

THE EYES and EARS

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

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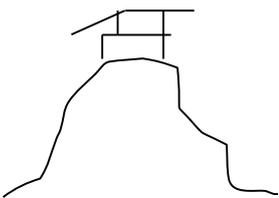
Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA

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

2019 - 53 YEARS AND THE DETACHMENT 131 SPIRIT LIVES ON 1966 - 1971



February - 2009 Eyes & Ears - first edition of new format



Eyes and Ears

No.0001 February, 2009

31A, 31B, 31C and 31D - Are you awake? Over... (followed by a long pause)

Well I warned you that I would start something, so here goes!

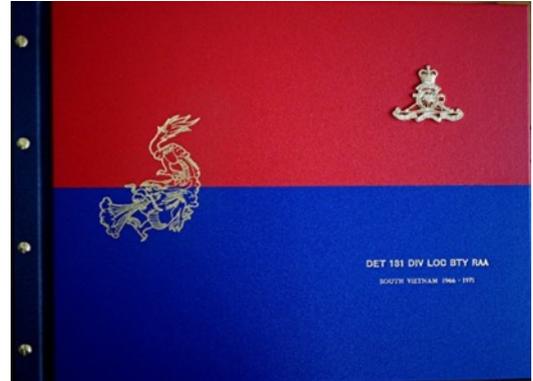
10 years!!! - 127 Editions and about 890k words which includes a heap of your mail, photos etc – Let’s keep it going!

. The “Lost Locator Project”

Ed – The Project continues on relentlessly so, we need to be vigilant and keep our minds active as who knows who, where and how we might stumble on, discover someone etc be it by accident but even more so by design. Paul

Get in touch via 131eyesandears@gmail.com

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



. Insights and Recollections...

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

Paul Dickson at - 131eyesandears@gmail.com

...The following could almost be seen to follow on from “Insights and Reflections” as it deals with some personal Recollections amongst a heap of facts -

. A Question for discussion –

“How did the Detachment change its activities over time in SVN?”

My vague (now interfered with over time) recollections are mainly confined to my time at Nui Dat during 1967. Just short of twelve months (approx.) before I arrived, the “Pioneers” had established the master footprint with all the sections. Then, during my time, we upgraded the facilities, but the unit remained doing the original activities with original equipment.

After some communications with the Association group Bert Blink supplied the following data -

Important dates: Most dates as per pages 224 – 263 “Tracks of the Dragon” 2004 by K.R. Ayliffe and J.M. Posener

22 April 1966	Advance party Det 131 Div Loc Bty departs Australia.
4 May 1966	Remainder of Det 131 Div Loc Bty departs Australia.
May 1966	Detachment 131 arrives in South Vietnam with Radar, Listening Posts, Survey and Artillery Intelligence Sections.
June 1966	Detachment 131 deployed to 1 ATF Nui Dat.
Nov 1968	Sound Ranging base deployed.
July 1970	Radar Section withdrawn.
July 1970	Sensor Section deployed.
Oct 1970	Sound Ranging base withdrawn.
June 1971	Survey Section transferred to 12 Field Regiment.
31 July 1971	Detachment 131 disbanded.

The points of interest occur starting with the introduction of –

. Sound Ranging in November, 1968. It raises questions for me as to its implementation.

Did specialists come up with the equipment to train the Detachment personnel? Which section was responsible for its placement, maintenance and I guess more importantly its activity – monitoring/reporting results etc? What “original” activity did this supersede or did it become an additional activity/responsibility of one of the existing sections?

Well, with a bit of serious digging around I found a “Recollection” from **Geoff Jebb** who recorded information as to its beginnings – here’s the start of his Recollections –

“Sound Ranging was to be an **additional** task for all **Surveyors and**

Signallers. Without any previous experience, they would have to learn on the job. The only change in the establishment was the WO2 Admin was replaced with WO2 Survey/Sound Ranging.

In late April 68 work commenced on the siting and survey of the 7 microphones used in the Cross Base. All were positioned within the Nui Dat perimeter and in fairly straight lines. The intervals between microphones was 750 to 1000 metres for acceptable sound separation.

Next was the Command Post (construction commences – photo at right) ... (the whole of this Recollection will be available on the web site soon).



Was this section and equipment, or parts thereof, deployed on operations or did it become a Task Force base defence activity only? Maybe someone can give us an insight? Plus, it'd be great to get some input from Det Members who worked with this equipment, including how effective it was etc?

...then we move onto

. **Radar Section in July, 1970** - withdrawn. Were these Det members transferred or given the responsibility for the incoming Sensor Section?

The first sensor section consisted of my self and nine soldiers from the now or soon to be defunct radar detachments. (I had always wondered what happened to these guys – now I know.)

This possibly answers one of the questions with regards to section responsibility. It'd be great to hear from Det members who were around for this "dismantling" operation?

...now comes the next introductory item...

. **Sensor Section in July, 1970.** It raises the same questions as per Sound Ranging. Did specialists come up with the equipment to train the Detachment personnel? Which section was responsible for its placement, maintenance and I guess more importantly its activity – monitoring/reporting results etc?

