

THE EYES and EARS

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



Editor: Paul 'Dicko' Dickson email: 131eyesandears@gmail.com
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Geelong remembers...



Rieny Nieuwenhof contributes the following which involves the continuing great work being done by Geelong & District Vietnam Veterans Association (G&DVVA) ...

"I am still President of the Geelong & District Vietnam Veterans Association, (G & DVVA) in my 5th year as President. I am also Chairman of the Geelong and Surf Coast Veterans Centre Committee of Management. This Centre handles pension and advocacy for all veterans in the Geelong region and is quite busy with new contacts every month, especially from younger veterans.

Here in Geelong the G & DVVA has achieved the following:

The Vietnam Veterans Avenue of Honour (AOH), which now has a heritage overlay, meaning it is protected for generations to come.

We have created a Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park (located within the AOH). The Park also has a Roll of Honour, seating, flagpoles, inscribed pavers (one being for 131 Locating Battery) and monument. It is a wonderful feature on the main highway coming into Geelong. It too is protected and will be a permanent tribute to all who paid the ultimate sacrifice and all those who served in Vietnam.

We have also been able to convince the local Council to erect 6 perforated metal screens (above and below) depicting scenes from the Vietnam War. Of course, there is one scene showing artillery! These scenes are located within the AOH. We will now work with VicTrack (railways) to install mesh cloth on their fence behind the screens to make the whole area even more attractive.

We are presently planning a Reflection Walk along an adjoining street, with 10 interpretive panels with the story of the Vietnam War and others which provide the backgrounds of individuals from the Geelong region, who served with particular distinction.

This small part of North Geelong has the Vietnam Veterans footprint clearly marked and will remain a permanent cultural/historical/social memory for the citizens of Geelong, and all visitors to Geelong. We are very proud of our achievements.

There are images on our website - geelongvietnamvets.com

I catch up with **Ron Mason, Rod Beasley** and **Peter Dearly** from time to time. Later this year **John Jaggard, Joe Molenkamp, Peter Saint and Les Falkai** and I will hold a reunion here in Geelong.

A wonderful achievement by our Sub Branch don't you think?

Regards, Rieny"



Then this was added...

Just had a telephone call and email from Arron McGlade to advise that the perforated panels along the AOH in North Geelong are now complete except for the acknowledgement AWM plaques.

Arron is consulting with the COGG Media department to find a suitable time to gather Veterans for a PR exercise. Will advise soonest.

Ed – This is an amazing exercise and one that the G&DVVA should be proud of, because we are proud of them.

1968 - before re-commencing **Recollections and Insights**, **Ed** thought it may be worthwhile putting Operations/Fire Support Bases into some sort of chronology for the year -

January – saw the continuation of **Operation Forrest** with **FSB Allenbrooke**, then **FSB Berryman**. This period also saw the end of **Operation Duntroon**. Then on 21st January saw the commencement of **Operation Coburg** with **FSB Harrison** and a little later **FSB Andersen**.

March – **Operation Coburg** ended on 1st March.

April – **Allied Operation Thoan Thang** commenced on 21st April. **FSB's Harrison, Andersen, Wattle and Clowes** continued.

May – **FSB's Coral, Balmoral and Coogee** began.

June - **Allied Operation Thoan Thang** ended on 5th. **FSB Concord** commenced.

July – **Operation Platypus** commenced with **FSB's Avenger, Coolah**.

August – Operation Diamantina commenced with **FSB’s Longreach and Wilton.**

September – Operation Hawkesbury commenced

October – Operation Capital commenced

November - Operation Capital ends.

December – Operation Goodwood commences with **FSB’s Julia, Dyke, Chestnut,**

That’s about it for a fairly full-on year. However, this listing for 1968 doesn’t mean that we are not going to confine our R and I to 1968. In fact, we are seeking to expand this series to cover the Detachment’s total time in SVN. So, having said that we would encourage **ALL** of you to contribute while the old brain permits.

It is part of our living history and should be noted and archived, however minor you might think.

. Recollections and Insights –

This is the second in the series pertaining to the Battle of Coral Balmoral.

After some 49 years, we are hoping to gather **Recollections** and perhaps **Insights** from members of the Detachment who were involved, in some way or another in this monumental event. We anticipate hoping that these memories will help to broaden our understanding and give us greater insights into the Detachment’s involvement in South Vietnam.

This is the second in this series, which continues with recounts by **Philip Mulgrew.**

These Insights/Recollections are not based on official documentations, but memories which add another dimension other than the factual Reports recorded in the Australian War Memorial (AWM).

Insights and Recollections by Phil Mulgrew (SVN 68/69) - Coral Balmoral, May 1968

I went up from Nui Dat with the second resupply convoy to Coral. I had been in country for about three weeks.

I remember I was on 31C close to the 105mm guns. I shared LP duties with **John l’Anson, Mickey Bohl**, and others, but their names escape me. **Peter Dealy** had a shell scrape near mine.

Most of the drama was over by the time of that convoy run, but a couple of mortars bombardments lobbed into the FSB in the following days livening things up.

