



THE EYES and EARS

No.0011 – 31/10/09

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



Editor contact email: three-zero@hotmail.com

Weather Forecast – According to informed sources the Bureau forecasts that there will be weather for all of Australia during November, though Tasmania could miss out again, and suggests that every precaution be taken and to keep breathing as regularly as possible and carry a big stick.

Arty Tac, LP's, Survey, Radar, Transport and Workshop...

. **Ernie Newbold makes an astonishing archival discovery** with the following expose – 'G'day Paul, While reading the War Diaries I have come across a significant entry by Capt. Warwick Hamilton in his JULY 1967 report to 4 Fd. Regt. QUOTE - "On the 22nd July 1967 the first copy of the Det. Newsheet "The Eyes and Ears" has been published. This is to be a weekly publication"

I am sure that you were going to ask the question sooner or later, perhaps we could consider showing this piece of information on the front page of our keenly awaited next edition. e.g.

THE EYES AND EARS

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

Regards, Ernie.'

Ed – Check out what is in the banner above – even a type face size change to reflect the original.

We're turned October over on the desk calendar and here's another edition with some new readers as you'll note buy the Lost and Found below! We've actually found guys who served in the original National Service in the '50's and went on to be a Locator, ARA Members who served the Battery before and after the Conflict – we are collecting such a diversified bunch of blokes with a common 131 thread – fantastic!

The total database comprises of some 74 blokes now getting emails and 6 others who we haven't electronically connected with yet.

OK so let's start off this edition with some controversy regarding Brookey in Heard and Seen...

Heard and seen...

. **OK, we've got a real brain teaser** to be sorted out...there could be some sort of National Security risk involving Brookey...!



Is this K07 or Brookey at CHOGM?
(Photo taken by a spy camera.)

. **Debate has** started to rage over if Brookey looks like K07 and perhaps even younger? Apparently the blokes up the Hunter thinks there's a likeness! Where does Brookey get to when the PM leaves the country?

Ed has bought into the debate and needs answers –

- . Can we please get some more opinions?
- . Would you vote for either of them?
- . Do they use the same barber in Canberra?

I think K07 has a better photographer, but is it a genuine smile – not air-brushed?

OK, which is Brookey and which is K07??



Why is K07 or Brookey wearing a "Lolly-pop" school crossing helper uniform?

. **Motto** - Hey Dicko, how about this for our motto:

"Short time war – life long mates!" - Roger out 31D - Gunner Guzder

Ed – the interesting thing about the Motto topic is, and it may cause some controversy, but it's as plain as the plate on our shield above, which was authenticated by Warwick Hamilton, Cracker in 1967-68 in the E&E's 003 April this year when he stated - "The plaque is definitely ours. It was designed by us in country in '67 and I think we had the first quantity made in Singapore and brought back to Nui Dat. The atom represents the "electronic" nature of the unit as well as the synergistic (that's a big word for this time of night after a glass of red!) nature of all our elements (represented by the variously titled electrons circulating around the central nucleus). The dragon is the classic Vietnamese dragon from their Mythology. The

link is that the dragon was instrumental in creating and protecting Vietnam and we were created for, and to help protect, Vietnam. Pretty D & M stuff. The College of Heraldry would love it! Since then it has become the plaque for all subsequent 131 Bty SVN units, and a variant with the electrons revolving around the artillery badge has been used for today's locaters I think. But we started it!"

Now let me continue with the suggestion the plate on the bottom which simply reads –

“Well done those men”

I believe that these words are a title used for a book by one of our members – so how appropriate would this be to continue the catch cry and embody it in our ongoing future?

Can we get some comments on this please?

. **Steve Boutlis delves** deeply for this reply – ‘Hi, Dicko. In the Eyes and Ears 009 near the end, the item by Ernie re. Ambrose Gwinnett Bierce, describes him as a "fabulist" and you ask what that is.

A fabulist is one who composes fables, and/or, a **liar**. This definition is by the Oxford Dictionary, which any Arty Surveyor would possess, because we Arty Surveyors are "the most intelligent of the gunners" according to ex 4 Fd. Regiment R.M.O. Cpt. David Bradford (SV May '67-May '68) in his book, "The Gunners' Doctor". Fonts gone funny on me! LOL Cheers, Boots.'

. **Murray Poustie responded to** a 'G'day' type email - 'Paul, These days I'm living quietly in retirement and doing voluntary work for the RSL. My time in SVN was relatively short but I still remember all the names and faces and have been to all the reunions since Sydney in 1997 and Coffs in 1999.

You are one of many people doing a good job keeping our mates in touch with one another. Keep up the good work. Regards, Murray Poustie' **Ed** – Murray inspired some thought for an item at the end of this edition.

