

THE EYES and EARS

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

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

**Detachment 131 Divisional
Locating Battery RAA
South Vietnam 1966 – 1971
2024**

**58 Years and the Detachment
Spirit Remains**



Republic of Vietnam Cross of
Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation
Awarded to those who served
with the Detachment
from 01.04.66 – 19.08.71



Locator's Lounge 1967

"After Work Relax" Menz Club

Concentration!

What's for lunch?

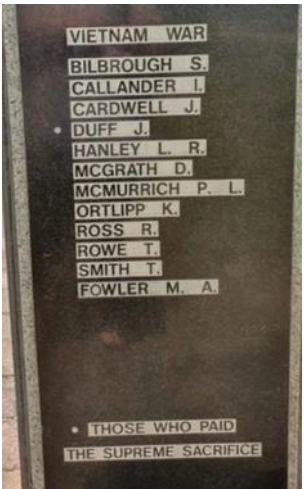


**LAST AUSTRALIAN KIA IN
VIETNAM
21st September 1972**

The LAST AUSTRALIAN KIA IN VIETNAM - 3799449 DUFF James, 21, of Tallangatta, Victoria, worked on a dairy farm and at the Mitta Mitta sawmill when called up in July 1970. The private with D Company 4RAR, was the last Australian killed in action in Vietnam during a rocket attack on Nui Dat, Phuoc Tuy, on **September 21, 1971**.



The “Triangle” War Memorial site on Towong St, Tallangatta, Victoria. It has four pillars which surround the obelisk of those who served .



May He continue to Rest in Peace, and Never be Forgotten.

The National Service Scheme...

How “Nashos” were invented for Vietnam...



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Appendix: The national service scheme, 1964-72

By Sue Langford

Appendix from Peter Edwards, *A nation at war : Australian politics,*

society and diplomacy during the Vietnam War 1965–1975: the official history of Australia's involvement in Southeast Asian conflicts 1948-1975, volume VI, Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest, NSW, 1997

The National Service Scheme was introduced by the Menzies Government in November 1964 and operated until December 1972, when the newly elected Whitlam Labor Government suspended it. The scheme was based on a birthday ballot of twenty-year-old men who had registered their names with the Department of Labour and National Service (DLNS). If balloted in, these men were called up to perform two years' continuous full-time service in the Regular Army Supplement, followed by three years' part-time service in the Regular Army Reserve. National servicemen on full-time duty were liable for what was called 'special overseas service', which included combat duties in Vietnam. When the scheme was introduced the Government planned to raise 4200 servicemen during the second half of 1965, then 6900 annually thereafter. This would create the desired Army strength of 37 500 full-time soldiers. In August 1965 Menzies announced that from 1966 the annual intake would be maintained at 8400 (two intakes of 4200), resulting in an Army strength of 40 000. He explained that the Government's decision had been made 'in the light of the successful introduction of the national service scheme and bearing in mind all the various commitments, at home and abroad, which our forces might be required to undertake'.

The role of the DLNS in operating the scheme was to handle all matters dealing with call-up of national servicemen from the time of registration to the time service commenced in the Regular Army Supplement. The department administered all aspects involving registration, selection and examinations and answered questions concerning deferment or exemption from call-up. The day-to-day operation of the scheme was largely handled by the department's regional offices in the capital cities and, in country areas, by offices of the Commonwealth Employment Service.

Registration

The national service scheme required most men who turned twenty years of age and who were 'ordinarily resident' in Australia to register with the DLNS. Men turning twenty who were temporarily absent from the country at the time of their birthday were required to register within fourteen days of returning. From June 1968 men turning twenty who intended to travel overseas could not do so without first obtaining permission from the DLNS, while airline and shipping companies were not to issue tickets to men in the twenty-year age group without first obtaining a departmental certificate. However, the Government could neither prevent men liable to register from travelling to New Zealand, for which a passport was not required, nor prevent them from obtaining and using British passports, after which the Government had no way of tracing the men's movements.

The registration process involved filling in a form at a local national service registration office. There were two registration periods each year, each lasting a fortnight and widely publicized. The first, in January, was for men who turned twenty in the first half of the year. The second, in July, was for men turning twenty in the second half. Failure to register was an offence. Those who did not register without reasonable explanation were automatically balloted in and considered for call-up. They were also liable to be fined. Although men were legally required to register within their registration period, in practice registration was accepted without penalty up to the date of the ballot.

Young men who had reached the age of eighteen years and nine months, and men aged twenty who had been granted indefinite deferment or exemption, could volunteer for national service. Volunteers could also request to serve in limited duties of a non-combatant nature.

The Ballot

As the number of twenty-year-old men was greater than the number needed for the annual intakes, a ballot was held about four to six weeks after the close of each registration period to select those to be considered for callup. Selection for military service by ballot had been introduced with the approval of Cabinet in 1957 for an earlier national service scheme, and the selection procedures adopted then were unchanged. Numbered marbles, each representing two birthdates, were placed in a barrel. A predetermined number of marbles were drawn randomly by hand, one at a time. One hundred and eighty-one marbles were placed in the first ballot barrel, and 184 in the others. The number drawn depended on statistical calculations by the DLNS not only of the final number of national servicemen needed for military service, but also of how many registrants were expected to apply for exemption or were already exempt from service, and of how many were entitled to indefinite or temporary deferment. The calculation also made allowances for those classified as medically unfit. Once the ballot was completed, the results were sent to DLNS State offices which held registration records. Within a month, all affected by the ballot knew if they were 'balloted in' or 'balloted out'. The former received a letter informing them of their rights to apply for exemption or deferment; the latter were told they were under no further obligation and were indefinitely deferred.

