

# THE EYES and EARS

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## Long Tan gets some additional information...

**.Spike Chase** sent in the following in regarding a Long Tan memory. It's a great aside and another link to our KIWI mates – "Hi Paul.

I should have sent this to you before, but to be truthful I couldn't find the slide and thought that I had lost it.

The photo shows **Capt Morrie Stanley, L/Bdr Willie Walker & L/Bdr Mark Broomhall** on 18/08/'66 about to leave for Long Tan.

There had been talk of us going as well, but thank God that did not eventuate. Our L.P. 31C (I think) was not far from where the photo was taken at D Coy 6 RAR.

In the LP were L/Bdr Roy "Bluey" Clauscen, Gnrs Paul Jones, Paul Buss & myself.

I would think that this is a fairly unique photo, maybe you can use it somewhere. All the best "Spike".



FOO's from 161 Royal New Zealand Artillery

**Ed** – this prompted me to go a little further and dig out a little more from some archives...

An extract from an Australian Government web publication – "On 18 August, D Company, 6 RAR Battalion, numbering 105 Australians and a **three-man New Zealand artillery team**, was sent into the Long Tan rubber plantation, all coming under heavy machine-gun fire and mortar attacks from Viet Cong - estimated to be at least 1,500 and possibly 2,500 troops."



Long Tan – Vietnam, 19 August 1966. Private David J. Collins guards a captured Viet Cong found hiding on the battle field by Delta Company, 6th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment. Image courtesy of [Australian War Memorial](#): FOR/66/0659/VN.

**.Vietnam Veterans Day continues...**



**. Graham Williams** sent the following words and photos from the Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony on the Gold Coast –  
 “Paul, Vietnam Veterans Day at the Kirra Sports Club on the Gold Coast.

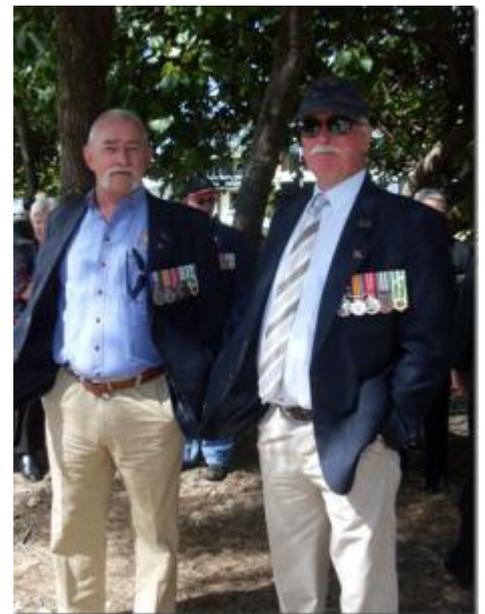


The photo on the left above has Grant Perrins, on left, and myself. Regards, Graham”

**. Steve Boutlis** gets back with more details and photos of the event – “Hi, Dicko. Sorry for the disjointed report about Vietnam Veterans’ Day. I tried sending all of the photos and the text in one E-mail but my account for some reason could not handle it and failed to send it out twice.



The photos show me with a group from 104 Sig. Sqd., 131 Member Graeme Smith with ?, the Cotton Tree Cenotaph with Catafalque Party in position, and members of the VVAA Sunshine Coast. Cheers, Boots



Once again I had the pleasure of commemorating Vietnam Veterans Day with wonderful comrades. What a handsome bunch of Anzacs we were, all scrubbed and shined, beards trimmed and hair all slicked, with our gongs on our ample chests! We marched and changed step as though we were back on the parade grounds so many, many years ago.

Our short-term memories may be shot to pieces and we can’t remember what we ate for breakfast, but we haven’t forgotten all the drill that those poor, suffering instructors pounded into us. The troops looked sharp as we marched. The band, playing stirring marches, lead us past the dais where Lt. Colonel William (Bill) Grassick (Rtd.) and Lt. Colonel Joe Detric, from the New Zealand High Commission, took the salute. Upon the “eyes left”, the rattle of the eyeballs as they swivelled in their sockets, could be heard at the tail-end of the column!

The commemoration service was very apt in its remembrance of our comrades who died in or as a result of battle, those who have passed away since their service in Vietnam, and those, who in many manifestations of their service, are still suffering.

Our guest speaker, Bill Grassick, spoke of the injustice of the military awards system as it existed at the time of Vietnam. The Colonel said that those who should have received the highest awards for their actions in the Battle of Long Tan and subsequent battles, were short-changed because of the rationing system of honours and decorations. Some, who were safe at the Dat during the battles, invariably were honoured more than those whose lives were in direct jeopardy.

