

# THE EYES and EARS

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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**

**2025  
59 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

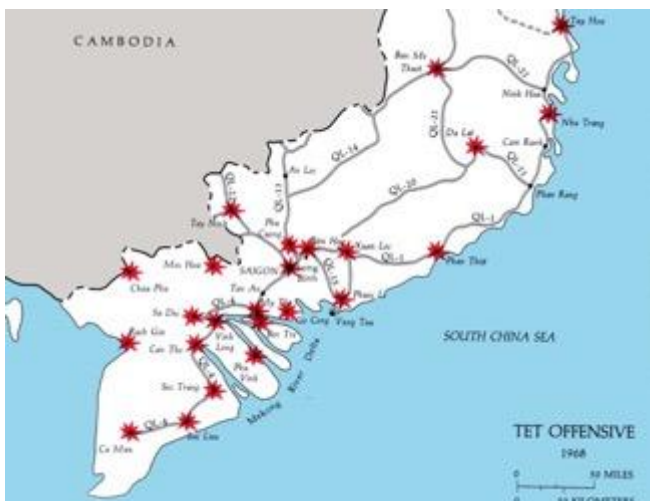


Classic '66

Out there '68

Social Sunday '67

Prep Work Vungers '66



**The TET Offensive**

**56 Years ago – the memories remain...**

**Tet Offensive**, attacks staged by North Vietnamese forces beginning in the early hours of January 31, 1968, during the Vietnam War. The Tet Offensive consisted of simultaneous attacks by some 85,000 troops under the direction of the North Vietnamese government.

Australian forces were heavily engaged during Tet. On 1 February troops from the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR), along with cavalry and artillery support, were given the task of recapturing Ba Ria, the capital of Phuoc Tuy ["fook twee"] province, which had been occupied by the Viet Cong.

**Not that we need reminding, but, here is a brief from the ANZAC Portal of the DVA...**

### **The Tet Offensive**

The Tet Offensive, launched in early 1968 by the Viet Cong, marked a significant escalation in the scale and the intensity of the Vietnam War. Although it was defeated in a strict military sense, the Tet Offensive shook the resolve of the Americans and their allies in Vietnam, and fuelled anti-war sentiment in America and the rest of the world.

In 1967 factions within the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese leadership began to call for a change of direction in the war's conduct. General Vo Nguyen Giap, who had formerly advocated waging a largely guerrilla war, came to believe a "quick victory " might now be possible. Planning therefore began for a major offensive in South Vietnam that would provoke a "general uprising. " Against the corrupt and unpopular South Vietnamese Government. Abandoning conventional military wisdom, Viet Cong forces were not heavily concentrated for the offensive. The aim, instead, was to mount as many different attacks in as many locations as possible. And in a departure from traditional guerrilla tactics, the main targets were in population centres rather than the countryside.

The offensive, during which more than 100 towns and cities were attacked, began during the early hours of 31 January 1968. The first assaults achieved almost complete surprise, not least because they occurred over the Chinese New Year or *Tet* holiday period, which, according to recent tradition, was a time of truce. In many places the Viet Cong were astonishingly successful; in the former capital, Hue, they took control of a large part of the city. The most spectacular Viet Cong successes were, however, in the South Vietnamese capital Saigon, where a number of government buildings were attacked. An elite Viet Cong squad even managed to fight its way into the grounds of the American embassy.

Although most of the attacks were quickly defeated, in Hue and at the American provincial base at Khe Sahn Tet signalled the beginning of protracted battles. Yet there was no "general uprising " in South Vietnam. The "quick victory " had turned into a disastrous defeat and recriminations within the communist leadership soon followed. With the Viet Cong decimated, General Giap lost much of his authority, ultimately being retained merely in the figurehead role of Minister of Defence. Only much later would the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese realise what they had actually achieved.

The Tet Offensive shocked the Americans and their allies, especially because it occurred at a time when they thought they were winning the war. Graphic footage of fighting in Saigon and Hue was broadcast into American households and around the world. The bitterness and desperation conveyed in these images deeply affected many people – even those who had until then broadly supported American involvement in Vietnam. The initial Viet Cong successes, the ferocity of the fighting, and heavy American and South Vietnamese casualties ultimately left a far greater impression on worldwide public opinion than the offensive's final defeat.

After the Tet Offensive American politicians and military leaders doubted whether a military victory would be possible, and began to think of other ways of ending the conflict. In this sense Tet marks the turning point in the Vietnam War. But perhaps the offensive's most enduring significance lay in how widely it revealed the horrors of the Vietnam War, and indeed war in general.

**A reflection from Bob Billiards archived information...** Where were you for TET (January 31st/February 1st 1968),,,

"I was stationed at the LP 31D stationed at "A" Battery 1<sup>st</sup>/83<sup>rd</sup> Artillery compound just south of 1ATF after starting my stay in South Vietnam (12<sup>th</sup> Sep 1967) at the expense of the Australian Government. My first operation was a 6 week one north of the task force somewhere in Xa Tui Tic. We completed that operation in December and spent a very uneventful time for the rest of December and January around the task force base. I had organised my R&R to commence early in February and on the night of 31<sup>st</sup> January the TET offensive started.