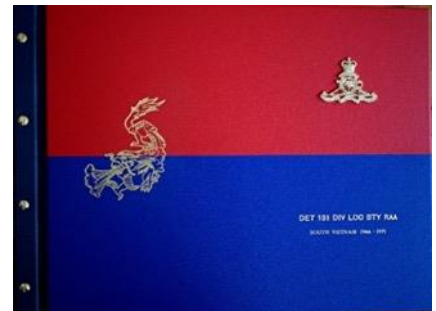
The Government went to great lengths to ensure that the ballot was conducted in a fair, equal and random manner. The drawing of the ballot was conducted as a ceremony under the supervision of a representative of the Government and the marbles were drawn by a 'distinguished citizen' not associated with the administration of the scheme. The procedure was supervised by senior officers of the army and the DLNS, and the marbles drawn were checked and crosschecked in the

DLNS central office. The ceremony, up to the drawing of the first marble, was open to representatives of the press, radio and television, but the drawing of marbles was conducted in secret. Also secret for the first eleven of the sixteen ballots were the birthdates that the drawn marbles represented, for the Government wished to make it impossible both for the public to deduce the results of the ballots and for men whose national service obligation had been indefinitely deferred to deduce whether deferral had been granted as a result of the ballot or on other grounds discussed below. The Government had three main reasons for such secrecy. First, it believed that publishing the ballot results would encourage men to register only after their ballot, having first waited to see which birthdays were drawn. This could assist those who desired to escape national service and add to the DLNS administrative workload. Second, the Government was concerned that some members of the public might study the mathematical probability of the same numbers falling in successive ballots. The Government was convinced that such study could not lead to successful evasion, but it might prompt some registrants to give false birthdates and, again, increase the administrative workload substantially. Third, as not all those balloted in were called up, the Government did not want to be put in the position of explaining why some men balloted in were not called up. The DLNS believed that this could lead to delicate situations and a breach of confidentiality between the department and registrants, especially those with mental or physical illness or defects, or those considered a security risk. Growing criticism and suspicion of the secrecy of the ballot led to increasing pressure on the Government to publish the birthdates. In 1970 the DLNS examined the ballot arrangements and on 12 June that year the Minister for Labour and National Service, Billy Snedden, announced that the ballot dates would be published from September.

This series continues with Deferments and Exemptions, Medical, fitness, educational and security examinations, Conditions and obligations of service, Re-establishment benefits and reinstatement protection, Suffrage and discharge to stand election, Men not required to register, Non-compliance and lastly Statistics which highlights all of variations taken into account and there are HEAPS of them.

**It's an interesting journey of the reason for, how it was organised and how it played out.
There are some 10,000+ plus words in the series – so get comfy!**

. 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



Give me a Name?

The “Lost Locator Project”

This Project is being re-ignited for 2024.

Our current list contains the names of **95** Locators (as at 30.09.2024) that we have not had contact with since, basically, commencing communications in 2012, so, we are going to focus a little more on this programme to try and reduce this number.

Let's have a look at October's Birthday List, below, where there are 9 Detachment and Battery Members listed as Lost Locators – see the names below.

So, we've done some great discoveries with Members Dates Of Death, I'm hoping we might muster some enthusiasm for this difficult task. I've added some more details as to full DoB's and places of birth according to the DVA Nominal Roll for, maybe, some help.

Graham Williams has just Located Allen 'Big Al' Wheatley, but sadly he had passed in July 2018 – see details in Vale below,

However, this doesn't mean that we still have contact with the total number of Battery/Detachment members we have Located over time as continuing correspondence has lapsed in a lot of cases. **I have 252 recipients (Association).** We regularly check bereavement/funeral notices and this does not locate members in the way we really want to. So, we're appealing for **YOUR** help in scouring all sorts of sources – local RSL's may be a good starter.

Date	Name	Regt No	DoB	SVN In	SVN Out	DVA Location
2	Peter Joseph Teather T/Bdr	3790242	1945	12 04 1968	06 08 1968	Melbourne
7	Garry Dennis Chillingsworth	313477	1951	29 11 1970	05 08 1971	Manangatang, Vic
8	John Michael O'Neill Cpl	243505	1949	09 11 1970	11 11 1970	Sydney
	" "			11 03 1971	12 05 1971	RAEME
14	Norman John Lindroos T/Sgt	3410957	1939	20 05 1968	24 05 1969	Carlton, Vic
14	Peter James McGann	55672	1950	27 11 1969	19 11 1970	Moora, WA
16	William Alan Thomas	16727	1944	{07 01 1967	19 03 1967	Brisbane 1ARU
	" "			{20 03 1967	26 09 1967	131
18	David John Padovan T/Sgt	36988	1940	27 08 1970	05 09 1970	Warragul, Vic RAAOC
20	Robert Darryl Harris Sgt.	213514	1942	10 02 1971	29 07 1971	Wauchope, NSW
28	Ian Geoffrey Murley	38503	1946	12 04 1968	23 04 1969	Bendigo, Vic

I will keep an update and publish monthly results in *Eyes & Ears*.

Paul Dickson

Get in touch with me via 131eyesandears@gmail.com

. Unknown/Known Dates of Deaths continues to be updated...as at 30.09.2024 –

A continuing Reflective Thought with regards to Vales as we progress on in years.

The following table reflects Members passings over the years since our 'journeys' into South Vietnam which began back in May 1966.

It reflects on 10 year periods since, and including, 1966. The figures speak for themselves, and if you exclude deaths in SVN, of which there were two, the initial period does show a dark period considering the ages of our mates.

Sadly, we've added, this month Allen 'Big Al' Keith Wheatley who passed in July, 2018.

<u>10 Year Detachment/131 Battery Death Periods</u>										<u>Total</u>
1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	
1	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	7
1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	
0	1	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	7
1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	
0	0	2	2	2	1	2	1	0	0	10
1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	
3	2	2	2	0	3	2	1	2	1	18
2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
0	4	4	4	2	9	5	6	5	4	43
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
8	4	5	5	6	7	10	10	4	0	59
Unknowns*										2
Total										146

Please note that these figures represent data provided by Members, from what was, and is stated to be reliable sources (official notices/family/mates etc). Data as at **33.09.2024**.