. **Bert Blink chimes** in with a thought that while we're digging into our activities and specialties that the following is of interest - 'Paul, I know it's a mouthful. A book just published called "The Math Book - From Pythagoras to the 57th Dimension, 250 Milestones in the History of Mathematics" by Clifford A Pickover lists the "CURTA Mechanical calculator" as used by our Surveyors as one of the 250 milestones. Bert'

. **Brian Campbell thought** the following email and link to Loc Rep was worth mentioning – ‘This may be of interest to you. Note the mention of the old EYES & EARS .You may already have this email. We are certainly getting plenty of ""ASSOC"" spring up. Regards, Brian Campbell (Cambo)

From: [Ken for Loc Rep](#)

To: cambo.7@bigpond.com Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2009 8:19 AM Subject: Loc Rep Sept 2009

Dear Brian

This email is a courtesy notice to advise that the September 2009 edition of LocRep is available on the Locating Artillery Association Website by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.locatingartillery.org/Newsletters/43%20-%20September%202009.pdf>

If you cannot open the website from here you will need to copy and paste the link to your web browser.

Ken Clements Editor – Loc Rep

Ed – For those of you who are not LAA members or don't know the site, the link is worth having a look at as Bob Billiards gets our message and case across.

. **The following photo** puzzled not only the enemy, but climbing out made Ernie late for meals and picket duty...



. **Ernie Newbold hard** at it and he writes – ‘Is this a Digger digging an L.P. at F.S.B. Berryman, Operation Duntroon, January 1968 with tools entrenching, or is he digging up interesting bits and pieces for the editor of the esteemed Eyes and Ears monthly publication?...read on... ‘G'day Paul, After digging down the first couple of feet the digging actually became much easier and before we knew it we had a lovely deep L.P. pit. Then we had to stand on a stack of empty ammo boxes to see over the top. No I'm not kneeling, I'm actually standing on Nick Proskurin's shoulders, and this was taken prior to obtaining the empty ammo boxes. Regards, Ernie.' **Ed** – the depth of the hole and vigour shown does highlight Ernie's will to survive! He went on to become an avid gardener.

. **Bert Blink sent** this later email – ‘Hi Paul, Another item for E&Es. The National Servicemen's Association - <http://www.nashoaustralia.org.au/Bulletin%206.htm> - is opening its Memorial to National Servicemen at 11 AM 8th September 2010.

I attach a brochure they sent me which gives a good representation of the Memorial. Bert'

Ed – I thoroughly recommend going to the website and possibly keeping the October, 2010 date locked away.

The following is a reduced size copy and layout of the brochure relating to the Memorial...

The Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, will dedicate the National Service Memorial at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra at 11a.m. on Wednesday, 8 September 2010. The National Servicemen's Association of Australia's National Council and the Council of the Australian War Memorial have approved a fountain set in its own precinct at the right hand side of the main entrance to the Australian War Memorial.

Work began after Anzac Day and will be completed before Anzac Day 2010.

The Memorial honours the 212 National Servicemen who died on active service – two in Borneo and 210 in Vietnam - and commemorates the 287,000 young men called up in two schemes between 1951 and 1972 for service in the Navy, Army and Air Force.

The Memorial will bear the inscription: *Dedicated to all Australian National Servicemen and in memory of those who died.*

The history of National Service will be told on a plaque on one of the adjacent seats.

The fountain will use recycled water but can stand alone if the drought continues. The plinth will be of Wondabyne sandstone from Gosford, on the NSW Central Coast, matching that of the Australian War Memorial itself. This stone also will be used for the surrounds and seats.

The highly polished black slab will be of South Australian granite with hollowed out shapes and the bowl will be of solid cast bronze.

The tri-service badge from the *Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972* Medal and the Navy, Army and Air Force badges will be reproduced in bronze on the four corners. The sandstone plinth represents the Army; the sky reflected in the polished black granite slab the Air Force and the water in the bronze bowl the Navy. The Memorial is intended to be non-triumphal and to invite reflection. The view from the seating around the fountain is down Anzac Avenue, over Lake Burley Griffin and the old and new Parliament Houses to the Brindabella Ranges.



The funds include a donation of \$150,000 from the Federal Government; \$150,000 from businessman Kerry Stokes; donations from State Governments and local authorities around Australia and contributions from National Service and RSL sub-branches and individuals. The National Servicemen's Association of Australia undertook the Memorial on behalf of all Australian National Servicemen. All Nashos will be invited to the Dedication parade and service. Channel 7 will assist with the search for the relatives of the 212 National Servicemen who died on active service to invite them.