I remember being on my shift, but not what time, just that it was dark and I was probably listening to Armed Forces Radio to keep awake and break the monotony of nothing happening anywhere. There then seemed to be a lot of action down south and we got word that Baria and the US Engineers south of us were being hit. I think that I turned off the radio and listened to what was happening, and watching Puff streaming down the red ribbons. At some stage I heard a strange sound like a rocket being fired from the Hoa Long area and then the sound of something going overhead towards the north. After about three of these went overhead and there being no big bang, I decided to call up Arty Tac by LL and speak with the duty officer. Don't know who it was, but was explaining the noise and the sound of something flying overhead. I then noticed that there were mortar rounds landing around the bypass road and heading in towards our outer perimeter. My question to the duty officer was "Is someone firing DF around our position?" the response was that there were no Guns or Mortars being fired by friendly forces. "OK then we are being mortared, I will hang up and try to get a location" LP 31A was called and they could see the secondaries, but couldn't see or hear the primaries.

There was a lull in the rounds landing and I could only just hear the mortars being fired from out towards the Warburtons (the hills to our east) and since I could only just hear them, I presumed they were at max range and gave the distance as 6K's or something like that. I then went below to the US post as our LP at that stage had no overhead protection and I had done my job. 161 battery (Kiwis – best field battery at 1ATF) returned fire in super fast time, maybe 2 minutes and

the incoming stopped. The last batches of incoming rounds were very near the guard post on the opposite corner to us, but didn't reach the compound. The infantry found 3 base plates in the area where the mortars were fired from and it appears that the VC may have lined up the target along the tree line in the plantation.

That morning Arty Int sent out a crater analysis party of which I went along as part of the protection party and during their placing sticks in the holes, measuring the angles and picking up the tail fins, I was contacted on our radio to be informed that there was a largish group of VC heading in our direction from the Baria area. We finalised the job and headed back to the 1/83<sup>rd</sup> compound. I can't even remember how we got out there i.e. by vehicle or foot. I think it may have been by foot as we were hoping to get back before any unfriendly forces spotted us. Fortunately I had Pablo near me so I knew that there was someone who could shoot straight! But then the next incident might show that my faith was ill founded.

The next night (I think it was the next night) Behram Guzder was on the 10pm to 2am shift and sometime after midnight someone outside of the perimeter and in a tree to his left, fired a good burst of automatic fire at the LP. I imagine that Barry said "shit" and pulled his head in for once! Lucky that it wasn't an RPG! One of the passing rounds ricocheted off a bearing board nail, a great conversation piece for several weeks afterwards. Pablo and I headed down to the LP to ensure that Barry was OK. He gave us the location of the tree from where the shots emanated. For some reason I had a magazine of tracer for the SLR and suggested to Pablo that I would fire a couple of tracer rounds into the tree area and hopefully draw fire to Barry again and then Pablo would offload some automatic fire from his Colt AR15. One shot and he stopped firing, the usual problem of a casing stuck in the breach. Not having a muzzle loading gun, we had nothing to push the round out. We waited with our mate Barry until sunrise as he wanted us all to go together if there was a major attack.

I haven't a photo of the nail, but here is one of the LP layout. I think that the nail that was bent was either the 2800 or 2900 and would have taken off Barry's nose if he didn't disappear into the seat.



I did get on R&R in March.

Downside was that the 1/83<sup>rd</sup> OR's bar ran out of Bud and Schlitz and only has Millers!! Mess ran out of chocolate and strawberry milk!!"

. **Barry Guzder** always comes in with an honest reply – "Hi Dicko! Well I think I remember Tet. I was down at 31D with the yanks when the shit hit the fan, started reporting firing, flares etc and then started to take incoming. Think I reported something to Bert Blink at Arty Tac. I rang Billiards down at the hooch to get some ammo up to the LP. He came what I thought was a long time later (abused him) then he told that the fire was so intense that he had been stranded down at the artillery director post! Anyway we both survived but he might have some more insight. Regards 5714500 B. Guzder (P.S. Keep up the good work for all us Locators)"

**Peter Binn** – the following is an extract from Peter's archives...

"My TET experience as I can remember spent about twenty odd days at FSB Harrison then moved to FSB Anderson and was there the night Jimmy Menz copped it. I slept in his spot the night before .I missed out on Coral as I was at Horseshoe at that time, but I saw Mick Bolhes boots with plenty of holes in them - lucky he was not wearing them!"

Menz, James Leslie L/Bdr

38838

1946

10 10 1967

18 02 1968

† 18.02.1968 K

May Rest in Peace and Never be forgotten.

A very sincere thought to those Locators who served.

. Grahame Dignam – Australia Day, 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 in Camden...



Then another Australia Day passes with not great memories...



Would there be a country, for ANYONE, if these people hadn't served and continued to serve?

. 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.





Give me a Name?

## The “Lost Locator Project”

This Project is being re-ignited for 2024.

Our current list contains the names of **87** Locators (as at 31.01.2025) 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 **FEBRUARY'S** Birthday List, below, where there are 10 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.

