

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**

2021 – 55 Years and the Detachment 131 Spirit Lives On: 1966 – 1971



SSgt J Hall
12Fd Regt RAA
Last to be killed
27.10.1971



Pvt. KL Rhodes
4RAR
KIA 19.09.1971



The last Australians lost in South Vietnam - A sad reminder...

50 years - A sad reminder...never to be forgotten

This year marks the fiftieth year since the last two Australian servicemen paid the ultimate price in South Vietnam.

Kevin Browning -

"Hi Paul,

I noted in the July edition the Vale for WO2 Kevin Conway, first Australian killed in Vietnam. It might be worthwhile to include **SSgt John Hall** in the next edition. John was the last Australian killed in Vietnam, two more were to die in Australia from disease caught whilst on service and of course there were more to die as a result of their service. The tragedy of John's death was it happened as a result of an altercation with a shop keeper but more tragic 10 days after we had left Nui Dat for good and 10 days before we were due to board HMAS Sydney for the voyage home. John was the Chief Clerk 12 Field Regiment so his work at Nui Dat wasn't the most dangerous.

Regards, Kevin."

The following is extracted from information Kevin supplied -

243015 Staff Sergeant John Hall, 12th Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, Age 31 from Teralba NSW. Hall was murdered by a Vietnamese national at Vung Tau on 27th October 1971. He would become the last Australian serviceman to die within Vietnam during service there.

A profile –

SSgt John Hall, 243015, DoB 21st June 1940. Teralba, New South Wales.

Enlisted 11th January 1956, Army Apprentice School, Balcombe, Victoria, 11th Intake (Apprentice Clerk)

1 Company RAASC 11th January 1957.

111 Light Anti Aircraft Battery 1st July 1957.

Lance Bombardier 25th March 1959/Temporary Bombardier 7th April 1961/Bombardier 24th May 1961.

Malaya: Bombardier (Clerk GD) 101 Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery/26 Field Regiment Royal Artillery 1st June 1961.

Bombardier (Clerk Pay) 30th September 1961 - 103 Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery/26 Field Regiment Royal Artillery 26th October 1961 - 1 Field Regiment 5th November 1963.

Temporary Sergeant 1st January 1965 - 1 Field Regiment, 'A' Battery 23rd June 1965.

Malaysia: Sergeant 'A' Battery 20th October 1965 to 27th September 1967. 6 Field Regiment 14th March 1968.

12 Field Regiment 23rd June 1969 – SVN: Staff Sergeant (Chief Clerk) 12 Field Regiment, 24th February 1971.

. Murdered in a brawl with a Vietnamese National, Vung Tau 27th October 1971.

The following information was also directed by Kevin Browning –

The Last KIA was National Serviceman -

Pte Maxwell Lachlan Rhodes 2796378 4RAR - KIA 19 Sep 1971

Profile -

Service Number: 2796378
Enlisted: 27 January 1970, Sydney, New South Wales
Last Rank: Private
Last Unit: 4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (4RAR)
Born: Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, 12 December 1948
Home Town: Sydney, City of Sydney, New South Wales
Occupation: Metallurgist
Died: Accidentally Shot, South Vietnam, 19 September 1971, aged 22 years
Memorials: 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment - Holsworthy Memorial, Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour, Grafton Clarence Valley Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Served with 1st Australian Reinforcement Unit & 4th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment in South Vietnam. In country only 39 days -

"2796378 Private Maxwell Rhodes, aged 22, from Sydney, NSW was a qualified metallurgist with a Bachelor of Science degree prior to being called up for National Service on 27 January 1970. He was posted to 4RAR as a reinforcement from 1 Australian Reinforcement Unit on 10 September 1971. During Operation IVANHOE in Phuoc Tuy Province on 19 September 1971, in the prelude to the battle of Nui Le, D Company received intelligence which was interpreted as indicating that perhaps two battalions of North Vietnamese Army regulars were as close as 500 meters from the company. This was later to be proven to be correct. Tension amongst the company was high and unfortunately 11 Platoon and 10 Platoon operating on different axis of advance, engaged each other and Max, a 10 Platoon soldier, was accidentally shot and killed. A misfortune such as this is bound to happen in war and although a tragic event, no blame was laid as an investigation concluded that the terrible event had been caused by a series of adverse circumstances coming together at this particular time and place." - SOURCE(www.findagrave.com)

Lest We Forget

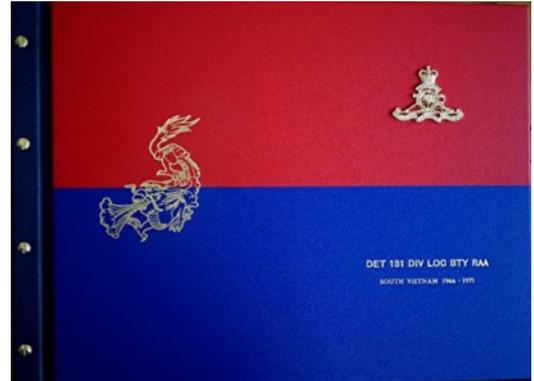
. The “Lost Locator Project”



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...

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

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

Paul Dickson at - 131eyesandears@gmail.com

. A continuation ...

Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War – the following is, I guess, a precise extracted from Wikipedia and in brief form covers most of the bases prior to, during and post the conflict.

I just feel it's something to read and maybe absorb that's if you haven't already...

The following only covers the period prior up to and including 1965.

59 years ago, the lead up...

Background

Ngo Dinh Diem presidential visit to Australia and Ngo Dinh Diem presidential visit to the United States.

Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War was driven largely by the rise of communism in Southeast Asia after the Second World War, and the fear of its spread which developed in Australia during the 1950s and early 1960s.^[4] Following the end of the Second World War the French had sought to reassert control over French Indochina. In 1950 as the communist-backed Viet Minh, led by Ho Chi Minh, began to gain the ascendancy in the First Indochina War, the Vietnamese nation had two parallel administrations; the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) (recognised by the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China), and the State of Vietnam (SoV), an associated state in the French Union (recognised by the non-communist world). In 1954, after the defeat of the French at the Battle of Dien Bien Phu, the Geneva Accords of 1954 split the country geographically, with the DRV to the north of the 17th parallel and the SoV in the south.