He also spoke of the inadequate, old equipment that we were expected to go into battle with. The actions of the then political and military leadership, the moratorium marches and the actions of the unions in preventing mail and equipment from getting to us, lead him to think of the war as "the faithless war" in the sense that there was little trust of all sections of society. The fact that the government of the day, initially, did not repatriate our dead soldiers to Australia but interred them in Malaysia instead, added to the mistrust of politicians.

I was very impressed with our Honorary Chaplain, Arthur Fry. In my infrequent meetings with the clergy of our nation, Arthur is the first that I have come across who not only prays for our souls after they have left our bodies, but as well, prayed for our financial welfare here on earth. His call to our politicians to provide more equitable pensions and compensation to ex-service personnel was received with a hearty "amen".

I congratulate and thank the young cadets and their leaders for their magnificent drill as the catafalque party. I admire their steadfastness in the "rest on arms reversed" for the entire **long** period of the ceremony. I was fortunate that during my short army service, I only had to practice this drill, once. The Cadets were from 223 and 207 Squadron AAF Cadets, TS Onslow and TS Centaur, and 128 Australian Army Cadets.

A military service is not complete without music. The Cadets played flawlessly and the Buderim Men's Choir was in strong, melodious voice.

The Association is grateful for the attendance and participation of The Speaker of the Queensland Parliament, Ms. Fiona Simpson, and Member of Parliament Mr. Peter Wellington.

The lunch, as always, was a most enjoyable social occasion. Lots of laughs, lies and mateship. It was good to see so much happy comradeship.



## . First 24 hours home?

The following "topic" / "thought" arose after watching a group of US Servicemen returning from a recent tour and the welcome home they received.

In my own case I arrived back in Sydney, went through all the formalities at the airport, went to an office (or something similar) I think I was paid and remember being told not to return home in uniform. I can't remember where I got changed (thought it was a hotel in Sydney - may have been the airport - not sure where I got the clothes from or for that matter what I wore??).

However, I do remember arriving in Brisbane with Leigh Hemming and Tony Goldsmith to a combined families' welcome - fantastic!

We were actually interviewed for the "Courier Mail" - Brisbane's major rag.

It was late in the day when we left Saigon - a photo I have shows that there are some long shadows on the tarmac. So I guess we got back into Sydney very early the next day. However, it was late when we landed in Brisbane. So we must have left Sydney airport and returned.

I've tried Googling QANTAS for flights on that day to no avail - I guess being a charter there would be no records available?

Anyone else got any clearer memories of their First 24 hours home? Paul"

...The following responses are a mark of our time and the later the blokes arrived back in Australia the more threatening the mood got. I hope you find the responses good to read...I've listed them as they were received -

**Vic Danko** - Hi, I was on the same flight.

I have some quite clear memories, except perhaps out of sequence.

From Nui Dat the next is on the Qantas 707 Charter. We left late in the day. I was sitting near to you, maybe alongside. The Qantas stewards carried trays of beer down the aisle.

In the early morning the Qantas captain awoke us with a weather and arrival report. The news was that Rocky Gattelari had just won the world featherweight title (?)

We landed around 7 am.

Passing thru is a haze. As I emerged my girlfriend Valerie and her parents were there with a shout of "Victor".

I left and to my regret and sadness since, I didn't say goodbye to anyone.

At Valerie's home in Mosman we had a seafood lunch and lots of champagne. I fell asleep. I woke up at darkness (in my own bedroom).

My first thought was "there's a ceiling", my second was "everyone's asleep" (meaning someone should be awake)

So I stayed awake for a little while.

From there it was university and so on. Regards"

**George Lane** – "Hi, I remember being told at Bravo Radar by Freddie Lennon, that himself, Spike Chase and myself were going home. We caught a Caribou from Nui Dat to Saigon only to find no arrangements had been made to fly us home. Freddie Lennon took over and with the help of the Americans he hitched a ride on a Starlifter to the Clark Air Base in the Phillipines and then onto Mascot. Everything was done in a huge rush and we had no chance of telling our loved ones we were coming or what time. We arrived back mid morning and lo and behold my loved ones were there to welcome us back. We found out later Major Paddy Gowans had contacted our families to let them know we were coming. After hugs and kisses all round we were rushed out to Watson Bay to Southern Command to get paid then to start three weeks leave. I can remember my first night in my own bed but it took quite awhile to get used to it. When we finally got back to Holsworthy there was hardly anyone there that we knew Brains Truelove suggested we made ourselves scarce and then it was time for discharge. I never saw the others when they arrived back. George Lane."

