

THE EYES and EARS

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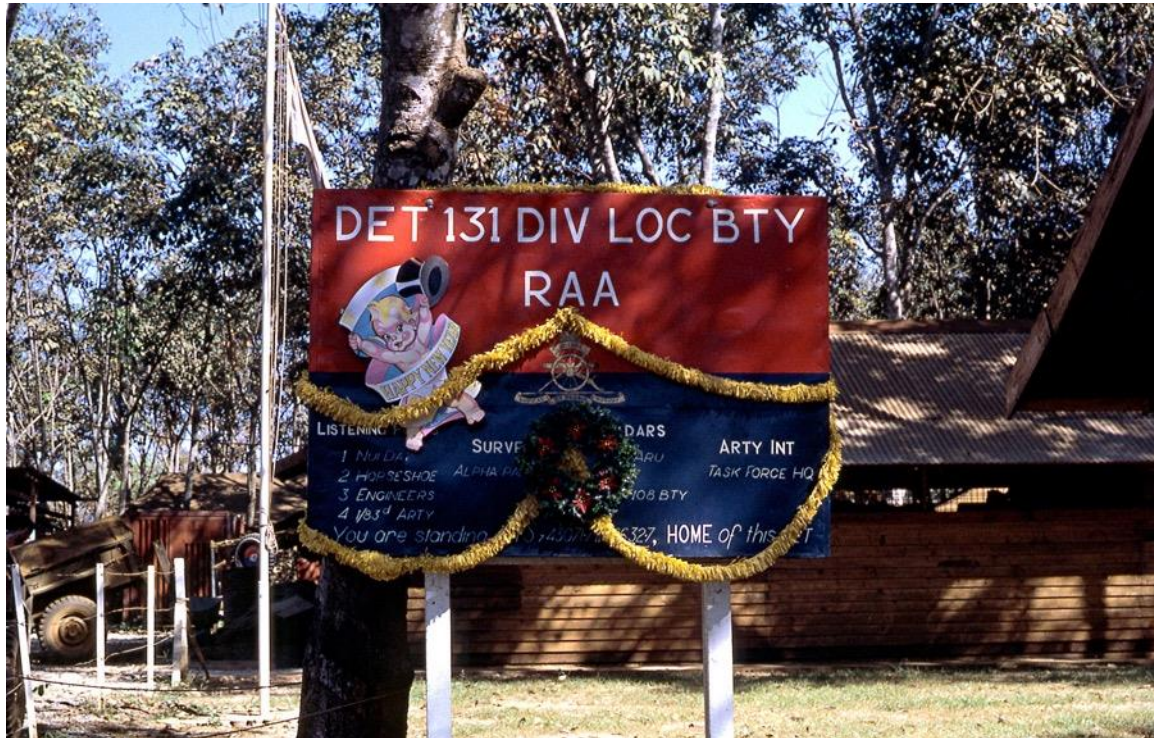
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The message is still the same 50 years
later...

...and this is where it was displayed in 1967, SVN...



HAPPY NEW YEAR FELLAS!

The Cross of Long Tan RTA's...



...has finally been returned to
Australians.

The **Long Tan Cross** is a memorial which was erected by the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment on 18 August 1969 to mark the site of the Battle of Long Tan, which was fought three years earlier during the Vietnam War. While the cross was removed following the Communist victory in 1975 and used to commemorate a priest, it was recovered by the Đồng Nai Province Museum in 1984 and placed on display. A replica cross was also erected on the battlefield during the 1980s, and is frequently visited by Australian Vietnam War veterans. The original Long Tan Cross was gifted to Australia in 2017 and placed on permanent display at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

The cross was installed in the Australian War Memorial under the cover of darkness and its return was kept secret for weeks.

The Australian War Memorial collected the cross from Sydney Airport in early November, after the Vietnamese Government made the decision to hand it back in the lead-up to last month's APEC conference.

The cross was then kept in a storage facility until Tuesday night, when they installed it in the Reg Saunders gallery.

Australian War Memorial director Brendan Nelson said he was proud of his staff for keeping its return a secret.

The cross was erected by Australian soldiers in 1969 at the site of the controversial Battle of Long Tan, during which 18 Australian men were killed.

The Battle of Long Tan could have been an Australian military disaster, but is instead remembered as a decisive victory.

It was the costliest battle for Australian troops in the Vietnam War.

The cross's return comes after Vietnamese authorities cancelled official commemorations at the site of the battle last year, on its 50th anniversary.

"A number of attempts have been made over the years to get the cross back, including by us here at the Australian War Memorial," Dr Nelson said.

"We tried unsuccessfully to have it on loan for the 50th anniversary in 2016.

"I think the issues surrounding the frustration ... in 2016 trying to go to the site and visit the cross itself, I think that played a role in it."

1967 – 50 years have gone just like that!

Here's a bit of what it looked like then...



Near Farmer's department store in George Street in 1967. Farmer's was taken over by Grace Brothers and eventually by Myer's.

Bob Billiards sent in the photo above. **Ed** – George Street, **Sydney**, 1967.

Check out the double decker buses, love the Triumph Herald and NOT one Asian to be seen.