I can’t remember the trip back to the Dat after every one closed up shop at Coral, but I think I went back to 31A on Nui Dat Hill or to the still under construction 31D at the A battery 2/35th Artillery Battalion area.

CORAL continues with interesting additional comments from **Ken Woodbine** responding to another email re:

Locator Locations...

“Paul,

I was in Survey for nearly all of my time in South Vietnam.

In the LP column, I am shown as being in 31A also for 67/68 – in fact I was only in 31A for the end of my time at Nui Dat.

BUT he adds...Also, reading the latest *Eyes and Ears* newsletter (June, 2017), there is **no mention of the Survey team being at FSB Coral.**

Whilst noting that we were not there during the major battles, **we were there**, if only for a few days. WO Jebb kept us at Bearcat on the 12th (May) as there were problems with setting up FSB Coral. We arrived early in the morning of the 13th (May) and set about carrying out a survey for the guns at FSB Coral.

When that was done, we went to FSB Coogee where the Kiwi’s 161 (Bty) was.

We surveyed them in and then dug in for the night. We were back at FSB Coral the next day or so to confirm our previous survey work there. After that was done we left the area and went back to Nui Dat.

Ken Woodbine”

Ed – I have written to Ken asking for some more details of the time during this era and who were the other Surveyors in the group.

We now have 6 Recollections and Insights, basically commencing from the 1968 Tet Offensive onwards.

However, they will be presented as individual articles as they are received and not in date order.

Ed – Whilst looking for something re: Coral, I stumbled on the following photo by William Alexander Errington (courtesy of the AWM). It graphically shows, as the description explains, the extremely low trajectory of the 105.

“Soldiers wearing helmets lie behind their weapons on a wall of sandbags, while in the background other soldiers are loading an artillery piece which is laid on a low trajectory.

Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam. 05-1968. Gunners from the 12th Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery (RAA), watch and wait at Fire Support Base (FSB) Coral, where two large Viet Cong assaults were driven back. The Viet Cong twice tried to over-run the gun positions on 13-05-1968 and 16-05-1968. Elements of the Australian Task Force killed about 130 enemy in the clashes and in subsequent smaller contacts in the nine days following the first attack on 13-05-1968.



Note the sandbags around the gun pit area.

Photographer **William Alexander Errington** – was with the HQ, Australian Army Force in SVN 1968”

Ed again – Anyone got any idea of what the weapon (pointing skywards) is on the left-hand shoulder side of the bloke in the middle with the M60? What type of shell are they loading – anti-personnel? I only hope he moved when they fired the bloody 105!

. “Unknowns” - Here’s the latest in the series...

Once more wandering through the archives I stumbled onto this from **Pater Mackie** who had titled the photo “After Shower” – it looks as though the blokes only showered their chests!!



The photo at left was shot sometime in '70. Now it begs the question as to who are the Locators, where are they and what had they been doing?

One of the 4 must remember?

. LP's – where were they?

The subject from last month of where LP call signs came up as to regarding where were they located? **Ernie Newbold** came up with the following -

“G'day Paul,

**31A on top of Nui Dat / 31B on top of “The Horseshoe” / 31C on the wire at “The Engineers”
31D at the 1st / 83rd U.S. Arty.**

Now while that is where they were when we were there (above), but they weren't always in the same locations throughout the Task Force's occupation of the Nui Dat area. I suspect that 31A was always on the hill known as Nui Dat and that 31B was always on the Horseshoe.

However, when the Third Battalion and the Centurion tanks joined the Task Force, 31C had to move and when the 1st/83rd moved out I suspect that 31D may have had a move too.

I was talking to Des McGuiggan at the TPI Assn meeting yesterday and he said when he was there (1970-71), there were only three LPs - Nui Dat, Horseshoe and one at Dihn Coh down on the Long Hai Hills. See the “Flower Power” photo in June's *Eyes and Ears*.

I also believe that 31C was originally on the northern side of the Task Force with one of the Infantry Battalions, you would have to check with the pioneers on that one. Regards, Ernie.”

“The Great Locator Photo Hunt” – Ed

At the time of scratching my head about this, there were 131 Locator Profiles archived on the Association's website – now that's a coincidence. However, since the “head scratching” exercise Bob Billiards has added about another 9 or so thankfully, plus some archived photos which were dug out.

Now to the point of this rant – there are 45 Profiles with no semi-recent “head'n'shoulder” photos to welcome the reader, instead just an Arty badge! This will not do!!

So it's now time to name and shame those badge blanks – Dave Auld, Steve Boutlis, Charles Brewer, Robert Buzacott, Ged Carroll, Brian Campbell, Don Chalmers, Craig Cook, Dave Dougherty, Ron Evans, Ian Finlay, Les Falkai, Jim Fitzgerald, Barry Fountain, Mick Habben, Peter Hopper, John I'Anson, Peter Jackson, Russ Jackson, Geoffrey Jebb, Mike Jenkins, Ted Jux, Iain Kennedy, John Lochore, John Lucas, Harry Lynus, Ron Mason, Ian McMillan, **Max McPherson**, Johan Molenkamp, Robert Morrison, Andrew Opie, Peter Pettiford, Peter Pioro, Jeff Reid, John Richmond, Ray Smith, Andrew Straume, Peter Suckling, Kevin Thornton, David Troedel, Graham Williams, John Wilson, Rob Wilson and Ken Woodbine to round it off.