**Barry Guzder** – "From memory (unreliable) we (Blink, Marquis, Blackwell and some others) left Luscombe on Caribou to Saigon then 707(QF) to Sydney. Geoff and Rick went off to Adelaide & Melbourne respectively. Bert & I had drinks at Alamein fountain and got strange looks from all the long hairs! We stayed at the Koala Inn and caught up with a couple of old girlfriends. Good night! I followed Bert to Melbourne and had a good time then went to Adelaide and stayed with Geoff. My mother by this time was getting frantic so I hopped on the Indian Pacific (met a very nice nurse) and drank my way across the Nullarbor. Oh and while I was in Sydney(after Bert left) went out with Bob's girl Cathy. I ended up being Best Man at their wedding. So after two years of excitement (some of which many of us could do without) it was back to the old E S & A Bank. Barry Guzder"

**Bernie Erica** – "Funny, I have never reflected on this before

Flew home with Qantas to Sydney and then told we would get a free train ticket to Melb, not this little black duck so I purchased a ticket with TAA to fly to Melb

I clearly remember getting a bus from Essendon airport to their North Melb office and walking down Swanston St towards Flinders St station and the strap on my duffle bag broke, I called into the shop where the little man "taps taps taps on the window "

(Damian/ Robbo help me out here, was that a tailor or shoe shop) because the strap on my duffle bag broke and they gave me some rope to make do.

I remember walking down the street and thanking God I made it home. I then got a train to Dandenong and got a taxi to where my brother was living at the time and we had a very emotional time as I did not advise anyone I was coming home. A really close friend's father from Warragul drove down to Dandenong to pick me up and drive me back to Warragul. In fact my parents were on holidays at Portland and when I spoke to them on the phone my father started crying, they packed up and came home the next day

Thanks for the memories Paul Bernard Erica"

**Stuart Sporn** – "I think I left Saigon on 29/1/68 early at night on the start of the Tet Offensive via Quaint Arse 707 and landed in Sydney the following morning. My first task was to argue with a customs jerk who wanted to confiscate my almost brand new GP boots which I still have Results Sporn 1 Customs 0

I spent almost as long getting back to Adelaide as Saigon/Sydney via Melbourne due to delays in connecting flights. There was the family at West Beach Airport!!!!!!!!!!!! including my bride Mrs god who I married around 6 weeks prior to departure for Vietnam.

That night for dinner all I wanted was a pie and a carton of milk which I promptly woofed then threw up. It took ages to be able to eat a normal meal and I had black dog after being pulled off Operation Santa Fe then back watching red tile rooves in Sydney in such a short time later.

PS Mrs god is spelled with a small "g" so it isn't confused with the other one. I donated my QF ticket and accompanying paperwork to Quaint Arse / Darwin many years ago

I wore my greens home from Sydney as was really in the mood to kick a head or two particularly if they were politicians"

**John Chilton** – “Hi Dicko, How did you get this idea? It really is a beauty.

Bdr Chilton, last 24 hours in Phuoc Toy Province South Vietnam.

This will sound like a scene from an old movie, I wish it was.

It is 1830 HRS and we are waiting for briefing in the DIOCC at the Xuyen Moc Compound for our Search and destroy mission to be carried out tonight in one of the 4 hamlets in Xuyen Moc. I had My Tung Che (ARVN SGT) from the DIOCC and our USA Lieutenant, our Police Force Rep plus my interpreter, our briefing was completed and after the briefing we had 8 ARVN troops join us and off we went to try and catch or kill our Political Activist in the Hamlet that had been targeted, from info we had received from the villagers and other intelligence reports. We had a contact that night, no kills, no friendly casualties. We arrived back at the DIOCC around 2400 HRS and I went straight into preparing my Intelligence report for Arty Tac, that I used to send back to Nui Dat every morning by chopper after which I brought up to date my Operations Chart, that I still have a copy of. By this time it was 0300 HRS and the Yank Sgt came into my quarters and said John, Radio from Arty Tac, Nui Dat. BDR your chopper will be there at 0500Hrs, be on it you're going home. SHIT! SHIT! SHIT! I was waiting at the chopper pad adjacent to the compound in Xuyen Moc at 0400Hrs, pitch black, and then the villagers started coming out of their shacks, giving me chopsticks, Buddha's, and silks, I had only been fighting with them for 3 months. They were great people. Then the chopper came in. I had been on a lot of search and destroy missions and our ARVN Platoon had many contacts and kills during this time. The Chopper just touched the ground next to a burnt out Ambulance; I jumped in Head first with my duffle bag, forgot to exchange the armalite that the Yanks gave me to fight with and left my SLR in their Armory. Straight to Nui Dat Orderly Room, Travel Docs within 2 hours on a Caribou, straight to Ton Son Nhuit airport, where I saw this beautiful big Kangaroo on a beautiful QANTAS plane. I walked up that gangplank and never looked behind me, and to this day I never want to go back to Vietnam. My parents were waiting for me at Sydney Airport, and said, "Son you look terrible " and took me straight to Fletcher Jones in Sydney and rigged me out with all the clothes you could imagine, and 24 hours before ,I was in the Jungles of Vietnam killing VC and counter insurgents. Who asked you to ask this question Dicko? It is a beauty, Take Care, John Chilton”