Representatives of all nine Battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment, which included National Servicemen, also will be invited.

The designer is leading Australian architect, Richard Johnson, of Johnson Pilton Walker.

. **Ian Amos sends** a post script to the Eyes and Ears Long Tan Edition – 'Paul, Thank you for the Long Tan edition. I found it very interesting and moving. I took particular interest in the thoughts of those who have visited the Long Tan Cross in recent years. Although not on a special day like Merv Nairn on Long Tan day 2009 or Leigh Hemming on ANZAC day 2008 but just an ordinary day in December 2008, I went there with my wife and my 2 children on a small organised day tour from Vung Tau.

As you know, the Cross is situated in a rubber plantation and as you arrive you can see it through the trees. Emotion just wells up as you picture what occurred there in 1968 in what is now a peaceful and tranquil setting.

Our tour guide conducted a short service and asked me to read the ode. I barely made it through without breaking into tears.

During my visit some photos taken I matched with similar locations taken 67/68. I like looking at other people's photos of Vietnam and maybe you do too. You may find something you can use at a later date.

Hope I haven't bored you with all this. Thanks again for the Eyes & ears, especially the Long Tan edition. Ian'

Ed – the following is my response to Ian - 'Ian, You've no idea how the hair on my neck and arms stood up when viewing your photos - they are just so good. Thank you sincerely for allowing me to share in them.

Now for some questions referring to Ian's email and photos which **Ed** sent to Ian – and Ian's replies are in "red"

- Photo #116 - is that Frank Ipsa standing outside the hutchie with his arm up? Do you still keep in contact with him?
- It was good to see photos of John Blake too.?? #116 is Frank Ipsa.
- I presume that's Bert Blink in #118? #118 I have no idea who that is.
- #129 - is that Jim Menz looking left in front of John Blake?? #129 Can't work out who that is either. Unlikely to be Jim Menz. This photo was taken on return from an operation and surveyors did not generally travel with LP or radar.

e) #148 - who's that in the glasses beside Wirey Hackett? #148 With the glasses is John Vickary. Met him for the first time in 40 years at Coffs in June. He is in the photo included in my profile. Lives in Cairns. John Blake and Stuart Sporn were also at Coffs, hadn't seen them since Vietnam either

f) #167 - the little dark haired Reg - L/Bdr?? On the left?? I drove a Rover back with him from Barrawinga, but for the life of me I can't remember his name. I think I saw also Frank Pepper somewhere amongst all of that too. #167 That's Tony Dodds, and still easily recognised. He's been to a few reunions. Lives in Evans Head in northern NSW. Frank Pepper is third from the left next to Keith Ayliffe.

Thanks Stretch that'll do for the moment – it serves you right for sending me the links!! I'm going to try and archive them - we should give some REAL thought (a bloody big thought) to getting all this stuff onto the website - another project!

Ian, in closing (for the moment), I'm the one who should be thanking you for your contribution/s and DON'T think you're ever going to bore me with getting and keeping in contact. I really enjoy acting as the conduit for all of this and I feel an urgency to gather as much as possible while we can. Paul'

. **Ian Amos adds** - 'Paul, the Cronulla RSL Sub Branch website (www.cronullarslsubbranch.com.au) has a photo gallery where photos from various veterans are displayed (including yours truly). If a website is established this type of display might be appropriate. Ian'

. **Ernie Newbold sent** the following after a trip with Bob Billiards, Nick Proskurin and Grahame Dignam... VISIT to North Fort Artillery Museum on 10th October, four former 131 Detachment locators visited the Australian Artillery Museum at North Fort (North Head) Sydney. They found it to be a pleasant and enjoyable experience to see the Artillery history displayed in such an interesting and professional manner. The memorial walk pathway and the views over Sydney Harbour were so good that they went back for a second look on the day. A guided tour of the museum including the 9.2 inch gun emplacements and tunnels and the Locating Artillery's display area as well as the anti-aircraft and anti tank Artillery displays was most interesting. Their guide on the day was John Posener (co-author of Tracks of the Dragon) who was both very helpful and informative with his intensive knowledge of the museum displays.

They enjoyed lunch at the on-site North Fort Cafe which must have some of the best views over Sydney Harbour.

A visit to the former School of Artillery in the afternoon brought back memories for all who were there, with a couple of them looking for the rooms in which they had stayed when training there so many years ago.

All agreed to return again for another visit and get together in the future.



Bob trying for the 'Hernia Record'

Pro leading Dig 'up the tunnel without a paddle'

A great view spoilt by Dig, Ernie, Pro and Bob

A couple of poignant Memorial pavers.