C'mon fellas we need photos – hey everyone's mobile takes a photo so just snap and send – you'd better put a name to it though, please?

Pete Ravelje came up with a head and shoulders for **Max McPherson** – that's one we can tick off! Gee only 44 to go!

. We're opening up another Locator's Series...



Bob Billiards – Collectable “Oddities” - Goggomobils

Bob has consented, mind you with some persuasion, to contribute the following to this series...

As you are more than aware Bob has an “incurable passion” (no not like the one with Cathy, his wife, that is under control). This is why he is possibly classified as a “**Goggonutter**”. It started back in 1964 when I wanted a motor bike and my parents were not happy. My brother in law was a car dealer and he found something that might satisfy all three of us, A Goggomobil Dart, a diminutive car with a 400CC 20BHP two cylinder two-stroke engine in the boot. I also used to race Go Karts (Australian champion “A” limited light) back in 1969 and needed something to carry two Go Karts. We found a Goggomobil Carryall which we still have. Cost us \$100. I traded my Goggo Dart in October 1966 for a new Renault R10.



Cathy's Dart (at left) in the colour of my original one and our Carryall restored and below my Dart in 1965 and Cathy's brothers Goggo Coupe.



The Carryall (at left) as it was in 1969 at the BP garage in Cabramatta filling up with BP Zoom.

The restoration is here <http://www.goggodart.com/goggo Carryall.html>

See more at <http://www.goggodart.com/gogdart.html> and some old photos here <http://www.goggodart.com/goggold.html>



Back in 1990 Cathy came across a Goggo Dart for sale in Parramatta which we bought and fully restored in 1992 and since then we have been going to car shows mainly in the Sydney area, but have driven both Goggos to Coolangatta twice.

Over the weekend of 10th to 12th June (Queen's birthday weekend) Cathy, my wife, and I headed north to Coolangatta for the "Cooly Rocks On" event with Bill Buckle's Dart in his transporter and trailered our Carryall behind.

The "Goggonutter" name was coined several years ago by Howard Knox who lives at Coolangatta. I guess it was you had to be a "nutter" to own a Goggomobil, hence Goggonutter.

Howard is the bloke in the photo of three. The person on the left is Bill Buckle and his wife Alvia on the right.

Bill was the instigator of Goggomobil in Australia and now has 4 of them, two darts, the sports ones and his is the orange one, a Coupe and a sedan. No Coupes at the event this year. Bill being the "father" of Goggos in OZ is called the "Gogfather".

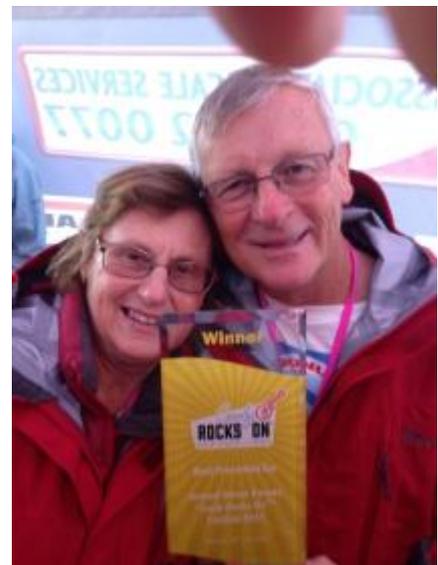
Here is a video (poor quality) of the interview with Bill Buckle in Coolangatta 6 or 7 years ago when we first went up there. It with Macka on "Australia All Over".

https://youtu.be/ZI_bU_289nl It is 7 minutes if you want to listen to all of it about Bill's exploits with cars and the Goggo. Also, a short poor quality video of us driving to the event in June 2009. It is 2 minutes long.

<https://youtu.be/NB2BFO0331U>

On the Friday, we spent the morning taking the kids from the Special School for intellectually disabled kids for rides in the cars. The School said that 50 kids were taken in the cars and all up the group did 150 trips around 4 blocks of the main shopping area of Cooly. It was great to see just how much they were excited by the experience and the teachers said that it was all they talked about for the rest of the day.

On the right, we are holding the trophy for the Goggonutters group as we won the best presented car (read cars) for the annual street parade.



Now these two rippers below - are on the left a Goggomobil Sedan powered by a 300CC 15BHP engine



and below Bill Buckles Dart with the big block 400CC 20BHP engine





We now have 3 roadworthy classic cars with the restoration 5 years ago of my Renault R1134 Gordini.

Super Sprint at Catalina Park in 1993



The Restored car today.