The Geneva Accords imposed a deadline of July 1956 for the governments of the two Vietnams to hold elections, with a view to uniting the country under one government. In 1955, Ngo Dinh Diem, the prime minister of the State of Vietnam, deposed the head of state Bảo Đại in a fraudulent referendum and declared himself President of the newly proclaimed Republic of Vietnam. He then refused to take part in the elections, claiming that the communist north would engage in election fraud and that as a result they would win because they had more people. After this deadline passed, the military commanders in the North began preparing an invasion of the South. Over the course of the late 1950s and early 1960s this invasion took root in a campaign of insurgency, subversion and sabotage in the South employing guerrilla warfare tactics. In September 1957, Diem visited Australia and was given strong support by both the ruling Liberal Party of Australia of Prime Minister Robert Menzies and the opposition Australian Labor Party. Diem was particularly feted by the Catholic community, as he pursued policies that discriminated in favour of the Catholic minority in his country and gave special powers to the Catholic Church.

By 1962 the situation in South Vietnam had become bad enough that Diem submitted a request for assistance to the United States and its allies in order to counter the growing insurgency and the threat that it posed to South Vietnam's security. Following this the US began to send a large number of advisors to provide tactical and logistical advice to the South Vietnamese. At the same time, the US sought to increase the legitimacy of the South Vietnamese government by

instituting the Many Flags program, hoping to counter the communist propaganda that South Vietnam was merely a US puppet state and to involve as many nations as possible. Thus Australia, as an ally of the United States with obligations under the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) and ANZUS Pacts, and in the hope of shoring up its alliance with the US, became involved in the Vietnam War. Between 1962 and 1972 it would send almost 60,000 personnel to Vietnam, including ground troops, naval forces and air assets and would contribute large amounts of material to the war effort.

Australian Advisors, 1962–1965

Personnel and aircraft of RAAF Transport Flight Vietnam arrive in South Vietnam in August 1964

After assisting the British during the Malayan Emergency, Australian and New Zealand military forces had gained valuable experience in jungle warfare and counter-insurgency. According to historian Paul Ham, US Secretary of State Dean Rusk "freely admitted to the ANZUS meeting in Canberra in May 1962, that the US armed forces knew little about jungle warfare". Given the experience that Australian forces had gained in Malaya it was felt that initially Australia could contribute to the situation by providing advisors who were experts in the tactics of jungle warfare. In this regard the Australian government's initial response was to send 30 military advisors, dispatched as the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV), also known as "the Team". The Australian military assistance was to be in jungle warfare training, and the Team comprised highly qualified and experienced officers and NCOs, led by Colonel Ted Serong, many with previous experience from the Malayan Emergency. Their arrival in South Vietnam during July and August 1962 was the beginning of Australia's involvement in the war in Vietnam.

Relationships between the AATTV and US advisors were generally very cordial. However, there were sometimes significant differences of opinion on the training and tactics that should be employed. For example, when Serong expressed doubt about the value of the Strategic Hamlet Program at a US counter Insurgency Group meeting in Washington on 23 May 1963, he drew a "violent challenge" from US Marine General Victor 'Brute' Krulak. Captain Barry Petersen's work with raising an anti-communist Montagnard force in the central highlands between 1963 and 1965 highlighted another problem—South Vietnamese officials sometimes found sustained success by a foreigner difficult to accept. **Warrant Officer Class Two Kevin Conway** of the AATTV, died on 6 July 1964, side by side with Master Sergeant Gabriel Alamo of the USSF during a sustained Viet Cong attack on Nam Dong Special Forces Camp, becoming Australia's first battle casualty.

1950 The Democratic Republic of Vietnam led by Ho Chi Minh is recognised by the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union, but Australia supports the French-backed State of Vietnam of Emperor Bảo Đại.

1957 September—South Vietnam's President Ngo Dinh Diem visits Australia and Australia's Prime Minister, Robert Menzies reaffirms support.

24 May—The Minister for Defence, Athol Townley, announces the intention to send 30 army advisors to South Vietnam (SVN).

1962 3 August—The first members of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam arrive in Vietnam.

1 June—Advisor, Sergeant William Hacking becomes the first Australian to die in Vietnam when his weapon accidentally discharges after being caught in vegetation.

1963 2 November—Ngo Dinh Diem, South Vietnam's first President (1955–1963), and his brother, Ngo Dinh Nhu, are assassinated in a successful CIA-backed coup d'état led by General Duong Van Minh of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN).

22 November—Lyndon B. Johnson becomes US president after the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Johnson announces that the US will continue support of South Vietnam. By the end of 1963, 15,000 US advisors are serving in Vietnam; the US gives \$500m in aid to Vietnam that year.

8 June—Minister for Defence announces that the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam will be increased to 83 advisors and their role will be expanded.

6 July—Warrant Officer Class Two Kevin Conway, an AATV advisor, is killed in action, the first Australian battle casualty of the war.

1964 14 August—Six Caribou aircraft are provided by the Royal Australian Air Force; RAAF Transport Flight Vietnam is later renamed No. 35 Squadron RAAF.

10 November—Selective conscription is introduced for 20-year-old males by ballot under the National Service Act (1964).

18 December—In response to requests from the US President and South Vietnam Prime Minister for 200 additional advisors, the Australian Government offers to send ground troops to South Vietnam.

29 April—The Prime Minister announces the dispatch of an infantry battalion to South Vietnam, with an armoured personnel carrier (APC) troop, a signals troop and a logistic support company.

27 May—The 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment leaves for Vietnam on HMAS *Sydney*.

8 June—HMAS *Sydney* arrives at Vũng Tàu, South Vietnam, carrying the bulk of the Australian force.

1965 8 November—1 RAR fights one of the first set-piece engagements of the war between Australian forces and the Vietcong at the Battle of Gang Toi. Two servicemen, Private Richard Parker and Private Peter Gillson, are posted missing believed killed during the fighting. Their bodies are recovered more than forty years later, and returned to Australia for burial.

13 November—Warrant Officer Class Two Kevin Arthur Wheatley dies while defending a wounded comrade. He is posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for his gallantry.

. Nui Dat Locators Locations Project -

The following is a continuation of the Nui Dat Locators Locations Project for which information has been sought and gathered over time. This is still in the “rough” stage and corrections/ additions/ amendments/ adjustments are welcomed, so, as the Project can be archived complete as possible. This is the Fifth part of the Project with more to come covering the various sections that made up the Detachment during the period of service in Nui Dat, South Vietnam.

Note: the photos have been reduced to fit into the Eyes & Ears format.

Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA South Vietnam 1966 – 1971

“Locators Locations”

Dedicated to those who served.

By Paul Dickson

5. Radar Locations – 1 Australian Task Force area - Nui Dat

There were 2 Radars in the 1 ATF area, strategically located (in various locations) to allow for maximum sound/sight /movement activity 24 hours per day et etc.