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 Home Location |
|------|--------------------------------|---------|------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| 3    | Henson, Edward Stacey          | 2788331 | 1947 | 16 09 1968 | 27 08 1969 | United Kingdom    |
| 5    | Flavell, Richard Albert        | 3791902 | 1945 | 23 09 1968 | 04 06 1969 | Melbourne         |
| 10   | Williams, Eric Clive           | 1735449 | 1948 | 13 02 1970 | 04 02 1971 | Nanango, Q        |
| 16   | Lanera, Luigi T/Cpl            | 3795443 | 1947 | 25 11 1969 | 12 11 1970 | Melbourne, RAEME  |
| 16   | Hunt, Terence Thomas           | 3792120 | 1947 | 19 02 1968 | 21 02 1969 | Melbourne         |
| 17   | Spencer, Adrian Dennios        | 3794631 | 1948 | 28 10 1969 | 13 08 1970 | Melbourne         |
| 18   | McManis, Terence William L/Bdr | 44277   | 1950 | 30 05 1970 | 09 10 1970 | Unley, SA         |
| 26   | Ian Bruce McKenzie T/Sgt       | 3788926 | 1945 | 26 02 1968 | 24 02 1969 | E Melbourne RAAOC |
| 27   | Perry, Donald Stuart WO2       | 38675   | 1936 | 15 04 1970 | 19 11 1970 | Dimboola, V       |
| 28   | Kroll, Norbert Reinhold        | 218285  | 1948 | 27 11 1969 | 05 11 1970 | Munster, Germany  |

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

Paul Dickson

Get in touch with me via [131eyesandears@gmail.com](mailto:131eyesandears@gmail.com)

**Lost Locator came out of the blue – Allen Keeble**, 4<sup>th</sup> Intake Nasho from Brisbane reconnected a couple of weeks ago. He sounds well and he completed a Locator Profile (#180) which is on the Association website. It is so good to reconnect with him after all this time.

...continuing investigations –



**131 Locators**  
**“Cold Case Division”**  
The Eyes & Ears of the Force

**Peter Meaney, Detective Inspector**, is onto another case of “Lostie” –

Paul,

Also, I am hot on the heels of **Robert John Ness** (a January Birthday list Lost Locator) - recently turned 80, and at present in hospital post-hip replacement. His brother Phil contacted me yesterday, and has been kind enough to pass on my details to Rob.

Rob has retired in Pt Elliott SA, after farming for many years on Kangaroo Island SA.

**Ness, Robert John, Regt No 4717755 DoB 09.01.1945 SVN In 20.05.66 SVN Out 30.04.67**

I have taken him off the “Lost” Lot, Now only 87!

... then Peter proceeds with more investigating -

...”I have placed an Advertisement in the Sunday Mail (Adelaide), seeking details on:

**John Creighton Martin**

Edward Bruce Cooper

So, hopefully will get a good result there in the next few weeks.”

...Peter continues with more investigative suggestions –

“Not sure if you are familiar with a publication VET AFFAIRS, which is published 3 times per year- it may be worth Mr Dig (Graham Dignam) placing an ad re: Lost Locators (obviously too many names to enter in one go, but over several publications, it could work).

In the meantime each month I will endeavour to find out more about any SA born Lost Locators.

Look forward to the next edition of E&E.

Peter M.

Adelaide, SA.”

Paul – I’ll see if I can get his DVA pension increased – thanks Peter you’re amazing.

## . Unknown/Known Dates of Deaths continues to be updated...as at 31.01.2025 –

### 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, Brian James McDowell to the list below as they have recently passed. (See Vale below)**

| <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    | 1    | 2    | 0    | 2    | 8            |
| 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   | 8    |      | 63           |
| <b>Unknowns*</b>                                    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | <b>1</b>     |
| <b>Total</b>                                        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | <b>149</b>   |

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 **31.01.2025**.

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

**This following sections have now been updated as of 31.01.2025 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 |

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](mailto: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 – I more gap to go!**

...a completed investigation –



**131 Locators**  
**“Cold Case Division”**  
The Eyes & Ears of the Force

**Peter Meaney, Detective Inspector** - has done some significant investigating on January's “Unknown Dates of Death” and has uncovered the passing of **Brian James McDowell**...great work Peter as usual.

The following is an extract from the DVA Nominal Roll -

| Month   | Date | Name & Rank              | Regt No | YoB  | SVN In     | SVN Out    | Comments |
|---------|------|--------------------------|---------|------|------------|------------|----------|
| January | 25   | Brian James McDowell Bdr | 29303   | 1938 | 19 05 1971 | 29 07 1071 | Sydney   |

At right is extract from the  
Liverpool Cemetery and  
Crematorium records

See Brian's Vale below.

| Brian James McDowell |                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BIRTH                | 25 Jan 1938                                                                                                                            |
| DEATH                | 26 Jan 2024 (aged 86)                                                                                                                  |
| BURIAL               | <a href="#">Liverpool Cemetery and Crematorium</a><br>Liverpool, Liverpool City, New South Wales, Australia <a href="#">Add to Map</a> |
| PLOT                 | Niche, Harmony Garden, Niche 004                                                                                                       |
| MEMORIAL ID          | 271642095 · <a href="#">View Source</a>                                                                                                |

**. Paul Dickson – an interesting read on an Interesting bloke –** I have the great fortune to communicate with **Steve Wynn**, who keeps me abreast with all his activities (well most of them – he's a great supporter of the Ambulances Brigade) on, at least, a monthly basis.

On this occasion I was getting him to update some info on his Locator Profile (No.180) (he finally got the guilts and responded to my nagging!). Well, to my absolute amazement he attached an addendum to the Profile which I couldn't add to it, because of its volume, but I just have to share it with you...read on –

**Steve called it –**

**“Management , volunteering etc...”**

Management roles date from 1962 and company directorships from 1968. I have been a consultant for my own companies and in various management/director roles for multi-nation companies in various capital cities of Australia. I have experience in the following industries:

Energy, space, investment, risk management, health & home care, Viticulture, mail order, rural, pest control, electronics, liquor, mining, construction, motor vehicle, receivership/administration, events and census management industries.