The restoration - http://www.goggodart.com/r1134_restoration.html

OK we've now opened another real can of worms collections which can be expanded on if you've got hobbies, habits or whatever – send some stuff in!

. Oddities continues, but more likely in this article it could be called “rummaging around”!

It's interesting the things you stumble over when doing activities and a bit of “rummaging”.

As I was sifting through some stuff and I espied my Service issued Passport (at right – shirts not too well ironed!) – still in mint condition, then after a bit of a look through it I realised why it was “still in mint condition” – it was basically never used! No entries except for that it was “Not valid for North Vietnam”! Did that mean that if I was captured they would have to return me as I didn't have a valid passport to be there?

Anyway, let me ramble on, The DVAs Nominal Rolls has me being on active service from 4th May to 12th December 1967 - (that equates to 222 days apparently), so it raised a question: This means that we left Sydney on 3rd May, overnighed in Darwin, then departed Darwin on 4th and arrived in SVN on 4th. I know I left SVN on the 12th December and arrived in Sydney on the same day (evening) - thanks to QANTAS with no overnighers. However, other than this record and sometimes there are errors in the Rolls, I can't verify this with any information I have at my disposal - the passport I was issued neither shows me leaving or returning to Australia - read arriving South Vietnam or leaving - no notation at all! What were the immigration mob doing in SVN? The passport does not show me leaving SVN or returning to SVN on R&R. It also does not show me arriving in or departing Singapore where I went for R&R. Again, what were ALL the countries involved doing?

DESCRIPTION SIGNALEMENT	
NAME NOM	Paul Granville DICKSON
Place and Date of Birth Lieu et Date de Naissance	Brisbane, Qld., Australia. 10 October 1945
Height Taille	5 feet 9 1/2 inches
Colour of Hair Couleur des Cheveux	Light Brown
Colour of Eyes Couleur des Yeux	Green
Occupation Profession	A.M.F.
Children Enfants	
Visible Peculiarities Signes Particuliers	
Name Nom	Date of Birth Date de Naissance
	Sex Sexe

WARNING: ENTRIES MUST NOT BE ALTERED OR MUTILATED
ADDITION MAY BE MADE ONLY BY AN AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

PHOTOGRAPH OF BEARER PHOTOGRAPHE DU TITULAIRE	Sydney
	3 April 1967
	until 3 April 1969
	est valid jusqu'au 3 avril 1969
	et valable pour cinq (5) ans à partir de cette date.
	<i>Albanna</i>
	An Officer duly authorized under Section 7 of the Passports Act 1938-1948
SIGNATURE OF BEARER SIGNATURE DU TITULAIRE	<i>Paul Dickson</i>

So, why the hell were we issued with passports?

... a response from **Ernie Newbold** – “G'day Paul and Bert, I too had a passport supplied by the Army, I remember a photographer came out to Holsworthy to take our photos and we were required to wear a “civilian” shirt and not a military uniform shirt for the occasion. Regards, Ernie.

NB – Bert Blink was included in Ernie's reply as he had said he was **NOT** issued with a Service supplied Passport!
Anyone else??

Mail Call...expanded edition

In response to a “how are you going?” type email from Ed – Nick Armstrong responded with the following great “up-to-dater” - “Likewise here with me. I haven't really done any earthmoving for a couple of years, so I suppose I have to accept I am retired.

I have been a member of the North Shields Country Fire Service for the last four years. I do relief bus driving for the various Port Lincoln Schools, and for the last four years I have driven a semi-trailer carting grain from farm to silo during harvest.

I also bought a boat in Balmoral (NSW) when I went to the Coffs Reunion, the one before last. I towed it home after the reunion. Quite a long journey of about 2000km, and fairly slow for the “Defender” pulling about 2.5 tonnes.

The attached photos were taken on Boston Bay. The ramp is very good for launching, with no tidal surge, and fresh water on tap for washing the boat.



It has taken me a while to adjust to being able to get away from home at times other than the Christmas/New Year break. I still try to stay near home during the Bushfire season, and also remain available for harvest driving. This part of Eyre Peninsula has been very dry this year, so I don't know what the harvest will be like? It is raining now, with 9mm so far. This is the first rain since summer. I don't know whether it is widespread, or just local?
Cheers for now, Nick”

. **Michael Quinlan** replied to one of **Ed's** emails with an update – “Hi Paul, we are currently in the UK and have been for the past 5 weeks now off to Paris for a week then home.”

. **John Lucas** replied with the following – “All good, still healthy...and still working! I might retire next year when I hit the big seven O!”

. **Phil Mulgrew** gives us a bit of an update with the following – “Hi Paul.

Keeping pretty well. I'm in touch with a couple of other Locators on a semi regular basis namely **John Dellaca** in Ballarat and **Rieny Nieuwenhoff** in Geelong.

The wife is recovering from breast cancer after an operation and radiation treatment to destroy all traces of that horrible disease. Prognosis is excellent thankfully.