. **Ian Amos was** asked a question by Vic Danko about Murray Smaile after seeing his name in Ian's Profile, so Ian in response sent the following...



Vic ,

Attached is the only photo I have of Murray Smaile (passing the 1/83rd Barber Shop). I haven't seen him since 1987 at the Welcome Home Parade. At that time he was living in Western Australia, and I think he still lives there. Keith Ayliffe contacted him (I think) last year for the Coral reunion, but he didn't show. I don't know of anyone else who has had any contact with him either. Sorry I can't be more helpful. Ian

Ed – A 'barber's shop' – even with striped poles!! I remember sitting on an ammo boxes initially then a folding chair of sorts later as 'Dutchie' - name was Holland of course (161 Recce Sqdn - RAAF) barber and SP Bookey would get the clippers out! I ran into him at an ANZAC Day in Townsville in the '80's. He's no longer with us as I heard later on at a re-union.

. **Bill Finlay in all** innocence sent **Ed** an email which went like this – 'Call me pedantic but the correct name for the pers co-located with Arty Tac, was Art Int. Bill'

So **Ed** sent an email to the E&E's brains-trust – 'Ernie, OK, OK - 31A was an LP at Nui Dat etc (bloody SAS, they were lucky that we didn't have our sewer line aimed at them!), but what were the personnel at 31A called?? LP'ers, Lepers (now that's interesting!) or Arty Int Operators?

I was an Arty Int Operator working at Arty Tac - correct? I worked in Artillery Intelligence at Artillery Tactical HQ. In the next separate section was the Intelligence Corp and where did they work? Was the whole complex called - Tactical HQ?? The blokes working at Bravo Radar were called?? Radio's?

The blokes working in Survey were called? Now be careful as there were a few options - surveyor, driver err what else??

Hey and I upset Grahame Dignam by saying Chalky Royal was in the Orderly Room! So what were the base-whallers called?? Could be a good topic for an edition of E&E's just to stir the pot. After the Coral photo we may as well get them all going with a general email out using Bill as the instigator. OK with you Bill?

Ernie replied – 'Paul, My humble opinion is that we were "Arty Int" and were situated at the "Arty Tac" building at Nui Dat. Do you remember the guys who were on the other side of the room ?, I recall them as being from H.Q. Bty, of 4 (or 12) Field Regt. and they were in control of the regiment's guns for fire missions and H & Is etc. So I suppose you could say that we were the Arty Int component of Arty Tac (I presume that it meant Artillery Tactical H.Q.)

The sign on the outside of the building said "ARTY TAC".

Now all of that is just the opinion of a baggy arsed gunner so I suppose that you could ask someone of a higher rank for their opinion, what does "Blue Leader" think of the question ?

Do you recall the list of personnel who were involved in F.S.B. CORAL, the first section listed was the FAIO, (my interpretation of that is Forward Artillery Intelligence Office / Officer / Operation / Organization, take your pick on the "O" component). So if the FAIO was the forward component in the field then the main component at Nui Dat must have been the "AIO"

In summary I suppose that Bill Finlay could be correct, we were Arty Int and we worked at Arty Tac, in 1967 our team worked at Arty Tac or the LPs in other years people may have used different terminology.

We referred to the hill where 31-Alpha was situated as Nui Dat as it was marked on the map (in Vietnamese Nui Dat means small hill) but in later years it seems to be referred to as SAS Hill even though the SAS Regt. was situated at the bottom of the hill. Over to you. Regards, Ernie (b.a.g.)'

Bob billiards weighed in with his answers in **red** below –

'Arty Tac = layabouts, operators

Lp's = LP'ers, leppers **MMmmmm IC**

Radar = operators, radio's

Survey = survivors, survivors, surveyors

Det HQ = bean counters, God knows?

T/port = did we have a transport section?

'Now there were blokes operating as drivers, batmen, mechanics, Q store, carpenters(?), sigs and the list must go on. Did we have electricians? **No, they were in the RAEME.**

. Where there only Surveyors in Survey? **No, I was posted to Survey for my last 4 months in country in 1968 as an arty sig. Had a good time flying in helicopters and enjoyed the surveyors company.**

. We had bi-lingual blokes, blokes who directed fire missions from the field - there's got to be stories and names there?