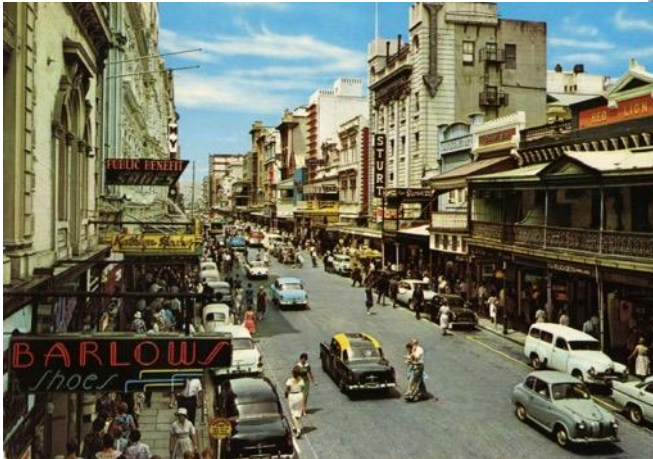


At left - **Brisbane** – George St – a Triumph "Spitfire" outside Lennons Hotel (**Ed** – had a few "underage" drinks there on a Friday night)?

At right - **Melbourne** – Bridge and Burnley Sts,
Richmond



Interesting to note the difference in the “tram” (“tram = an electrically driven public transport vehicle that runs on rails let into the surface of the road) designs – Bne v’s Melb? Plus, Bne had colour via sunshine maybe? Were both photos taken on a summer’s day?



At left - **Adelaide** – don’t recognise the street – does anyone? One suggestion is it may be Rundle St??
Good looking Austin A30 though – could be **Keith North’s** or similar??



At right - **Perth** – must be a Sunday morning!



At left – **Darwin** - Central Furnishing House – “Helenes Fashion Centre” Smith St – there’s an Austin 7 with the hood down!

1967 in Australia...out of Left Field Info – just thought some of you might find some of this of interest.

Ed – I remember being in the bank in '66 when we switched to decimal currency and the havoc it caused – how did we ever cope with something being 4 pounds 13 shillings and 6 pence halfpenny for a pound (1b) and you bought 2 and a half pounds (weight) of it? Hey, did you realise that we didn’t have post codes before '67.

18 January – The Prime Minister of South Vietnam Nguyen Cao Ky begins a controversial visit to Australia. He is welcomed by supporters of South Vietnam but is then constantly heckled by anti-war protesters, and Harold Holt is forced to deny that Ky and his supporters are corrupt and were responsible for murdering his predecessor, President Ngo Dinh Diem.

3 February – Ronald Ryan becomes the last man hanged in Australia; he was executed for the murder of prison warder George Hodson while escaping from Pentridge Prison on 19 December 1965.

7 February – Black Tuesday in Tasmania – massive bushfires devastate much of the Tasmanian capital of Hobart and surrounding areas.

4 April – The Australian government announces it will not ban the oral contraceptive pill, maintaining that the risk of thrombosis is "very slight".

7 April – Australian military adviser Major Peter Badcoe is killed in action in Vietnam during an operation in Hương Trà District with the 1st ARVN Division Reaction Company.

12 April – Australian Roman Catholic bishops publicly declare their opposition to the war in Vietnam.

27 May – Indigenous Australians (technically only the Aboriginal race – see Australian referendum, 1967 (Aboriginals)) are given the right to be counted in the national census after a national referendum and legislation changing citizenship laws, but voters reject a third referendum question about breaking the nexus between the sizes of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

29 May – The new Australian 5-dollar note goes into circulation.

1 July – The postcode system of postal address coding is introduced throughout Australia.

20 October – Australia unlinks the Australian dollar from British currency, when the British government makes a decision to devalue the pound sterling.

27 November - Singer John Farnham, then known as Johnny Farnham, releases “Sadie” (The Cleaning Lady). It was his first Number 1.

17 December – Prime Minister Harold Holt disappears while swimming in heavy surf at Cheviot Beach, near Portsea, Victoria.

19 December – Following the disappearance and presumed death of Holt, Country Party leader John McEwen is sworn in as interim Prime Minister pending the election of a new government leader by the Coalition parties.

20 December – John McEwen announced he will not serve in a government led by Liberal Party deputy leader William McMahon, Harold Holt's presumed successor, triggering a leadership crisis for the Coalition.

Unknown and general dates...

.**General Motors Holden** exports its 100,000th car and launches its first compact sedan, the Torana.

.**Sydney** is rocked by a series of brutal underworld killings as rival gangs battle for control of the city's lucrative gambling and prostitution rackets.

.**Bomber aircraft from No. 2 Squadron RAAF** Canberra are deployed to Phan Rang airbase in Vietnam.

.**Federal Cabinet** decides to drop the word 'British' from the cover of Australian passports, and agrees that it will have to amend the Nationality and Citizenship Act to change the designation 'British subject' on the inside of passports.

.**Australia Square Tower**, Australia's first true skyscraper, is completed.

. Insights and Recollections –

this is a continuation in the series pertaining to Fire Support Base involvements.

After some 49 years, we are gathering **Recollections** and perhaps **Insights** from members of the Detachment who were involved, in some way or another in Fire Support Bases (FSBs). We are starting to see that these memories are helping us to broaden our understanding and giving us greater insights into the Detachment's involvement in South Vietnam.

This is the sixth in this series, which recounts events by **Gordon Malcom (SVN 26.09.67-17.09.68)**.

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).

Gordon Malcolm - Insights and Recollections – FSB Coral, May 1968

Some recollections of Coral -

First night, falling asleep after a shift waking after what seemed a few minutes later when it started.

Tracer, rpgs filling the air and the sound of the mortars getting closer as they walked them in, terrified as you knew the next one was going to land on you.