What "original" activity did this supersede or did it become an additional activity/responsibility of one of the existing sections?

To start with **Bert Blink** supplied me with a page from "Tracks of the Dragon" which first-up clarifies the manning information by detailing that Radar personnel, who had been made redundant by the removal of the radars. The extract is pretty self-explanatory giving this lead in -

1970 – A Change of Roles

With a decrease in enemy activity the Radar and Sound-Ranging Sections were withdrawn from South Vietnam in July and October 1970 respectively and the role of the traditional locating devices ceased. A small artillery intelligence section stayed to man LPs at Nui Dat and the Horseshoe. With the disbanding of the Radar Troop a Sensor Section was raised. Detachment 131 was selected to conduct trials on the then highly-secret equipment called 'Sensors'. Although not used strictly for artillery intelligence, the detachment was chosen because it had a command structure and a radio net that went straight to the task force headquarters and contained personnel familiar with surveillance duties and a workshop capable of maintaining the equipment. Because of the secrecy of the new equipment, the code name 'Duffle Bag' was used when referring it.

Then, again, with a bit of serious archive wandering I found an in-depth "Recollection" from **John Brewer** who was very much involved in all things Sensors – here's a bit of an extract from his Recollections –

The course was conducted at 2FFV in Vung Tau between 6-10 July, 1970.

John goes on to explain a lot more about its operation and describing that it was not intended for an Artillery defence roll, but more for intelligence gathering on enemy movements. The equipment was later transferred to 7RAR, where it seemed to disappear into oblivion with no further reports of its activity.

John's Recollection are well worth the read as it involves some serious Sensor laying etc. Look for it on the web – coming soon.

Here's the Original Sensor crew at School in Vung Tau...photo supplied by Eddie Tricker -



*Original Australian Unattended Ground Sensor / Sensor Course Participants - ARVN Signals School, Vung Tau.
Back-Standing-Lto R:Pfc Ryder, USA; Pfc Rosenfeldt, USA; Cpl John Arnold; Captain Norm Gomm; Gnr Stuart Telford,
Bombardier Albert Jacka; Gnr John Lucas; Gnr Laurie Mion; Major Cooper, USA; Gnr Warren Jaenke;
Frontrow squatting-L to R:Pfc Patterson, USA; Gnr Geoff Carthew; Sgt John Brewer; L/Bombardier Jeff Bassard;
Gnr Gary Navas; L/Bombardier Richard Edwards; Sergeant, 1st Class Oliveri, USA. Taken 10/11 July 1970 - Vung Tau.*

There are some very memorable names listed – maybe we can get some input as to the course and events that took place later?

Then only some 3 months later, **October, 1970**, it was withdrawn.

So now, it leads to the question/s as to what was the new activities for the Radar members that manned this section?

All of this is of interest as it does show a morphing or downsizing of facilities and activities over the Det's remaining period of time in SVN? There is still some nine months before the Detachment is withdrawn.

To add to this question/s is the fact that when the "Detachment Member Locations" survey which was floated last year; the numbers of responses did indicate in Member numbers that there was a decline in numbers post 1969 to 1971 (this is not taking into account that the Detachment was withdrawn in 1971) – this information can be seen on the web site in the Members section under Det Locations 1966-1971. However, this information can be disputed by the number of Detachment members because of lack of responses for those years possibly.

To add to this the Survey section was transferred to 12 Field Regiment in June of 1971.

**We'd be interested in any comments to shed light on this subject to add to our history on the web?
There is a definite lack of history regarding the changes that took place
within the Detachment post 1968.**

. Oddities – Ed – let me ramble on a bit more from last month's car ancillaries.

During winter, the not wet season, it gets dusty driving around etc, so other than my flinging a chamois and creating a film of mud sometimes over the duco, I get to go to a car wash, get a coffee and watch the bloke/s get to work. Now, for about 50 odd pesos (about \$AUD3.57) the car, Honda CRV, gets a thorough tub, the interior gets vacced and the upholstery (leather) gets attended to along with the dash, door trim etc, along with all of this the tyres get shined. It's all pretty rustic – not Lane Cove/Toorak etc – if it's windy you may want to sit away from the hose spray. But it's not \$AUD25-\$AUD40 either!

The car is a 2015 4WD and cost about \$AUD20,500 when I bought it in March 2017, it'd done about 34k kms (mind you it's just gone for its 40k service about 3 weeks ago – 6,000km in almost 2 years shows that it doesn't get used a lot – golf is its main 3-times-a-week task). It cost last year about \$AUD580 to comprehensively insure it.

I paid \$AUD37.50 for the rego in January and it costs about \$AUD15 twice a year for the emissions testing. Are you all sort of starting to gather that the cost of living over here isn't all that expensive?

Next month I'll ramble on some more just to keep driving you nuts!

Brian David Auld – a great follow on from “Oddities” ...

Someone asked the other day, 'What was your favourite 'fast food' when you were growing up?'