L/Bdr's ran LP's, but what non-com ranks ran Arty Int (Sgt Trevor (thanks Ernie) Waghorn in '67) , Radar (even I remember a Sgt being in Radar), Survey sections? **When I was in Survey it was a 2lt can't remember the name, but he has now passed away. Met WO1 Jebb – (was WO11 in svn) at 20 STA becoming a regiment 2 years ago in Brisbane.**

. What were Survey sections called? **Survey**

. Did someone run the transport section, then who? **I am sure it was Gnr McNicholl**

. Radar and Survey had Lieutenants - what did Arty Int have? **Sgt Waghorne, then Sgt Ruddock and the Blue Leader then Capt Perrin.'**

David Doyle couldn't avoid sending a salvo to – 'Paul in answer to your short question we are LOCATORS???? For the want of a better word yes we were Artillery but most of us never fired a Gun in 23 years that I served I fired a Mortar only but that was the 4.2inch mobile on wheels towed behind a short wheel base Rover believe it or not. With ref to the second part of your question we had a break up of trained troops, for example their posting in the Bty would have been as follows LP's (Listening Posts)were manned by a L/Bdr or Bdr, plus three OR's, who were trained in either Signals or as a Battery Surveyors, who could call in artillery fire , air support, or mortar fire from Infantry.

Radars were manned by a Sgt , Bdr, and OR's trained as Radar operators. They also had signalers attached and drivers also.

Survey Section was manned by a Sgt Surveyor and a Bdr Surveyor and OR's trained as surveyors and they carried out all the Survey for the TASK Force with the help of some of the Regimental Surveyors from HQ Battery. They also had Signalers and Drivers.

RAEME also looked after the Radar and the technical instruments such as PIM and Telles which were used by Svy section in Vietnam, plus our vehicles as well.

Sound Ranging Troop had a WOII, Sgt, Bdr and trained operators sound ranging command post, as well as Sigs and Drivers. However many surveyors completed the manning by operating t he command post after hours as it only operated during late PM to early AM.

The Officers of the Battery were Captain(Detachment Comd and Arty TAC Operator) his code name was Cracker.

Survey had one Lt., Radar had one LT. and that was about it.

SGT Arty Int. and a Bdr Arty Int. and Arty Int. operators/Sigs (Bill Finlay was the first Sgt Arty Int operator). Of course we had a BSM who ran the Orderly room and the Bty Clerk as well as all sections of the Detachment. 'Chalky' Royal was our most famous, Staff Sgt Q Store, a Medic Cpl and a couple of Fitters and Turners in the mess(no I should not say that our cooks were pretty good I think) and that is about it as I remember.'

Warwick Brooker came in with this – 'G'day Dicko, The Survey Section was normally referred to as -- surprise surprise -- the Survey Section. We were the **Regimental Surveyors of 131 Div Loc Bty.**

There was no **substantive** appointment of Survey Sergeant (in my time), but Bombardier Peter Hopper was Section Leader (for most of my time) and was appointed as Acting Survey Sergeant at some stage. He should have been that all along, as he ran the section (sorry Yerbs). Have a good weekend! Warwick'

. **Bert Blink forwarded** in interesting item sent to him from Grahame Dignam - 'Paul, Grahame thinks this Powerpoint Presentation is worthy of a mention in Eyes & Ears, it came up in relation to an argument on the number of guns in a US Artillery Battery (note the answer is 6 as for all Gun Batteries). Dave Sabin's PowerPoint Summary of the Battle of Long Tan - <http://www.dave-sabben.com/> (you then download the presentation & run it. Needs some mouse wangling from time to time)

I have always thought these slides show more clearly, than any of the books, how close D Company 6 RAR & the Task Force came to disaster, Bert.' **Ed** – It does cast an interesting light on the situation. Can we get some feedback for comment please?

. **This following** photo may sum up some of the confusion about the Transport Section -



Grahame Dignam's contribution was titled

“Warwick’s People Movers and Limo’s”

Regards, Dig

Ed – I hope that wasn't a new tyre?

. **Locating Artillery Assoc**...notes taken from their website –

Annual Reunion - The Annual Associations Reunion will be held on **15 November 2009** at North Fort Museum, North Head.

- Committee meetings are held regularly at Paddington RSL commencing at 1115 hrs. The next Committee Meeting will be on 15 November 2009 at North Fort Museum at North Head combined with the Associations Reunion. Members are cordially invited to attend. More details will be available in the next issue of the *Associations* Newsletter LOCREP.
- Work parties at the RAA National Museum are normally held on the last Sunday of each month. All future dates will be confirmed in the Associations Newsletter. The next work party is on 29 November. Work parties commence at 0900 hrs and conclude with an *Association*-funded BBQ at 1400 hrs at the North Fort Mess.