**Bob King** – “Hi Paul - My return home was similar to yours. I was met at Mascot by my parents & family members. We went through the arrival hall, and then the trip home .We arrived in the afternoon & after a short time home seeing all the family I went to sleep. To my mother's surprise I slept for a full 24 hours. Also in the next few days I would only have one meal and I was full.

The next six weeks were spent catching up with all my friends I had not seen for 12 months. Then I was assigned a stewards job in the officers mess at North Head...heaven, no parades good grub in the mess kitchen, three days on three days off. I was there with Max Troynar”

**Rieny Nieuwenhof** – “Hi Paul - Now there's a thought! How did you get home from SVN?

As was the custom with the Army it was 'hurry up, and wait'. We left Nui Dat on a Caribou in a hurry and then waited for hours at Saigon airport. As we were mostly all smokers in those years we sat outside in a small waiting area. The terminal itself was full of South Vietnamese, Americans and assorted others. I remember it was a large hanger type terminal.

A number of members of 131 DLB left Saigon airport on a QANTAS flight on 5th August 1971, in my case after serving for 176 days. (No South Vietnam service medal, which requires 181 days)

We took off bound for Sydney arriving on the morning of 6th August. As I had been posted to SVN from 16 LAA Regiment, Woodside, SA I had to return to Adelaide. I waited again in the airport terminal for a transfer flight to Adelaide.

At this stage there were only a handful of guys returning to Adelaide, all still in jungle greens. (In my case wearing the Artillery RAA insignia badge and beret)

We arrived at Adelaide airport on the afternoon of 6th August. In those days Adelaide only had a small terminal so we had to walk across the tarmac to the terminal. As we walked towards it I saw some placards being held by a group of protestors. I can't remember what was on the placards, but the message was clear ... Australian troops should never have been in South Vietnam and YOU are to blame!

As I entered the small packed terminal, looking desperately for my wife, there were lots of boos and shouts. It wasn't the welcome home I had expected!!

Luckily there was one person who was very glad to see me.

To cut a longer story short I was eventually posted back to Victoria (originally from Vic.) to the Southern Command Personnel Depot, Watsonia where I worked in the Office discharging National Servicemen , who were now returning to Australia in significant numbers. On 15th November 1971 I was discharged (one month short) from the Australian army, reason given "Having completed the prescribed period of service in the ARAS (NS) NSA 27 (2)".

I returned to my civy life.

Rieny Nieuwenhof

PS – the picture (on right) of me just before I left the Horseshoe on my final stint there.”



**Neville Wortlehook** – “Paul, my response...

What comes to mind in May '69?

About an hour out of Sydney an announcement came over the planes speakers, “If any anyone has any weapons, drugs, explosives of any sort etc, please hand them in and nothing will be said, anyone found with anything illegal on them when we land will be prosecuted under Australian Law”. Well by the time the box got to my area there were 2 live Hand grenades, 1 block of what looked like explosive, 3 combat knives, and 2 pistols, a 9mm and a 38mm.

I think the US troops on our flight might have thought Aussie was a wild west place to visit.

Flew into Sydney at midnight AES time of course, had to wear our polyester pants, GP's, along with our civilian shirts and with our haircuts, this was so not to let anyone workout where we had come from.

You could hear the chants from the protesters as we walked closer to the terminal, met our loved ones and went to the pay and leave office. When I got back to the waiting family someone was helping a female protestor away from the location where my family was waiting for me. I was told this girl had said to my wife that we killed little kids just like the one she was holding in her arms, this was my son who was 5 days old when I left Australia. My missus gave our son to her sister and promptly dropped this protestor with a nice right hook.

The normal chants, placards and paint were thrown at us, just the normal welcome home when you serve your country.

Went to the Liverpool RSL Club in 1969 to join the Club and like all the others were told that we did not go to War, so we were not entitled to join. After my leave was up went to Kapooka for 3 years.

Did not join the RSL until 2005 or go to the Welcome Home parade in Sydney, my first gathering was in 92 at Canberra. Regards Neville Wortlehook”

**Graeme Owen** – “Wednesday19<sup>th</sup> November 1969

This day will go down in history as the day when the astronauts Charles "Pete" Conrad and Alan Bean of Apollo 12 landed on the Moon in the area known as the Ocean of Storms with their lunar-lander, Intrepid, and became the second pair of American astronauts to walk on the moons surface.