'We didn't have fast food when I was growing up,' I informed him. 'All the food was slow.'

'C'mon, seriously... Where did you eat?'

'It was a place called “home” ' I explained. 'Mum cooked every day and when Dad got home from work, we sat down together at the dining room table, and if I didn't like what she put on my plate, I was allowed to sit there until I did like it.' By this time, the lad was laughing so hard I was afraid he was going to suffer serious internal damage, so I didn't tell him the part about how I had to have permission to leave the table.

But here are some other things I would have told him about my childhood if I'd figured his system could have handled it: .Some parents NEVER owned their own house, wore jeans, set foot on a golf course, travelled out of the country or had a credit card.

.My parents never drove me to school... I had a bicycle that weighed probably 50 pounds, and only had one speed (slow).

.We didn't have a television in our house until I was 10. It was, of course, black and white, and the station went off the air at 10 PM, after playing the national anthem and epilogue; it came back on the air at about 6 am. And there was usually a locally produced news and farm show on, featuring local people...

.Pizzas were not delivered to our home... But milk was.

.All newspapers were delivered by boys and all boys delivered newspapers - My brother delivered a newspaper, seven days a week. He had to get up at 6 every morning.

.Film stars kissed with their mouths shut. At least, they did in the films. There were no movie ratings because all movies were responsibly produced for everyone to enjoy viewing, without profanity or violence or almost anything offensive.

If you grew up in a generation before there was fast food, you may want to share some of these memories with your children or grandchildren. Just don't blame me if they bust a gut laughing.

Growing up isn't what it used to be, is it?

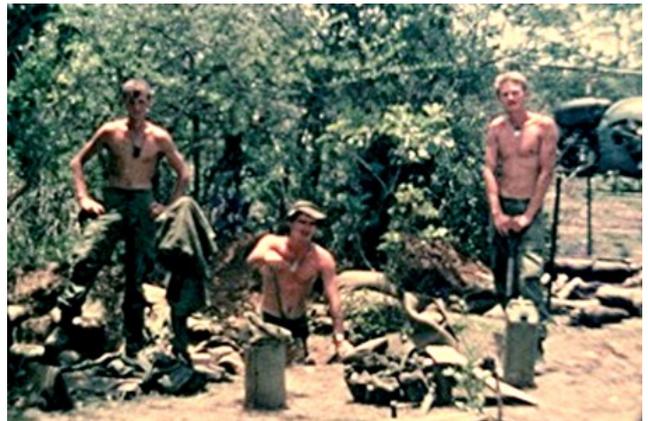
These “Oddities” from Brian will continue next month.

. Here's the next in the “Unknown” series...

Who are these blokes in the group photo?

This photo is extracted from **Stan Brigg's** archives and has no description whatsoever, so we need some help?

It might be on an operation.



Now here's the solution from last month (extract from Peter Pettiford's archives) ... sent in by Peter Creedon –

“Hi Paul

Regarding the people in the unknown photo. Starting on the left the three faces that can be seen are **Brian Smyth's, Brett Rainsford and Peter Creedon (me)** in the door way.

I think. Peter Creedon”



Keith Ayliffe – updates us on the latest UCG decision –

G'day All, I have just received a surprise that the Chief of Army Lt Gen Burr has denied our request for 131 STA Bty or 20 STA Regt to be beneficiaries of the UCG awarded to 131DLB for participation in the Battle of Coral/ Balmoral.

"I Have considered the request from HOR RAA that 131 STA Bty, 20 STA Regt be authorised to wear the insignia in recognition Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery was deployed to AO Surfers. Whilst just over Half Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery was deployed to the AO, The Majority of 131 Div Loc Bty was not deployed to Vietnam at that time, as a result, I have not approved the request for 131 STA Bty, 20 STA Regt to wear the insignia"

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to those people who have supported my efforts so far.

I will be moving to plan "B" as I do not believe this to be a satisfactory result, I may be the only one who feels so, but that is me I believe in justice for all. I do not see where an arbitrary rule made after the main event, like shifting the goal posts, should apply to "UNITS" who have witnessed the same ferocity of a Battlefield and the cleaning of the mess afterwards should be treated differently. I for one feel that disgusted and will not be wearing my UCG insignia. I believe without the intended heritage factor; the award is blighted.

131 DLB was designated as its name suggests a Divisional unit designated when required to be divided into three components to join the three Brigades that make up a Division. There was also 132 DLB that was to work with Australia's 2nd Division. each component would be around 60+ men.

A Task force can be considered in lay terms a Brigade, so a section of 131DLB was sent to SVN under command of HQ 1 ATF. (the *1st Australian Task Force* (1 ATF) was a brigade-sized formation)

131 DLB commanded the same status as an Artillery Regiment therefore could not come under command of a Regiment. except in the area of discipline example if a soldier was charged and the disciplinary action was above what an OC could mete out then it went to the CO of the Regiment.

SEE ORBAT chart

<http://www.vvaa.org.au/orbat.htm>

For your info I intend to fight for the right of the current unit to wear the UCG insignia on our behalf.