Pit only 2' deep, squirming to put on flak jacket, helmet, cock the rifle, try to see what's going on without exposing yourself.

'You alright?', 'Yeah', 'Come with me.'

It was Fin, it was such a relief to have something to do, so I stood up in the middle of all that shit and followed him, training. I have no memory of where I went or did for quite a while.

I remember as dawn broke being in the position of the HQ bloke who was killed near the trench coming in along the road. Poor bastard, 3" shell scrape, a bullet had jammed the slide of his rifle and he had put his bayonet on, his rifle was lying there with his glasses nearby and his blood over them and the sand, in country a week apparently.

Sun coming up, watching for snipers as they started the chopper resupply and clean up.

Later that morning, digging, digging, someone with rank from 102 looking down on me whilst digging, BSM I think, seeing if I was OK. Looking up into his face to see the shock and weariness that I imagine was on all our faces.

Next 6 weeks' things became more settled, memories: -

. Lining up after the US 155 members had finished and eating the scraps, first time I ever had French toast.

. Getting their cook's M60, helping strip, clean it for our little section of the line.

. Saying heart felt good byes to Murray Smale when he went on R&R, we figured there was a good chance we wouldn't be there when he got back.

. A certain lieutenant sure he was seeing rockets fairly high up, "Stretch" pointed out they were fire flies 3' above his head / The mud / The flight out - Aaah!!!

The series continues next month with more Insights and Recollections and we hope to continue it further, so if you would care to contribute, please send your Insights and Recollections – Paul Dickson at - 131eyesandears@gmail.com



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

Ian Kennedy has this deep seated (hopefully comfortable?) "PASSION" for riding – push bikes - and has written the following, accompanied with some photos, which might help to explain this deep-rooted love affair...
 I Have ridden since early 90's and competed in Veteran cycling with both Southern Veteran Cycling Club and Geelong Veteran Cycling Club in various grades from 1999 to 2014. For a period of time I was also part owner in a Bicycle shop in a bayside suburb.
 I Have competed in World Masters and taken my bike to France FR and spent a week following the Tour de France, riding some of the iconic climbs.
 Some photos -



Climbing Alpe d'Huez, - looks like these two photos at left and below



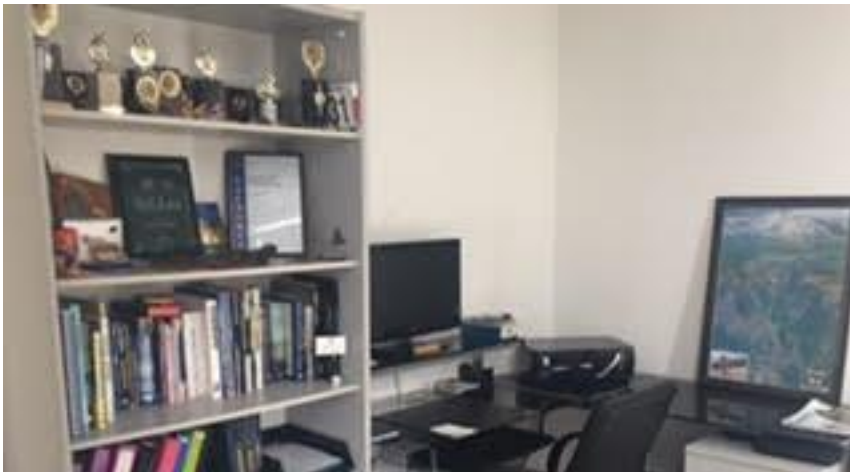
At left on the Cole de Sarin,

For a period of time I rode 7 days a week, rain, hail, or shine. Riding between 1,000 and 1,500 Kms per month on bike paths and roads around my area.

Now the riding is more social and recently bought a cyclocross bike (above) as it is better suited to bike paths and roads around my area.

At right the new 2017 Cyclocross bike – mine and my wife's





At left is a glimpse of the study at home



with bike trophies on top shelf, framed photo of Alpe d'Huez climb on desk. That was only 3 years ago.

. Here's the next in the "Unknown" series...

The photo at right was dug out of Peter Piro's archive collection (he's got an enormous collection of photos). Now according to the sign in the background (can't read it all in this photo but the one below you can- partially) – reads

**"PIE PRODUCTIONS
AND
N?? MUSICAL CO
PRESENTS
ANOTHER ?? PRODUCTION
??"**



Now, this sign also needs some explanation,



...plus, who's the bloke, at left, looking as though he's doing a Roy Orbison impersonation?

"Unknowns" - Here's some responses to last month's "tester" and "tester" ...

Ian Amos fills in some gaps – "Hi Paul, Stuart Sporn's photo in November *Eyes & Ears* brought back memories of the titanic struggles that took place on Bravo radar volleyball court.

As you can see from the attached photo (at right), the championship court was kept in tiptop condition.

Every afternoon at the insistence of Doc Halliday, volleyball was the order of the day. Not sure whether it was designed to work up a thirst before the boozier opened at 4 pm or Doc's idea of team bonding. Whatever the reason, with a total absence of gentlemanly rules, it was on for young and old.



As a new arrival (Sept 67) I was momentarily shocked (but soon became an enthusiastic participant) at the intensity of the games. The object of the competition seemed to be, not to hit the ball to a vacant area, but to pound it into an opponent's head (or down their throat) especially (Sgt) Doc Halliday. Minor injuries were common. These friendly games continued until December 67 when Sgt Halliday departed.

I'm sure Stuart and plenty others can identify the "rogue's" gallery, but here's my two-bob's worth.