I would like to age disgracefully, but haven't got the time or energy to chase wicked women. Phil’

. **Kevin Browning** responded to an enquiry regarding changes in the Det with the up-dating/grading of equipment and practices which for some of us oldies, well **Ed** in particular, weren't au fait with –

“Hi Paul,

Sound ranging was part of the Survey arena for the whole period 68-70. So, the Surveyors were double-hatted and basically, we had three shifts.

First shift on Sound Ranging commenced at 1900 and went to 0100, then the next shift 0100 to 0700.

The third shift had the night off.

Then it would mount duty at 1900 whilst the previous first shift mounted duty at 0100. The shift that had been on duty in the “dog hours” the night before had the next night off.

That was the theory.

Of course, normal Survey duties also had to be done, so when people were out on Operations those remaining in camp filled in.

The Survey Sergeant from the Regiment was brought in to assist and filled in both with Survey and Sound Ranging. That allowed for a WO2 and two sergeants to do three shifts. The Lt also filled in but had other tasks as well. We had

two signallers with us for sound ranging to maintain the lines but they also came out with us as drivers when we were on Survey tasks.

I have always assumed that when the Radars came home the Sensors were taken over by that group, that is those that would have manned the LPs for the radars were now working on Sensors. The Regimental Survey Sergeant appears to have been given carriage of the sensors. So, I would suggest you group them with the LPs/arty int. Regards, Kevin”

Ed – Now the above may need to be re-read several times, without a drink however on reflection something “stiff” may be of value, to possibly fathom how it all survived!

. **Alan Robb** got back to us with a correction re: **The Coral manning list and a recollection** –

“Hi Paul, just to clarify that I was with Arty Tac at Coral not an LP.

I was only out there for the first two nights. As we were waiting to be airlifted to Coral and a landing Chinook managed to wrap a burning sandbag from a pit around my neck and it left its mark. The medics at Coral suggested that I go back to Nui Dat as the burn was a bit messy. Regards, Alan Robb.”

. **Nick Armstrong** has a recollection of his time at **FSB Harrison** and he raises a question to which he would like an answer – can anyone help?

“Hello Paul, I have just been reading the latest 'Eyes and Ears', and am a little confused by the article on Page 2, attributed to the 'Australian War Memorial'.

I recall FSB Andersen and FSB Harrison were operating at the time of the Tet Offensive at the end of January 1967. I was at Harrison, which must have been the only place in SVN not attacked! When Harrison was shut down, we were airlifted back to Andersen, and then drove by road, back to Nui Dat. **Jimmy Menz** was killed about a week later, at Andersen.

Can anyone confirm that Andersen remained as a FSB until May, as the article suggests? **See below

I don't recall the actual survey work at Coral, but do remember travelling by road, arriving the morning after the main attack. Jeff Holden may have more information on the survey work. The surveyors did remain on (as usual), to operate an LP.

Interesting recollections from Bob Billiards. Cheers, Nick”

**** From above – an email from Ernie Newbold** – “According to the book “ Fire Support Bases Vietnam” written by Bruce Picken (Big Sky Publishing) on 24th Jan '68 108 & 106 Bty moved to FSB Andersen along with Arty Tac and Regt. HQ. On 1st Mar '68 all Aust elements were extracted from FSB Andersen and returned to Nui Dat. Regards, Ernie.”

. **Ted Jux** replies to the question of Locator Locations in SVN, and adds a bit of local up-to-date content – “I'm touring through this great country of ours with my wife. Currently at Ardrossan on the Yorke Peninsula*.

I served only in the LP's 31 A, B and C, as well as Arty Tac.

The Sensor Bunker was on Nui Dat hill just down from 31A. **Graeme Smith** was in charge of that part.

Hope this helps. Kind regards, Ted Jux.

***Ed** – let's see if we can coax a bit of “Nomad” stuff out of the travelling Jux's?

Kevin Browning again gets back to us with a **REALLY** interesting memory tickler –

“In the meantime, could I ask a favour?

I believe one of our boys from either 66 or 67 was awarded for bravery whilst on R&R in NZ.

Do you know who it was or could you ask someone that might know.

I am compiling a record of all Gunners awarded for bravery during conflict and whilst his is slightly outside the boundary it is still worthy of inclusion.

Regards, Kevin”

Ed – some time, effort and enquiring (even to a newspaper in NZ) was conducted in response to Kevin's email, but to **NO** avail. So, the question (unanswered) still remains, so can ANYONE breathe some life into this riddle?

. **Chris Bouilly** came across the following photo and some comments –

“Hi Paul, this photo (below) was taken after we had left Nui Dat. Hope you're well and enjoy working with the newsletter. regards CB

6RAR were in Nui Dat 66-67 and 69-70, and 3RAR did 67-68 and 69-70, so I'm guessing that this photo must be sometime in 69-70?

The place almost looks like a holiday camp ground! Only kidding.

I'm well, so no complaints from this neck of the woods. Thanks Chris.”