But from my perspective the day has much greater meaning. After a total of 376 days in a South Vietnam War Zone, I symbolically marked off the final day on my 'countdown calendar' and shouted at the top of my voice “AWAKEE !!”...Not “100 & Awakee”...not even “20 & Awakee”...Just simply one word...‘Awakee’...The best bloody feeling you could ever imagine!!

It's funny, but with so many years having drifted by before I decided to put any of my recollections of army service down in writing, many of 'happenings' from those 376 days have faded into oblivion, and yet a number of seemingly innocuous happenings on that last day are as vivid in my memory as if they happened yesterday.

I clearly recall my last walk down the road to the Mess for breakfast (can't remember what I ate or who I was with - just simply the couple of hundred metre walk!). I remember the few minutes I spent removing the photographs of Joan and our baby Bruce from the board they were attached to across the back of my bed; and I remember the last shower I had (maybe because it was a morning shower, which I don't think I'd ever had previously in Vietnam). I also remember putting on the brand new pair of GP Boots which I'd kept especially to wear home (I still have those boots - still in perfect condition.)

Three of us were leaving the unit and heading home on that day. Peter Larkin and I were amongst a group of seven who had arrived in Vietnam on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 1968, and we were the last two from that group to be leaving. The third digger heading home with us was Robert Pelham who had arrived 'in country' just a little after us.

After a solid round of 'back slapping' and 'good-bye's', it was a short vehicle ride down to Luscombe Airfield and onto a Caribou for the flight to Tan Son Nhut Airport in Saigon. Our flight was supposed to leave Saigon at 12.00 noon, but of course this was the army so it was closer to 2.00 pm by the time we boarded the Qantas charter 707 for the 8½ hour flight to Sydney.

Peter and I both came from Victoria, and with the flight arriving in Sydney late at night, we weren't able to get a connecting flight until the following day. So unless we wanted to spend the night at the Watson Bay Barracks (oh yeah!?), we needed to arrange our own accommodation in Sydney. We knew that would be the case well in advance of the day itself, so made some alternative plans to make our homecoming a bit more of an event.

Two nights earlier, Joan had boarded a bus in Melbourne heading to Sydney (via the coast along the Princes Highway). At Trafalgar in Gippsland (about 125 Km from Melbourne) Kay, Peter's wife, boarded the bus, and the two girls travelled to Sydney together. They booked themselves into a nice hotel near 'The Cross', and headed out to the airport to meet us when we arrived.

Peter and I had done a bit of planning of our own which was meant to be the highlight of our arrival in Sydney. However things didn't quite go according to plan!?

I can't recall how we acquired them but somehow in the last few weeks leading up to our departure from Vietnam, Peter and I had managed to get hold of two 'very large' magnums of champagne. The plan was to 'crack' them at the airport when we arrived in Sydney and met up with the girls. When we boarded the Qantas plane in Saigon we explained our plan to one of the stewards and asked him if it would be possible to put them on ice or in a fridge for the flight home - Incidentally, there were only stewards on the flight (no hostesses)...I wonder why!?

- After all it was



only a plane load of soldiers heading home after 12 months of fighting, and who hadn't seen a round-eyed sheila in all that time!?

Anyway, the steward said he'd be happy to help us out, and took the two large bottles down to the 'galley' at the back of the plane. Now the rules in place for those flights home were that the bar was open for the first half of the flight and then no more grog served for the last half. As you can imagine, it was pretty 'full-on' for the first few hours but then everything quietened down a bit once the bar was closed - or so it was supposed to be!?

From about the mid-point of the flight the main cabin lights were turned down and 'most' blokes settled back for a snooze for the last few hours. However, for those that were still interested, word got around fairly quickly that the stewards were still serving drinks in the galley up the back, and it soon developed into quite a noisy party for a dozen or so 'heavy-hitters'!

Now comes the part that didn't quite go according to plan - a real terrific 'welcome home digger'!?

With about 30 minutes to go before touchdown in Sydney, we decided we'd better get organised with our champagne, so we buzzed a steward and asked him if he'd get them for us. We waited about 15 minutes and when he hadn't returned we grabbed the steward who had originally taken the bottles from us as he walked passed us down the aisle, and told him we wanted our champagne. I was in the aisle seat and watched him go to another steward, say something and they both burst out laughing. (All of the stewards had obviously had a 'skin-full' during the last half of the flight.)

I immediately knew that something was up, so I jumped out of my seat and headed to the back of the plane. The two stewards saw me coming and both started to make out they were looking for the bottles. I just happened to notice behind a curtained off cupboard, a large rubbish bin filled with 'empties' and there sitting smack bang on top were the two 'EMPTY' Champagne Magnums!