L-R back row Ian Amos, ? (apologies) Lionel Outen, Frank Doc Halliday, Chris Bouilly, John Vickary

L-R front row Roger Long, Tom King, Frank Ipsa, Graeme Richardson (RAEME)

Cheers, Ian

Ernie Newbold – "G'day Paul, I'm having a go at putting names to faces for the photo which appeared in the Nov 2017 issue of the Eyes and Ears – (photo above)

Back row. L to R Ian Amos, Mick Luff, Lionel Outen, ??, Chris Bouilly & John Vickary.

Front row L to R ??, ??, Frank Ipsa & Leigh Baker.

the others shown as "???" are familiar but their names escape me, I'll look forward to seeing their names in the next issue.

Regards, Ernie"



. E&Es Vol 3 No 19 May 2010 –

A simple email lead to this – "What did Happen on the Way to SVN" ...

Ernie Newbold started it off with... "May the fourth be with you!..."

Murray Poustie's photo of the "welcoming committee" E&Es Vol 3 2010 No 19 – 04.05.67 arrival

. **Murray Poustie and Peter Hopper both** sent in the departure from Sydney photo below and Murray went one better showing the arrival...

Murray

"Paul, we did fly Ansett DC6B to Darwin where we stayed overnight at the RAAF Base before leaving the next day on a Hercules for Vung Tau. At Vung Tau we were met and then flew to Nui Dat by Caribou.

Photos attached to prove it. Regards Murray"

...then **Peter Hopper adds more** proof by sending the same photo as Murray (above)

"Paul, please find attached a photo that was taken on 4th May 1967 showing members of 131 Div Loc Bty on their way to Vietnam.

From left to right we have: **Brooker, Webb, Hopper and McFadden**. It was taken by **Bdr Murray Poustie**. Peter Hopper"



Paul,
We did fly Ansett-ANA DC6B to Darwin where we stayed overnight at the RAAF Base before leaving the next day on a Hercules for Vung Tau. At Vung Tau we were met and then flew to Nui Dat by Caribou. Photos attached to prove it. Regards Murray
Left: **Brooker, Webb, Hopper and McFadden**.
Right: **Warwick Hamilton** (no tie – just back from the "solarium") and **Ian Yerbury**.



Ed – as a footnote to above photo at right - "Warwick Hamilton (no tie – just back from the "solarium") and Ian Yerbury." – Warwick did send an email saying that the tie must have been hanging with his shirt – likely story!

. Oddities continues – we saunter on from last month's offering –

"In SVN how did we know what unit blokes belonged to by now asking how did we know who we had to salute?"

The following is a fine example -

Here's the "Official Welcome" for the late **Lt Ian Yerbury** (on the right in the photo below) – easy to distinguish his rank and also note the smartly pressed uniform (incl shirt) - straight from the Holsworthy laundry no doubt!



There standing at left in the photo by the tarmac are the Reo's who arrived in Nui Dat on 04.05.67 - as per above yarn.

The "Official Welcoming Party" - The bloke in the shorts with **NO** shirt could be our PT instructor? Ok, yes, his shorts were neatly pressed and Boots GP nice and shiny, so there's a distinct possibility that he **MAY** be an officer - (the Reo's would be excused from knowing).

So, did you just nod and say a friendly "g'day" as you sauntered past?

If you were wearing a "hats giggle" did you get nervous enough to throw a right hand to the brim and chuck in a "Sir" after the "g'day" - so avoiding an embarrassing charge with a possible reduction in your beer ration?

Well, the give-away was "Yerbs" saluting up-front as the casually dressed "bloke" just happened to be the Det's OC - **Warwick "Blueleader" Hamilton**.

Who ever said surviving in Nui Dat was easy when you had to contend with "Officer Ambush"?

. **Ian Amos** sent an email in response to **Bob Billiard's** submission article in last month's *Eyes & Ears* - "Hi Bob (Billiards),

I like your submission. Your mention of **Adrian Buckley** struck a chord. I recall talking to him one day in Nui Dat, he was (I think) driving a water tanker near Bravo radar lines.

In the attached photo (at right), I'm pretty sure he is 2nd row 2nd from the right. As an aside I've picked **Recruit Billiards** as front row 3rd from the right and **Recruit Amos** back row fourth from the right.

Cheers see you next Tuesday
(**Ed - they caught up at the Assoc's AGM**)
Ian"

...then **Bob** sends **Ed** an email... "Paul,

Here is our "A" platoon 2RTB photo that **Ian Amos** sent me. I had to correct him as I am in the front row and third from the left, the one with the skinny arms.
Bob"



. **"Dicko Downunder"** ...- on a November/December "Mother-in-law" emergency Hel and I did a mercy dash to Warragul in Victoria - Hel's Mum had broken her hip and being widowed about 18 months ago and at the ripe old age of 91 - so it was a pretty full on adventure.

However, it did have two interesting diversions -

1. Alan Adams - caught up for a coffee in Cheltenham. He's looking well.

2. Ron Mason - we managed to catch up, totally unexpectedly. Now this is the curious part and it's fairly involved so bear with me -

Late November early December, in Warragul, I was trying to do some research on finding **Roger Holmes** in the Murchison, Victoria area and spoke to a really lovely WW2 Vet's wife (Holmes) who directed me to resume my search in Numurkah (a few Holmes) - I called the first on the list, with no success, BUT she gave me a lead to a bloke called **Pater Dealy** and of course I asked did he have a wife called "Ann" - yes, bingo! I called Peter and he said there was no Roger Holmes in the area. He suggested I call **Ron Mason** and pick his brain re: a Holmes - no one there or in the roundabouts. Now comes the insane part - on hearing that I was in Warragul, Ron said he and his wife Margaret would be down in the area the following week doing some baby-sitting. So, phone numbers were recorded and the following Thursday was allocated for coffee.