***Unknowns** – Sadly, we have only been advised of the Members' passings only.

This following sections have now been updated as of 30.09.2024 and show a clear picture of Battery/Detachment Members that have incomplete Date of Death details.

Here are the names and details –

Name	Rank	Regt No	Section	SVN	DoB	DoD
Robinson, Marcus Lee	Gnr	2791229		1970	14.02.48	Unknown
O'Keefe, Michael Francis	Gnr	2787168		1968-69	26.11.46	00.00.80

If you can help in any way to update this data it would be greatly appreciated – You can send information to Paul Dickson at email 131eyesandears@gmail.com Subject: Vale update

Ed - As a closing thought, can YOU give some thought to completing YOUR Locator Profile, which do add a personal background and also keeping in touch as it keeps us up to date with you and mates.

Ok, detectives, here's more homework – 2 gaps to go!

A Sincere Request...

Locator Profiles

This request comes at a time when Detachment and Battery Members, from our era, are ALL approaching the 80 year mark and beyond in life, not that that is any cause for alarm that we are not going to share friendships for years to come.

Statistics are what urges me to seek more Locator Profiles and ask that Members who have submitted them to update items such as locations now living in etc.

Since commencing the Locator Profile project we have been able to gather and archive 173 (not all of these are Detachment Members – we have Battery members and Associates) on the 131 Locators Association website. This figure can be considered partially reasonable at 36.3%, based on the 476 members who served in South Vietnam – the number of Battery members is unknown to us. The number of members who have not submitted is 303 and this amounts to approximately 64%, which not considered reasonable.

To add to these statistics -

- . There are currently 96 Detachment members (approximately 29% of who that are known to be possibly still with us) who remain on our Not Located data base.
- . We don't know the status of our Not Located members as to their even still being with us, which is a concern.
- . In the past nine years we have lost 58 members that we are aware of.

Our Honour Roll consists of 145 Members (again, that we are aware of), and when Vales are recorded in *Eyes & Ears*, the addition of a Locator Profile adds an enormous amount of that Member's history and allows ALL of us to share some of his life.

Hence, all I can do is to request ALL of you, initially that have not completed a Locator Profile is request one from me and complete it, and for those of you that have completed one is to please update any relevant information.

You can contact me, Paul Dickson at 131eyesandears@gmail.com

Blackouts in Tasmania highlight the ability of electric cars to power household appliances...

[By Sarah Abbott](#) Topic: Electric Vehicles

In short:

Tasmanian electric car owners whose vehicles have reverse-charging technology have been powering appliances in their homes during the state's recent power outages using their car's battery.

Many people are just becoming aware of the technology, which is an increasingly common feature in new electric cars.

What's next?

About half of all electric vehicles in Australia have the vehicle-to-load capability, with that number set to increase.

Equipped with vehicle-to-load (V2L) capability, the car lets them run household appliances and devices from its battery.

Vehicle-to-load technology, also known as bidirectional charging, is a feature in many new electric cars.

An EV purchaser said the vehicle he and his wife were interested in was just a "good-value EV" that came with a vehicle-to-load cord as a bonus.

One end of the cord plugs into the car's charging port, and the other has a two-socket, 240 volt power outlet.

While the car was not able to run his whole house, it was powering some household appliances, as well as the family's tablets, laptops and battery banks.
Along with two, 44-kilometre round trips into town since the power outage began, the car's battery charge dropped from 100 to 42 per cent."

Now, how about that!



Artillery LENDS Dignity To What Would Otherwise Be A Vulgar Brawl...

An interesting quote...

"Gunner time is always right; it might not be correct, but it's always right."

Gunner saying

Mail Call...

Terry Erbs sent in the following articles to keep us updated with "Drone" activities...

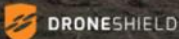
Sovereign Counterdrone Systems.

Made in Australia, Saving Lives Around the World.



Outpacing the drone threat. Winning the fight in a disruptive and dangerous world.

droneshield.com





Royal Australian Artillery
Tim Wyatte · 17 hours ago · 🌐

Defence media 9Sep2024. Australian Army soldiers from 2nd/10th Battery, 9th Regiment, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery participated in the first Edge-130B Train the Trainer course at Buckland Military Training Area on 10-12 August in Southern Tasmania. This course creates a capability for soldiers to train others in the use of the newly acquired Edge 130-B unmanned aircraft system technology, a drone system, which specialises in long-range mapping, inspection surveillance and reconnaissance needs. This unmanned aerial system and training increases Army's capability by supporting military training through route reconnaissance, terrain analysis, and convoy overwatch, as well tasks assisting the community such as search and rescue and supporting the Tasmanian Police Remotely Piloted Aircraft System team. 9th Regiment, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, is and artillery unit of the Australian Army part of the 2nd (Australian) Division



Drones the new 'apex predators'

At this year's Army Innovation Day, organisations will pitch ideas to enhance soldiers' survivability. **Sgt Matthew Bickerton** reports.

CONVENTIONAL wars frequently spur rapid technological innovation.

The conflict in Ukraine has shown the impact small, inexpensive and easily manufactured drones have on the battlefield.

To stay ahead, Army looks to the private sector for solutions.

One such company is DroneShield, which won \$800,000 of funding at last year's Army Innovation Day.

DroneShield director Red McClintock said drones were dominating the battlefield, with first-person-view drones emerging as the "apex predators" of modern warfare.

"If you're a drone pilot, you're probably one of the highest priority targets – up there with artillery and tanks," he said.

DroneShield's products detect, locate and defeat drone threats to protect dismounts, vehicles and buildings.

Army has shown interest in several products, including the DroneSentry-X Mk2, that can be vehicle-mounted, tripod-mounted, or used for deployable fixed-site protection.

Among its capabilities is on-the-move drone detection and drone defeat.

When several are used in a mobile networked team, drones and their pilots can be located.

The mobile teams can automatically provide tactical data to higher headquarters.