To say that I saw red is probably putting it mildly! I immediately grabbed one of the Qantas stewards by the shirt with right fist cocked, and fair dinkum, if we'd been flying in the opposite direction I'd have been in serious trouble when the plane landed! However at that moment, the captain announced our approach into Sydney and to fasten seat belts etc. I didn't say anything, I just pushed the bastard I had hold of into the other one, gave the both of them the filthiest look I could muster, and headed back to my seat.

It put a bit of a dampener on our arrival home, but was soon forgotten when we were greeted by the girls. A night of very little sleep in the Kings Cross Hotel was followed by our flight home to Melbourne where Joan & I parted company with Peter and Kay.

Family and friend reunions took precedence for a couple of days and then we headed down to the beach at Rosebud for a week where I got to know my 13 month old son.

**Ed** – It's interesting to note the change in attitude or reception that was afforded us when we returned as time progressed. Back in the mid-'60s it was "don't make yourself obvious" however, I really felt no real antagonism initially on my return. Perhaps I was very focussed on those who came to greet me. It would be interesting to note the comments from the blokes who did two tours, especially returning in the '70s?

Time heals a lot of wounds, but there are still faint traces of the scars.

Thanks to everyone who contributed – let's see what other conversations unearth?

**. Steve Boutlis** forwarded the following in and this could have a real interest to a couple of ex-Detachment Pommy Australian Veterans – Ron "Mook" Evans, Maurie Arch are two that come to mind instantly.

**Subject:** RE: TV documentary

What we are looking for are British citizens (who returned to the UK or possibly settled in Australia) and would be willing to take part in a documentary that tells the unknown story of these veterans. We would like to know why they decided to serve another country in what most British people regard as someone else's war. We would like to hear a little bit about their experiences, how they adapted not only to fighting in Vietnam but how they adapted to serving with men from another country/culture.

We feel this is a story that hasn't been told on British TV screens. Ultimately, we will want to find a dozen or so veterans who are willing to talk candidly about their experiences to tell this untold story to British audiences.

I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for your time and offer of assistance.

Best wishes,  
Craig Smith

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**Craig Smith | Development Assistant Producer**

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. **Bill Taggart (1<sup>st</sup>/83<sup>rd</sup>)** sent in some interesting photos of Nui Dat and **Ed** extracted this one for a start – Bill says - “Here are some old photos (attached) you may recognize Paul.  
Bill artillery\_83rd@yahoo.com 1/83rd Website link...  
[http://83rd\\_artillery.home.comcast.net/](http://83rd_artillery.home.comcast.net/)

**Ernie Newbold** adds the following comment – “Paul, this sign and memorial to Capt. Brian Luscombe was at the eastern end of Luscombe field. Artillery signs have a red over blue background.



Then **Ed** adds the following by stating that he has a real problem as he has no memory of this site. It must have been erected by the Artillery as the bloody stones are painted white!

...so again **Ernie** steps in to calm **Ed's** nerves, de-furrow his brow and straighten out his query with - “G'day Paul, attached is a photo of the "Luscombe Airfield" sign taken the day that I came home – above. It is possible that the sign was erected after you came home which would explain why you don't remember it. I suspect that it may have been erected by 161 Independent Recce Flight. Regards, Ernie.”

. **Royal Thai Army – Here's a curiosity** - In 1967, Thai forces landed in South Vietnam to help defend its sovereignty as its communist North counterpart was stepping up its reunification campaign. The Queen's Cobra Regiment and Black Panther Division were internationally acclaimed for their battlecraft and valour in the Fouk To and Loc Ann battles. In all these wars, the Thai troops had bravely demonstrated their combat capability such that Thailand has become better known internationally. **Ed – I wasn't aware of their involvement**

. **DEDICATION OF AUSTRALIA'S MEMORIAL WALK** Australia's Memorial Walk, North Fort, North Head Sanctuary, a significant project of the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company (RAAHC), will be officially dedicated as an enduring Memorial on **1st December 2012**.

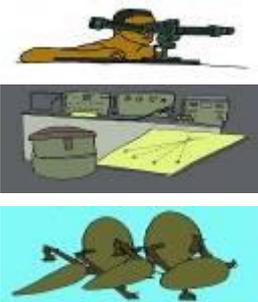
The Dedication Service will be held at the entrance to the Walk and will commence at 10:15am, with all attendees to be seated by 10:00am.

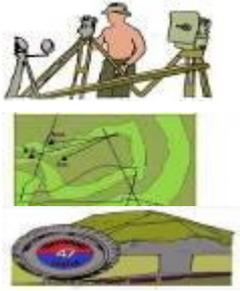
All those who have donated commemorative pavers to this magnificent project, members of the RAAHC and the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery will be most welcome to attend the Service and the Reception afterwards.