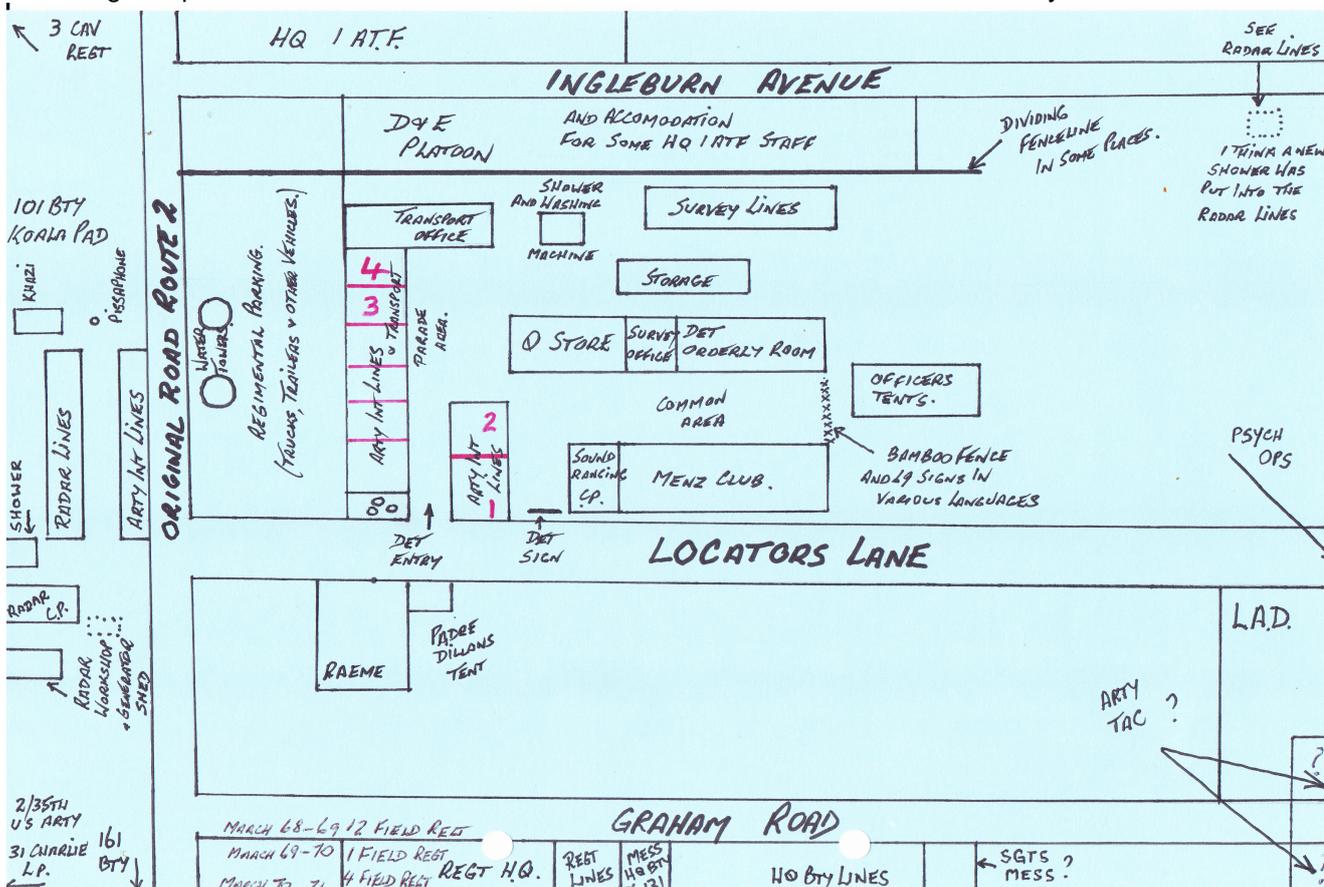
The above map basically shows original locations.

Radar Section Command – Call sign 32

Radar locations varied over time which included various operations and as per all sections member movements were regular because of R&C's, R&R's and RTA's. Also, members did serve in various sections and, of course, with the disbandment of the radars in June, 1970 members were transferred to other Detachment sections.

Graham Williams – June, 1969 – March, 1970 - elaborates on his map (following) –

The rough map of how the Detachment looked from June 1969 until March 1970 and my R.T.A.



. Our Officers had their own tents as shown on the map as did those in transport.

. The Q staff and clerks possibly a tent which I have marked 4 but I cannot be sure of that.

. As you entered the main Detachment lines on the left there was an area of red coloured oil drums holding water and fire extinguishers in case of fire.

. Behind the Arty Int tents on the left were the water towers and 1 Field Regiment parking so trucks, trailers etc.
 . Between tent #1 and the Menz Club was the Detachment sign and a small patch of open ground which led to an underground space where many of us developed their own photos. I am not sure if that still remained when the Sensor C.P. was set up there later in 1969.
 . Behind the Survey lines was the D&E Platoon, guardians of H.Q. 1 A.T.F. We could go through a fence separating to watch their movies or vice versa. I think a number of "cannot identifies" in photos around the Menz Club may have been from D&E Platoon and also H.Q. Battery and know for a fact 2 mates who hailed from the same country town met up at the Menz Club regularly. Ian Menzies from H.Q. Bty and Neville (can't recall his surname) from D&E.
 . In the common area near the open ground were various weights for exercise most fitted with concrete. There were also weights I believe similar in both Survey and Radar lines.
 . Also in the **common area**, there was a football cut out with a hole in the middle similar to "Rex Mossop's pass the ball" through the hole and hear the elephant bellow on TV. This was used often for a time with league players practicing passing skills and AFL junkies handballing through the hole in the centre. The common area was used for impromptu BBQ's and also larger gatherings to farewell those going home. E.g. 10th Intake National Service in August 1969, 11th Intake in November 1969. If there was a bash for my own Intake (12th National Service) I missed it...probably on my late R&R after dipping out on the first after missing the plane. Also, there would have been another large celebration prior to most of the guys returning home from the 13th Intake in early June 1970. There were also the movies. (not sure but think a new screen may have been added in late 1969 early 70)
 . Survey had it better than most sleeping in a long hut behind the H.Q. area. Between the Menz Club, Orderly room and Officers tents was a bamboo fence along the front of which were signs painted with the year 1969 in various languages. .
 . Directly opposite from tent 1 on Locators Lane was Padre Dillon's tent adjacent to the RAEME compound where our drivers serviced their own vehicles.
 I am not sure if the original route 2 marked on your Task Force map had been renamed in 1969 but at that time there was a ring road that ran around the Eastern edge of the task force area re-joining the original route 2 North of Luscombe Field.