So now read on...

"Paul, attached is a photo by member number 167 (**Ed** – member #167 is none other than **Mason, Ann**) (take note Alan!!).

How good is your air brush program Paul? Like you said – we are not getting any younger.

Photo, at right, taken at "Coffee on Queen" Warragul 1st Dec 2017.

Paul, I hope your work with mother in law will be appreciated by the other members of the family - in time - & that mother in law also comes to that realisation – that may also take time!

An excellent catch-up. Ron M"

Ed – Ron, nothing like a face-to-face for the first time some 50+ years later. Paul



Now onto another meeting...

3. Neville "Sam" Marshall – he lives next door to my ailing mother-in-law in Warragul. Neville is an ex RAEME Nasho in SVN 1969. He worked on some of the larger stuff like tanks/APC etc. He was also required to accompany convoys of Artillery ammo etc.

Now to the real story and this will really interest **Tom Lempriere** because Neville is deeply involved in a "Men's Shed" and he specializes in Toys – pretty intricate detailed stuff.

That's the pair of us in the "shed" at home at right.



The two above are amazing – the doors and tail gate on the Kombi with surfboards even open.

The double semi-trailer at right has 32 individual wheels. The mobile crane with tracks on the back is a work in progress.



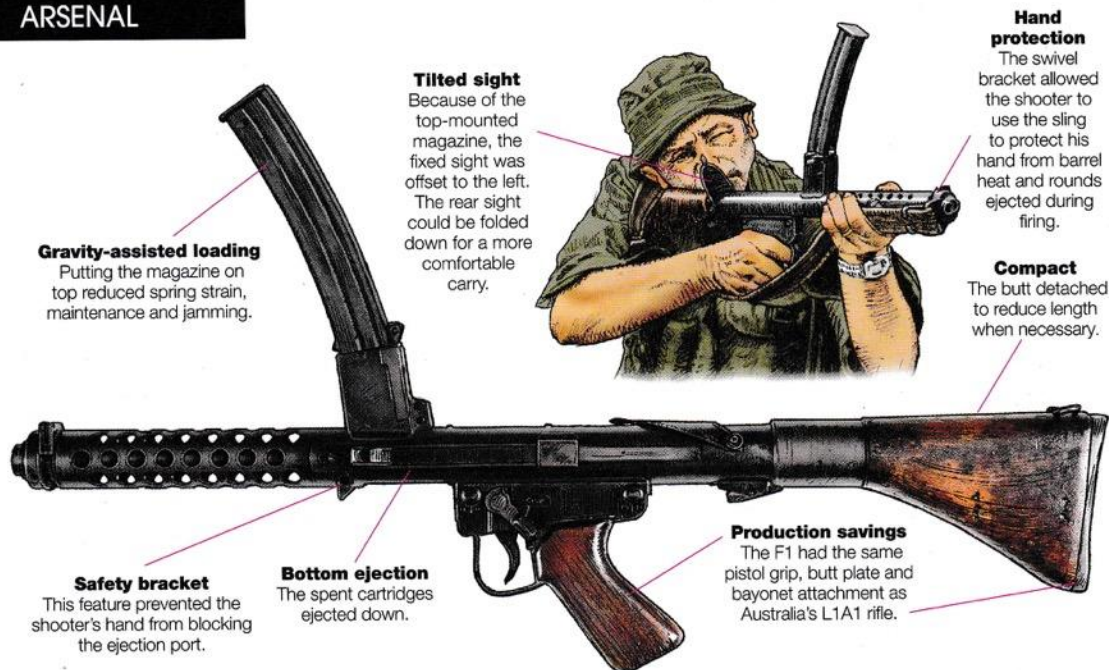
Ed – I think I'd qualify as the "broom-buddy" in the shed!

. **Bob Billiards** forwarded this email in from **Bill Taggart** (1st/83rd) after rereading it numerous times over the last 16 months and now it thought it could be appropriate to share with all of us – **Ed** hopes **Bill Taggart** gets a laugh out of Bob's thoroughness –

“Subject: Aussie F1 Submachine Gun

The attached article was in the October 2016 edition of Vietnam Magazine and I thought you guys would enjoy seeing it. Bill”

ARSENAL



THE AUSSIE'S "SOLDIER PROOF" GUN

By Carl O. Schuster

Australia's F1 submachine gun is one of the most recognizable and yet least known of the weapons used in the Vietnam War. Selected to replace the popular World War II-era Owen submachine gun after field testing in 1963, the F1 shared some of the Owen's characteristics: It had a simple blowback design and fired over an open bolt with a fixed firing pin. The F1 also employed its predecessor's curved, detachable top-loading 34-round magazine.

The magazine's location facilitated firing from the prone position, reduced jamming and ensured more rapid loading, but it also necessitated a slightly offset leaf sight that folded down into the receiver and an offset fixed foresight. The F1's ejection port is directly under the magazine, streamlining the firing and ejection process. But an unwary shooter could suffer a painful "bite" if his hand "wandered" back to the port while shooting.