. **On the advice** of Kim McGrath (new group member – see in '**Lost and Found**' below) **Ed** got in touch with Graham Hampton (Webmaster) at the AAA and this is how it all went – 'Graham, The following is a copy of an email sent to me by Kim McGrath which has prompted me to write to you -

"Paul,
Unfortunately I retired out of 131 twenty years ago and a couple of days! but.. I still haven't stopped being a soldier - it's a sickness I guess. Please do put me on your mailing list. I will look forward to your newsletters. As a matter of suggestion - perhaps you might consider running them through the Location Artillery Association at www.locatingartillery.org and/or The Australian Artillery Association (AAA) at http://australianartilleryassociation.com/home_page.htm . Graham Hampton is the webmaster for the AAA and I'm sure that he would be only too pleased to host your newsletters. Anyway Paul, it is something for you to consider. Ubique, Kim"

The newsletter we're putting out on a monthly basis which we recommenced about 7 months ago to get some communications going amongst some of the Battery blokes, and we've now got over 70 on a mail out list. I wrote (well that's debatable!) a couple of newsletters in Nui Dat in '67, called Eyes and Ears so we dragged the format out again. I've attached a copy of our last monthly effort - Eyes & Ears 0009 (it is the regular version - the last one sent out was a special on Long Tan - I'll send that too if you want me to) for you to have a squiz at. Could you please let me know if you want to be added to the mail out list for future mailings.

I look forward to hearing from you. Paul Dickson'

Graham's reply went like this – 'Hi Paul, Thanks for the Newsletter and yes send them on up and I will publish them on the site.

I have advertised this newsletter on our Home Page, to view use this link:

http://australianartilleryassociation.com/home_page.htm

Also I have placed a copy in our Message Board Newsletter Forum, to view use this link:

<http://tghhampton.websitetoolbox.com/post?id=3770780&pid=35967434#post35967434>

Thanks Regards, Graham Hampton, Webmaster Australian Artillery Association Website UBIQUE

Ed – the AAA website is great and our efforts can be seen on the above links and it's all worth a read.

. **Continuing to be Spooky**...October wasn't a bad month for births to help swell (pardon the pun) the Battery ranks as 8 little future Locators took their first breaths – the first off the rank was Terry Bruce on the 2nd, then Leigh Hemming and Mick Luff shared the 4th, Dicko and the late Baz Bonser made the 10th pretty special (though BB gave him a head start by a year or two), the 16th saw Bill Thomas spring to life, John Vitkovsky made the 23rd his, then Dave Doyle squeezed in on the 28th. The only 2 who aren't on our mailing list are John V and Bill T, so the usual request goes out to anyone who may be able to put us in contact with them?

. Memories...

This is a new section we hope to have in every edition, where one of us, if we can, relates a story of a time in Vietnam or for that matter anywhere and about anything. I guess Pappy Gault kicked it off originally with 'Ernie the Snake Charmer' back in E&E's 0006 edition in June this year. Then there was Hoggy's 'Caribou' flight, Killer's 'Campervanning' etc etc. So, here we go with another, hopefully, in a series...

George Lane launches into an interestingly bloody humorous story to us about one of our late departed mates, Ralph Pearce, who must have been a real character - 'Dicko, Ralph Pearce served April 66 to April 67, and he was regular army. If you remember the shrine in Vung Tau with all the flags of the world on it used to have 2 huge urns in front of it. Well Ralph, (after night on the turps) decided one of the urns (which had cremated ash in them) would look better in front of his tent at Nui Dat, suddenly there was shouting, whistle blowing all by the white mice just as Ralph is trying to put the urn in the back of a Landrover. Then the American M.P.'s turned up and asked Ralph to put the urn back as it was National Treasure, so as Ralph is returning back up the steps to the cheers of the huge crowd, he reaches the last step and drops the urn which smashes into hundreds of pieces. Total silence except for the M.P.'s telling us to go before the shooting starts. George also added 'If remember correctly Mick (Spike) Chase was the driver.'

Ed – that's up there with Dawn Fraser's flag bit in Japan.

. **Dave Doyle thought** this story was worth a run... Everyday a male co-worker walks up very close to a pretty receptionist standing at the office coffee machine, inhales a big breath of air and tells her that her hair smells nice. After a week of this she can't stand it anymore and takes her complaint to the Personnel Department and states she wants to lay a sexual harassment grievance against him.

The Human Resources supervisor is puzzled by this decision and asks, 'What's sexually threatening about a co-worker telling you your hair smells nice?'

'It's Keith, the dwarf!'

. Lost, Found etc...

. **Keith Ayliffe got** us onto Ian Finlay and Ian replied with – 'G'day Paul, Thanks for your return mail Dicko, I would appreciate your mailing list to be sent to me and have my name and email address added to it as I served with most off all you nashos who became good mates, still keep in contact with some over the years, as we served in Vietnam together and back at Holsworthy prior our to our departure to Vietnam.

