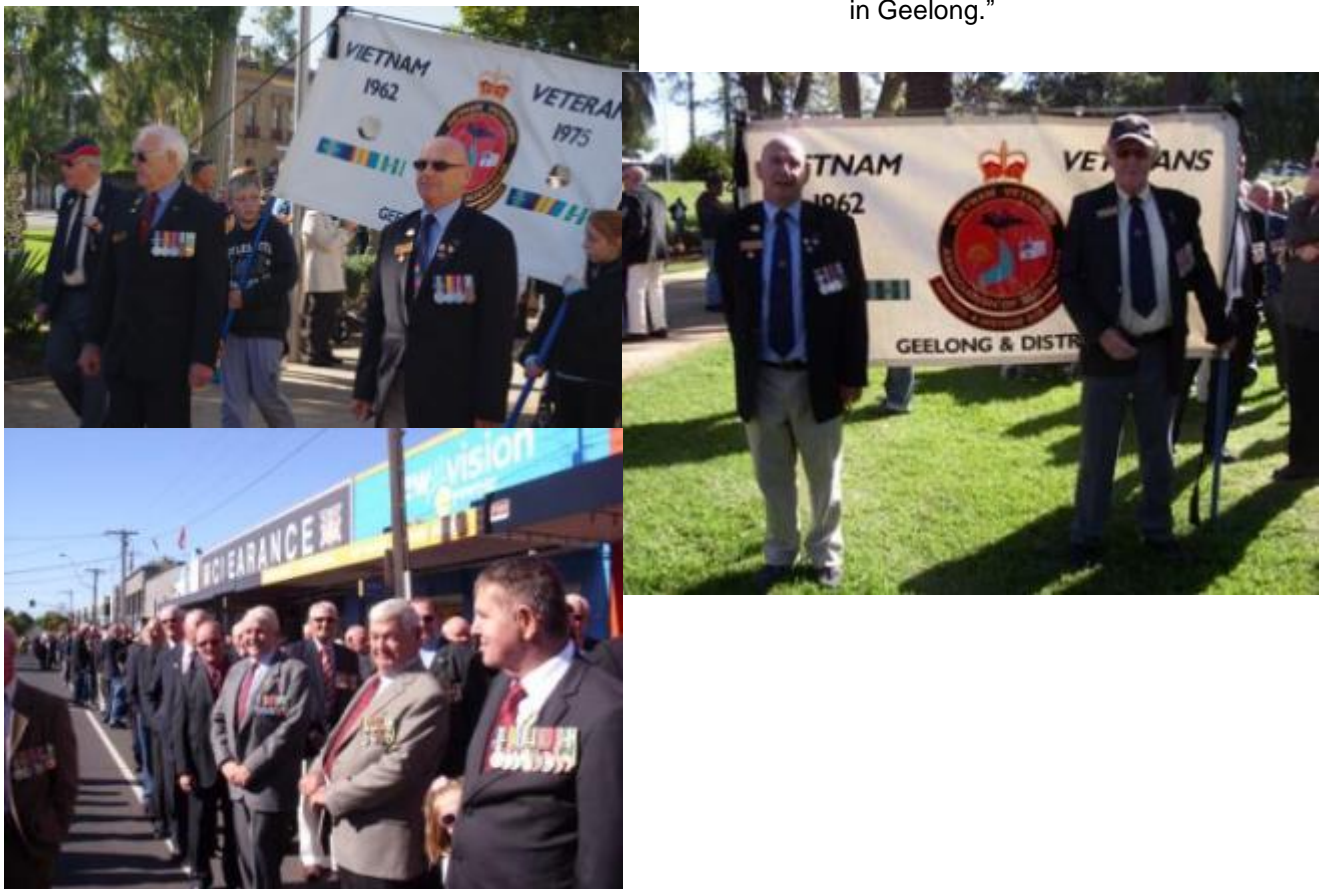
Hope all is well at your end. Al”



Nick Armstrong reports in from Port Lincoln in SA – “Hello Paul, Three pictures from the Port Lincoln 2014 March. There aren’t too many 131 people this far west. The four Australian flags leading the group, commemorate the four from the district who died in Viet Nam. The NOK medals I am wearing are for my father who was a Lt in a RASC Transport Unit in the British Army in the Second World War. He was a school teacher, and did not enlist until near the end of the war. He was in Europe shortly after D Day, and then spent some time in East Africa before being discharged. Cheers Nick Armstrong”



Reiny Newenhoff sent the following covering the march in Geelong – “Hi Paul, Here are some photos of ANZAC Day in Geelong.”