It will not affect any previous legislation so current holders will not be affected.

That is my opinion and I will now put into action plan "B" to have this anomaly corrected.

I will Keep you informed as I continue. Again, your support has definitely been appreciated.

Best Regards to All and thank you. Keith"

...Grahame Dignam responded to Keith with the following –

"Thanks for the update. Just some thoughts that might already have been considered. If so, then not nothing lost...

To rebut the statement: **The Majority of 131 Div Loc Bty was not deployed to Vietnam at that time, as a result, I have not approved the request for 131 STA Bty, 20 STA Regt to wear the insignia"**

KA, is it worth looking at the Australian contingent requirement in place **AT THAT TIME 1966-1970.**

The battle plan laid out by the AUSTRALIAN ARMY might have included for example the following manning:

"The Task force was to consist of A B C D E etc and a Det of 131 DLB of XX personnel (the complete unit was never going to be deployed due to the size of the Australian commitment).

The skills within the Det131 were LP, SURVEY, RADAR, ARTY INT, SIGS, etc etc which allowed the overall task force to operate effectively on numerous operations prior to AO Surfer. The Det deployed those same skills during the Battle for Balmoral/ Coral at AO Surfers.

The Det Survey section was instrumental in "educating" the US ARMY in correct precise survey of positioning of Gun batteries allowing them to be more effective in their gunnery results. etc etc

Hope this may be of some use. Regards, Grahame."

...Keith's response –

"G'day Grahame. You are on the right track as that will form part of my plan "B".

Many people do not understand that 131DLB was known in those days as a "Divisional unit" (hence the Name) which basally means the unit came under control of One Division and Two Division and it was equally divided.

The Task force in Vietnam was basically at Brigade Strength so should receive no more than about 60 members

(Averaged around 80 more than required to fill assignment) so there would have been no chance of the full Bty serving in Vietnam at any one time

Best regards, Keith."



John “Mac” McGovern – “Ladies and Gentlemen (yes I'm Old School!)
 Congratulations on making it to 2019. This is just a quick note to thank all of you who have contributed to the Mortality Files of Vietnam Veterans. I am still hard at it, so if you come across any of your people who have passed on, please email me the details (as much as you can), so I can add them to the Files.
 I have attached the Notification Form for this purpose.
 I do hope you are all well and look forward to hearing from you in the near future.
 Kind regards, John Mac McGovern”



Vietnam Veterans Mortality List Notification

- Service number:**
- Surname:**
- Given Names:**
- Rank in SVN:**
- Date of Birth:**
- Date of Death:**
- Age on Death:**
- Cause of Death:**
- Units Served in:**
- Final Resting Place:**

- Notified by: Name:**
- Address:**
- Ph No:**
- Date:**

Please complete and email to: whitepointer4b@hotmail.com

LEST WE FORGET

Ed – If you require more forms etc please contact me at: 131eyesandears@gmail.com

Stuart Sporn – a reflection – “The Rock and JV”

“I lived and worked in Alice Springs for 3 years in the early 60’s and visited the Rock, aka Uluru, 3 times as well as the Olgas. Certainly, climbed the rock several times and the second highest Olga which was much more demanding. There were no natives to be seen in the vicinity and the nearest at Angus Downs Station north of the rock!!!!!!
 When E J Connellan arranged to build an airstrip at the rock, sink a bore and shelter, down they came. EJ did this for the growing tourist industry as most visitors thought the rock was a few miles south of Alice. It was... 200 miles south west Isn’t tradition and the “Dreamtime” fascinating!!!!!!”

From the Advocate's Desk...



Our professional Advocate's contact details: -

Peter Pioro JP - email contact: piorowp@ozemail.com.au

Ken Foster OAM JP - email contact: khfoster1@bigpond.com

Disclaimer: Please note that all correspondence submitted will be treated with the total confidentiality between the sender and our Advocates. Printed submissions and responses that may be published in *Eyes & Ears* will be completely anonymous, just used as examples of help.



Mail Out



I started this in September, 2017 and have decided to continue running down the alphabet of names and sending some emails to blokes in general to say g'day and just to generally keep in touch. A lot of the blokes I've never met, so it's just to keep some connection alive. Plus, it's good to keep in touch, even sporadically, it may help to avoid any unpleasant unforeseen surprises.



Mail In - Here are the responses...

Joe Molenkamp – “G'day Paul. Thanks for your message. I have been meaning to contact you for some time. I'll keep this short because I was diagnosed with cancer last week and will be operated on next Friday at St. Vincents Hospital in Sydney. All is expected to go well so after it's all over I'll get back in touch. Enjoy your trip to India. Cheers for now. Joe.”

Russ Hamsey – “Paul:

Good to know your year is off to a good start. My year has been interesting. I am back at the Regt, as a reservist and as the 2IC again. Should be interesting on three days a week. I am recovering from prostate cancer, diagnosed last year and operated on a couple of weeks ago. All is good at the moment and I'll be back to work shortly. Christmas was quiet for us, which was a nice change.