"With this system, those hunters become the hunted. It's an incredibly



A US soldier sets up a DroneSentry-X Mk2.

powerful tool, especially when used on the move," Mr McClintock said.

A key feature is the receiver and jammer's ability to be updated, ensuring continued effectiveness as new drone models emerge.

"It's like the virus scanner on your computer. As new threats appear, they update," Mr McClintock said.

DroneShield has secured contracts for the DroneSentry-X Mk2 with Australian allies in Europe, North America and the Pacific.

Their other products are battle-proven with more than 1000 hand-held, vehicle-mounted and fixed systems in Ukraine and neighbouring countries.

Detecting without being detected

SIGHT is the most critical sense on the battlefield – seeing more means detecting the enemy sooner. With advancements in technology, machine systems are now surpassing human vision.

Last year's Army Innovation Day tasked industry and academia with developing solutions for detecting, identifying, targeting and countering robotic and autonomous systems.

One company that met the challenge was Visionary Machines, which secured a \$2.5 million Army contract for its passive optical anti-drone detection system.

Visionary Machines CEO Sonny Foster described his company as the "eyes of autonomy," using advanced algorithms to generate 3D representations of terrain and objects from camera inputs.

"One technology we're working on is our passive optical radar for drone detection, which is 100 per cent passive by using cameras," he said.

"What's really fascinating is that we can track objects in three dimensions."

Visionary Machines specialises in software applications, allowing for

the use of cameras optimised for different environmental conditions, day and night.

An advantage is the system's passive nature, allowing it to detect without transmitting signals like lidar, sonar, or radar, which could be discovered by a sophisticated enemy.

"You're detecting enemy movements without being detected," Mr Foster said.

"That's going to provide a significant level of safety and security, and perhaps most crucially, it will give you time to take the appropriate course of action."

Mr Foster said several field trials exceeded all performance criteria, and believes the technology for tracking uncrewed aerial, ground and waterborne systems could be ready as early as 2025.

"It's really important that Army facilitates activities like these [the innovation day] because it's a great opportunity for small companies who have great innovations to get in front of the right people," Mr Foster said.

Visionary Machines is a small Australian company that collaborates with Australian universities.



Mail Out



Ed - I started this section in September, 2017 and have continued to write to Locators based on a year quarterly basis, by breaking down the names alphabetically into groups of one third of the then available list. The list has diminished over time, but, in general, there is a good core of blokes who communicate regularly 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.

Total Mail Out Members = 222 & Total Quarterly "Catch Up" Member Responders = 55

Mail In



Ed - Here are the responses...

Ron Mason – "Hi Paul, yes the weather is strange, a mini cyclone hit us a fortnight ago & has done a lot of tree damage, demolished a carport & damaged 2 cars. At least the house is ok with only damage to some flashing. We were inside so we are ok.

The next morning I went to hospital to have a scheduled hernia repair so I have not been doing much in the way of cleaning up yet, however our daughter organized a neighbour to bring in his telly landler & pick up some of the bigger trees & get the tracks clear. So between family & others we can move around the place again, just a slow job to get everything cleaned up again.

Glad to hear the "pill" is doing its thing. I'm still getting an infusion every month to slow the Inclusion body Myositis (IBM) down, hard to tell if it's working as my hands are still becoming weaker by the month. Writing is very difficult but I can still



use the keyboard at least the next 131 zoom clashes with our Myositis group lunch so once again I will drop out before the end of the meeting.

What do your northern friends make of their upcoming elections?

Trip to Thailand sounds good, will look forward to hearing about it.

All for the minute

Ron."

Harry Lynas – "G'day Paul,

Seems that you and yours are going OK - well so am I NOW. Had a terrible fall onto the back of my head, downhill on a pebble concrete driveway in early May. Hole and scrapes and a big bump and 10 days in hospital. I feel OK now but still at times the balance is no good. Back walking with a cane for longer distances, but haven't got up to a kilometre yet - maybe next week!!!!

So as you can see I have only been out to the doctors, chemist and physio, so not much social life but there are a couple of my young gunners who occasionally call in or on the phone.

Hope to have better news next time.

Cheers, Harry."

Iain Kennedy – “Paul,

Janet is always saying the weeks and months are going too quickly and there sure doesn't seem to be enough time in the day to get everything done .

Well, since we last wrote it's not exactly action packed, mainly revolved around Janet having both eyes done for cataracts. surgery booked, but days before she is due to have the first eye done, she comes down with Covid-19. so it gets put back a month and we start wearing masks again. Finally a month later we get first eye done, then a month later the other eye. now a further month on we are all good.

I did fit in a business trip to Taiwan with one of my customers to test a machine i sold him, prior to shipping. It was so hot, with no air con in the factory. It was like 45 degrees inside the factory while testing the machine. Our host looked after us very well, every night was a different style of food, Japanese, Korean, Cantonese, Taiwanese and even Greek. Arrived back and i was crook for two weeks, with every bone in my body aching. Anyway all good now.

At right is the photo of the test team (arrow indicate Customer) in front of their new machine. Me you know which one I am, right?



Trying to plan the next family trip back to visit Janet's relatives back in Malaysia and Thailand, but getting everyone available at the same time is not easy.

Look after your prostate, you don't realise how important it is until you don't have it!

As the weather improves am trying to get more time on the bicycle to improve my waist line. It's not quite the same as it was in my service days. Not sure why as I don't eat as much as I did back then? Haha.

That's my update for now,

Cheers,

Iain K.”

Ernie Newbold adds a comment post “**The National Service Scheme...How “Nashos” were invented for Vietnam...**” article in last month's *Eyes and Ears* and the continuation in this edition –

“The history lesson regarding the National Service story is very interesting, as it is a vital part of our individual histories. The photo, at right, is of a photo of the marbles used in the National Service ballot. The image is from the A.W.M. where the marbles are now located.



Ed – What is even more interesting, well to me anyway, is the number of times **10th October** was drawn out over the years! 24 Hours either way could have been a life-changer!