Safety features included a bracket that prevented the shooter's hand from moving into contact with the barrel while firing. The safety catch was above the trigger and could be operated easily by the thumb. The weapon had a two-stage trigger pull—halfway back for semi-automatic and "pull and hold back" for full automatic. The F1 had a detachable wooden butt and pistol grip.

To reduce manufacturing costs, the F1 used the same butt plate and pistol grip as the Australian L1A1 self-loading rifle and could be adapted to mount the L1A1's bayonet. The F1's left-mounted cocking handle was in the same position as the rifle's. The F1 had a cover that prevented dirt and debris from entering the action, but if that occurred, the shooter could latch the cocking handle to the bolt and work it back and forth to clear away any fouling.

Carried by infantry squads, Australian artillerymen and armored personnel carrier crews, the F1 was powerful, easy to maintain and almost completely "soldier proof" in ruggedness and reliability. Even though the F1 weighed more than an M16 rifle, Australian troops found its compact size and reliability a virtue in the dense Vietnamese jungle, where most of their military operations took place.

The gun, which served with equal distinction in the 1991 Gulf War, was replaced by the Austrian-built F88C Austeyr rifle beginning in 1992. ▽

F1 Submachine Gun

Round: 9x19mm Parabellum
Magazine: 34-round top loading
Weight: 9.48 lb. loaded with fixed bayonet
Length: 8.38 inches
Rate of fire: 600-400 rounds per minute
Practical RoF: 120-150 rpm
Max. range: 200 meters
Effective range: 150 meters

. **Allen Morley** forwarded the following correspondence he'd received regarding a request for assistance in the compilation of a newspaper article...

"Sgt Dave Morley, Reporter, Directorate of Defence News email..... dave.morley@defencenews.gov.au

"G'day Allen,

My name is Dave Morley. I'm a reporter with *Army Newspaper* in Canberra.

I'm doing a feature on the 50th anniversary of FSPB Coral/Balmoral and am hoping you can put me in touch with a couple of your members who took part.

If possible, I'd like to get a few comments from both an officer and a digger from 131 Div Loc Bty who were there, preferably one ARA member and one Nasho.

I know it's some months off yet, but I'm now a Reservist and no longer working full-time.

Many thanks for your time, Allen.

Cheers,

Sgt Dave Morley

Reporter, Directorate of Defence News, Corporate Communication, MECC Division

Strategic Policy and Intelligence Group, Department of Defence, R8-LG-041 | Russell Offices | PO Box 7909 |

Canberra BC | ACT 2610. P: (02) 6266 7613 | M: 0421 204 749"

. **RADAR Photos required...**

Continuing on with the Radar placement at the Vietnam Veterans Museum on Phillip Island we're now looking for photos of the vehicle mounted radar during transportation. I've scoured Andrew Opie's, Keith Ayliffe's, Paul Butcher's, and "Spike" Chase's archived photos – I got close, but came up with nothing.

Can anyone give Ed a hand or six?

Mail Call...

. **Dianne and Keith Dean** – "Hi Paul,

Saw in the latest edition of *Eyes and Ears* that **Peter Suckling** met someone by the name of "**Dean**" on his latest cruise. Well that was Keith and I. What a small world we live in.

Just sat down to breakfast and started talking. Next thing you know they were both in 131.

Had a great cruise from Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand then down to Freemantle. The weather got colder as we got nearer to Australia. Then we cruised on to Adelaide, Melbourne and then New Zealand before heading back to Sydney.

Wishing you a very merry Christmas and New Year. Keith and Dianne Dean"

. **George Lane** – "Ged and myself called out to see **Jim (Fitzgerald)** today out at Mt. Wilga Rehab centre. I am pleased to say that he is doing extremely well and wishes everybody the compliments of the season and looks forward to catching up in the New Year. George."

. **Robert Miller via his son Phil** – sent **Grahame Dignam** the following email giving him an up to date on Bob's health –

"Hello Grahame,

I'm writing to let people who served with my father, Bob, know that he is very ill with cancer, currently at the Peninsular Private Hospital in Frankston.

Bob was a "nasho" in the late 50s. He later joined the regular army (36499) and served in the RAEME as a RADAR technician. He worked at Melbourne Barracks, Larrakeyah, Enoggera, and The School of Artillery at North Head. He did two short stints in Vietnam in 1969 and 70. He was discharged as a Staff Sergeant after 15 years, in 1973. After discharge, he joined the CMF and spent a couple of years at 132 Div Loc Battery in East Brighton, Vic.

Bob did stints as the President and Secretary of the Castlemaine RSL, and Vietnam Veterans Association branch.

The army was a major part of his life, and he often regales us with tales of those days, long past. I've heard most of them several times over 55 years. Phil Miller"