Dress will be uniform with medals or civilian attire with medals.  
Families will be most welcome to attend the event.

Additional information will be provided on this website closer to the event.  
Please RSVP to AMW Dedication by no later than 16th November 2012

[http://www.artilleryhistory.org/ad\\_dedication\\_australias\\_memorial\\_walk.html](http://www.artilleryhistory.org/ad_dedication_australias_memorial_walk.html)



**Committee members:** President – Allen Morley, **Tresurer/Secretary** – Grahame Dignam, **Public Officer** – Victor Danko, **Webmaster** – Bob Billiards, **Research Officer** – Ernie Newbold, **General members** – Ian Amos, Ged Carroll George Lane. **Eyes & Ears Editor** – Paul Dickson  
**Regional Representatives:** ACT – Bert Blink, **Qld** – Terry Erbs, **SA** - Geoff Blackwell, **Vic (Melb)** – Alan Adams, **WA** - Barry Guzder  
<http://www.131locators.org.au>

**. Upcoming Events Calender –**

The Next 131 Locators Association meeting is an 11.00 AM start on **23 October 2012** at Canley Heights RSL – 26 Humphries Rd., Canley Heights for directions - <http://www.canleyheightsrsl.com.au/contact-us/>

“We buy the first beer for new attendees and lunch is usually Pizza (other selections are available). GD”

**Come along** and get involved even if it is only for the great array of pizzas – Contact Grahame Dignam and let him know you’re coming at: [Sectreas131locators@gmail.com](mailto:Sectreas131locators@gmail.com)

The Next 131 Locators Association Annual General Meeting will be held on **20<sup>th</sup> November, 2012**. Check further details in October’s *Eyes & Ears* plus the web site.

**Welcome** – There are no new Members to welcome this month, which is a bit sad, but according to Grahame Dignam there have been a few forms sent out and NOT returned. Grahame did mention in a sinister manner that “you know who you are!”

**. web Performance...**

If you’ve got more photos that you want added, just send them to: - Paul Dickson – web Photos [three-zero@hotmail.com](mailto:three-zero@hotmail.com) – **BUT DON’T FORGET TO ADD TITLES/NAMES ETC.**

**Now** if you’re having trouble logging on etc then contact Bob Billiards - [billiard@pnc.com.au](mailto:billiard@pnc.com.au) You can always use the “Contact” page to get in touch and send a message.

**. Birthdays in the Battery...October –**

Now let’s pick the youngster out for the Month – **Peter McGann** celebrates his 62<sup>nd</sup> in October – **HAPPY BIRTHDAY Peter**, where ever you are?



Here’s what **Ian Finlay** looked like at Alpha Radar in 1968 – he was only 20! Always a neat dresser!

October	Name	Regt No		In SVN	Out SVN	Misc
1	IAN BRIGNELL	2789405	1946	20 01 1969	21 01 1970	
2	TERRY BRUCE	2783213	1945	05 05 1967	30 01 1968	
2	PETER TEATHER	3790242	1945	12 04 1968	06 08 1968	
2	LESLIE ROBINSON	217662	1949	09 12 1968	28 11 1969	
4	LEIGH HEMMING	1732039	1945	04 05 1967	11 12 1967	
4	MIKE LUFF	2783725	1945	02 01 1967	27 09 1967	
4	DAVID LAHORE	3791183	1945	02 09 1968	04 03 1969	
5	JAMES MERCHANT	2788817	1945	18 12 1968	28 11 1969	
7	GARY CHILLINGSWORTH	313477	1951	29 11 1970	05 08 1971	