We visited India during our big trip last year and really enjoyed it. It is truly an assault on the senses. Colour, noise, smells are all over the top. You can go from the filth of a street to the aroma of a spice market in metres. In the poorest areas, clothing colours are vibrant. In general, people are very friendly, but they have their ways and you will not change them. Cricket is a very quick way to friendship as we found in Jaipur with a couple of restaurant waiters. I hope you really enjoy the trip mate!

My wife and I have to go to Canada for a family wedding in September. On the way home, we are planning a return to Portugal and a visit to Morocco.

The Regt had a very successful deployment OF 132 Bty to PNG supporting APEC. As a result, we now have a couple of soldiers in Iraq supporting the special guys. The unit remains very busy and planning is well underway for expansion to include 133 Bty.

That's about it.

Take care, Russ Hamsey”

Ron Boaler – “Hi Paul, thanks for your email.

I would like to thank all the members who contacted me to wish me well in the recent floods. I had been down in Nambour helping my son Ken and family move from the coast to a house in Nambour. Two years ago, Ken who turned 40 on Christmas Eve arrived back on the Sunshine Coast after driving the family to Townsville. They arrived home on 1st Feb 2017 and on 6th Feb woke up totally blind due to a thyroid problem. He now only has 5% vision in his left eye and there is not a big demand for blind electricians. Anyway, I digress.

I left Nambour by train on the Tuesday arriving in Rockhampton at midnight. After 10 hours, we were put on a bus but by the time the bus reached Mackay the Bruce Highway was cut. I stayed the night in a motel and at lunch time flew to Brisbane. It was now Friday and earning my TPI Pension I had a massive anxiety attack and missed the flight to Townsville. I must say the staff of Qld Rail and Virgin Air were tremendous handling cancelled travel and upset

passengers and I was put on a later flight arriving home at 2300hrs.

Next morning I walked out into the rain water covering the road in front of the house and at 0855 went in to eat my breakfast and watched the first 30 minutes of the second day of the test against Sri Lanka. There was a commercial break and I ran into the bathroom grabbing the dirty clothes basket and to the back door hoping to get a load going in the washing machine only to be confronted with two feet of dirty brown water!

The level had risen over a metre in 35 minutes! Unheard of even in the “night of Noah” back in 1998 when a cloud burst dropped a meter of water in 3 hours.

Two days ago I got power back on but only lights and fans and a special extension lead to my refrigerator.

Every car in the street was a write off and I lost my laundry, electrical exercise machines and lots of power tools and some furniture I was doing up in my shed. The highest I had seen water (the house has been in the family since 1962) was Christmas Day 1971 after cyclone Althea, the last cyclone to hit Townsville.

That mark was easily beaten and it reached within two inches of “the big one” the 1946 flood. The thing this time was the power of the water and how swiftly it came to us.

The job I have now is to work out what money I have and to scrub all the mould off the inside and outside of the house.

I went to the Community Disaster Centre and drove there in my daughter’s car. There was a write up on Facebook about some idiot who parked his car got out and walked into the building leaving the car running and the door open!! It hasn’t had any effect on me!!

Bullshit!

Now I am trying to fill in an insurance claim and the details they require are mind boggling. But we must persevere.

Again, thank you to the people who rang, emailed and texted their best wishes all to no avail. Ron Boaler”

Bert Jacka – Ed – I have heard from Bert and this is just to let you know that he’s been in touch.

Notice Board...hey! See what’s coming up?

There’s plenty of room for notices – has anyone got or getting any events planned?
Just send an email and I’ll post it. Ed

April - ANZAC DAY – it’s on a Thursday this year. Got any plans? Where do you think you’ll be? How about letting us know what you’re getting up to – what’s being planned?

. Brisbane – Terry Erbs – “All Locators, families and friends are invited to 20th STA Regiment’s traditional Dawn Service to be held at the Regiment’s memorial wall in front of HQ building, Gallipoli Barracks at Enoggera. If the base security status remains unchanged, entry will be via the main gate from 3.30am



[see map].

The traditional Gunfire breakfast [biscuits, coffee & rum] commences at 4.30am in front of HQ building, followed by the Dawn Service at 5am in front the Regiment’s memorial wall. After the service, breakfast will be served beside the Menz Club, in the Checkley Annex, from about 5.30am, for the cost of a gold coin per person.

Free travel on the day is available for veterans using public transport, either via Gaythorne railway station or BCC council buses into the CBD. The LSTAA banner will be located on the corner of George & Mary St from about 9.00am and this will be our rallying point. [note - this year Mary St will be closed due to police requirements]. The Brisbane march commences at 10am, our group [5] are required to form up at 10.20am in George St, at position 41, behind 108 Field Bty. Assoc. and ahead of Royal Australian Artillery Association.



Assoc. and ahead of Royal Australian Artillery Association.

Note – Brisbane’s 2019 ANZAC Day march map has yet to be published but will provide when available.