Mail Out

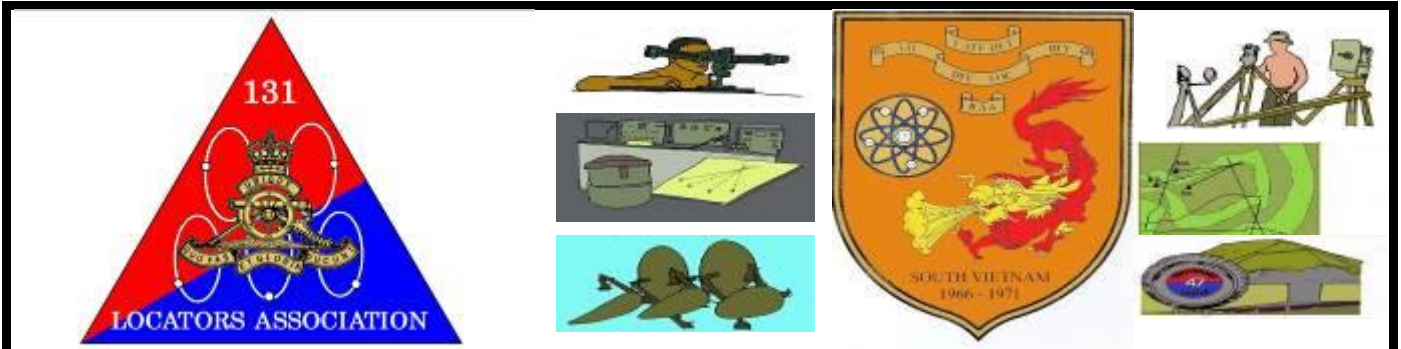


I started this in September and have decided to continue running down the alphabet of names and sending some emails to blokes in general to say g'day and just to generally keep in touch. A lot of the blokes I've never met, so it's just to keep some connection alive. Plus it's good to keep in touch, even sporadically, it may help to avoid any unpleasant unforeseen surprises.



Mail In - Here are the responses...

Regards, John Stanford”



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 - "Now that the festive season has sort of come and gone there's now time to contemplate renewing your membership or maybe joining – both would be great decisions! I'd really like to hear from you – it'd be a great start to my new year.

Email sectreas131locators@gmail.com to check. Grahame"

Presidential perambulations

Looking back on 2017 brings on good memories and some less pleasant ones.

In 2008, a group of us former 131 Nashos got together at the Gunner Dignam residence – since sold – and talked about resurrecting the defunct 131 Association. We applied for a grant to set up our website, and that seems to have been to major catalyst to subsequent success. So, thanks to our members, readers and others for your ongoing support.

Political Correctness and the use of normally understood terms posed problems in the past year. Everything is an 'icon', although I thought that meant a small religious picture. And go into a shop where specials are 'selected' and try to tell them you have selected something different and want the same price for it. Tell someone that you don't do Facebook, or Instagram or twitter and you will be looked at most strangely. They are collectively the latest form of egocentricity. I have already expressed my opposition to the meaningless and inaccurate term 'I can't wait'.

We now have a new Minister for Veterans Affairs, so we will wait with interest to see how he performs. Stupid politicians from all parties forgot exactly what their parentage meant, so the mug taxpayer paid for the High Court to decide their fates.

Disagree or argue with someone and now you are 'disrespecting' them. If you wanted to vote NO, then the chattering classes roundly criticized you. If you support Trump in any way you are crazy. Don't agree with what someone did on the roads, then just get out of your car and thump them. Blame your poor upbringing for inducing you to currently commit crime.

It seems to have become the 'pass the blame to anyone else' society.

I hope that this coming year sees reasonable health outcomes for you and your family, taking into account medical histories and advances in medical technology. Have a great 2018.

Best wishes

Allen



. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 13th February, 2018 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, 12th December, 2017 at 1105hrs...

Attendees were: Allen Morley, Grahame Dignam, Ernest Newbold, George Lane, Ged Carroll, Nick Proskurin, Ian Amos, and Bob Billiards

Financial Membership is currently ...128, plus Associates 2, Affiliates 8. Total 138. Lapsed 24 members

Presidents report.

. Ern Newbold attended the last LSTAA meeting of 2017.

. Allen advised that Victor Danko has resigned as Public Officer of our association. The search begins for an association member to step forward and fill this important statutory position in our executive committee. He invited interested persons to notify him of their availability.

. Allen noted that the original Long Tan cross has been placed on display in the AWM

. The 1/83rd US army artillery will hold their reunion at the ALAMO Texas in Sept 2018.

. Dicko has arrived back in country (Mexico) after a flying visit to OZ.

Public Officer Report.

The Secretary Treasurer submitted the report required by Dept of Fair Trading and paid the \$45 fee.

Webmaster Update.

Bob circulated the web stats prior to the meeting. NZ activity has surpassed that of Mexico which has sparked an investigation.

General Business

Radar update.

. Ron Mason has advised that the NVVM restoration team leader Colin Grey, has advised:

"We have just relocated our Bofor gun to external display and propose to install the radar in its place, I believe the radar will be dismantled in preparation for the refurbishment shortly, I note that the cases and the main unit comprise aluminium alloy and magnesium castings so for the most part we can use traditional aviation methodology to refurbish the equipment. I appreciate your offer of possible funding as one of the issues I mentioned in my message today was funding the project. I will speak with our CEO with regard to that in the very near future. Regards, Colin"

Our association has agreed to initially fund the restoration up to \$500 to start the work and also seek a quote for the estimated total cost. If the sum is beyond our scope we will seek a Grant to complete the work.

. This Assn has identified that the model Curta we used in SVN was the small model # 2, 15-digit display version. We are looking to acquire a CURTA mechanical calculator for inclusion in the general Det 131 DLB display.

Photo Album project.

This project is progressing slowly.

New Plaque project.

I am awaiting replies from "Christies" and "Cary Corporation" re quotes for prices of 50 units of the original design.

2018 Reunion in QLD.

The information is on our website and time has expired. If you wish to attend please contact Terry Erbs ASAP.

The LSTAA website states:

11. Brisbane Open Day/ Reunion 2018.

The reunion in Brisbane is being planned for October 2018. (Changed, not in Coffs Harbour). This is now an "open day" at the Regiment with displays and activities and a Reunion Dinner at a local RSL on either the Friday or Saturday night, (12th or 13th October 2018). Possibly Reunion on Friday and Dinner on Saturday. This information will be posted on the Website. The SE Queensland Branch is organizing.

