

THE EYES and EARS

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



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Official newsletter of the **131 Locators Association Inc**
web site: <http://www.131locators.org.au>

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Supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs

OK now let's see what this edition offers...

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so settle in and enjoy...



Thursday 18th August, 1966

The Battle of Long Tan

D Company, 6 RAR, strength of 108 men, battles North Vietnamese Army (NVA) and Viet Cong (VC) forces estimated at between 1500 and 2500 until relieved by A Company, carried in by armoured personnel carriers of 3 Troop, 1 APC Squadron. The enemy leaves 245 bodies on the battlefield while 17 Australian infantrymen and one APC crewman are killed. The Company earns the US Presidential Citation.

47 years have passed and some of our Pioneers experienced that day in country and it's recorded in the *Eyes & Ears* Special Edition published back in No 10, 5th October 2009 where we submitted our memories of what we were doing.

For those Association Members who have not read or would like to revisit our thoughts it's well worth clicking the Archived Editions section of the Newsletter on the website: <http://www.131locators.org.au> and opening up Vol 3 No 10 edition. For those blokes who can't access the edition just send me an email to: three-zero@hotmail.com and I'll email one to you. Some of the contents may make you smile, but the reports from the blokes there is another story.

. Grahame Dignam forwarded the following with regards to the Vietnam Veterans Day at the Bankstown Sports Club to be held on Sunday, 18th August...

THE VIETNAM VETERANS PEACEKEEPERS AND PEACEMAKERS JOURNAL

VIETNAM VETERANS FEDERATION & VIETNAM VETERANS, PEACEKEEPERS & PEACEMAKERS ASSOCIATION (NSW BRANCH) Inc.
in conjunction with **BANKSTOWN DISTRICT SPORTS CLUB**
PRESENT

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY 2013
SUNDAY 18 AUGUST

*Commemorating the 47th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan
And the 45th Anniversary of the Battles of Coral - Balmoral*

Come and join us at the **Bankstown District Sports Club**, selected again to hold this years function. We assisted you tremendously in the past, and continues to do so. Free car parking is available, or it is only a short walk from Bankstown Railway Station. There also bus services from Parramatta, Liverpool and Hursville.
A map and further directions can be found on the previous page.
The function will be held in the **Grand Ballroom**.

ITINERARY

0900hrs	Doors open, Meet & Greet in the Grand Hall Bar opens (9:30hrs to 10:30hrs (closed for service))
1100hrs	Memorial Service & Guest Speaker
1150hrs	Entrance to Grand Ballroom & function proper
1215hrs	Buffet Lunch
1300hrs	Entertainment provided by Bankstown District Sports Club Featuring the fabulous LITTLE PATTIE & BAND

Little Pattie, (AKA Patricia Amphlett OAM), came to prominence in Australia in the 60's with a string of hits, including "He's My Blonde Headed, Stompie Wompa, Real Gone Surfer Boy". Little Pattie was actually in mid-performance when the first shots rang out from Long Tan. Her current performances are far removed from those heady days, and now include a repertoire refined in her own impeccable style.

TICKETS **Function cost \$30.00 per person** (Same as last year)
Tickets are to be pre-purchased (or ordered), and can be made by cash in person from the Granville office. Alternatively you may pay by Cheque, Money Order, or Credit Card. (using the cut-out form below). Tickets will be numbered and include your table number.

TABLES Tables will be set for ten (10), and if you wish to organise a group, let us know when booking and all booked tables are to be paid for by Tuesday 13 August for catering purposes. (**REFER TO NOTES ON PREVIOUS PAGE**)

ACCOMMODATION Special rates have been offered for those wishing to make use of the **TRAVELODGE HOTEL** located within the club premises, and is available for anyone wishing to stay overnight the evening before and/or following the function. **Room/breakfast rates are included on the previous page.**

RAFFLE Raffle prizes will be on display, and tickets will be sold throughout the day, with the draw to take place immediately following the entertainment. Please find a lady and make your purchases, frequently.

Bank of America / Western Union / _____ Card type _____ Ticket/s @ \$30 (qty) _____

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Date / / Amount (this transaction) AUDDS _____ Signature _____

THE VIETNAM VETERANS PEACEKEEPERS AND PEACEMAKERS JOURNAL

VIETNAM VETERANS FEDERATION & VIETNAM VETERANS, PEACEKEEPERS & PEACEMAKERS ASSOCIATION (NSW BRANCH) Inc.
in conjunction with **BANKSTOWN DISTRICT SPORTS CLUB**
PRESENT

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY 2013
SUNDAY 18 AUGUST
FACT SHEET

This year the VIETNAM VETERANS DAY COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE, organised by the VIETNAM VETERANS FEDERATION and THE VIETNAM VETERANS, PEACEKEEPERS & PEACEMAKERS ASSOCIATION (NSW BRANCH) Inc., will once again be held at the **BANKSTOWN DISTRICT SPORTS CLUB**.