Bill Finlay gets a few words to us – “I finally put the medals on and attended a very moving ceremony at the Harbord Diggers Memorial Club at Freshwater. Also in attendance was Rick Edwards and his WW2 digger father. A few more Arty guys were there as well. You may wish to publish the attached photo so that our 131 mates can see that we are still going strong. All the best, Bill.”



. 131 Div Loc Bty dates –

4th May 1966 – The remainder of First Detachment 131 Div Loc Bty departed Australia. **48 years ago.**

5th – 31st May, 1868 - Operation Coral-Balmoral took place. **46 years ago.**

. 1st Australian Task Force – (source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki>) The following is the continuation of the account of Australian involvement in the South Vietnam conflict focusing on The Battle of Long Tan...

Clearing the battlefield, 19–21 August 1966

By morning the weather had cleared. At 06:55 the remainder of 6 RAR departed Nui Dat with 2 Troop, 1st APC Squadron, while D Company, 5 RAR departed at the same time aboard a number of US Army helicopters.

Meanwhile, at 07:40 Jackson arrived at 6 RAR's night location to observe the clearance, flying in as Townsend gave his orders for the operation. Stepping off at 08:45, the Australians returned to the battlefield in force while artillery and airstrikes continued to pound the area. The battalion group moved in a "two up" formation with D Company, 5 RAR and D Company, 6 RAR both mounted in APCs as the forward left and forward right assault companies, followed by A, B and C Companies in depth, each of which were dismounted. The assault companies planned to sweep the area then dismount and commence a detailed search, while the other companies would clear the surrounding features and begin the follow-up. Moving cautiously in case the Viet Cong launched a counter-attack, the Australians advanced on an axis following the route used by D Company, 6 RAR the previous day. The battlefield was a scene of devastation, with many of the rubber trees stripped of their leaves and branches and bleeding sap, while the area around D Company's final position was heavily cratered by artillery fire. At 09:21 D Company, 5 RAR reported finding the body of a dead Viet Cong soldier, while half an hour later D Company, 6 RAR found 12 to 15 more. A large number of Viet Cong dead were subsequently found around the area, including a 60 mm mortar crew which had been killed by indirect fire. At 10:20 a bulldozer was requested to bury the bodies of approximately 100 Viet Cong soldiers.

As the scale of the losses suffered by the Viet Cong were revealed it became clear D Company had in fact won a significant victory. By late morning a total of 113 bodies and two wounded had been found, while numerous drag marks and blood trails indicted many more casualties had been removed from battlefield the previous night.

With the clearance continuing two wounded Viet Cong still bearing weapons were killed by D Company, 6 RAR after they moved to engage them, while in a separate incident another wounded soldier was also killed. A third wounded Viet Cong was later captured and all three were given emergency medical assistance before being evacuated.

These events later caused controversy when journalist Ian Mackay published claims in 1968 that the Australians had deliberately killed unarmed Viet Cong wounded after the battle, citing a "witness" to the alleged incident, while a major newspaper misleadingly stated they had killed wounded "civilians". Yet an official investigation later determined the allegations were exaggerated and based on hearsay, with the soldier claimed as the source found not to have been present during the fighting and those killed confirmed to have been armed. Similar accusations were made in 1986 by Terry Burstall, a former D Company soldier who claimed up to 17 wounded Viet Cong had been executed, although Burstall's accusations were also refuted and his credibility challenged. In 2000 Buick admitted in his memoirs to having killed a mortally wounded soldier the day after the battle as an act of mercy. Burstall argued this may have constituted a breach of the Geneva Convention, while Buick's decision to publish the book was questioned by the President of the Australian Long Tan Association, John Heslewood, who was a private in 11 Platoon during the battle. Mollison later also criticised Buick's action in killing the badly wounded soldier.

Meanwhile, at 11:00 6 RAR reported they had located the missing men from 11 Platoon, their bodies found lying in a straight line where they had fallen, largely undisturbed and still holding their weapons. The majority were from 6 Section, which had been the first to be hit. One of the men was found to have survived despite his wounds, having spent the night on the battlefield in close proximity to the Viet Cong as they attempted to evacuate their own casualties. Earlier a second wounded soldier had also been found nearby, leaning against a tree but still alive. Both men were evacuated, and later recuperated in hospital. Thirteen Australian dead were also recovered, accounting for all the missing. As the search continued Viet Cong dead were found up to 500 metres (550 yd) south-east of the position reached by 11 Platoon. A large bunker complex was also uncovered which included 200 pits with overhead protection sufficient for a battalion; however, its layout suggested it had been constructed as a defensive position

rather than for an ambush. A further prepared position of 100 pits was also found to the east. By 14:35 the total number of Viet Cong dead was reported as 168, while a large amount of weapons and equipment were also uncovered, including assault rifles, mortars, light machine-guns, sub-machine guns, and a RCL as well as ammunition and grenades. By 18:10 the number of Viet Cong dead had risen to 188, with shallow graves dug by the Australians to bury them where they had fallen.