Alpha Radar — Call Sign 32A

1966 – Chase, E; Crowther, W; Doehrmann, K; Hayes, T; Jones, P; McDonnell, M; Nairn, M; Opie, A; Simmons, D; Thornton, K, Turner, B.

1967 – Ayliffe, K; Boutlis, S; Campbell, L; Finlay, I; Wood, G

Bob Billiards photo - Alpha Radar, September 67 opposite Det 131 HQ area on the western side of the highway.

1968 – Bristow, J; Claxton, V; Coutts, A; Finlay, I; Franklin, W; Gibson, R; Gordon, C; Kryntjes, M; McNeill, K (RAEME); Mitchell, B; Sheedy, P; Thompson, E.



L to R: Bob Gibson, John Bristow, Vic Claxton (behind the post), Doc Sheedy, Bubs Mitchell, Tony Coutts, Martin Kryntjes





1969 –

1970 –

Bravo Radar - Call Sign 32B

1966 – Buckley, R; Campbell, Allen; Chase, E; Crowther, W; Gallop, L; Halliday, F; Hayes, T; Hislop, G; Lane, G; Lempa, H; Lennon, F; Long, R; Mason, R; McGregor, P; McManus, D; Nairn, M; Sawyer, L; Simmons, D; Smith, R

1967 - Amos, I; Ayliffe, K; Bouilly, C; Dodds, A; Dye, D; l'Anson, j; Ipsa, F; Jones, K; Kennedy, I; King, T; Lawler, J; Luff, M; Malcolm, G; McDonald, A; Outen, L; Pepper, F; Smale, M; Sporn, S

Bob Retrot's photo showing Bravo Radar's tent lines in 1967. Taken from the then Survey lines looking towards the road.



1968 – Kennedy, I

1969 – Andrews, H; Aurisch, R; Bremner, P; Brignell, I; Dodd, P; Dove, A; Edwards, W; Hayes, T; Little, H; Meaney, P; Patterson, S; Ritchie, Z; Robinson, L; West, C; Williams, G

1970 – Chaplin, R; Chapple, C; Connell, L; Negus, D; Reilly D;

AN INVESTIGATION 181 Days

. The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal (RVCM)

This is just an update from last month –

. A submission was made on behalf of the 37 past and present members to the Hon Andrew Gee, Minister for Veterans Affairs.

. Submissions were sent by members to the Minister for Veterans Affairs and Local Federal Members by the some of the members involved.

There were responses not wishing to get involved based on personal memories not wanting to be revived and others who thought it a waste of time based on the lack of Government responses in the past.

However, submissions were made and I guess it could be based on the adage – “Nothing ventured, nothing gained.”

Paul Dickson



. Quiz Time.



Ok, who are these four
“characters” ...

... with one clue only – it was 2009
in Coffs Harbour.

Crikey 12 years ago!



Unfortunately, one of whom is no longer with us?

. **John Vitkovsky** - got interested in **Bob King's**
“Splintex” photo in last month’s *Eyes & Ears*...

“Hi Dicko,

Warwick Hamilton and I cut one of these rounds in
half to see what was inside.

That particular Splintex round (in the photo at right)
was fired from the canon on a Centurion tank and
used for base defences.

Inside, wrapped in coils of what looked like hessian,
were 1000’s of tiny steel darts. Used for anti-
personnel, not necessarily to kill, but disable.

Your photo of “splinter” does not look like the one we
opened up. John V.”



Take a look at this ...



A late note for October’s Edition of *Eyes & Ears*...

An email from **Ian “Scotty” McNichol** to **Grahame Dignam** re: **Splintex...**

“Dig. How's things? Just a note to say that I've only just read the latest *E&E* newsletter, & noted the query on the Splintex round featured there.

For some reason, I'm not able to contact Paul Dickson directly through the contact button on the newsletter for some reason, & I don't have his email address.

It's probably a little late for the next edition, but I do have some info about that round. Along with a good photo. I also have a photo of a round being fired, but it was taken at night, so will most likely lose a lot of resolution in reproduction for a newsletter.

Ray Hutchinson may already have passed on adequate info about it, as it was he & myself who picked it up from a US Engineers unit, based on a hill overlooking Vung Tau. In fact, I still have some of the darts that were taken from the centre of that round.

If Paul is interested, I could write an article about the round for the following edition. I also have photos of a dissected 105mm parachute flare round, plus a few other shots from the 131 Bty museum.

Anyway, if you could pass onto Paul this email, along with my address, he could contact me.

Regards...Scotty.”

Ed’s (Paul’s) response – bring it on for October’s edition – watch this space.

. **A curiosity (yes, another one) -**

This time - National Service Numbers in the Detachment...

Here's a breakdown of the number of dates that were chosen by the Government's scientific method of "ball-dropping" (similar to Bingo – which is really scientific) per day, per month during the period of conscription for National Service.

Month	Number	Month	Number	Month	Number
January	28	May	32	September	26
February	31	June	16	October	21
March	32	July	18	November	22
April	26	August	28	December	30

So, all up there **310** Nashos that wandered through the front gate at Holsworthy and **254** did the South East Asian tour out of a total of **467!** I could swear that February has the least number of days!

Another note: Between 1965 and December 1972 over 800,000 men registered for National Service. Some 63,000 (78.5%) were conscripted and over 19,000 (2.3% of total registrations and 3% of total conscripts) served in Vietnam.

Ed – gee, how lucky were we!

V2 Rocket...at Holsworthy?

Graham Williams has an inquiry –

"I would appreciate it if you can ask your readers in "Eyes & Ears" if anyone has photos of the V2 rocket that graced the lines at Holsworthy. Am trying to round up a photo of that for myself.

Cheers, Graham Williams."

Mail Call...

. **Steve Wynn** – "G'day Paul,

I have just come good again after the latest round of Pneumonia, seems to take longer and longer to recover from these things lately, then to recover from the medication too.

By the way the latest *E&E's* is another excellent read, you do a fantastic job mate. Also, the Splintex shell is the same shell as the 105s fired over the mortar crew at Coral.

I am having a phone consult with my GP tomorrow, going to ask which Covid jab to get, I have Emphysema and AF so have to be careful about these things. Damn nuisance the AF, I can't have a tooth pulled which has been aching for months unless I go off my blood thinners for 3 days first, that opens me up to having a stroke, bloody old age eh. 80 next year yippee. As soon as I came out of theatre after my operation last Christmas I had AF, I can't 'feel' it or know when it occurs, it just happens and then my heart starts making clots.