How many can remember Tianjara (Think that's how you spell it) then Canungra before Vietnam.

Please keep me informed about Pappy Gault as we where good mates in the army, Ernie Newbold should also remember me well as well as the other blokes mentioned in your news letter.

Tell Ernie to look again at Coral Photo and the bloke leaning against Landrover, it is me as I have photo myself as I knew Pablo Briggs took the original, but who cares. Best regards to you all, Ian Finlay.'

. **Ian Amos was** responsible for getting Geoff Holden to send in the following – 'G'day Paul, I really enjoyed reading the latest E & E sent to me by Ian Amos (Stretch) and would appreciate you including me in the mailing list if possible. All the best, Geoff'

. **Geoff Holden then** reciprocated with giving email addresses for Clive Dreis and Garth Nicholls...

. **Ian Amos, yes again, helped** find John Vickary with some spelling help from Warwick Brooker, so we contacted him and he replied with – 'Hey, Dicko GREAT to hear from you! I caught up with a whole stack of Locators at the Coffs Harbour earlier this year after far too many years of isolation, and had a great time. Really enjoyed reading the latest "Eyes and Ears", and YES I'd like to receive future copies - I'd even welcome any past issues if they're available - hoo roo for now. John R Vickary

. **George Lane emailed** the following – 'Dicko, I have another one to join our happy band of brothers. Dave Cornell lives in Perth. He was in Vietnam from Aug66 to April67.' **Ed** emailed David and he replied with – 'Dear Paul, Thanks for thinking of me and the very interesting stories and reminiscences. Please send any back additions if you can. Kindest Regards, David Cornell.'

. **Al Adams persuaded** Damian McManus to join in this madness.....' Hi Dicko, Count me in, I will probably be slow to offer much input, but I am gradually getting the hang of the Computer, and slowly learning to Listen and Share the experiences that changed our lives 43 years ago. I have many photos, just need to learn how to scan and forward.

Sorry to hear Karl D., passed on, he was a Good bloke. Might tell a story, or 3 or 4, later about some good times we had in OZ and NAM. (Not for his Daughters ears) Regards to (Barney) Bernard Erica, who had previously offered me this Intro., and to Allan who got me at the right time. Thanks for the contact. "131 were a SPECIAL (maybe weird) Lot." Cheers Gunner Damian Percival McManus. 3787689.'

. **Ian Amos got** hold of Gordon Malcolm and he replied very briefly with – 'I'm fine to remain on the list. Gordon'

. **Ian Amos chipped-in** again with Stuart Sporn and his reply was even briefer than Gordon's with – 'No worries. Lock it in Eddie!'

. **Ian Amos, yes**, Ian Amos also got us in contact with Iain Kennedy who responded to our email with –‘Paul, Yes please put me on the list. And in the photo that is me with the distinctive hat as indicated, just behind John Delacca How did I get put in Mortar location section FAIO? Was always in radar? Regards Iain K’

. **Ed became** a bit of a super-sleuth, not to be outdone by Stretch Amos and raided the LAA’s members lit with emails and got a response from Peter Piore – ‘Paul, I will be pleased if you include me in your mail list. As you can see I live in Townsville QLD. Served 131 Div Loc – Survey - South Vietnam 69 / 70Regards, Peter Piore CMC PP PHF JP (Qual)’

. **Ed then** struck pay-dirt with Bob Miller in Vic – ‘Hi Paul, Yes I would like to be on your mailing list for anything that you can send to me. It does look like Shorty Palmer--I would have thought he would have been a Sgt as that was the establishment. Did you know he was killed in a sky diving accident when he returned from SVN?
We have not been long back from Switzerland where my No1 son works for Pilatis Aircraft near Lucerne. Lovely country. Regards, Bob Miller’

. **Ed managed** to get a response from Harry Lynas saying – ‘G'day Dicko, Never served in SVN but was in the Bty for a total of 18 years so I'd like to be on your mailing list. At present I am in the UK on an extended holiday but will be back in Aus before Xmas. Had a look through your newsletter and know a lot of names that were mentioned and agree with the comments that it is good to stay in touch. When home I'm a volunteer guide down at Fort Lytton on the mouth of the Brisbane River and produce their newsletter so if you are interested I can send you that, I am interested on being on your mail out list. Cheers, Harry’

. **Ed heard** from Kim McGrath when he replied with – ‘Hi Paul, Unfortunately I retired out of 131 twenty years ago and a couple of days! But...I still haven't stopped being a soldier - it's a sickness I guess. Please do put me on your mailing list. I will look forward to your newsletters. As a matter of suggestion - perhaps you might consider running them through the Location Artillery Association at www.locatingartillery.org and/or The Australian Artillery Association (AAA) at http://australianartilleryassociation.com/home_page.htm . Graham Hampton is the webmaster for the AAA and I'm sure that he would be only too pleased to host your newsletters. Anyway Paul, it is something for you to consider. Ubique, Kim’ **Ed** – The LAA proposition is well in hand....