**Licences:**

|                            |               |                    |                  |
|----------------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Motor car/motor cycle_____ | Class C,R.    | Boating_____       | General          |
| Radio_____                 | Marine MROCP  | Amateur Radio_____ | Advanced -VK2ZSW |
| Firearms_____              | Class A,B & H | Passport_____      | Australian.      |

**Organisations:**

|                         |                                                                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| LSTAA                   | Public Officer 2024-2025 (Military Assoc moved to QLD).               |
| LSTAA                   | Secretary/Public Officer 2022-2024.                                   |
| Wauchope RSL Sub-Branch | Member 2019-                                                          |
| WIA/AMC/ACMA            | Level 3 Assessor for amateur radio licence exams. 2016-2022.          |
| AMC/ACMA                | Invigilator for marine radio licence exams. 2002-                     |
| WARC                    | Secretary Wauchope Amateur Radio club Inc. 2018-2024.                 |
| NSW SES                 | Member of Mid North Coast Capability Unit 2018-                       |
| ORARC                   | Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc. - Secretary 2017/2018.           |
| WICEN Statewide (VRA)   | Radio operator for emergency services. Region Co-Ordinator 2017/2019. |
| BUNDALEER CARE SERVICES | Board Advisory Committee member 2016/2017.                            |
| NSW SES                 | Wauchope Unit Communications Officer/Manager 2015-2018.               |
| WICEN Sydney Nth (VRA)  | Radio operator for emergency services & community groups 2002-2007.   |
| SILO PC                 | Silo Pistol Club. Range Safety Officer 2005-2010.                     |
| RVCP (SES)              | Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol 2001/2004.                             |
| MWRS Inc.               | Manly Warringah Radio Society Inc. 2001/2004.                         |
| MYC                     | Manly Yacht Club, Rescue Boat Captain 2003.                           |
| NSW SES                 | Camden Haven State Emergency Service, Unit Controller 1980-1982.      |
| CHSR (VRA)              | Camden Haven Sea Rescue, Secretary & Boat Captain 1978-1980.          |
| AICD                    | Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.              |
| AIM                     | Associate Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management.           |
| SSAA                    | Sporting Shooters Association of Australia rifle club 2002-2008.      |

SSAA H&C SSAA Hunting & Conservation Club 2002-2008.  
 SSAA PC SSAA Pistol Club. Range Safety Officer 2002-2005.  
 CREST Radio operator emergency services (Committee Member) 2002-2007/2019-2024.  
 HVCYSS Hastings Valley Comm Youth Support Scheme, Founding Board Member.  
 SES Namoi Division HQ State Emergency Service, Comms Officer 1977/8.  
 CLR Crown Land Reserves & School of Arts Kendall, Trustee.  
 LPS Laurieton Public School, P&C VP.  
 ESBEC Mentor/volunteer for start up business, and business in difficulty.  
 A Co 4Bn RNSWR Private 1970-1972.  
 130 Corps Loc Bty Gunner 1963-1966??

#### Education:

**University of New England** (UNE), "E Commerce".  
**University of New England** (UNE), "Modern Languages".  
**University of New England** (UNE), "Management Accounting".  
**University of New England** (UNE), "Computer Science", not completed.  
**Australian Institute of Company Directors** (AICD) Sydney, Dunhill Madden Butler Solicitors, "Alternative Dispute Resolution and Negotiating Techniques".  
**UNE & AICD**, "Companies Directors Diploma".  
**AICD & Securities Institute of Australia** (SIA), "Company Analysis".  
**Macquarie University**, "Information Technology Management".  
**University of New South Wales**, "Human Resource Management".  
**TAFE**, "Refrigeration & Air Conditioning".  
**Marconi School of Wireless**, "Radio & TV electronics diploma".  
**Marconi School of Wireless**, "Commercial radio electronics" (BOCP).  
**TAFE**, "Mathematics and Science Diploma".

**I continue** – Steve is an amazing person whose heart and skills display a true honest hard working character, who, never having physically met him, I'm proud to call him a "Mate".

### . 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](mailto:131eyesandears@gmail.com)

This is not necessarily a typical (whatever that means) "Odessey Time" article but one with questions included, so let's get started...

**Kim McGrath** – are you sure we didn't go to the same primary school? Well it looks as though it was in the same era! Paul Dickson - Ok, now to some detail – as I was foraging for photos for the lower section of the *Eyes & Ears* banner above I came across Kim's photo in his archives and it got me to drag out what I had for a laugh.



Me in grades 1 and 2 at Windsor State School, Brisbane. Wearing a tie!



Kim somewhere in the above photo at sometime?

...Let's continue with another interesting read –

**. Bruce Irvine** almost by accident has uncovered an amazing story, with the aid of photos, of the amazing morphing of Holsworthy Barracks into what is now, basically, reinvented itself – read on...

An Interesting observance on time progressing by Bruce's emails after a drive by in December 2024 –

"G'day Paul,

Further to my previous email, it's amazing how one thing can lead to another.

Elizabeth and I travelled to Sydney today, sadly for a friend's funeral. The journey however, took us past Holsworthy so I was able to point out to Elizabeth the now unrecognisable place we called home for a few months back in 1966, early'67. On arriving back home, I decided to pay "Mr Google-maps" a visit to try and make some sense of the area I'd witnessed today and wasn't disappointed, very little was evident. I will revisit that later, as there are some telling signs relating back to the 60s.