Due to the likely presence of a significant force nearby the Australians remained cautious as they searched for the Viet Cong. Over the next two days they continued to clear the battlefield, uncovering more dead as they did so. Yet with up to two Viet Cong battalions still believed to be in the area and with the continued vulnerability of Nui Dat to attack from the 274th Regiment, Jackson lacked the resources to pursue the withdrawing force. Company patrols continued to search up to 1,500 metres (1,600 yd) east, and to the north of the Nui Dat 2 feature. The Australians subsequently expanded their search to include the area contested during Operation Hobart. A number of tracks were discovered with telephone cables running along their length, as well as further drag marks, blood stains, discarded equipment, fresh graves and evidence of use by heavy cart and foot traffic. The main Viet Cong withdrawal route was discovered after midday on 19 August, running east away from the scene of the fighting. Townsend requested permission from Jackson to follow it believing he had sufficient forces for a pursuit, but Jackson would only permit 6 RAR to advance a further 1,000 metres (1,100 yd) so as to remain within artillery range and would not allow the guns to move forward from Nui Dat to increase the range of their protective fire. By 20 August the Australians had counted 245 Viet Cong dead, while scores more were found later. Up to four weeks after the battle decomposed bodies were found in the area, while numerous graves were also located, none of which were included in the estimates of Viet Cong losses. D Company, 5 RAR returned to Nui Dat early on 21 August, while D Company, 6 RAR was also withdrawn for two days leave in Vung Tau.

The remainder of 6 RAR continued the search, with A Company discovering a series of freshly built and recently abandoned hides along the Viet Cong withdrawal route which were believed to have been prepared as delay positions. An older defensive position of approximately 40 pits was also found, while C Company located a makeshift hospital close by which contained 14 graves. Both had recently been occupied. Later an Australian light observation helicopter reported the presence of scattered groups of civilians, with the largest including up to 30 to 40 people, mostly women, carrying baskets and bags, while others had ox carts and were believed to be carrying medical supplies. These reports were followed up by the 1st APC Squadron and a number of military age males were detained for questioning. The infantry companies completed their search tasks by midday, moving to the edge of the rubber plantation, 500 metres (550 yd) north-east of Long Tan. Operation Smithfield concluded at 17:00 with the Australians returning to Nui Dat by helicopter and APC by 17:30. They had hoped of catching the survivors of the 275th Regiment and D445 Battalion before they were able to return to their mountain sanctuaries but the operation proved unsuccessful in preventing their withdrawal. A number of Australian officers later questioned the caution with which it had been conducted. Yet Jackson had been unable to mount a pursuit due to the continued threat posed by the 274th Regiment, which was still believed to be in the area. With 1 ATF lacking the resources required for such an operation the opportunity to trap and destroy the Viet Cong while they were still vulnerable was lost and they made good their escape.

We continue with “The Aftermath, Casualties etc...” next month

Ed – The aftermath of activity is always an interesting read – the 20/20 vision etc, the “what could have beens”, the “accusations” etc...whatever the outcome the memories for these blokes must have left a scar...

. May in SVN...

6 May & 11 May	1969	Warrant Officer Class 2 R.S. Simpson, VC	Warrant Officer Class 2 R.S. Simpson, Australian Army Training Team Vietnam, originally from Chippendale, NSW, wins the Victoria Cross in Kontum Province, South Vietnam
8 May	1970	Anti-war demonstrations in Australia	Up to 200,000 Australians participate in demonstrations against the Vietnam War.
13 May	1968	Fire Support Base Coral attacked	The partly-constructed base, north of Saigon, was defended by Australian infantry, artillery, and air support when it was attacked by North Vietnamese troops. Eleven Australians were killed and 28 wounded before the attackers were driven back. Fifty-two enemy soldiers were killed and one was taken prisoner.
16 May	1968	Fire Support Base Coral attacked for a second time	An attack on the base by a North Vietnamese Army force estimated at three battalions was repelled by APCs and soldiers from 1st battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. Five Australians were killed and 19 wounded. Thirty-four enemy bodies were found.
21 May	1968	HMAS Sydney leaves Brisbane	HMAS Sydney leaves Brisbane on its tenth voyage to Vietnam with 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, embarked.
24 May	1966	Private Errol Noack killed in	Private Noack, 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, was the first