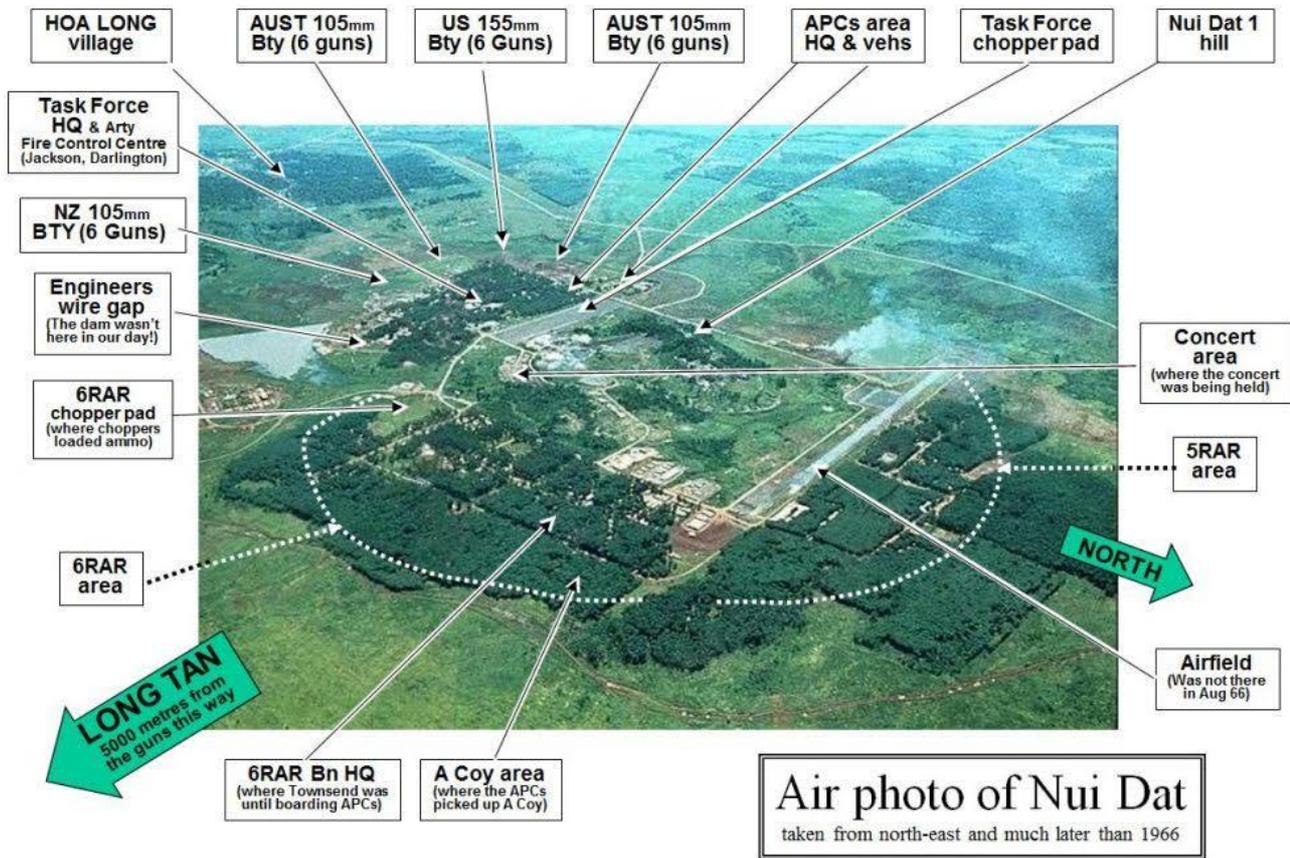
...Ed does some digging –

From my investigation, this photo is taken by 161 Recce flight in 1971 taken from Headquarters Company, 1st Australian Task Force Web Site in their maps area - <http://www.hq1atf.org/maps.htm> It does have a copyright on the original photo too.

Someone has superimposed details of unit placements.

Actually I don't remember a dam in the area either as is pointed out in "Engineers wire gap".

© Copyright 2004 Dave Sabben



John Blake in response to the photo of **Roger McDonnell** in **Ray Hutchinson's** Locator Profile
"...and Roger still looks the same. What is he on?? JB"

Receiving mail is always great – thanks for the input this month – please keep it coming?

Notice Board...hey! see what's coming up?

18th August - Vietnam Veterans Day – let us know what you get up to?

Ged Carroll gives us some insight to **Sydney** – "Good day Paul Veterans in Sydney are going to Bankstown Sports club for a service and luncheon and show the entertainment will be sixties rocker Roland Storm it should be a good day. regards Ged Carroll"

Barry Guzder – plans for **Perth** - "Will probably round up 131 city people for ceremony at memorial in Kings Park. Then 'fellowship'! Barry"

OK, you all know the drill – photos and a line or six as to how you and possibly some mates spent Friday,
18th August 2017?