Joe Molenkamp – “G'day Paul,

Thanks for you messages, its good you're persistent as its jogged my conscience.

Hope your upcoming trip goes well with no hiccups, you both sure get about quite a lot!

Not much to report here, we're leading a quiet life as my wife Teena is house bound due to ill health....but every day is a good day!

Thanks for *E & E's*, you do a great job of it.

Cheers,

Joe.”

Russ Hamsey – “Paul:

It is good to hear from you. As I write back I have 69 days until retirement. After 47 years of soldiering it is finally time to hang it up.

We plan to get back to travelling as soon as we can. First trip is back to Canada to visit relatives and then perhaps back to Europe.

20 Regt has been busy with border protection ops early this year and now moving Shadow to retirement and bringing Integrator into service.

133 Bty is back in business with a vengeance. They are working hard on supporting Integrator's test and evaluations.

The really big news is the recent award of the Schwartz Shield to Task Unit Dragon, the Regt's elements that deployed to the Northern Kimberley for border protection ops. The Shield is awarded by the Army Aviation Association to the best unit in 16th Aviation Brigade. This award has been around since 1971 and this is the first time a non-aviation unit has won it. The fact their Association recognised the Regt in this way is surprising.

Interesting times. Well that's about it from me. Take care of yourself and talk again soon.
Regards,
Russ Hamsey."

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

. 131 Locators Association Committee

Upcoming October Meeting –

Date: Tuesday, 8th October, 2024 at 1100hrs

**Venue: Venue: Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club,
26 Humphries Rd, Wakeley NSW**

**Also, available via Zoom - contact Bob Billiards at billiard4@bigpond.com
for the link.**

Come and Join us in person or via ZOOM...



58 Years
April 1966 – April 2024



Have you tried to source the 131 Locators Association or your mates via Facebook?

Why not give it a go, if you haven't already, just click onto the
Association's Facebook via the link below, then let us know what you
think...

Hey, you don't have to have a Facebook page of your own...

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

SALUTE

Official Journal of the Totally and Permanently
Incapacitated Veterans' Association of New South Wales Limited
Winter 2024

Ernie Newbold forwarded in the following link –
copy paste and read the “Spring” edition -



The link below will take you to the TPI NSW's latest
Newsletter – It's a worthwhile read as it contains information from DVA and some great stories...

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=55f192afee&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1802742395713089188&th=1904a0a85603eea4&view=att&disp=safe>

“Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation”

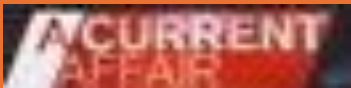
The link to apply for the Citation is listed below here...

Australian Defence Force members who served during the Vietnam war have been recognised with the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation (the Citation).

<https://www.defence.gov.au/adf-members-families/honours-awards/medals/foreign-awards/republic-vietnam-cross-gallantry-palm-unit-citation>

have a read of this link then click on the red link then go to "Application" then click on "submit an application", then go to the bottom of the page for the actual link that opens up0 for your details

(click on Complete the Defence medals application)then fill in your details and submit.



12th September, 2024

'A lot of confusion':

Why RSL NSW wants to distance itself from “pokies” venues...

Veterans are calling for pokies venues to remove RSL from their names, claiming they are two very different causes that should not be confused.

The Returned and Services League of Australia - a not-for-profit supporting veterans - cut ties with licensed venues more than 50 years ago but allowed clubs to keep RSL in their names.

But now, RSL NSW president Mick Bainbridge is calling for pokies clubs to drop the term, asserting that venues that promote gambling and the service of alcohol are damaging to the welfare of veterans.

"We do have veterans who are in trouble, and putting them in front of a poker machine when they are in need, we would much rather they come to RSL NSW so we can put our arms around them and make sure they get the health and services they need," Bainbridge said.

RSL clubs made about \$1 billion last year, but Bainbridge claims his charity did not receive a cent of that.

"There is a lot of confusion in the community about who is the RSL and I am certain that many people out there probably think by going to the club they are supporting their veterans, when in fact, they are not," Bainbridge said.

"RSL NSW is a completely separate entity and we go about the care and welfare of veterans, whereas RSL clubs are very much about gambling and pokies.

"[RSL clubs are] a good place to go and have a few beers, but we are certainly different organisations."

The RSL and Services Clubs Association told *A Current Affair* clubs regularly provide funding to worthy ex-service organisations.

However it acknowledges there's room for improvement and will work with RSL NSW to better serve veterans.

RSL AND SERVICES CLUBS ASSOCIATION STATEMENT...

RSL and Services clubs have a long history of supporting veterans and their families.

Clubs regularly provide funding to worthy ex service organisations — including Disaster Relief Australia, Defence Community Dogs and RSL LifeCare. However, their support extends far beyond financial donations.

RSL and services clubs across NSW provide veterans a place for connection and support particularly on days such as ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day. Clubs also often offer up their facilities and meeting rooms free of charge to veterans' groups.

Having said that, there is always room for improvement, and we look forward to working with stakeholders — including RSL NSW — to better serve veterans and their families, particularly in light of the recent release of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

In its joint submission with ClubsNSW and other industry bodies, the RSL & Services Clubs Association recommended enabling clubs to fund organisations that deliver state-wide services to vulnerable people.

The current Guidelines prohibit clubs from funding services that benefit people in other communities, which reduces the support available to organisations that support vulnerable people — including veterans — as this support tends to be provided state-wide.

Australian military officers to be stripped of honours after alleged war crimes under their command

Story by Daniel Hurst Foreign affairs and defence correspondent

The Australian government has decided to cancel the awards and honours of a small group of former military officers who held command positions at the time that others under their command were accused of war crimes.

The defence minister, Richard Marles, gave an update to parliament on Thursday on the government's progress in acting on the longstanding recommendations from the Brereton inquiry into alleged war crimes in Afghanistan.

He addressed the long-debated issue of command accountability, saying this was "the final step in government action emanating from the Brereton report".