		Vietnam	Australian national serviceman to be killed in the Vietnam War.
24 May	1969	Warrant Officer Class 2 K. Payne, VC	Warrant Officer Class 2 K. Payne, Australian Army Training Team Vietnam, originally from Ingham, Queensland, wins the Victoria Cross in Kontum Province.
26 May	1968	Fire Support Base Balmoral attacked	Fire Support Base Balmoral, just north of FSB Coral, was attacked by a North Vietnamese Army battalion. Three soldiers from 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, were killed and 14 wounded. Six enemy bodies were found.
27 May	1965	HMAS Sydney's first voyage to Vietnam	HMAS Sydney departs on first voyage to Vietnam with 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, embarked.
28 May	1968	Fire Support Base Balmoral attacked for a second time	A second heavy assault on Fire Support Base Balmoral took place in the early hours of the morning. The attack was driven off by combined arms – infantry, armour, artillery and air support. Forty-two enemy bodies were found on the battlefield and seven prisoners were taken.
28 May	1968	D company, 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, receives citation	Award of United States Presidential Unit Citation to D Company, 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, for the Battle of Long Tan.
28 May	1970	Australian Army Training Team Vietnam awarded United States Meritorious Citation	Australian Army Training Team Vietnam awarded United States Meritorious Citation.

. The late Fred Lennon collection series continues...



1966 Nui Dat- Fred's title for this photo is "Group of men sitting around a table", but unfortunately no names on the back - the back of photo says task force headquarters - Nui Dat – this information is supplied Jenny (Fred's daughter).
Ed – OK so can anyone give us some names??

. Allen Morley....the following photo tickled his funny bone and imagination enough to send it in with an interesting comment –



We may look at hiring this for our AGM ...

And the beer is in the tank at the back!

. **Coles email** – Earlier on this month an email was sent out as a general notice –
“The following has been received from a couple of sources and is being passed on for general information.

FROM COLES SUPERMARKET - ** Reported in Herald Sun Melbourne 9 April 14 and confirmed with Coles Customer Care **

THANKING OUR DIGGERS - For Diggers and their families

As part of Coles Supermarkets pledge to raise \$5 million over the next 12 months to support Defence personnel and their families a new "Digger Discount" promotion is being run. The first of many "Digger Discounts" will be available this weekend, 12-13 April 2014 at all Coles Supermarkets Australia wide and offers 10% off all purchases (Not available on tobacco, alcohol or gift cards).

Over the next 12 months in the lead up to ANZAC Day 2015 – when the nation commemorates 100 years since the first Australian troops landed in Gallipoli – we pledge to raise \$5 million for the Australian Defence Force Assistance Trust. This will support current and former members of the Australian Army, Navy and Air Force and their families whose lives have been adversely affected through military service.

To be eligible you need to show either your Defence Id (including spouse id and Defence APS) or if retired, a valid DVA card at the checkout for discount to be applied.

If you have any questions please contact the Coles Supermarket Customer Care line on 1800 061 562”

I received positive responses and one interesting one, from **John Vickary**, which got us thinking – “Hey Paul Interesting (but disappointing) to note that Coles extend the discount to serving members and DVA clients - but no mention of those who retired from the ADF with no issues requiring DVA assistance

I've spoken to the Coles customer care line quoted below and the person I spoke to agreed to send the message up the line, but it will probably take more than one solitary voice. JV”

...**Ed** responded with – “John, Good point - I guess it was an easy option for ID purposes, but smacks of an uneven playing field in the cold hard light of day that there are, obviously, veterans that have no connection with the DVA (and that's another subject that needs addressing - why aren't all veterans entitled to some form of recognition and support).

Anyway, I've Bcc'd the Association Committee as it is something that could be addressed at the next meeting.Paul”

...with a bit more investigation we dug out the following DVA age entitlement / qualification criteria with regards to the Gold Card and it states that at 70 veterans are entitled to one. See the form etc at the following link - [D3057 Application for a Gold Card for Veterans - www.dva.gov.au/dvaforms/Documents/D3057.pdf](http://www.dva.gov.au/dvaforms/Documents/D3057.pdf).

Mind you that does not help much if you have two years to wait, but it does give blokes access to benefits if they have never had prior contact with the DVA.