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 – Alan Adams, WA - Barry Guzder
<http://www.131locators.org.au>

A few well chosen words of wisdom from the Sec/Treas - "Check your emails as I have sent out the renewal notices on 28th and 30th JUNE to ALL those eligible to join - even those who are noted as "LAPSED" - and if you can't find the email let me know and I can always resend it and you won't miss out.
 Thanks to all those who have already replied, you have our appreciation and we have your money!
 Grahame (Dignam). Email sectreas131locators@gmail.com to check. "

Presidential perambulations

Elton John perhaps explained it best with his song *Sorry seems to be the hardest word*.
 But now merely saying *sorry* seems to be the 'get out of jail free card'. Within just two days last month, a Sydney Swans footballer told his team mates he was sorry for hitting someone on another team. I'm unsure as to whether he apologised to the footballer he hit. And British PM said she, on behalf of her Government, was sorry that they did not do more for the survivors of the Grenfell Tower fire disaster.
 There is a car advert on TV where a woman is so immersed in her mobile phone that she is nearly run over crossing a road. She waves her hand in what seems to be the new sorry hand gesture.
 Then Captain Jack Sparrow, aka Johnny Depp, inferred that an actor should assassinate the US President. A little later, oh sorry I should not have said that, just a joke. Social media plasters both the comment and the apology. All done. Move on to the next anti-Trump event.
 And to round it out, another AFL footballer punched an opponent and knocked him out. Sorry about that the puncher said. The KO'd player at first refused to accept the apology. The puncher was suspended for six weeks.
 Hence the process seems to now be:
 I do the 'crime'
 I say that I am sorry, in the most sincere manner
 I forget about it and move on.
 This is a strange world we now live in.
 Allen

. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 15th August, 2017 at 1100hrs
 Venue: Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club, 26 Humphries Rd., Canley Heights Ph (02) 9604 9975 and for directions - <http://www.canleyheightsrsl.com.au/contact-us/>
 You're all welcome

. Pertinent Points – extracted from the 131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 18th July, 2017 at 1105hrs...
 Attendees were.

Attendees: Allen Morley, Bert Blink, Grahame Dignam, Ernest Newbold, George Lane, Nick Proskurin, Gordon Malcolm, Ian Amos, Bob Billiards, Merv Nairn and Ron Mason

Chairman: VP Bert Blink (with Mary, from Canberra ACT), opened the meeting at 11.05 A.M. and thanked those who were present especially those who travel great distances to attend, Ron and Margaret Mason (Vic) and Gordon Malcolm (NSW Central Coast).



Financial Membership is currently ...129, plus Associates 2, Affiliates 7. Total 137. Lapsed 24 members Deceased 4 Members - Renewal reminders are being circulated to ALL locators who have held membership.

Presidents report.

Allen advised:

. LSTAA meeting on Sunday last but he was unable to attend. Unfortunately, other members who have attended in the past were also unable to attend on this occasion.

. A recent DVA Media Release changed the conditions relating to some pension applicants regarding proof of employment conditions. Allen was advised directly by DVA that he may be affected. An item will be placed in *Eyes & Ears* to highlight the change and to alert other members who may be eligible to make a claim under these changed conditions.

. Vietnam Veterans Day on Friday 18th August at Bankstown Sports club is fast approaching. Information and registration is available here <http://www.vfagranville.org/2017%20julmag%20VVD.pdf>

. 1/83rd Arty reunion in the US of A will be held in San Antonio, Texas.

2018 Locator Reunion QLD

For full information and registration details please complete the form available from our website link at : <http://www.131locators.org.au/news-events/notice-board.html>

General Business

Radar Moves.

Ron Mason has been advised by John Methuen from the Museum that they are very keen to get their hands on the Radar. It is still in storage in Sydney awaiting space to be transported and for refurbishment to begin by the Museum's restorers. Their current project is expected to be completed in Sep/Oct and work on the Radar will commence shortly after.

In line with Museum's option this Association will cover the cost of a revolving pictorial display to supplement the radar display.

It was suggested that an audio file be requested from the OCs who worked with the Radar outlining some of the successes they achieved with the equipment including the role of survey and the ground-breaking methods used. This would augment the "audio trail" that the Museum utilizes and give first hand experiences.

Acquisition of a Curta Mechanical calculator was suggested and model details are being collected and availability and cost is being researched.

. Nick provided the meeting with a full mock-up of the Banner we had proposed (see last minutes for a picture). The project will proceed to final draft stage and costs for a 2m and 1.4m banner established.

. A re-supply of 50 caps have been received at a cost of the Assn of \$558.25

. Ian Amos advised that helpers are required to pack and post the Newsletter produced by Granville branch of the VVAA. The work involves placing the newsletter into a plastic posting sleeve for dispatch. The next date will be Dec 2017 and the time required is 3hrs per day over 2/3 days.

. A wreath on behalf of the Association was purchased for the funeral of David Newbold, Brother of Ernest Newbold, a fellow committee member.