Stay safe and Covid free mate,
Steve."

. **Bob Billiards** – sent in the next couple of fun memories...

"Paul,
. 31D was at the 1/83rd compound in 1968 until June 1968 and we were then moved to other areas and 31D was abandoned until they put it at 2/35th sometime after September 1968. It was closed as they were giving the compound to the ARVN. The only US people that stayed after the 1/83rd departed was a MET team and not sure when they left.

. Another story I am not sure I relayed when the infantry took over was one day Barry and I were walking from the front gate of the compound back to our lined. We were balancing our rifles parallel to the ground on our shoulders when a voice called out "Privates carry those rifles properly" We both looked around for a couple of infantry blokes not doing the same as us and the conversation was "he can't be talking to us as we are Gunners" so we continued. There was then an extremely loud CSM voice "You two, carry those rifles properly" At this stage after a short discussion "Maybe he is talking

to us?" while still walking we slung our guns 😊 .

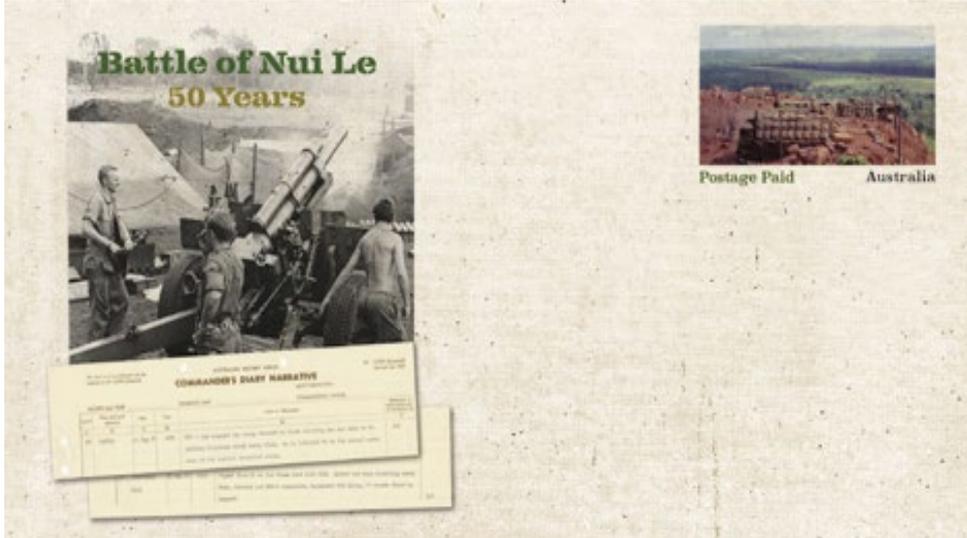
. The Rocket launchers. We were checking out the old US huts one day and when we opened the door of one, there were maybe a dozen of those plastic shoulder rocket launchers on the floor. We thought it would be good to have a couple of

them at the LP seeing we had lost our Browning 12G shotgun and the M79 grenade launcher that the Yanks had loaned us. We did pull it open but never fired it.
Regards, Bob.”

Ed – bloody Nashos!

KEVIN BROWNING – extracted from mail above – On 21 September Australia Post are releasing a pre-paid envelope commemorating the Battle of Nui Le, the last major battle fought by Australians in Vietnam. Interestingly it shows a M2A2.

Keep up the good work and I will go back to lock-down



...Battle of Nui Le: 50 Years - On 21 September 1971, just weeks away from going home, members of the 4RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion (B & D Companies) fought in the Battle of Nui Le, Australia's last major battle of the Vietnam War.

...1971 – 21st September — the Battle of Nui Le takes place in Phuoc Tuy Province. A tactically inconclusive encounter between troops from the 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment and the NVA 33rd Regiment north of Nui Dat, it proved to be the last major battle fought by Australian forces in the war. Five Australians are killed and 30 wounded.

. Bob Billiards – “Paul,
Not sure if you get these but maybe someone from our battery might know this bloke. Bob”

“Looking to reconnect...”

An email from a great mate **Bill Taggart** 1st/83rd US Artillery, SVN

Subject: 1/83rd Artillery - Battle of Long Tan and the 2/35th

I wanted to pass along the message below from one of our members, Chuck “Smoke” Mattson who not only was with the 1/83rd in 70-71, he was also with the 2/35th when they fired in support of your troops at Long Tan.

Here is Chuck’s message to you...

“Bill

I was with 2/35th Arty. We were an M109 S/P 155 Battery. I think it was A Battery, Our Captain was Glen T. Eurie. He always referred to it as Euries Battery. We had a program where one of the Aussies would be with our section for a week and we would send one of our troops with the Aussies. I had several Aussie friends don't recall names we just called one another Mate.

I was an E6 Gun Chief at that time attached to the Aussies. We fired support of Long Tan on that night. Would love to touch bases with any of the ANZAC that ever drank a beer in our GP tent NCO Club. Feel free to give my email address.

God bless, Smoke”

Smoke is a great guy; his email address is comatt37@gmail.com

Bill.”

Ed – Let me know if a connection is made, please?

... **Bill Taggart** responded to an email of Ed's with regards to putting the above re: Chuck "Smoke" Mattson email in *Eyes & Ears* -

" Thanks Paul, I am sure that Smoke will be happy to hear that.

We are all doing okay but with the resurgence of the coronavirus with the Delta variant has sure put things in a state of flux. Just a little while ago things seemed to be improving and now we back in the thick of it. It is very worrisome, my wife and I and our kids and their spouses are all vaccinated but we have 4 grandchildren who are all under the age of 12 and can't currently be vaccinated. School has just started full time so it is a constant worry.

I have heard from some of your guys about the problems in Australia as well. Seems like a giant game of whack-a-mole, as soon as you push down in one spot, a new one arises. I hope that you and your family are doing well.

On a different note, I read in the recent *E&E* about your interest in merchandise purchased at your PX at Nui Dat. I still have a small tape recorder that I bought there in 1967. Sadly, however, it does not work but I can't bear to get rid of it.

Ed – Here's the "prized" possessions of Bill's at right. they're National brand and the middle one is a "R2-202S"

Note: Fantastic little National Reel to Reel Tape Recorder - Model R2-202S. Made in Japan. It is operated by 4 x C type battery cells (not included) and is in working order. It takes reels of 2 1/2" diameter - one is included. Includes:

Instructions manual Tape and box Microphone and storage pouch (the clip on the back of the mic has snapped but can be super-glued) Box - this has the top flap missing Measures approx. 190 x 125 x 70mm. Excellent 'usable' collectable.