Marles told parliament that any criminal investigations and prosecutions were a separate matter that were being handled "at arms-length from the government" and could still take "years" to complete.

Marles sent letters to potentially affected individuals – understood to be fewer than 15 people – on Wednesday to notify them about whether their awards were being cancelled or were being retained.

Guardian Australia understands there are fewer than 10 individuals whose awards will be cancelled.

Marles said he would not disclose the names or details due to privacy obligations, but that Australia was holding itself accountable for the allegations.

Ernie Newbold forwarded the following update email from the NSW TPI Association of which he is a member...

"Dear TPI NSW Member,

Please find attached a recent update from Ms Sonia Gregory, the new DVA Deputy Commissioner for NSW/ACT.

Best regards,

Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Veterans' Association of New South Wales Ltd

ABN 90 002 296 988

Level 4, 55 York Street

Sydney NSW 2000 Tel: (02) 9235-1466



DVA Deputy Commissioner NSW/ACT Update

I am honoured to announce my recent appointment as Deputy Commissioner NSW & ACT. In this role, I am committed to strengthening our collaboration, enhancing our mission and addressing the emerging needs to support veterans' and their families.

Your feedback and insights will be invaluable as we navigate these efforts. I encourage you to share your thoughts and experiences with me, as they will help guide our initiatives and ensure we are meeting needs effectively. Thank you for your dedication, and I look forward to working with you all to improve the lives of our veterans' and the veteran community. Please take the time to read this update, and share information with your members and networks.

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide has handed down its Final Report to Government.

You can access the Final Report | Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide online. Many hundreds of veterans and family members gave evidence to the Royal Commission, often revisiting traumatic moments in their lives. They have told their stories in order to improve the lives of future generations of Australian veterans and their families.

This is a pivotal and highly important report, comprising over 3,000 pages of evidence, commentary and findings across 7 volumes. The Royal Commission made 122 recommendations identifying systemic risk factors and overarching drivers of suicide and suicidality in serving and ex-serving ADF members. The recommendations are focussed on harm prevention, early intervention, improved communication, coordination and collaboration, increased capability and capacity, and strengthened oversight and accountability. The recommendations are largely directed to Defence and DVA; as well as other agencies separately or in combination with Defence and DVA. The Final Report represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity for meaningful change and, along with Defence, make every effort to address suicide and suicidality among our serving and ex-serving ADF personnel.

The Government will take some time to appropriately consider the recommendations and provide a whole-of-Government response in due course. DVA cannot comment on the Royal Commission's recommendations ahead of the Government response. We will work closely with Defence and other relevant agencies in providing advice to Government relating to how the recommendations can be implemented.

DVA will continue working to ensure that the significant investment by the Government – **more than \$12 billion every year** – is best targeted to the services that make the most difference to the wellbeing of veterans and families. More information on our work in response to the Royal Commission is available on our website at: Our work in response to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide Department of Veterans' Affairs (dva.gov.au) I would also like to remind you of the support services available. If you are in crisis and need to talk to someone, you can call Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling on 1800 011 046 – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you'd prefer to remain anonymous, Safe Zone Support can be contacted on 1800 142 072.

Other services are listed on the mental health support services page of the DVA website.

Please see below for other key activities underway:

- . Consultation on an Institute of Veterans' Advocates
- . Marking First World War Private Graves Grants
- . Long Tan Bursary

Regards,

Sonia

Consultation on an Institute of Veterans' Advocates

- . The Ex-Service Organisation Roundtable (ESORT) recently established a working group to consider how advocacy services could be strengthened to benefit veterans and families.
- . Advocates are an important part of Australia's veteran support system. They assist veterans to understand and access support and entitlements from the Government.
- . The working group has proposed the creation of an Institute of Veterans' Advocates as a national professional association for veterans' advocates.
- . Under the proposal, the Institute would provide leadership and support to veterans' advocates, set competency and training standards for the sector, and accredit and register advocates.
- . The Institute would similarly establish a code of conduct for advocates and provide members with access to the training and tools they need to deliver high quality advocacy services.
- . DVA is seeking the views of the veteran community through an online consultation page, which is open for submissions until 4 October 2024.
- . Before providing feedback, respondents are encouraged to read the consultation paper, which provides more detail about the proposal

Long Tan Bursary

- . The Minister opened applications for the 2025 Long Tan Bursary on 18 August, Vietnam Veterans' Day.
- . The Bursary is named after the Battle of Long Tan, the best-known battle fought by Australians during the Vietnam War.
- . Today, we continue to honour Vietnam veterans by supporting their descendants. Their eligible children and grandchildren can now apply for up to \$12,000 to assist with the cost of their tertiary education.
- . To apply for the Long Tan Bursary, visit the Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) website. Applications close on 31 October 2024.

Sonia Gregory

Deputy Commissioner, NSW & ACT, Department of Veterans' Affairs

Mobile: 0473 811 977 General enquiries: 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372)

sonia.gregory@dva.gov.au | dc.nsw.and.act@dva.gov.au

Allen Morley was out for a walk and saw the poster advertising some "well known" names and faces from an era which we are ALL aware of...

Digger Revell, Little Pattie, Lucky Starr, Jade Hurley and Dinah Lee.