Meanwhile, I thought I'd try and locate any aerial photos of the area and bingo, I was rewarded with a range taken over ten years or so (so far) that indicates that the army huts were removed around 1976 or so (no Nashos, no further need!!). I'm pulling up stumps for the night but remembering your query regarding huts and how the area looked, I reckon the attached images from 1961 might be of assistance. One is the aerial photo showing the entire Holsworthy Base and I then zoomed in on our 131 Div Loc area which comes up in great detail. The ovals were my initial ID point and I went from there.

Hope you enjoy the journey back in time. Bruce'

**Bruce continues** – "Hi Paul,

I'm attaching a composite image of the Holsworthy Base showing 1970, 2002 and 2024 that hopefully highlights what's happened over the years.

As far as I can ascertain, the railway went through in the mid '80s (it was well under way in 1986) and the rest of our area (as we knew it) was still fairly clear having had most buildings removed in the mid 70s. The housing where the ovals were located was developed from around 2004.

I've marked (red dot) the guard House at the entrance to our lines as best I can on each photo/image as a guide for comparison. That's just near the Museum in the current image.

Anyway, thought it might be of interest and hopefully stir some memory of what was where back in our Holsworthy days. All the best, Bruce."



2024



The Red Dot

Ed - What time does is amazing

## **The Australian Women's Weekly [aww@e.aremmedia.com.au](mailto:aww@e.aremmedia.com.au)**

**FEBRUARY 21, 2024**

**True tales from the female entertainers of the Vietnam War...**

**Over 50 years ago, a generation of young women and girls went to Vietnam to entertain the troops. Many of them still carry the scars.**

**Background to this article – My wife, Helen, who receives email articles from *The Women's***

***Weekly* showed me this article and having found the photo below I decided to post this, It's a fascinating and interesting story told by numerous entertainers who toured South Vietnam during the War. It is really worth a read. Just click on "FEBRUARY 21, 2024" and it'll download.**



**Vic Danko may recognize this photo?**



**Steve Wynn** – “G'day mate,

"Tonight" who waits for tonight. I bought a very expensive and comfortable recliner last year, now when resting in it after lunch, with the air con on, I tend to nod off while watching TV. Only get into the recliner cause I need to let my lunch settle, or maybe it could be because I am worn out from thinking about all the jobs that need doing, yeah.

We have been busy with medical crap, my wonderful wife (the boss) has been having heart issues and high blood pressure (my fault), so it has been an effort to do much. My kids give me a hard time because I am wearing out the ambros tyres taking me into hospital all the time. I am trying anything to stay out of hospital.

I have been given a Commonwealth Home Support Plan (CHSP) which gets my acre of grass cut for me, I still pay for it but at reduced rates. I am unable to do more than a quarter of it daily and still have to stay out of the sun or my skin burns very quickly and then turns blue, thanks to my new heart pills, but they are doing the job of keeping my heart in check, so far.

I have another 6 months of damn testing though, all came about because I asked for another pill because the one I was on, was making me dizzy, nauseous, weak, tired etc etc but this is the only pill to do what I need, so Cardio cut the dose in half. I have improved markedly with only minor side effects now, but testing needs to continue to see if the smaller dose of the pills are effective. Alternative is surgery, bummer that, I have had enough carving up.

I had my eye surgery postponed till next month (oh yippee) and have more eye testing next week for the correct type of operation before they start cutting, what a thought eh.

At the moment I am still having to maintain all our fruit trees, have we got a lot, but just do half an hour early in the day before the sun can get me ha, ha. It is worth the effort to eat mountains of fresh fruit every day though. When I was last in the eye hospital my wife bought a variety of fruit for us to try, every bit of it was tasteless, all picked too green to avoid fruit fly.

I did order a mountain of gear to build some more LiFePO4 batteries some time ago and have only managed to complete one so far, do a little bit each day when I am able. The gear I bought will give me another 27kWh of battery storage so with the 17.2kWh I already have, it will be enough to go off grid, if I want to. I had a hard time trying to get someone to give me a grid connection last year as I haven't had a power bill for around 3 years due to the first battery system which already gives me a very nice refund for FIT each year. So I am ready to go off grid if I have hassles in March 25 when my contract ends. Just the access fee for power is \$3/day, but my batteries FIT covers that cost.

I have attached a list for you, have a look and see what you want to include in the bio.

You and Helen stay safe mate.

Steve.”



#### **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**



**- Here are the responses...**

**Rieny Nieuwenhof** – “Hello Paul,

Great to hear from you again. I hope you and Helen are well. Wishing you both a very happy and healthy New Year.

As I write the tourists are back in town for the holiday period, I can't find a park anywhere near the supermarket. The town is gearing up for the Mussel Festival next weekend. Portarlington is the capital of mussel farming in Victoria.

As far as veterans are concerned our Vietnam Veterans Ass. is preparing for the AGM early in Feb. I have put my hat in for the position of Vice President again. We have a busy year ahead. The federal government, via the Minister for Veteran Affairs Mat Keogh MP, has confirmed the establishment of the Veterans and Families Welfare Hub at the Geelong RSL. This Hub will provide 'one stop' welfare support for our veterans, there are around 6,000 veterans in the Geelong region and the younger ones are still having to deal with the Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA). My son-in-law is an Advocate at the Geelong RSL currently and will be incorporated into the new Hub.

I don't intend to do any travel into the future, I am happy with where I am, I prefer the quiet life.

I noted in the last *E & E* the item written by Joe Kocka. I was in Vietnam at the same time as Joe and the first photo in the article includes yours truly (leaning on the landrover beside Joe). Sorry to hear of his passing. From the story he shares it seems his time with 131 was much more active and varied than my experience, maybe because Capt Ford BC, knew he was a regular? Tim Ford didn't have much time for Nashos it seems.