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

. Birthdays in the Battery...January –

January	Name	Regt No	YOB	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	VICTOR DANKO	2783210	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
1	JOE LIBRIZZI	5716081	1947	23 09 1969	04 06 1970	
1	CHRIS CHAPPLE	5716208	1948	20 01 1970	13 08 1970	
1	RICHARD CHAPLIN	2791166	1948	20 01 1970	13 08 1970	
2	JOHN BROWNE	218367	1949	27 08 1969	13 08 1970	
3	GARY NAVAS	2793162	1949	30 05 1970	26 05 1971	
4	PETER PETTIFORD	3792038	1947	08 11 1968	04 06 1969	
5	GRAEME SMITH	6708707	1946	12 04 1968	20 08 1968	
6	ARTHUR DOVE	217348	1950	13 01 1969	28 11 1969	
6	ALLAN ROBOTHAM	6709864	1950	25 05 1971	18 11 1971	
9	PETER SADLER	15138	1941	20 05 1966	28 04 1967	† 2008
9	ROBERT NESS	4717755	1945	20 05 1966	30 04 1967	† 01.01.2001
9	GERARD PIRES	5717069	1949	03 03 1971	12 08 1971	
11	PAUL TRAVERS Maj.	47027	1940	09 09 1965	19 09 1965	VISIT
	" "			25 02 1967	04 04 1967	RAEME
11	PETER PIORO	2790931	1948	27 11 1969	04 05 1970	
12	PETER HOPPER Sgt	3787938	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
12	DAVID REILLY	3794901	1948	24 03 1970	13 08 1970	
12	BRIAN JOHNSON	4720991	1949	29 05 1970	05 05 1971	AACC
	" "			14 05 1970	27 05 1970	1st Armoured Regt.
12	LASZLO FALKAI	4721836	1949	03 03 1971	30 06 1971	131
	" "			30 06 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd REGT.
13	ROGER HOLMES	3795910	1948	22 07 1970	25 02 1971	
15	GEORGE STAZIKER Lt Col	2108436	1838	14 04 71	01 05 71	† 29.12.12
15	PHIL. ENDICOTT	2783419	1945	06 01 1967	27 09 1967	
16	EDWARD COOPER	44231	1950	26 08 1969	21 01 1970	
16	LESLIE SAURINE	2791863	1947	24 03 1970	17 12 1970	
18	PETER SZABO	38752	1947	26 03 1969	25 03 1970	
19	BARRY HEARD	3788324	1945	02 04 1967	25 10 1967	Honorary 131
19	PETER FIELDEN	3797872	1949	25 11 1970	12 08 1971	
21	PETER SUCKING SGT	55141	1943	05.02.1971	15.11.1971	
22	KEVIN BROWNING Sgt	217743	1948	16 09 1968	24 09 1969	131
	" "			05 04 1971	29 06 1971	131
	" "			30 06 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd REGT.
22	MICHAEL BARLOW	2792252	1949	19 08 1970	11 03 1971	4 Fd Regt.
23	DONALD CHALMERS	3793171	1945	01 07 1969	03 12 1969	
	IAN "Scotty" McNICOL	216327	1945	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	131
	" "			09 04 1970	02 05 1970	VISIT
24	TERENCE ERBS	3791713	1947	28 10 1968	04 06 1969	
24	DAVID NEGUS	3794728	1947	24 02 1970	13 08 1970	
25	WALLY FRANKLIN	1411285	1949	29 01 1968	28 01 1969	
26	RAY HUTCHINSON	37669	1940	17 04 1967	02 04 1968	
26	GEOFFREY TODD	54254	1943	18 12 1967	10 12 1968	
27	ALAN ADAMS	3788792	1945	04 05 1967	27 09 1967	
28	ROBIN TORRISI	1735572	1848	20 08 1970	12 03 1971	
29	PETER MACKIE	2184557	1949	20 08 1970	08 02 1971	
30	ALAN McDONALD	511355	1947	05 12 1967	03 12 1968	
31	COLIN GORDON	16975	1945	15 03 1968	26 03 1969	† 28.03.10

*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 decidedly better, but still not acceptable! Ok, let's get into it and actively get out there locating a few more!

. Locator Profiles – we've received **149** and we've sent out **146**. **Ed** – how long is it going to take to get to **150**? 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.

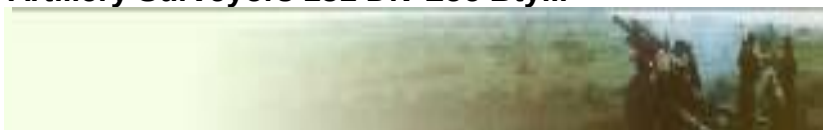
So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the *Eyes & Ears* regularly you could bite the bullet and email Grahame [Dignam:sectreas131locators@gmail.com](mailto:sectreas131locators@gmail.com) and he could forward you the relevant forms to join - Memberships are available for 1 year 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.)

. Locating, Surveillance & Target Acquisition Association...



LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION

The Eyes and Ears of The Battlefield

Meetings: - Sun 11 Mar 2018: at Paddington RSL. **Sun 8 Jul 2018** and AGM: at Panania RSL
All meetings commence at 1115 hrs



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

www.artilleryhistory.org



Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia
Honour the dead, but fight like hell for the living



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

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](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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