. 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...August –

AUGUST	Name	Regt No	YOB	In SVN	Out SVN	Comments
1	PHILLIP ROSS	3794468	1947	06 05 1969	30 04 1970	
1	JOSEPH LOSIAK	218302	1950	04 11 1969	05 11 1970	
1	JOHN LUCAS	3796256	1948	20 02 1970	11 02 1971	
2	JOHN GREENAWAY	3790617	1946	24 10 1967	22 10 1968	
3	LES SMITHLESTER	1201202	1949	23 09 1968	24 09 1969	
3	MICHAEL BUTLER	3796958	1948	04 06 1970	09 06 1971	
3	GRAHAM GREENLAND	2792441	1948	15 04 1970	29 07 1970	† 17.11.14
4	ANDREW OVERALL Lt.	235330	1946	22 02 1969	21 02 1970	
7	MARTY VAN DRIEL	38954	1944	27 11 1967	13 03 1968	† 08.08.98
7	RANDALL JONES	2788775	1947	29 01 1969	28 11 1969	
8	ARTHUR LUXFORD Sgt.	212803	1939	20 01 1969	28 01 1970	† 01.01.08
8	EDWIN LEWIS Sgt.	53909	1935	18 03 1970	11 03 1971	† 26.08.92
9	TERRY WELSH	4721779	1949	03 03 1971	29 06 1971	131
	" "			30 06 1971	30 10 1971	12 Fd REGT
9	GARRY GRIMWOOD	2795771	1949	24 03 1971	01 07 1971	131
	" "			01 07 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd Regt.

12	ALAN THOMSON	42308	1937	20 05 1966	22 06 1967	
13	BRIAN HACKETT	2783449	1945	03 01 1967	12 12 1967	
13	STAN BRIGGS	1731999	1945	27 11 1967	17 09 1968	
13	BOB BRUCE	4718049	1945	11 06 1967	13 12 1967	
15	JOHN POLLOCK	53860	1939	{17 04 1967	24 05 1967	131
	" "			{05 02 1971	07 04 1971	12 Fd REGT
15	KEVIN TAYLOR	2791357	1945	29 07 1969	23 07 1970	
15	NORMAN McMANUS WO2	26202	1924	09 11 1970	19 08 1971	
17	PIERRE GOSS	213990	1936	24 03 1969	25 03 1970	† 06.08.2011
20	PETER BINNS	356367	1947	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
21	NORMAN JONES	5717611	1950	04 05 1971	01 12 1971	12 Fd Regt / AACC
22	JOHN VICKARY	1732218	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
22	STUART SPORN	4718471	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
22	ANTHONY COUTTS	1733291	1946	29 01 1968	21 01 1969	† 1988
23	ROBERT ETHERINGTON	66962	1946	04 11 1969	19 11 1970	
24	JOHAN MOLENCAMP	2795074	1948	03 03 1971	30 06 1971	131
	" "			02 07 1971	09 08 1971	12 Fd REGT
25	LES FROST	215230	1945	22 04 1966	28 04 1967	† 26.03.14
25	KENNETH JONES	2786931	1946	27 11 1967	26 11 1968	
25	COLIN WEST		1947	20 01 1969	21 01 1970	
26	MAX TROYNAR	3790244	1945	05 05 1967	30 01 1968	
26	STANLEY PATTERSON	38451	1947	29 01 1969	28 11 1969	
27	LAWRENCE FARR	1734257	1947	27 08 1969	25 02 1970	† 2009
27	KEN PIESLEY	2787174	1946	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
27	GORDON MALCOLM	2785906	1946	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	
27	PETER WHITAKER	2786848	1946	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
27	PETER CREEDON	2790207	1947	31 01 1969	28 01 1970	
27	GRANT PERRINS	1734509	1947	27 11 1969	04 06 1970	
28	DAVID PIMM	215746	1946	17 04 1967	23 04 1968	RAEME
29	TIM FORD Capt.	235300	1945	19 08 1970	05 08 1971	
31	STEPHEN PALMER	18820	1946	12 04 1968	30 04 1969	RAEME † 03.12.72

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

Ed – 9 blokes not highlighted is looking marginally better, but still not not up to scratch! So, let's get into it and actively get out there locating a few more!

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received and archived **144**. Ed – we ticked one more off, so only 6 more to go to get to **150** – c'mon we're edging there!!

. Located...

Have a look at the Association's web site - <http://www.131locators.org.au> – you might find some lost mates or get in touch with us and see if we can for you.



131 Locators Association is always on the lookout for new financial members. With the establishment of the web site we continue to be burdened with the ongoing cost of maintenance etc and we need to be able to support this effort equally.

So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the *Eyes & Ears* regularly you could bite the bullet and email Grahame Dignam: sectreas131locators@gmail.com and he could forward you the relevant forms to join - Memberships are available for 1 year or longer deposit a DONATION direct (add your name) to the associations account at "A/c Name: 131 Locators Association Inc. Bank: Westpac, Kingsgrove NSW BSB No: 032 166 A/c No: 264133"

Hope we hear from you?

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

. Other related sites...

. Artillery Surveyors 131 Div Loc Bty...



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



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

www.artilleryhistory.org



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

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

. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE

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

. 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery...



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

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



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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