. **Ian Finlay** sent his email in to us and **Ed** must admit, as he did to Fin, he'd forgotten all about Col Elliott – do yourselves a favour a have a squiz at some of the clips they are gut wrenchingly good – “G`day To my Friends, I am forwarding this to let you all know that Col Elliott is not just a great comedian but was a great supporter of Vietnam Veterans in the fund raising for our National Memorial in Canberra, going back in some time know,he came to my home town of Gunnedah NSW and helped us raise a substantial amount of money to donate to the building of our memorial to all Vietnam Veterans in Canberra.

Col served in the Navy where he told me that he was encouraged by mates to pursue a career as a comedian by his shipmates and to stir him on his brother was also a Vietnam Veteran was also a great incentive to him to contribute.

You will find Cols You Tube Funny and entertaining but take particular note of his Clip Wake Up Australia !!!

http://www.colelliott.com.au/col_elliott_videos.html Regards Fin”

. **Edward “Spike” Chase** – sent this photo in – what a great memory of **Les “Frosty” Frost** - “Thought you might be interested in this photo Paul, It was taken Oct.1966 when Frosty picked me up from 31C at B Coy 5RAR to go on R&R. He would have not long turned 21. Regards Spike Chase.’



. **Mess Halls** – after doing the article on the story photos taken by **Allen Morley** and **Grahame Dignam** on their attendance at the Reunion in Enoggera it got **Ed** to thinking about things “messy”, so he went hunting for Mess Hall photos.

The best he could do was rape and pillage the Members albums on the Association website and came up with what **Al Adams** had submitted –the following 3 photos..



Lunchtime queue at Arty Tac ORs mess hall in the Dat circa 1967. I think I can recognise **Grahame Dignam** on the right beside the tree?



I don't remember the table cloths/plastics??



Morning tea with the “Salvos” I presume!!
My first memory of them was at Singleton – a great hot chocolate after a night at the boozer! Their blood should have been bottled.

However, his things “messy” were taken in Nui Dat and I must admit they were good (along with the heaps of others on the web), but I wanted to compare them to the “creme de la creme” of mess halls at Holsworthy and I couldn't find any.

So **Ed** sent out an email titled “**Holsworthy Mess Hall**” – “I was doing a trawl through the web for photos of the OR's or any Mess Hall for that matter at Holsworthy and found nothing.

I'm curious to see the comparison between the current 20STA Regiment set up which we saw in the *March Eyes & Ears*.

So, if anyone has anything from that era could you email them to me please? Paul”

...and the responses were hilarious –

Bob Morrison sent this in – “Hi Paul, I don't know if this is any good to you but I have a photograph of the sailors' mess hall at HMAS Cerberus (Crib Point on Westernport Bay, Vic) in 1958 (at right). I was at Cerberus as a recruit (3 months) in mid-1966, for a year in 1967 during my year long communications course and visited there around 1969 and the mess hall had not changed one little bit from the photograph (in the Navy it was called the Ship's Company Café).”



Stuart Sporn's memories makes you wonder how we survived the culinary delights – “What a WW2 shithole that was. The whole complex used to get regularly condemned by the Health Authorities. Meat truck arrived Tuesdays and most of it ended up in the married quarters. After complaints and a visit by shithead politicians they served up steak one night while they walked around and few ate it because nobody knew what it was. Apart from 37 pattern bully beef 70 different ways and a fine old civvies gentleman who cooked soup we would have starved. I think even the grease was greasy after a couple of weeks as a Dixie basher. Stank like shit for several days”

Dave Auld makes a great point – “Knowing what they fed you there why would you want to take a photo?”

Steve Boutlis recalls something worth reporting and fits in with his sense of humour – “Hi, Dicko. I recall that the brave wag, Gunner Peter Hopper, was the only person to complain to the Duty Officer in the Holsworthy Mess at one breakfast.

The officer was taken aback as he had never ever heard anyone game enough to complain.

Peter complained that the fried eggs were cold and gelatinous.

The officer said that he would take up the matter with the cooks.

Peter and I left the Mess, and on the way back to our huts, I said to him that he didn't ever eat eggs.

He said, with that Hopper grin on his dial, “I know. But the cook and the officer don't”.

And we all thought that he was an angel!

Have a great Anzac Day, mate.

Mine will follow the usual pattern of Dawn Service by the beach, a kip, and then watch Collingwood whop the shit out of Essendon. Cheers, Boots.”