Ed – Any offers over \$US12,000 may be considered (That includes my commission).



I also have a boomerang I bought there, it hangs over a door as you enter my house (Photo at right).



Take care and be safe and well.

Bill."



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...

. George Clark –

"Hi Paul, sorry I have been so tardy with my reply , but i am finding it increasingly difficult to maintain any form of interest in anything .

I am on the verge of resigning from the RSL because in Qld. it appears as if the top echelon is far more interested in their own honours

and plaudits than the job they were elected to do. My own health has been pretty good, and I hope that you are also experiencing good health. The Branch of the RSL I have been a member of for over 20 years now, is more interested in filling the club with non-members who they entice into the club to play the pokies. We once had a library where you could sit in peace and read, but no, not any more, it seems as if every 5 or 6 years or so they borrow a few million to expand the club and remove more amenities from the members.

Anyway, mate enough of my winging and whining, I have had both my Covid jabs, and I did not even faint he! he!
I see in your *Eyes and Ears* this morning that the next reunion has been put back to next year, and jolly good luck with that.

All the best to you and your family mate, stay safe, and try not to overthrow the government or Clint Eastwood will be after you

Best wishes, George Clark.”

. **Rieny Nieuwenhof** – “Hi Paul,

Thanks for the catch-up.

We are in another lockdown with over a 100 Covid cases each day. Anticipate the restrictions to be eased in regional areas, but Melbourne is still in full lockdown. When will it end?? Some of our members are feeling pretty low. We haven't been able to go far as there is a 5km limit. The worst impact is not being able to see the grandkids face to face.

However, lockdown has provided ample time to rearrange the furniture in our house. My wife has taken over the garage as her art studio (it was in another room) and I have been helping her move her stuff (there is a lot of it!!).

We are also investigating the installation of a residential lift as I am experiencing what the doctors call 'polymyalgia rheumatica', it's basically joint pain, especially evident in shoulders, upper & lower back, wrists and fingers. I don't have the same strength in my hands as before the condition started. I am on medication, but because of side effects, I need to reduce the dosage over time. Old age is catching up with me!

The RVCM campaign continues, but the VVAA insists it is not going to change its stance, so I am backing off (don't need the angst).

Our Vietnam Veterans Centre remains closed and we haven't been able to catch up with others over lunch.

Sorry for the doom and gloom but hope there is better news soon.

Regards, Rieny Nieuwenhof.”

. **John Vitkovsky** – “Hi Paul, yep still locked down. The cottages and restaurant deserted. Only good thing is that the powers to be are handing out grants so that the accommodation industry doesn't completely collapse.

Weather is starting to warm up so we have spent the last week camping next to the reservoir at the bottom of our block. Bonfires, camp ovens and a bit of fishing. See attached pic.

We have several people interested in buying our property. It's a real bugger with this lockdown as they are unable to travel here, particularly from Melbourne. Other than that, all well and my PSA score is 0.00, which is good news as before the operation I was 19...

Cheers, JV.”



. **Graham Williams** –

“Hello Paul...how are you? Hopefully a long way away from the earthquake, mudslides and hurricane.

Have to agree with you as to where did July go. August seems to have gone the same way.

Must apologise for not getting in contact sooner but had a stint in Tweed Hospital. Took some kind of a turn at home with Jenni having to call an ambulance and paramedics. Every test known to man followed and have still not got to the bottom of things although I was diagnosed as having asthma. News to me. Have always suffered from sinus and hay fever attacks going back years. Cannot get back to my G.P. for ongoing tests as he is in Queensland and the border locked down so for now it is a wait and see. This is a major problem for me as every Doctor/Specialist I see is in Queensland. I have been fine since no problems really so can't complain.

I do not intend to discuss ongoing Covid restrictions...waste of time as they are likely to change daily the way things are going. Enough to say things here on the border in Tweed Heads/ Coolangatta are a total shamble.

Jenni is still working in the nursing home. I keep busy pottering in the gardens (jungle) and fixing bits and pieces around the house. The problem with that is the more I fix up the more I find so depressing in itself. Still, the ponderosa is now some 43 years old so the wear and tear is to be expected but not welcome.

Other than that, have busied myself keeping in touch with many of those I served with...always brings a smile, old school mates and those from my footy days as well as going through many photos taken over the legendary past for the memories.

I am unable to answer the shopping and supermarket rules for you here at present. She who should be obeyed (Jenni) banned me from all shopping many years ago. The woman thing mate...I took too long, bought things I liked and she did not bla, bla, bla. Can't say I miss it, however what I am missing is the beach. I am a water baby since birth, never straying far from the ocean. Usually, drive into Coolangatta but of course locked out. Could drive down the coast... say Kingscliff but then that puts me more than the allowed 5km limit from home and with my luck would get caught out, so as Jenni says..." suck it up cupcake." She has a way with words. Of course, we have also been busy planning "The great escape" once International travel starts up again. That's about all from here Paul except,

As you can see have added a number of photos you might like to include in *Eyes and Ears*.

. Bob Billiards and his Goggos when he was up here for the "Cooly Rocks On" festival in June.



. Photos from the Anzac Day service in Queen Elizabeth park Coolangatta.



. Think I should explain that. Because of the Covid situation arrangements for Anzac Day in this area were very fragmented. Tweed were supposed to have one (usually run by Twin Towns Sub Branch) but then cancelled. Currumbin who usually have a massive day at the beach at Elephant rock also cancelled that but advertised a service at the club along with a march. Only problem with that was that they fenced off the club on the day with only those members of Currumbin RSL and sub branch allowed to March so a lot of unhappy campers who turned up. There were of course the smaller services in those towns along the coast but travelling from here the problem there.

. Jenni and I did the driveway service here for the second year running and then she drove me into Tweed Heads. Just wanted to check if anything was going on. Arrived at the Cenotaph adjacent to Twin Towns Services Club at 5.50 am to find a number of wreaths had been laid, no flag on the flag pole and plenty of people wandering aimlessly around (general public) asking when the service and march began. Having ascertained it had been cancelled, I retired to the Dolphins Hotel at 6 am for the big breakfast and much needed liquid cheer. No sooner got into the good cheer when someone turned up saying they would be forming up for the march behind Twin Towns at 11.00am, this turned out to be fake news for we presented to find no march and still crowds awaiting one. Then word was passed around Twin Towns Sub Branch had organized a march in Coolangatta instead, so crowds on the streets making their way there. As you can see from the photos there were plenty of people and it was a great service but total confusion with the arrangements. Suffice to say afterward we retired back to the Dolphins hotel for the usual tall stories and cheer.