Sunday, 2nd March 2025

**could be worth getting a gang together
and booking?**

**Venue – The Concourse, 409 Victoria Ave,
Chatswood 2067**

Book via 02 8075 8111 or theconcourse.com.au





Committee Members:

President: Allen Morley
Vice President: Bert Blink
Treasurer/Secretary: Grahame Dignam
Public Officer: Gordon Malcolm
Webmaster: Bob Billiard
Research Officer: Ernie Newbold
Design Development Officer: Nick Proskurin
Eyes and Ears Editor: Paul Dickson



General Members: Ian Amos, Ged Carroll, George Lane, Merv Nairn

Regional Representatives: ACT- Bert Blink, Qld – Terry Erbs, SA – Geoff Blackwell, Vic – Alan Adams, Vic Nth: Ron Mason, WA – Barry Guzder

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

Presidential perambulations

First, Oshkoshish stuff – Oshkosh airshow is the biggest anywhere. I flew to Dallas Fort Worth on an American Airlines ticket aboard a Qantas aircraft. Fifteen hours on board but not too bad. I chose not to go via LAX as the entry queue last time was 90 minutes long. AT DFW it took 5 minutes. The border bloke asked me where I was going and what for. Then waved me through without wanting to check my passport, fingerprints or shoes. Amazing. The Kiwi travel agent had booked me into the Airport Hyatt, and I found there were in fact three Hyatts at the airport. I struck it lucky at the second in my search. Next day was a flight to Chicago then on to Appleton airport. There I had to wait for the main group coming in from Arizona. Last bit of travel was on a school bus to University accommodation. By the time they sorted out the rooms it was after midnight and I was shattered.

Monday saw the start of the week's events against clear blue skies. One of the stupid Kiwi women started at home with a bad cough but still came. ? covid. At the end of the week most of the group had come down with the lurgy. Fortunately I escaped it and avoided this empty head. An interesting

flying week. The US Thunderbirds (Airforce) and Blue Angels (Navy) display flights flew over but didn't stop. There were two flying B-29 Bombers (*Fifi* and *Doc*) and a Canadian Lancaster bomber, all of which flew in. Fascinating to see the three flyover in formation. The US Airforce supports the airshow so well. They had F-16 – the same type as sent to Ukraine – plus F-35 Lightning II (the same as we have in the RAAF), F-22 Raptor and F-15EX Eagle. Many WW2 aircraft, lots of homebuilts and some veteran civilian types. This was really my Oshkosh swansong.



We gave Sunday at Oshkosh a miss as it is pretty quiet, and headed down to Wright Bros territory at Dayton, Ohio. Here was the US Airforce Museum. The hotel we stayed in was only walking distance away. Without doubt, this was the largest and most fascinating air museum I have ever seen. Aircraft from pre-WWI through to current Airforce types. They are well displayed and have plenty of information on type and use. I could have spent longer there than a day allowed. Then a flight to DFW and home on a Qantas 787 with a spare seat beside me. One Kiwi couple in the group had bought US\$18 camping type chairs and wanted to take them home. They had them wrapped and when the border people told them they would have to pay US\$150, they paid. How stupid is that?

Oshkosh town has a market on Saturday morning. So, I went to have a look and found both Republican and Democrat stalls. I asked where I could buy a MAGA cap. The bloke told me their office was only a few hundred yards up the road. After about a mile walk I found the place and bought my Trump cap. It created some interesting situations. One Kiwi female in our group took offence to it so I always wore it in her presence. At Chicago airport a huge bloke veered off his path toward me. I thought I was a goner, but he just wanted to shake my hand. The check in chick at Dayton airport complimented me on the cap and called the other girls on check in to check out my headgear. Then some bastard on the flight home nicked my lovely cap. Interesting when talking to Americans in general they could not believe we would never wear a shirt with an electoral candidate's photo on it. We were in a coffee shop in Oshkosh town and talked to a couple of young college types. They asked if we had flown over water to get to Oshkosh. A wonderful education system demonstrated there.

Cheers
Allen.





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

Minutes for the General Meeting of the 131 Locators Association Inc.

Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club, 26 Humphries Rd, Wakeley NSW 2176 and via **ZOOM** internet
on **Tuesday 10 th September 2024**

. **Pertinent Points** – extracted from the 131 Locators Association Committee meeting...

Attendees were: Allen Morley, Grahame Dignam, Gordon Malcolm, Ernest Newbold, Ian Amos and Merv Nairn.

ZOOMed members: Ron Mason, Paul Dickson, Terry Erbs, Bert Blink, Brian Campbell, Ian Campbell, Bob Billiards, Ged Carroll, Rieny Nieuwenhof and Barry Guzder.



Apologies: were received from George Lane, Kevin Browning, Jim Fitzgerald, Steve Wynn, Nick Proskurin and other State Reps

Financial Membership is currently ...**121** plus Associates **2** plus Affiliates **16** Total **144**
Plus Lapsed as at 1/9/2024 **38** members

Presidents report.

Allen referenced.

- . The Royal Commission on veteran suicides has been delivered.
- . He has been in contact with Keith Dean via Diane, his wife re his heart condition and operation. Keith was a Pioneer vet with 131.
- . He had a conversation with Joe Kaplan regarding a Sydney commemoration of the Century of Locating 1925-2025 to run conjointly with the events at Enoggera QLD. Further discussions and decisions will follow.

Webmaster Update.

- . Robert arrived via Zoom at the appropriate time and reported that we had 485 Facebook members.
- . The issue of member picture albums being unavailable was raised. He reported that links were broken, and he would contact the ISP contractor to resolve the issue.
- . Regarding the Surveyors website, he advised that work needs to be completed before access to the site can be made available.

Health Report:

- . Gordon reported good news for his prostate condition which caused debate as to comparable results/readings between those who had had operations and those who had not.
- . Dicko advised he had heard from Steve Owen who had suffered multiple heart attacks over the past 2 weeks. He had received very prompt attention from the Ambos for which they were commended but still can't recommend the hospital food. Steve does not have DVA assistance but has established contact with DVA via Wauchope RSL.
- . Harry Lynas had a fall and is using a walking frame.

General Business and around the grounds:

Discussions ensued on the following:

- . Dicko asked if all RSLs have a minute silence during the daily Ode observance?
- . Rieny Nieuwenhof advised that Geelong Vietnam Vets will have its own Century of Locating event in 2025.
- . The link for the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit citation Award will be added as another reminder in *Eyes & Ears* for those who missed the message earlier- see article in **Notice Board**.

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.

. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 8th October, 2023 at 1100hrs

Venue: Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club, 26 Humphries Rd, Wakeley NSW

Also, available via Zoom.