The march route is the same as last year - down George St, right into Adelaide St past the saluting dais at King George Square and ANZAC Square, right into Creek St and Queens St then fallout near the GPO [with a group photo opportunity on the GPO steps]

Afterwards, it's an easy short walk to the Stock Exchange Hotel, at the corner of Edward & Charlotte St, with early entry to Locator's & family using tickets issued by RSM Kym Fox or RP Sergeant - I'll have few spare tickets too! So hope to see you all at the Stock Exchange Hotel, to catch-up with mates, family and friends, have a few convivial drinks and maybe a meal.



Terry Erbs, President SE Qld Branch LSTAA. MOB 0403 500 642
terry.erbs@gmail.com

. **Sydney** – Peter Creedon – “Hi Paul. Every year a group of us meet on Anzac Day, Peter Larkin, Graeme Owen, Russell Jackson, Brett Rainsford, Brian Smyth, Jeff Schafer, Michael Quinlan, Kevin Browning, Terry Erbs, John Henshaw, Wes Hindmarsh, Randall Jones and Jim Merchant.

Seeing that the unit was made up of people from around the country we rotate out meetings between Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

This year we meet in Sydney. Regards Peter”

. **Sydney** – Allen Morley – “The Anzac Day March in Sydney will form up, probably in Bent Street (to be confirmed closer to the day) at 10am on April 25th. The 131 Banner will be the rallying point. The March will proceed via Elizabeth St to Hyde Park.

Lunch has been organised for the Zest Restaurant, City Tattersalls Club, entrance in Pitt St. All locators are invited to join our group.

Please advise Allen Morley, awmorley@optusnet.com.au or Mob 0411 962 510 if you will be attending.

Cheers, Allen.”

. **Camden** – Grahame Dignam – “Dicko not a big do. Just me marching in Camden with, I hope, Daughter and family of 4 and Sons' family of 4 to wave as I go past. Dig”

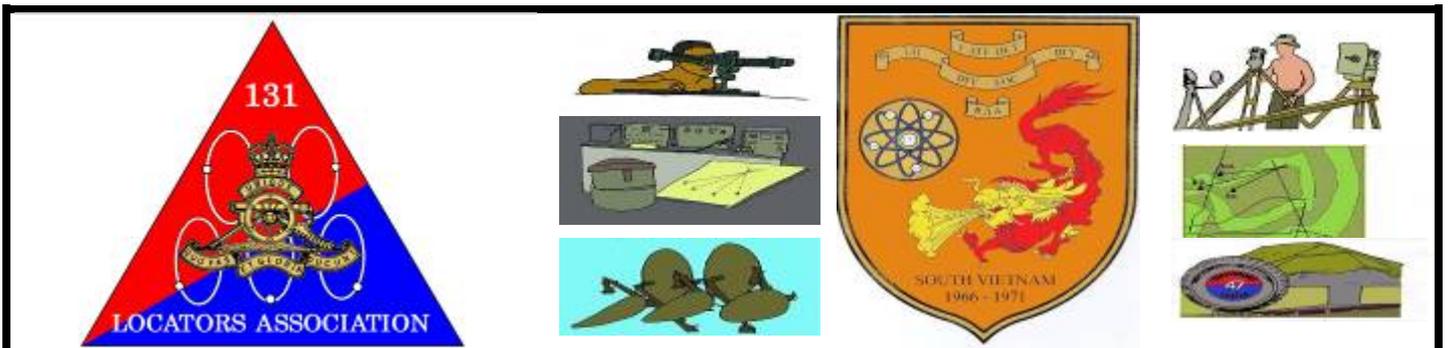
May – 1966 “Pioneers” – get into South Vietnam – **53 years ago. ANY PLANS?**

The **Coffs Reunion** for all/any 131 personnel over the **4/5 May 2019** has attracted 15 vets. While not an official reunion it is a great place to gather, and remember the “departures to SVN” of the Pioneers in 1966 and 1st Reo's in 1967.

- **1968 Coral/Balmoral** – the Battle of Coral/Balmoral took place – **51 years ago. ANY PLANS?**

What have you got planned for April/May?

Anything on the offering for ANZAC Day yet – now that's getting close?



Committee members:

President – Allen Morley, Vice President – Bert Blink, Treasurer/Secretary – Grahame Dignam,
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>

Presidential perambulations

I have spent a couple of weeks in NZ on grandfather duties. It has been a relaxed time and thus far the weather has been kind to me. The stay has given me time to observe the Kiwis over a longer time than during my briefer visits.

My observations include:

. Graffiti jobs seem to be absent, at least in the parts of Auckland I have been in. It is pleasing to the eye that the sides of buildings, overpasses and trains are not scrawled with the ego of the graffitists

. Every 10th car or so is pulling a trailer. One I saw had a large boxed trailer and as it went around corners the hinged section waded in the breeze just missing parked cars

. As a pedestrian, you take your life in your hands, especially with cars turning into and out of a street, and even on pedestrian crossings

. Drivers here are just as negligent at signalling their intentions as those back home

. Every morning I read the Auckland Herald and almost without exception there is a personal sob story on the front page. Problems over relations with China and other important matters appear deeper in the paper

. One of the 'big debates' of the moment relates to the release of gendered chocolate, by manufacturer Whitakers; pink and blue chocolate. And of course, those who don't know what they are gender wise and their supporters are up in arms about their exclusion. Maybe pink chocolate with blue dots and vice-versa would be the solution?