I'm enjoying the Ashes on TV with India creating a lot of media reaction.

I hope that brings you up to date with things here in Aus. See you on zoom. Regards, Rieny Nieuwenhof.”

**John Vitkovsky** – “G'day Dicko, Wow - you have certainly been getting around! If ever in Adelaide, be good to catch up (we are at Victor Harbor, about 80kms from Adelaide).

Nothing of great interest to report.

Been to-ing and fro-ing from here to Point Turton where my brother lives (on his own), helping out as he is not well. Only catch is that it is a 640Km round trip.

Pretty quiet Christmas spent at my twin daughter's (and grandkids) places at Norton Summit. Then took in the New Year at midnight watching the Sydney fireworks (with a bottle of champagne, of course). Thought the fireworks were a bit over-done...must have cost a few bob.

We want to head off on a reverse lap around Oz again in early May for a month or two. There are still a lot of places we have not seen in our country and, as in my 80th year, you never know when the time comes when we are no longer able to do this.

Health is good - work out every day on a rowing machine. Always something to do on our 2.5 acre property. Regular fisher, and shoot competitive pistol weekly.



Still following car and motorbike shows around the state. Last one at Clayton Bay was spectacular. See pic of engine porn. Actually a work of art.

Yesterday's health checkup with my new doctor (an ex Armoured Corps soldier) found a Melanoma on my forehead, which he will cut out in a couple of weeks. Other than that, all the best for the new year to Helen and you. John V.”

**Graham Williams** – “Hi Paul and Helen,

Thanks for your newsy e mail. It would seem these days you have become quite the world travellers. Plenty of frequent flyer miles one would think. Pleased to hear all went well for Helens mothers 98<sup>th</sup>...quite the milestone to begin such a protracted adventure where you seemed to do it all. To receive such good medical results would have topped off your year nicely.

We managed to survive Xmas here which was the usual non-event. No visiting, no visitors. Dare I say it but too bloody hot to drink beer so settled for the trusty Dark & Stormy with ice. As we have no aircon simply sat out the front on the day eating nibbles and listening to music from the 60's & 70's. Works for me.

Had a run of bad luck prior to Xmas. I had been onto the council about a water leak on their side of our meter and also to clean out the drains in front of our house as they were full of leaf litter, tree branches etc after a number of storms here.

When they curb and guttered the road here they extended my stormwater into the drain, unfortunately a foot below the level of the gutter & into the drain itself. So, when the drain is full of crap my stormwater backs up, overflows the guttering & on several occasions has come into the house. Took them almost 2 months from my first contact to address the problem. In the meantime our water service sprung a leak on our side of the meter. Due to storms and a lot of water run-off I did not pick this up immediately resulting in an excess water bill of \$788. On appeal this was reduced to \$340 but not great timing. We're looking at over \$10,000 to dig up and repair the leak with the original line. Oh joy, so instead had the plumbers lay a poly pipe along the ground up to the house so we could at least get water. Sometime this year the plumber will come back to adjust it and dig it in. (excuse sarcasm) When Council finally lobbed to fix their own leak (mind you running for 3 months) they found they needed to run a new line from my meter to the main line which runs down the middle of the road, a big job with street closed down for 3 days and the usual 7 workers with one on the shovel. While this was going on another council gang arrived to do the drains. A typical comment was “this drain has its own eco system.” There were actually tree roots growing below the footpath and into the drain itself though thankfully none in our stormwater outlet. Council did what they could to flush that but there was simply too much build up so enter stage right “Gas Jet”. Had to get them in with the camera and then water jets to clear the line. By this time I had had enough. Sent Council the bill for that with a strongly worded letter but have yet to hear back from them and won't hold my breath there. Three days later a water main burst in the street in front of the house. I am patiently waiting for our street to be declared a Council disaster zone. On the health side of things did not like yourself get a glowing report prior to Xmas. Lung specialist has advised me I am operating on 30% lung capacity. And here's me wondering why everything is getting difficult.....but wait....there's more.

Two days before Xmas Jenni is coming home from grocery shopping and turning into our driveway when another vehicle comes screaming around the blind corner, has no chance of stopping and collects her. The sound of the crash bought the entire street out. Jenni is fine, obviously shaken up but looking at the damage to both cars I am surprised there were no injuries. Now dealing with insurance but fear "Harry Holden" will be a write off. Having no car over the season has been a total pain in the butt so there you have it. My Xmas adventure and yuletide whinge. Can't complain mate. Plenty of people worse off than us but am certainly hoping for a change of luck in 2025. A lottery win would not go astray.



Keep on keeping on you two,  
Best Wishes to you both for 2025  
Graham W."

A continuing p.s. from **Grahame W** contained the following enquiry with regards to **Arthur Dove...**  
Graham was wanting to know if anyone had contact with Arthur and could he get those details as he saw his name in December's Birthday list in *Eyes and Ears*.

**Arthur Dove, 217348, served in SVN 13.01.69 – 28.11.1969.**

The DVA Nominal Roll had Arthur originating from Annandale, Sydney, NSW if that is any late penny-dropper?

If anyone can help, send **Paul Dickson** the details at - [131eyesandears@gmail.com](mailto:131eyesandears@gmail.com)

## 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

### National Vietnam Veterans Museum update...

– following information will be updated as it comes to hand.

Continue watching this space...