. **Ed also** heard back from Joe Kuplun when he answered with –‘ Dicko, Good to hear from a fellow Locator. Pease add me to your list and send the Long Tan version also. I'll see that copies are passed on. Regards, Joe’

. **Murray Poustie** got us to contact Peter Fuhrmann and Pete got back with this effort – ‘Hi Paul, Would love to be included in the mailing list. Seems I'm one of the few still working full time these days so don't have a lot of free time. Brookie often sends me things as well which I appreciate. Regards, Peter’

. **Ed managed** to get hold of Bob Wilson off the LAA list and he came back with – ‘Paul, Great to get your email. Would love to be on the mailing list. Have forwarded your email on to Nev Wortelhock. He was at Coral as was I. Another who doesn't seem to get a mention is Gary Leplaw. We, along with Peter Mckay, and a couple of others were with Phil Perrin's group. We drove in on the day after the first "Blue" and formed the Arty Int Crew and worked in Tac HQ. Memory is not as flash as it could be but met up with all of these blokes at the Canberra 40th. Bob Wilson’

. **Ed got a** response from Kevin Salter another LAA Member – ‘Paul - Great to hear from U. Am honoured that you remember an old Locator (71 + 11 months) happily retired (after 2 marriage failures) with No 3 on the Sunshine Coast just N of Caloundra since Jan 89. A quick resume – **we'll save that for a profile** - Yes to future mail outs please and any other productions you have done, and if a get together is planned in the future - Yes. The IG's and AIG's (now called SMIG's) of Loc Wing S of A Manly - 67 vintage are all still alive (but not kicking - moving slowly, I think is now the word we use). Best regards - Kevin (Salter) ‘

. **Ed was still at** it and got hold of John Dean also off the LAA list – ‘G'day Paul, Sorry I haven't replied sooner but only came out of hospital on Wednesday having had my prostrate removed. I was attached to 131 Div Loc Bty in 1957 for three years (sound ranging days) after completing National Service. Glad to be placed on your mail out list and receive your newsletters. Best Wishes, John’

. **Ed found** another LAA Member in bill Pritchard – ‘Hey Paul, Great to hear from you and great to see you keep 131 alive. Please add me to your mailing list. Much appreciated. Hope you and the family are well. Cheers Bill ‘

. **Ernie Newbold gave** us a lead to Joe Kocka...then Graham Hislop...and Laurence Gallop...but we've had NO luck with any of them.

Ed has another closing thought, which this time was prompted by an email from Murray Poustie were he mentioned that he was doing volunteer work at an RSL.

Looking through Profiles and other bits I've come up with a bit of a Current Post-Activity summary, which I thought was interesting...

Blokes still working in their own businesses include – Al Adams, Keith Ayliffe, John Blake, Chris Chapple, Vic Danko, John Dellaca, Baz Guzder, Warwick Hamilton, Barry Heard, Leigh Hemming and Bob King.

Then there are blokes still gainfully employed – Nick Armstrong will if someone offers a job, Bob Billiards, David Doyle, Bernard Erica, Peter Fuhrmann, Roger McDonnell and Nick Proskurin.

Plus the fellas who volunteer – Ian Amos along with Ged Carroll keep the wheels turning at the VVA in Granville, Bert Blink keeps Seniors computer literate, Warwick Brooker assisting Pacific Atoll Communities, Ron Evans is involved in Citizens' Initiated Referendum and in voluntary euthanasia, Ernie Newbold who keeps the Eyes and Ears supplied with a lot of its raw data and communications with various blokes of ours, Murray Poustie who doesn't sound too retired as he's involved with an RSL, and John Vickary with his involvement in assisting in Vet Claim processing.

Ed – It just goes to show that the years don't weary us completely! No doubt there are other blokes who are still active or whatever that we haven't heard about. We might do this again next year.

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received 29 and we've sent out 26... **Ed** - Thanks fellas and keep 'em coming.

Guys keep items and especially photos coming in – we're desperate for PHOTOS with stories. Their contributions don't have to be historical stuff as its great just to keep in touch with what you're up these days.

"There is NO job in the Field Artillery for the weak, the timid or the indecisive."

- **Unknown**

Ed wonders why the bloke who quoted this, obviously very astute, doesn't even have a name or is that Mr ? Unknown – no first name?

. **One more of Henry's** to finish off with...



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