. The All Blacks are rebuilding, which means that successes are further apart

. It is likely that the Government will introduce a Capital Gains Tax in the next two years. That would probably curtail investment in real estate

. A Queensland fruit fly was discovered in a trap located in Devonport, an Auckland suburb. The media has gone ballistic over this single male appearing.

Cheers, Allen

. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 12th March, 2019 1100hrs

Venue: Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club, 26 Humphries Rd., Canley Heights Ph 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 February, 2019 at 1105hrs...

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

Financial Membership as at 1 February, 2019 is currently ...**117**, plus Associates **2**, Affiliates **9**. Total **128**.

Lapsed **38** members. Deceased **7** members.

Presidents report.

Allen advised:

. The original item in "Airburst" regarding the recipients of the UCG was incorrect. The 131 Bty and 20STA regiments had been included in error due to the word "NOT" being omitted. A small word with eternal consequences. There will be more to come on this topic.

. The Photo album project would be the main focus for our Association this year. He reported that there had been some activity and that Ern Newbold had received some submissions. Ern also commented that he was working on renovating some of the pics he already had in his possession making them acceptable for the album. More are required.

. He enquired as to numbers of members of the committee who would be attending the Sydney Anzac Day march this year. G Dignam indicated that he would be attending the Camden march as a family affair.

. The **Coffs Reunion** for all/any 131 personnel over the **4/5 May 2019** has attracted 15 vets. While not an official reunion it is a great place to gather, and remember the "departures to SVN" of the Pioneers in 1966 and 1st Reo's in 1967.

Webmaster Update - Bob Billiards has successfully moved the website from a physical computer server to "the cloud" and all components are operating well. There has been a gap in the collection of stats regarding the accessing of the *Eyes and Ears* on the web but that has been addressed and new figures will be available next month.

Health issues.

Allen has requested that we adopt a permanent section in the minutes to deal with this important subject. He noted that we had recently learnt of Vic Moreau being hospitalized. We subsequently learnt that Vic had passed on 10 Feb. A "VALE" item will be in the next *Eyes & Ears* edition.

General Business.

Discussions ensued on the following:

. On-going arrangements re Jim Menz Book prize

. Payment to Webmaster Rob Billiards for the cost of hosting the website under the new "Cloud arrangements. We are billed in USD which will be converted to AUD. As a result, the final amount will be subject to changes in AUSD/USD exchange rates.

. Grahame Dignam suggested that we mention a number of departed members' names on each of the minutes over the course of the year as a means of reminding us of their service and memory. The meeting endorsed this proposal.



at
(02)

Merchandise Offer - Look great at your reunion!

All payments

Direct deposit to:

A/c Name: 131 Locators Association Inc. Bank: Westpac, Kingsgrove NSW

BSB No: 032 166 A/c No: 264133

or

By cheque – Make payable to: 131 Locators Association Inc

Mail to: Secretary / Treasurer, 131Locators Association, 8 Bartlett Street, Oran Park 2570



Polo Front/Reverse.
\$30. + postage

Tee front/Reverse.
\$25.00 + postage.
Features dedication.

Polo \$30 or Tee \$25 On hand 5P Small 4T	Polo \$30 or Tee \$25 On hand 3P Med 4T	Polo \$30 or Tee \$25 On hand 12P Large 12T	Polo \$30 or Tee \$25 On hand 7 P XL 2T	Polo \$30 or Tee \$25 On hand 1 P 2XL 4T	Polo \$30 or Tee \$25 On hand 3P 3XL 5T
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- Car decals \$5 ea or 5 for \$20



- 131 Nasho Ribbons \$6.00 ea
- 58mm x 418mm



Cap and Bucket Hat are: \$20 each (add \$8.50 per order for postage.)

Bucket Hat Sizes S M L



If you've got more photos that you want added, just send them to: - Paul Dickson – web Photos