Sadly, here Vietnams Veterans Day was a total non-event due to lockdowns.

. I go to gym with a number of vets from various conflicts and we had arranged to meet at the hotel at 10.00am there. Stay safe Paul, Cheers, Graham Williams."

. **Rob Retrot** – “Hi Paul,

Good to hear you and Helen are leading relatively normal lives in this abnormal world. Mostly normal for Jude and I too. We just need to remember to bring a mask whenever we go out and do the standard things like social distancing and disinfecting hands. We have both had our two vacs and are waiting for the State and Federal Governments to stop bickering and develop policy about life after vaccination.

We haven't been anywhere lately - instead we bought a standard poodle pup that keeps us busy. She is nine months old now and weighs 25 kg. She is a bundle of fun and makes us take her for walks in the park every day. With the walks and playing table tennis twice a week as well as gym a couple of times a week, I am busier and fitter than I have been for years. I just hope it lasts.

That's about all for now. As I said, nothing much happening around here.

I hope to catch up with you somewhere, sometime. In the meantime - both of you stay well. ciao! Rob Retrot.”

. **John Richmond** – “Hi Paul,

Sounds like u people are in a similar situation to us in Canberra.

We have been in lock down now for 4 weeks come Thursday, at this stage, this is due to finish on Friday week. I would bet this won't happen Australia now seems to a very fragmented country. Nearly no one can cross borders from one state or territory to another some form of "visa". Up till early August the ACT was virus free now look at us.

We have to wear masks when out and about. Can only leave home for limited activities and for me that means urgent groceries, medical appointments and up to 2 hours limited exercise daily.

On the weather front Canberra has just about got into spring. We are still getting cool to cold mornings with warmer days. Just as an example this morning -3c with up around 19c. One big wish is that we don't get another hot dry summer and bush fires.

I still have horrors of the 199/2000 fires. It got into the south of the Territory and wiped out a large section our main national park and was on the edge of the far south.

Hope all improves for us all in the near future. Regards, JR.”

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.

SEPTEMBER 2021

Introduction: (Not part of 32 words)

Our editor has requested an update with no more than 32 words. It has been a while and COVID has put a spanner in the works for all.

Be Safe and Stay Safe.

My jottings for this month:

I am part of a team of 5, consisting 2 apprentices, Level 1 and 3 Qualified Level 2 Advocates. Lockdowns sees us working from home. Veterans with disabilities continue to surface seeking help.

DVA now simply does not respond to receipt of new claims. Is still "months behind".

Peter Pioro, JP NSW JP (Qual) QLD

Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Advocate Level 2, Military Welfare Advocate Level 2

Mentor

Woonona Bulli RSL Sub-Branch, Vietnam Veterans' Illawarra Sub-Branch

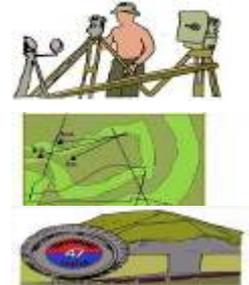
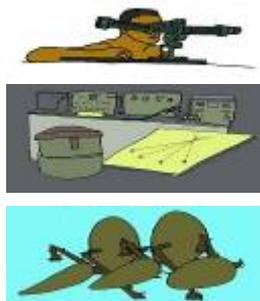
130 Divisional Locating Battery – Padstow, 131 Divisional Locating Battery - National Service

South Vietnam Deployment - 1969-1970

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

*Welcome Home Parade, Sydney
3rd October, 1987 – 34 Years ago –
take a moment to Reflect*



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:

Of recent times, we hear on many occasions that 'there is light at the end of the (Covid) tunnel'. Vaccination rates generally are heading in the right direction, testing numbers are high, but deaths, especially of the unvaccinated are on the rise. In NSW and Victoria citizens can soon look forward to being able to carry on invoking a new set of controls, but not freedom. Numbers in all categories are thrown around at press conferences and only tend to be confusing.

The AFL potentially offers a clichéd 'game changer' for the September Grand Final. Not that players will be performing according to the rules of tiddlywinks, which of course would be a real game changer. Rather if the Melbourne team is successful, it will, in media terms, break a 57 year 'drought'. Sports journalism has its own convoluted terminology, which often bastardises the English language. For example, Hawthorn's recent three successive premierships is called a 'threepeat'. But, it cannot be a repeat win until the first game is won followed by a second win, which is then logically a repeat win. And while hat tricks are few and far between on the cricket field broadcasters claim that three rugby league tries, not necessarily in succession, are deemed by the mike men as a hat trick.

No likely game changers in Rugby League. The Melbourne Storm are favourites to win their second successive grand final despite Grahame Dignam's team, the Rabbitohs, doing well in the finals.

Otherwise, I hope that our readers are doing OK health wise. It has been a very trying two years of controls, restrictions and political bloody mindedness.

Cheers

Allen



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

. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 12th October, 2021 at 1100hrs
And available via Zoom link to be advised.

. **Pertinent Points** – extracted from the 131 Locators Association Committee **ZOOM** Meeting Date: Tuesday, 14th September, 2021 at 1105hrs...

Attendees were: 15 in total...

Kevin Browning, Ian Campbell, Ron Mason, Warwick Brooker

Grahame Dignam, Allen Morley, Bob Billiards, Ernie Newbold

Ian Amos, Reiny Nieuwenhof, Vic Danko, Bert Blink

Paul Dickson, Merv Nairn and Gordon Malcolm



Ian Campbell was the winner of this month's ZOOM Snapshot.

Financial Membership is currently ...**136**, plus Associates **2**, Affiliates **14**. Total **152**. Lapsed 13 members
Plus, Lapsed as at 1/9/2021 **27** members

Presidents report.

- Allen:
- . Reminded us that the AGM was due on 9 Nov and that notices and Nominations were due 25 days before.
 - The Nominations forms are attached to these minutes for completion and return by committee members**
 - . Voice of the Vet Heston Russell had started a new political party. He was also being pursued for costs due on another of his ventures.
 - . Confirmed that Letters of support for worthwhile causes to SMEAC and the LSTAA were sent as requested.
 - . Advised he had received a request for the use of our Association dragon insignia for use for the 131 Battery football team. Clarification of which image he was requesting will be sought.