. Birthdays in the Battery...October –

Date	Name	Regt No	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	Ian Laurence Brignell	2789405	20 01 1969	21 01 1970	
2	Terry John Bruce	2783213	05 05 1967	30 01 1968	
2	Peter Joseph Teather T/Bdr	3790242	12 04 1968	06 08 1968	
2	Leslie William Robinson T/Bdr	217662	09 12 1968	28 11 1969	
3	WELCOME HOME	ALL	1966	1971	Det 131
4	Leigh Graham Hemming	1732039	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	†02.03.2018
4	Michael George Luff	2783725	02 01 1967	27 09 1967	
4	David John Lahore	3791183	02 09 1968	04 03 1969	
5	James Colin Merchant	2788817	18 12 1968	28 11 1969	
7	Garry Dennis Chillingsworth	313477	29 11 1970	05 08 1971	
8	John Michael O'Neill Cpl	243505	09 11 1970	11 11 1970	
	" "		11 03 1971	12 05 1971	RAEME
9	Brian John Smythe L/Bdr	1201484	02 09 1968	03 12 1969	
10	Brian William Kennedy Capt.	213488	02 03 1965	11 03 1965	3 RAR
	" "		26 08 1969	27 08 1970	131
10	Paul Granville Dickson	1732012	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
10	Barry Douglas Bonser L/Bdr	37661	03 01 1967	27 09 1967	† 03.09.1998
11	Paul William Jones	216324	22 04 1966	30 04 1967	† 09.09.1968
11	Jeffrey Bruce Evans Maj	3789164	10 02 1971	02 06 1971	† 23.12.2011
	" "		02 06 1971	02 11 1971	12 Fd Regt.
12	Alan Reginald Cleasby WO2	36053	02 12 1968	10 12 1969	131
	" " "		11 06 1972	20 11 1972	AATTV
12	Barry Edward Fountain	3798485	03 03 1971	20 08 1971	† 12.05.2022
	" "		21 08 1971	30 10 1971	Det131/12 Fd Regt.
13	Peter Sali	1735560	24 02 1970	18 02 1971	† 10 .03.2016
14	Anthony David Dodds T/Bdr	16776	04 05 1967	02 04 1968	
14	Norman John Lindroos T/Sgt	3410957	20 05 1968	24 05 1969	
14	Peter James McGann	55672	27 11 1969	19 11 1970	
16	William Alan Thomas	16727	{07 01 1967	19 03 1967	1ARU
	" "		{20 03 1967	26 09 1967	131
17	Torin Carter White	218372	21 02 1969	25 02 1970	
18	Helmut Lempa L/Bdr	38120	20 05 1966	06 12 1966	† 04.07.1985
18	Arthur Edmond "Ted" Jux	2792371	29 04 1970	18 03 1971	
18	David John Padovan T/Sgt	36988	27 08 1970	05 09 1970	RAAOC
19	Ian Thomas Finlay L/Bdr	2412363	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
20	Robert Darryl Harris Sgt.	213514	10 02 1971	29 07 1971	
22	Stephen Wynn (Partridge)	2251369	CMF 130 BTY		
23	John Joseph Vitkovsky L/Bdr	4718271	02 03 1967	12 03 1968	
23	Norman Richard Bullen Bdr	214545	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	
22	Ian Kenneth Board L/Bdr	213879	22 04 1966	11 12 1966	
25	Derek Smith	1108315	N/A		131 1990'S
25	Michael Joseph Delaney	2789205	17 02 1969	28 11 1969	† 17.02.2013
28	Michael Owen Bohl	1411182	08 02 1968	17 12 1968	† 15.06.1993
28	David Henty Doyle Sgt.	17760	{22 04 1966	11 12 1966	
	" "		{24 09 1970	08 02 1971	

28	Ian Geoffrey Murley	38503	12 04 1968	23 04 1969	
28	Paul John Tys Lt.	235362	17 03 1969	18 03 1970	
29	James Allan "Zeek" Ritchie Sgt.	2411899	21 05 1969	09 04 1970	
29	Peter John Larkin T/bdr	3793067	08 11 1968	19 11 1969	
30	Graham Edward O'Toole Bdr	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 – 9 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 **176. Ed** – Maybe we need to draw in a deep one so as to hold our breathes for a while longer.

. 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

Graham Williams sent **Grahame Dignam** the following on 29th September, 2024...

"Hey there G.D.,

Re:- 2790305....Gunner Allen Keith Wheatley (Known to all as "Big Al") passed away 3rd July 2018.

Service dates in Vietnam.....16/9/69 to 4/6/70."



Name: Wheatley, Allen 'Big Al' Keith

Service No: 2790305 Rank: Gunner

SVN In: 17.09.1959 SVN Out: 04.06.1970

DoB: 16.09.1947 DoD: 02.07.2018

Lest We Forget



May He Rest in Peace, and Never be Forgotten.



Vales and Locator Profiles...

This is just a request to all and general, that we need to complete, and perhaps, update Locator Profiles, because as of times past and as time moves forward we have lost and will continue to lose mates.

Let's keep a memory alive.



The Vale section in *Eyes & Ears*, can at times be very scant of personal and service details, yes, there is the DVA Nominal Roll which contains tour dates, but supplies nothing for those who did not serve overseas, and contains no personal details.

Is it possible that we can have Locator Profiles completed with photos, where possible, and/or updates to make this section more honouring to those mates who pass and may be unknown to others to help make the Unit and Detachment archived history have more heart?

Take 10 minutes, please, to complete a Locator Profile as it is important to all of us.

For a blank Locator Profile contact Paul Dickson at 131eyesandears@gmail.com



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...

. Locating, Surveillance & Target Acquisition Association...



LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION

The Eyes and Ears of The Battlefield

Website: <https://www.locatingartillery.org>



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

www.artilleryhistory.org



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

. 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.1stbn83rdartvyvietnam.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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