8	JOHN O'NEILL	243505	1949	09 11 1970	11 11 1970	RAEME
	" "			11 03 1971	12 05 1971	RAEME
9	BRIAN SMYTHE	1201484	1946	02 09 1968	03 12 1969	
10	BRIAN KENNEDY Capt.	213488	1942	02 03 1965	11 03 1965	3 RAR
	" "			26 08 1969	27 08 1970	131
10	PAUL DICKSON	1732012	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
10	BARRY BONSER	37661	1941	03 01 1967	27 09 1967	† 03.09.98
11	PAUL JONES	216324	1946	22 04 1966	30 04 1967	† 09.09.68
11	JEFFREY EVANS Maj	3789164	1945	10 02 1971	02 06 1971	131 † 23.12.11
	" "			02 06 1971	02 11 1971	12 Fd Regt.
12	ALAN CLEASBY WO2	36053	1937	02 12 1968	10 12 1969	131
	" " "			11 06 1972	20 11 1972	AATTV
12	BARRY FOUNTAIN	3798485	1949	03 03 1971	20 08 1971	131
	" "			21 08 1971	30 10 1971	12 Fd Regt.
13	PETER SALI	1735560	1948	24 02 1970	18 02 1971	
13	DENNIS AVERY	4720906	1948	19 08 1970	09 06 1971	4 Fd Regt.
14	TONY DODDS	16776	1944	04 05 1967	02 04 1968	
14	NORMAN LINDROOS	3410957	1939	20 05 1968	24 05 1969	
14	PETER McGANN	55672	1950	27 11 1969	19 11 1970	
16	WILLIAM THOMAS	16727	1944	{07 01 1967	19 03 1967	1ARU
	" "			{20 03 1967	26 09 1967	
17	TORIN WHITE	218372	1945	21 02 1969	25 02 1970	
18	HELMUT LEMPA	38120	1946	20 05 1966	06 12 1966	† Unknown
18	ARTHUR JUX	2792371	1948	29 04 1970	18 03 1971	
19	IAN FINLAY	2412363	1948	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
20	ROBERT HARRIS Sgt.	213514	1942	10 02 1971	29 07 1971	
23	JOHN VITKOVSKY	4718271	1945	02 03 1967	12 03 1968	
23	NORMAN BULLEN	214545	1944	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	
22	IAN BOARD	213879	1943	22 04 1966	11 12 1966	
25	MICHAEL DELANEY	2789205	1947	17 02 1969	28 11 1969	
28	MICHAEL BOHL	1411182	1948	08 02 1968	17 12 1968	† 15.06.93
28	DAVID DOYLE Sgt.	17760	1943	{22 04 1966	11 12 1966	
	" "			{24 09 1970	08 02 1971	
28	IAN MURLEY	38503	1946	12 04 1968	23 04 1969	
28	PAUL TYS Lt.	235362	1946	17 03 1969	18 03 1970	
29	JAMES "ZEKE" RITCHIE Sgt.	2411899	1940	21 05 1969	09 04 1970	
29	PETER LARKIN	3793067	1946	08 11 1968	19 11 1969	
30	GRAHAM O'TOOLE	61497	1943	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	

Ed – 24 blokes not highlighted is one of our worst months – c'mon you Librans you've got some work to do!

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received 95 and we've sent out 95. Ed – it looks as though this exercise has run its race! Thanks to those of you that submitted Profiles, they've formed part of our living history and have been archived on the web.

. **Found...**

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.



**131 Locators Association** is always on the lookout for new financial members. With the upcoming establishment of the web site we are going 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:Sectreas131locators@gmail.com) and he could forward you the relevant forms to join.

Memberships are available for 1 or 5 years. Hope we hear from you?

**Web site - <http://www.131locators.org.au/131locators/>**

. Other related sites...

. Artillery Surveyors 131 Div Loc Bty...



**ARTILLERY SURVEYORS 131 DIV LOC BTY**

*"Elements of 131 came wandering in from the bush"*

(A quote whose origins are lost, yet the sentiments expressed will not be lost on many who served with 131 Div Loc Bty SVN.)

This website seeks to make contact with the Artillery Surveyors of 131 Div Loc Bty. We welcome your relevant contributions of photos, insights and observances so we might endeavour to expand

131 Artillery Surveying Vietnam record, beyond this window. Please use the [contacts page](#) for details:

<http://www.artillerysurveyors131.com.au/>

<http://www.artillerysurveyors131.com.au/operations/coburg.html>

. Locating , Surveillance & Target Acquisition Association...



**LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION**

*The Eyes And Ears Of The Battlefield*

...notes taken from the LS & TAA website – There will be an **Annual Sydney Reunion** and a Committee Meetings scheduled for **18 November 2012**. Further details including venue and timings will be advised in the next issue of the *Associations* Newsletter LOCREP <http://www.locatingartillery.org/index.htm>



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



Website link - <http://www.dva.gov.au/Pages/home.aspx>

. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE

The Dept of Veteran's Affairs has launched a new mental health initiative to assist veteran's experiencing the affects of mental illness and their families. Providing information and fact sheets about understanding mental illness, links and contact information for accessing support, and online resources for health professionals, this website focuses on helping veterans identify early warning signs of mental illness to effectively manage their mental illness and seek treatment. For more info or to access, please visit [www.at-ease.dva.gov.au](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://83rd\\_artillery.home.comcast.net/~83rd\\_artillery/](http://83rd_artillery.home.comcast.net/~83rd_artillery/)

**Editor contact email:** [three-zero@hotmail.com](mailto:three-zero@hotmail.com) **Ed – Paul ‘Dicko’ Dickson**

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