. Terry Westerway on a very recent trip to Seymour discovered something that came as a real surprise to him and he sent a great photo for the Association to clap their collective peepers on – “Paul,

Whilst I was down in Seymour last week I discovered that a paver has been laid in the Commemorative walk. They were not able to tell me who arranged the paver – other than “the association”. WHICH association they could not tell me.

The LSTAA say they did not do it and don't know anything about it. Do you know anything about it? Terry Westerway”

...**Ed's response** – “Terry,

Well spotted - the paver was ordered by this Association - 131 Locators - it was the lead story in the latest *Eyes & Ears* and there are several spaces available in close proximity to it for the placement of individual personal pavers.

Thanks for the photo - the paver looks as though it has just been laid.

I've Bcc'd the Association Committee as it'll be their first glimpse too. Paul”



. Warbirds over Wanaka, April 2014

This was the first official off-shore event for 131 Locators Association, at Wanaka near Queenstown NZ. In attendance were Bob Billiards, Allen Morley and Grahame Dignam, chaperoned by Cathy Billiards. No major troubles and Bob even passed a police breath test on Saturday night.



The group's involvement was for the practice on Friday and then the first flying day on Easter Saturday. We wandered happily amongst the various ground exhibits, including aircraft, helicopters, tractors and MG cars. The flying was dramatic and spectacular, and all so close by. The RNZAF brought in three of their total of 10 aircraft. The RAAF included two of the Hawk trainers.



A lovely Beech Staggerwing
Allen Morley"



An F4G Corsair

. **Darryl Musgrave** sent the following email in with regards to **A Remembrance Service being held at Ingleburn RSL** in relation **Fire Support Base Coral at 1100hrs on Friday, 26th May 2014** – "Hello Paul, I realise that you will be flat out with Anzac Day but thought you may have a moment. The current issue of "Veterans News", the newsletter of Macarthur Veterans Information Service, has reminded readers of the two attacks on Fire Support Base Coral on 13th and 16th May 1968. A remembrance service will be held at Ingleburn RSL static display area at 1100 hours Friday 16 May 2014. This information may be of use to readers of *Eyes and Ears* if there is a chance the next edition will be released before then.

Incidentally, the Editor, Ken Foster khfoster1@bigpond.com, may be interested in receiving advice of each issue, if he does not already do so. The "Veterans News" always has items of historic importance in each edition, from military history to customs, weapons, vehicles etc. and he may be able to re-issue articles to a wider audience. I spent my 6 years of Military Service with 130 Gun Loc Bty, then another 9 years around Sydney with 9 Topo Survey, 23 Field, OCTU Training Group Badia Barracks, but still feel a deep affiliation to Locating. I must put some info together on the relocation of BOD from Moorebank to Holsworthy. Anyone from 131 who spent time in Holsworthy in the early 1970s would not recognise the area today. Regards, Darryl Musgrove"

. Media Release – Minister for Veterans Affairs – 14th April, 2014.

The following was received earlier this month and is worth noting for you to check the closeness of offices...



Media Release

Senator the Hon Michael Ronaldson
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC
Special Minister of State

Monday, 14 April 2014

VA024

NEW APPROACH TO DVA SERVICES IN REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES AND VICTORIA

From June 2014, the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) will make changes to shopfront services in nine regional areas in Victoria and NSW to ensure veterans living in those communities can continue to access face-to-face support at a location close to their home.

"In March 2014, DVA consulted with veterans, war widows and widowers, their families and staff to learn more about how the veteran community wants to access services in the future," Senator Ronaldson said.

"The consultation, undertaken by DVA, investigated the most effective and sustainable way to provide services to veterans, war widows and widowers, and their families living in these nine regions. Consultation was focussed on Bairnsdale, Ballarat, Bendigo, Frankston, Mildura, Morwell and Warrambool in Victoria, and Gosford and Wollongong in New South Wales.

"I would like to thank everyone who provided input during the consultation. In reporting back to me, DVA has recognised that face-to-face contact remains important. It was also clear from the consultation that more and more clients are choosing to use the telephone or internet to contact DVA and visits to shopfronts have declined by 28 per cent since 2009.

"In looking at the best model for the delivery of services in these areas the Department noted some common themes through the consultation process. Some of these included an appreciation of the Veterans' Access Network (VAN) offices and staff, in many cases a preference for contact by telephone and the internet, and an overall concern that DVA maintain key services in those regions."