Ernie Newbold forwarded in the following link – copy paste and read January's 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>

58 Years  
April 1966 – April 2024





find us on  
**Facebook**

## Have you tried to source us 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>



**Committee Members:**

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

**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>



58 Years  
April 1966 – April 2024



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

### Presidential perambulations

"New year greetings to all our readers. Your Committee recognises the ageing of our 131 community and associated medical issues. But hopes that 2025 will be generally a good year for all 131ers, family and friends. There has been a bucket load of sport over the early summer period. A five match test series against India did not start well for the Australian team but came through positively to take the series in the fifth test. It is interesting how technology is now playing such a central role in this sport. Each team being allowed a certain number of challenges to umpire rulings with the third umpire usually making the final decision on the appeal. I'm not a great tennis fan. However, as the competition moves toward finality, I find it more interesting. Some of the matches go well beyond the scheduled time of both the start and finish when five set matches take place. To an observer of the game there are changes that could speed up proceedings. The removal of linesmen probably did not make a great difference, and their electronic replacement can speedily make the decision whether a ball is in or out. And to me the biggest problem lies in the fault. What other sport gives the server the chance of a second effectively 'free' serve? I cannot conceive that for instance in a game of AFL football if a kicker misses their first goal attempt that they would be given a second chance. The other irksome aspect is the multiple bounces undertaken associated with each serve. That's probably heresy to tennis purists. Regards Allen."

**CASUAL MEETING DAY (Pizza Day): Date:** Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 at Lunch Hour...

**Presidents report.**

"Paul

Today was not one of the Committee's monthly meetings. January is our 'rest' month.

However, for the first time post covid we assembled at the Canley Vale venue on a Thursday for a pizza lunch. Lots of interesting conversations including Bob Billiard's recent Vietnam excursion the call out for Ged Carroll who had left his parking lights on and Grahame Dignam's observation that he had not needed to prepare anything as he normally does for our monthly meetings.

The pizza platters were cleaned up quickly as the conversation continued.

Cheers

Allen

**. Pertinent Points** – extracted were that the Pizzas were good!...



**Attendees were:** Grahame Dignam, Bob Billiards, Nick Proskurin, Ernie Newbold, Merv Nairn and Allen Morley (photographer)

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 Next General**  
**Date:** Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 at 1100hrs  
**Venue:** Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club  
**26 Humphries Rd, Wakely NSW 2176**  
**and via Zoom internet**



**. Birthdays in the Battery...Februaray –**

| Date | Name                       | Regt No | SVN In      | SVN Out    | Comments         |
|------|----------------------------|---------|-------------|------------|------------------|
| 1    | Menz, James Leslie L/Bdr   | 38838   | 10 10 1967  | 18 02 1968 | † 18.02.1968 KIA |
| 2    | McDonnel, Roger Graham     | 2784019 | 04 05 1967  | 20 02 1968 |                  |
| 3    | Gibson, Robert Martin      | 2787361 | 29 01 1968  | 07 02 1969 | † 02.03.2021     |
| 3    | Henson, Edward Stacey      | 2788331 | 16 09 1968  | 27 08 1969 | United Kingdom   |
| 4    | Asmanis, Olaf              | 3796272 | 27 11 1969  | 05 11 1970 |                  |
| 5    | Yerbury, Ian Michael Capt. | 43129   | {05 05 1967 | 05 03 1968 | 131 † 01.01.1989 |
|      | " "                        |         | {05 02 1971 | 18 11 1971 | 12 Fd REGT       |