. Birthdays in the Battery...March –

Date	Name	Regt No	YOB	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	EZIO LOMBARDO	216284	1946	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	
2	GEOFF HOLDEN	2785828	1945	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
2	JAMES TOWNLEY Maj.	17072	1939	14 06 1963	22 06 1963	103 Fd Bty FARELF
	" "			22 04 1966	19 08 1966	131
	" "			30 04 1970	28 05 1970	HQ AFV
2	PETER BENNETT	3794060	1948	26 08 1969	04 06 1970	
3	RIC. MARQUES	3790008	1946	10 06 1967	21 05 1968	
3	RAY SMITH	3787666	1945	20 05 1966	02 05 1967	
3	GRAHAME LEE	2787457	1947	23 04 1968	23 04 1969	
3	ROGER STANLEY	2788155	1947	08 11 1968	27 08 1969	
3	RALPH MITCHELL	2788073	1947	08 11 1968	27 08 1969	
4	JOE CLENDINEN	17648	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
6	GARRY LUSCOMBE T/SGT	243144	1942	22.04.66	09.05.67	RAEME
7	RODOLFO MARSANI	3796861	1948	20 08 1970	20 08 1970	131
	" "			20 08 1970	05 05 1971	4 Fd Regt.
8	RUSSELL JACKSON	3793090	1945	24 02 1969	28 11 1969	
8	BARRY COOKE Sgt.	54886	1946	16 09 1968	24 09 1969	RAAOC
8	DES McGIUGGAN Sgt.	214722	1944	20 01 1970	21 01 1971	
11	BOB TANNER	6708362	1945	21 05 1966	28 04 1967	
11	PETER McKIE	2787728	1947	22 04 1968	23 04 1969	
12	JAMES FITZGERALD	2782044	1945	04 05 1966	29 04 1967	
12	GREGORY LUCAS	1735725	1949	20 08 1970	20 08 1970	131
	" "			20 08 1970	29 10 1970	4 Fd Regt.
13	JOHN (JACK) HEYES	3791085	1945	05 12 1967	03 12 1968	
13	ALLAN CAMPBELL Sgt.	18257	1946	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	† 19.06.2009
	" "			05 02 1968	31 03 1968	
14	NEVILLE WORTLEHOCK	54941	1947	29 04 1968	30 04 1969	
17	GEOFF LOCK	2782439	1945	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	† 09.09.10
18	VIC MOREAU	1200577	1939	22 04 1966	23 01 1967	† 09.02.19
18	ROY CLAUSCEN	214873	1941	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	
20	BRIAN CAMPBELL	2781310	1945	22 04 1966	30 04 1967	
20	BARRY FOLLINGTON	2783144	1945	12 12 1966	27 09 1967	
20	IAIN KENNEDY	3791023	1945	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
20	RONALD ROBARDS	216900	1948	21 02 1968	21 02 1969	
21	GARRY SMITH	2792048	1947	15 04 1970	17 12 1970	† 19.01.12
21	MICK KING	216504	1948	04 05 1967	02 04 1968	
21	WARREN JAENKE	1735584	1946	20 02 1970	11 02 1971	
22	GREGORY PECK	2790401	1948	04 11 1969	04 06 1970	
23	DEREK HINDE	2787403	1947	01 07 1968	14 05 1969	
23	MARTIN KRYNTJES	5715291	1947	26 08 1968	04 06 1969	† 27.12.17
25	GARTH NICHOLLS	216381	1948	{05 02 1968	11 02 1969	
	" "			{05 11 1969	28 11 1969	1 Fd REGT
25	ROBERT HARGREAVES	2790343	1948	04 11 1969	04 06 1970	
26	GEORGE LANE	2781630	1945	04 05 1966	11 12 1966	
	RAY AURISCH	2212243	1944	1969	1970	† 25.03.70
27	ERIC WINN	219656	1951	30 05 1970	07 08 1970	131
	" "			07 08 1970	05 05 1971	4 Fd Regt.
29	JEFF REID	3790495	1946	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	† Unknown
30	FRANK HALLIDAY Sgt.	215105	1937	02 01 1967	13 12 1967	RAEME
30	EDWARD CHASE	2782043	1945	04 05 1966	11 12 1966	
31	LESLIE CAHILL	2412281	1947	20 05 1966	30 04 1967	
31	GRAHAM HISLOP Sgt.	15290	1935	22 04 1966	03 03 1967	

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

Ed – 8 blokes not highlighted is looking decidedly better, but still not acceptable! Ok, let's get into it and actively get out there locating a few more!

. **Locator Profiles** – We've received and sent out **157**. **Ed** – c'mon that's nowhere near even half the blokes in the Det etc?

. Located...

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

Vale

Name

Regt No

DOB

SVN in

SVN out

DOD

VICTOR ALAN MOREAU W02	1200577	18.03.39	22 04 1966	23 01 1967	† 09.02.19
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“**VALE VIC MOREAU** 18th March 1939 – 9th February, 2019. The funeral for Vic was held at Palmdale on 14th February 2019. The funeral was attended by **4 Pioneers Brian Campbell, Merv Nairn, Ged Carroll & George Lane also Ernie Newbold** from the fourth intake. The actual service was very tasteful I'm sure Vic would have appreciated it. Kylie his daughter did a great job putting it together. George Lane.”



May 1966 – Ian Board, Edward “Spike” Chase, George Lane, Mick McDonnell and **Vic Moreau** – Vung Tau, prior to Task Force relocating to Nui Dat.

May 1966 – Back row – Jim Fitzgerald, Laurie Gallop and Ron Mason
Front row – **Vic Moreau**, Kev Thornton, George Lane and Mick McDonnell.



Coffs Harbour, 2007 – George Lane, **Vic Moreau**, Edward “Spike” Chase, Lofty Hayes (obscured), Les Frost, Merv Nairn, ?? ?? and Terry Westerway



MAY HE REST IN PEACE



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.)

. 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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