In response to the feedback received during consultation the new arrangements will involve:

- Morwell VAN office will be co-located into DHS Morwell
- Ballarat VAN office will be co-located into DHS Ballarat
- Frankston, Gosford, Bairnsdale and Wollongong VAN offices will close. Veteran information services will be provided by DHS service centres sites in Frankston, Wyong, Nowra and Morwell
- Bendigo, Mildura and Warrambool agency contracts to cease and DHS service centre arrangements will be put in place in those locations.

In Ballarat and Morwell a DVA staff member will continue to provide the same services as they do now, but co-located with DHS offices. In other locations trained DHS staff will provide information services, with specialist training and support from DVA staff.

Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) and Veterans Line can be reached 24 hours a day across Australia for crisis support and free and confidential counselling. Phone 1800 011 046 (international: +61 8 8241 4546)

Subscribe to media releases at minister.dva.gov.au/subscribe.htm

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

Welcome – The Association has great pleasure in welcoming **Mark Field** as a Member and **Kim McGrath** as an Affiliate to the Association fold.

. Upcoming Events Calender –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Monday 26/05/2014 at 1100hrs

Venue: Cronulla RSL Memorial Club,

Address: 38 Gerrale St, Cronulla NSW 2230 Phone:(02) 9523 6833 You're all welcome. .

Presidential perambulations...

April 2014. This seems to have been a bit of a crazy month. Sydney has been wet and soggy after a dry start to the year. The hay fever symptoms are ever present. And it is time for the annual flu vaccine, reminding us that winter is just on the horizon. Plus the fourth National Service intake celebrated the 48th anniversary of our introduction to the army.

However, Anzac Day provided some relief. It was great to see the continuing turnout on this special day. In Sydney, we were reminded that the army (or RSAL) still has organisational problems as we were shuttled up and down O'Connell Street prior to the march. Every marshall had a different story about where we should be.

Over lunch, or something less filling but liquid, there was the opportunity to catch up with other 131ers. 'Remember when ...', 'Who was it that ...', 'Whatever happened to ...' were good conversation starters.

It perhaps says something that the Sydney group left the restaurant still relatively sober. Age shall weary them. Best wishes Allen Morley"

. web Performance...

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

. Birthdays in the Battery...May –

Michael Young hits 68 this month - Happy Birthday on the 2nd where ever you are?



Here's what **Ken Woodbine** looked like in Survey training at North Head somewhere around in his 20th birthday. Well he's certainly concentrating – HAPPY BIRTHDAY Ken for the 10th!

May	Name	Regt No	YOB	In SVN	Out SVN	Comments
1	DENNIS FORSTER	39992	1949	30 04 1969	16 04 1970	
2	NICK ARMSTRONG	43316	1944	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	
2	MICHAEL YOUNG	2786087	1946	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	
2	BRETT RAINSFORD	4719790	1946	18 12 1968	28 11 1969	
4	BRIAN KILLWORTH	2782129	1945	04 05 1966	02 03 1967	
4	PETER ROBERTSON	15543	1936	04 05 1966	29 04 1967	
5	DAVID CORNELL	5713808	1945	07 08 1966	30 04 1967	
8	JOHN ROBERTS	3787005	1945	04 05 1966	29 04 1967	
8	GRAEME OWEN	39453	1948	08 11 1968	19 11 1969	
10	KEN WOODBINE	2786077	1946	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
10	MICHAEL QUINLAN	2788865	1946	08 11 1968	05 11 1969	
11	BOB KING	2785420	1946	10 06 1967	23 04 1968	
12	MERV NAIRN	2781450	1945	20 05 1966	01 05 1967	
12	GORDON WILLIAMS 2Lt	2783891	1945	13 05 1968	26 03 1969	
13	DAVID KEECH	311588	1947	04 06 1970	10 06 1970	131 † 1999
	" "			11 06 1970	26 05 1971	AATTV
15	LESLIE CONNELL	6709098	1948	23 09 1969	13 08 1970	† 2011
17	PAUL ANGELL	2790740	1948	23 09 1969	04 06 1970	
17	KENNETH SANDERSON	3794846	1948	23 09 1969	13 08 1970	
17	LAURENCE MION	3795762	1948	01 04 1970	03 12 1970	
18	PETER COLMAN	2791655	1948	22 12 1969	17 12 1970	
19	DENNIS DYE	2412366	1945	27 11 1969	26 11 1968	
19	TERRY WEEKES	3787197	1945	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	
19	JOHN TICKLE Sgt.	214000	1942	03 03 1971	13 08 1971	131
	" "			14 08 1971	09 09 1971	12 Fd Regt
20	NICK PROSKURIN	2785002	1946	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
21	PETER RAVELJE	3794461	1947	16 12 1969	04 06 1970	
21	STUART TELFORD	2791930	1948	20 01 1970	03 12 1970	
21	SIMON WILLIS	3797687	1948	02 12 1970	29 07 1971	
22	BRIAN TURNER	2412230	1947	20 05 1966	02 05 1967	
22	ANDREW CSIVINCSIK	2790320	1947	02 12 1969	04 06 1970	
23	JIM SELLWOOD	1731045	1945	04 05 1966	30 04 1967	
24	JOHN BREWER (M.I.D.)	16220	1944	05 02 1968	07 02 1969	131
	" "			12 03 1970	25 02 1971	4 Fd Regt
26	KEN WHITTLE	2781996	1945	20 05 1966	27 03 1967	
26	BERT BLINK	3789692	1946	10 06 1967	21 05 1968	
26	RAYMOND MITCHELL	218731	1951	30 05 1970	10 12 1970	† 24.09.11 - 131
	" "			10 12 1970	11 03 1971	4 Fd Regt
28	SYTSE ELZINGA	3787318	1945	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	
28	FREDERICK MARWICK	45285	1948	10 03 1971	28 06 1971	131
	" "			28 06 1971	20 12 1971	12 Fd Regt
29	CHARLES O'NEILL	1735063	1946	15 04 1970	17 12 1970	
29	ROGER PRYKE	312827	1951	30 05 1970	26 05 1971	
30	ROGER LONG	3788775	1945	05 06 1967	12 12 1967	† 22.05.90
30	RON WEBB	1411172	1943	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	† 29.03.77
30	ANTHONY EATON Capt.	17090	1941	14 01 1969	30 07 1969	
30	WARWICK BROOKER	1732289	1946	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
31	STUART PHILIPSON	3799990	1950	27 04 1971	17 12 1971	12 Fd Regt