|    |                                   |         |                    |                   |                    |
|----|-----------------------------------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 5  | Flavell, Richard Albert           | 3791902 | 23 09 1968         | 04 06 1969        | Melbourne          |
| 5  | Clark, George Donald T/Bdr        | 2412252 | {20 01 1969        | 21 01 1970        |                    |
|    | " "                               |         | {09 01 1967        | 27 09 1967        | 1 ARU/131          |
| 5  | Hall, Stephen Keith T/Bdr         | 4720327 | 27 11 1969         | 13 08 1970        |                    |
| 6  | Whitehead, Wayne                  | 3791969 | N/A                |                   |                    |
| 6  | Habben, Michael William           | 3788307 | 05 05 1967         | 20 12 1967        | † 26.12.2022       |
| 7  | Black, Lindsay Sgt.               | 213794  | 30 04 1970         | 04 08 1970        | 131 † 02.06.2008   |
|    | " "                               |         | 05 08 1970         | 12 03 1971        | 4 Fd REGT          |
| 8  | Ramsay, Robert Vincent            | 2788108 | 17 09 1968         | 27 08 1969        |                    |
| 8  | Campbell, Ian Richard             | 3798378 | 10 02 1971         | 07 06 1971        | 131                |
|    | " "                               |         | 07 06 1971         | 30 10 1971        | 12 Fd REGT         |
| 9  | Holmes, William John              | 61040   | 11 06 1969         | 19 12 1969        | RAEME † 08.06.1900 |
| 9  | Wood, Geoffrey Pauk               | 2783898 | 04 05 1967         | 13 12 1967        | † 26.04.2007       |
| 9  | Armshaw, Christopher William      | 2781291 | 04 05 1966         | 27 10 1966        | † 10.02.1970       |
| 9  | Worrall, Gary William L/Bdr       | 43796   | 20 05 1966         | 29 04 1967        |                    |
| 9  | Hastings, Neville Stanley         | 1730813 | 20 05 1966         | 03 03 1967        | † 10.04.2023       |
| 10 | Williams, Eric Clive              | 1735449 | 13 02 1970         | 04 02 1971        | Nanango, Q         |
| 10 | Smith, Grahame Arthur T/Bdr       | 2792939 | 30 05 1970         | 26 05 1971        |                    |
| 11 | Malloy, Dennis John T/Bdr         | 3795057 | 22 07 1969         | 16 07 1970        |                    |
| 11 | Bailey, Desmond John Sgt          | 18687   | 13 05 1967         | 14 05 1968        | RAEME - Radar      |
| 12 | Gunnell, Ross                     | 5714499 | 05 05 1967         | 27 09 1967        |                    |
| 12 | Baker, Leigh Kingsley L/Bdr       | 3789657 | 10 06 1967         | 23 04 1968        | † 26.05.2022       |
| 12 | Sheldrake, Anthony George         | 5716358 | 04 11 1969         | 13 08 1970        |                    |
| 14 | Newbold, Ernest George            | 2783771 | 04 05 1967         | 30 01 1968        |                    |
| 14 | Heenan, Kevin Lewis               | 3794777 | 27 11 1969         | 13 08 1970        |                    |
| 14 | Robinson, Marcus Lee              | 2791229 | 20 01 1970         | 13 08 1970        | † Unknow           |
| 16 | McManus, Damian Percival          | 3787689 | 20 05 1966         | 29 05 1967        |                    |
| 16 | Lanera, Luigi T/Cpl               | 3795443 | 25 11 1969         | 12 11 1970        | Melbourne, RAEME   |
| 16 | Hunt, Terence Thomas              | 3792120 | 19 02 1968         | 21 02 1969        | Melbourne          |
| 17 | Spencer, Adrian Dennis            | 3794631 | 28 10 1969         | 13 08 1970        | Melbourne          |
| 18 | McManis, Terence William L/Bdr    | 44277   | 30 05 1970         | 09 10 1970        | Unley, SA          |
| 21 | Wight, Willis (Bill) Stephen 2Lt. | 39136   | 12 01 1967         | 23 04 1968        |                    |
| 23 | Jebb, Geoffrey Alwyn WO2          | 24660   | 12 04 1968         | 16 04 1969        |                    |
| 23 | Salter, Graeme Stuart L/Bdr       | 3792618 | 16 09 1968         | 27 08 1969        |                    |
| 23 | Jennion, Graeme David             | 3796241 | 24 03 1970         | 04 03 1971        |                    |
| 24 | Green, Gregory Norman             | 2784565 | 04 05 1967         | 12 12 1967        |                    |
| 24 | Jacka, Albert Bdr                 | 39856   | 16 12 1969         | 11 03 1971        |                    |
| 25 | Miller, Robert Uquhart Sgt        | 36499   | 05.11.69 & 08.4.70 | 28.11.69&02.08.70 | † 29.12.17 RAEME   |
| 26 | Ian Bruce McKenzie T/Sgt          | 3788926 | 26 02 1968         | 24 02 1969        | E Melbourne RAAOC  |
| 27 | Perry, Donald Stuart WO2          | 38675   | 15 04 1970         | 19 11 1970        | Dimboola, V        |
| 28 | Gowans, Patrick Thomas Brig       | 57036   | 09 09 1965         | 19 09 1965        | † 26.06.2022 Visit |
|    | " "                               |         | 11 03 1971         | 04 01 1972        | AATTV              |
| 28 | Kroll, Norbert Reinhold           | 218285  | 27 11 1969         | 05 11 1970        | Munster, Germany   |
| 28 | Mitchell, Brian Leslie            | 2412582 | 14 03 1968         | 26 03 1969        |                    |
| 28 | McGrath, Kimberley                | 2795249 | N/A                | N/A               |                    |

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

**Ed – 10** blokes not highlighted isn't looking all that healthy! Ok, let's get into it and actively get out there locating a few more!

**. Locator Profiles** – we've received **180. 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.

Peter Meany has advised us of the following Vale...



**Name: McDowell, Brian James**

**Service No: 29303    Rank: Bombardier**

**SVN In: 28 05 1968    SVN Out: 11 05 1969 12 Fd Regt**  
**05 02 1971    18 05 1971 12 Fd Regt**  
**19 05 1971    29 07 1971 Det 131**

**DoB: 25 01 1938    DoD: 26 01 2024**

**Lest We Forget**



David Auld – “RIP Digger”

**Kevin Browning** – “Hi Paul,

I did know Brian from 12 Field but also from Holsworthy at 8 Medium Regiment following the return from Vietnam post 71. Brian served with A Battery in 1971 and I think with 104 on 12 Field's first tour. With A Battery Brian had the responsibility for building the concertina fence when the FSB was established. The attached photo appears in 12 in Focus the year book produced by 12 Field Regiment following their 71 tour. The caption says it all ‘fencing contractor’.

He was a good sportsman and coached the units Rugby team. Only have good memories of our time together. I see he passed the day after his 87<sup>th</sup> birthday. A sad loss.

Regards  
Kevin.”



**Bill Taggart (1<sup>st</sup>/83<sup>rd</sup>)**    Please pass along the condolences of the 1/83<sup>rd</sup> to Brian's family.  
Lest We Forget, Bill”

**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?**

**Our Locator Profile numbers are gradually increasing – now 180.**

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.australianartilleryassociation.com)



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

[www.artilleryhistory.org](http://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](http://www.at-ease.dva.gov.au)

#### . 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 83<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:131eyesandears@gmail.com) Ed – Paul 'Dicko' Dickson

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