Webmaster Update:

Bob advised

- the number of face book members was now 247 with new members being able to join without requiring Moderator approval.
- Moderators are able to block member posts if they are breaching Site rules but are now responsible for any content allowed on the site.
- Indications are that Facebook members are using that link to access the Newsletter rather than the website.
- Instagram was now the APP of choice for the younger generation and may be worth pursuing.

Health:

- . **Allen** had spoken to Nick Proskurin who confirmed "He was OK".
- . **Ron Mason** was prepared to display his scar for his "New" tin knee but the meeting declined.
- . **G Dignam** confirmed he had a second surgery to complete the removal of a BSC from his leg.
- . All sort of vaccines are now available so there must be one to suit everyone – go get yours!
- . **Bert** confirmed Geoff Jebb had returned home from hospital.
- . **Ern Newbold** mentioned that the V Vets newsletter carried news that Geoff Carthew had passed away. We are trying to confirm that at the moment. Latest news is that he is **ALIVE AND WELL!** And wants to find the author of that story.

General Business and around the grounds:

Discussions ensued on the following:

. Home haircuts are all the rage in Sydney due to LOCKDOWN.

. **Kev Browning** advised that a publication by Kevin O'Brien entitled "Defending Middle Head" featuring buildings on Middle Head as well as spectacular scenes of the Harbour. The buildings were the original 131 Battery quarters. The self-funded publication of 300 copies are available at a cost of \$40 each.

The buildings have been given a "Heritage rating" but have been untouched for 6 years and are set for demolition as they are no longer a "preferred asset" for the location by the Foreshore Trust.

The publication hopes to preserve the buildings for posterity.

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...October –

Day	Name	Regt No	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	IAN BRIGNELL	2789405	20 01 1969	21 01 1970	
2	TERRY BRUCE	2783213	05 05 1967	30 01 1968	
2	PETER TEATHER	3790242	12 04 1968	06 08 1968	
2	LESLIE ROBINSON	217662	09 12 1968	28 11 1969	
3	WELCOME HOME	ALL	1966	1971	Det 131
4	LEIGH HEMMING	1732039	04 05 1967	11 12 1967	†02.03.18
4	MICHAEL LUFF	2783725	02 01 1967	27 09 1967	
4	DAVID LAHORE	3791183	02 09 1968	04 03 1969	
5	JAMES MERCHANT	2788817	18 12 1968	28 11 1969	
7	GARY CHILLINGSWORTH	313477	29 11 1970	05 08 1971	
8	JOHN O'NEILL	243505	09 11 1970	11 11 1970	
	" "		11 03 1971	12 05 1971	RAEME
9	BRIAN SMYTHE	1201484	02 09 1968	03 12 1969	
10	BRIAN KENNEDY Capt.	213488	02 03 1965	11 03 1965	3 RAR
	" "		26 08 1969	27 08 1970	131
10	PAUL DICKSON	1732012	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
10	BARRY BONSER	37661	03 01 1967	27 09 1967	† 03.09.98
11	PAUL JONES	216324	22 04 1966	30 04 1967	† 09.09.68
11	JEFFREY EVANS Maj	3789164	10 02 1971	02 06 1971	† 23.12.11
	" "		02 06 1971	02 11 1971	12 Fd Regt.
12	ALAN CLEASBY WO2	36053	02 12 1968	10 12 1969	131
	" " "		11 06 1972	20 11 1972	AATTV
12	BARRY FOUNTAIN	3798485	03 03 1971	20 08 1971	131
	" "		21 08 1971	30 10 1971	12 Fd Regt.
13	PETER SALI	1735560	24 02 1970	18 02 1971	† 10 .03.16
13	DENNIS AVERY	4720906	19 08 1970	09 06 1971	4 Fd Regt.
14	ANTHONY DODDS	16776	04 05 1967	02 04 1968	
14	NORMAN LINDROOS	3410957	20 05 1968	24 05 1969	
14	PETER McGANN	55672	27 11 1969	19 11 1970	
16	WILLIAM THOMAS	16727	{07 01 1967	19 03 1967	1ARU
	" "		{20 03 1967	26 09 1967	
17	TORIN WHITE	218372	21 02 1969	25 02 1970	
18	HELMUT LEMPA	38120	20 05 1966	06 12 1966	† Unknown
18	ARTHUR JUX "TED"	2792371	29 04 1970	18 03 1971	
19	IAN FINLAY	2412363	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
20	ROBERT HARRIS Sgt	213514	10 02 1971	29 07 1971	
22	STEPHEN WYNN	2251369	CMF 130 BTY		
23	JOHN VITKOVSKY	4718271	02 03 1967	12 03 1968	
23	NORMAN BULLEN	214545	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	
22	IAN BOARD	213879	22 04 1966	11 12 1966	
25	DEREK SMITH	1108315	N/A		131 1990'S
25	MICHAEL DELANEY	2789205	17 02 1969	28 11 1969	† 17.02.13

28	MICHAEL BOHL	1411182	08 02 1968	17 12 1968	† 15.06.93
28	DAVID DOYLE Sgt	17760	{22 04 1966	11 12 1966	
	" "		{24 09 1970	08 02 1971	
28	IAN MURLEY	38503	12 04 1968	23 04 1969	
28	PAUL TYS Lt.	235362	17 03 1969	18 03 1970	
29	JAMES "ZEKE" RITCHIE Sgt	2411899	21 05 1969	09 04 1970	
29	PETER LARKIN	3793067	08 11 1968	19 11 1969	
30	GRAHAM O'TOOLE	61497	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	

*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 not that great, but I suppose after all this time that's as good as it's going to get!

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received 169 and we've sent out 169. Ed – OK, who's up for 170?

. **Located...**

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

Ed – With the Reverse Vale below **Geoff Carthew** has been Located and records amended. It's just a shame it's taken so long and being discovered by a report error. It's good to keep in contact.

Reverse Vale

Grahame Dignam did some follow up work with **Geoff Carthew** as he had been reported, wrongly, as passing via the Vietnam Veterans News last April and we posted a Vale in last month's *Eyes & Ears*.

Judy Carthew had contacted us via the Association's Facebook as to Geoff's not passing.

Grahame spoke to Geoff on the 15th of this month.

It's always great news when you can reverse something as important as this. Even when you rely on trusted sources mistakes can be made.



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...this is not accessible.



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 Det 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



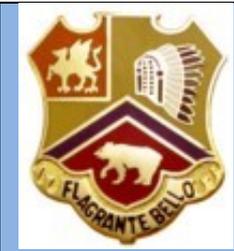
Website link - <http://www.vvaa.org.au/>

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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