Ed – 15 blokes not highlighted is 6 better than this time last year – less shoot for a low 2015 number!

. Locator Profiles – we've received 122 and we've sent out 122. Ed – we seem to have stalled – can we dig up a couple more – let's go for a 100??

. 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.

April was a good month where 3 more Locators were located – **Anthony Eaton, Leon Djatschenko and Harold Little**. Harold was discovered by **Peter Piore** by sending in a photo of the pair of them on ANZAC Day this year (see earlier). We have now located **336** Locators leaving us about **150** to go.



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.

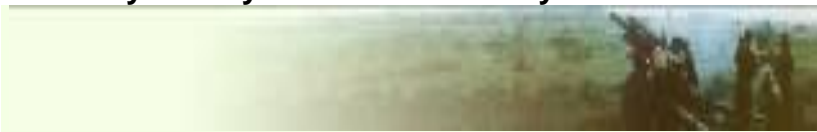
So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the *Eyes & Ears* regularly you could bite the bullet and email **Grahame Dignam**: sectreas131locators@gmail.com and he could forward you the relevant forms to join.

Memberships are available for 1 or 5 years. Hope we hear from you?

Web site - <http://www.131locators.org.au/131locators/>

. Other related sites...

. Artillery Surveyors 131 Div Loc Bty...



ARTILLERY SURVEYORS 131 DIV LOC BTY

"Elements of 131 came wandering in from the bush"

(A quote whose origins are lost, yet the sentiments expressed will not be lost on many who served with 131 Div Loc Bty SVN.)

This website seeks to make contact with the Artillery Surveyors of 131 Div Loc Bty. We welcome your relevant contributions of photos, insights and observances so we might endeavour to expand

131 Artillery Surveying Vietnam record, beyond this window. Please use the [contacts page](#) for details:

<http://www.artillerysurveyors131.com.au/>

<http://www.artillerysurveyors131.com.au/operations/coburg.html>

. Locating , Surveillance & Target Acquisition Association...



LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION

The Eyes And Ears Of The Battlefield

...notes taken from the LS & TAA website – Committee meetings are held regularly with most held at Paddington RSL commencing at 11.15am.

The next **Committee Meeting and Annual General Meeting** will be held on **20th July 2014** at Paddington RSL. Members are cordially invited to attend.

Details of scheduled Committee meetings will be available in the next issue of the Association's Newsletter LOCREP.



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

www.artilleryhistory.org



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



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

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

. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE

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

. 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery...



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

It is also dedicated to those members of the 1/83rd who did not return. We will never forget their sacrifice. Website: http://83rd_artillery.home.comcast.net/~83rd_artillery/

Editor contact email: three-zero@hotmail.com Ed – Paul 'Dicko' Dickson

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