The club is located at 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown, and if arriving from the station use this entry. If arriving by vehicle use the Mona St., car park entry. Doors open at 0900hrs and make your way to the Grand Hall.

Obviously we would prefer that **NO** ticket sales were available on the day. However, the Committee understands that there may be some who will just turn up on the day without prior arrangement, but be warned. Seating is limited, tickets are numbered and issued per table number. If you chose to arrive without pre-ordering a ticket you will just have to wait and if holders are admitted first, and catering staff alerted to any extra seating arrangements. We hope the majority will avail themselves to one of the options of pre-payment/ordering and make use of the following points:

- Pre-purchase tickets at the Granville office
- Pre-pay via Credit Card by phone or with the form at bottom of next page
- Pre-pay by Cheque or Money Order
- Order your ticket by phone or letter, fax or email, and advise your intent to pay on the day

Using any and all of these methods will provide accurate numbers for catering purposes, and function logistic control, making everyone happy on the day.

If you require a table of 10 for your mates, no problem, but please let us know **prior** to the day and **when ordering** your ticket/s, advise how many will be in your group, and a table will be reserved for you. Remember, we require all reservations of groups to be paid by 13 August, and a name for the tickets to be held for if collecting on the day.

If no particular seating is required, simply sit at the table designated on your ticket. We have found that most people do not about and mingle during the day anyway, but it is important that we cater for all.

Making use of the **TRAVELODGE HOTEL** located within the club premises is available at special rates for those attending the function.

You can book and stay with or without breakfast, the prior evening or following the function on Sunday.

Room Rates: **\$125.00** per night rooms only
\$140.00 per night & breakfast for one
\$155.00 per night & breakfast for two
\$40.00 per 3rd person & \$15.00 extra breakfast.
 For bookings call **02 9793 0000** or **1300 886 886**.
YOU MUST MENTION THE VIETNAM VETERANS FUNCTION TO ACHIEVE THESE RATES

Contact the Granville office for further information: Ph 02 9682 1788 Fx 02 96826134 email secretary@vsvfgranville.com

What happened in July in SVN...a series of calendar month events.

Grahame Dignam - found a great link to the AWM which lists happening in the Wars that Australia has been involved in and lists events by calendar month and then by date. So we thought it would be a great monthly event to cut out the relevant SVN dates and list them.

We're starting with June and we'll go on from here and hopefully be around for the next eleven months...

1964 - 6 July: The first Australian combat death occurs when Warrant Officer Kevin Conway of the AATTV is killed in action at Nam Dong.

1972 - 15 July: The final death of an Australian named on the nation's Roll of Honour for the Vietnam War occurs when Private Arthur John Gibson of 7RAR dies at Liverpool Hospital, NSW

...and continuing one more thing – Ernie Newbold's discoveries.

. Customs – This is another item in the continuing series suggested by **Ernie Newbold** from the AWM site <http://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/customs/recitation.asp> - they're not totally peculiar to the Australian Armed Forces, but they are deeply rooted traditions which we identify with...

Flags at Half Mast

The tradition of lowering flags to half mast as a sign of remembrance is believed to have its origins on the high seas. As a sign of respect or honour for important persons, sailing ships would lower their sails, thus slowing the vessel and allowing for the VIP's own vessel to come alongside and for him to board if so desired. Lowering of sails was also used to honour VIPs who were reviewing a naval procession from the land. In time only the ship's flags were lowered in a symbolic gesture. This practice was also adopted on land.

For information about Australian national flag protocol, please visit *It's an honour*, a web site managed and maintained by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.



Flag at half mast at the cenotaph in Ulladulla, NSW. ANZAC Day 1999.

. Ernie Newbold got his "web-cap" on this month and got a couple of interesting links to sites which are worth having a look at –

"I thought that you might find the item from ABC news interesting..."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-07-18/artefacts-bring-home-the-memory-of-the-wandering-souls/4829588?section=act...> Helping to heal old wounds."

...then...

"G'day Paul, An email received today from the Military Shop may be of interest to Eyes and Ears readers. The Combined Arms artwork doesn't contain any Artillery but may be of interest anyway.

The new 2013 collection (and the others) may also be of interest to those who are unaware of the Military Shop at Fyshwick (ACT) Regards, Ernie." This is the link to the Military Shop - <http://www.militaryshop.com.au/>

...lastly...

"G'day Paul, An interesting item on the ABC News website today may be of interest to readers of the Eyes and Ears. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-07-16/war-veterans-increasingly-turn-to-meditation-to-treat-ptsd/4821362> Regards, Ernie."

. Peter Ravelje sent this in with the view to enquiring about the validity of one of these – surely we would have some starters??

"Write to C.A.R.O...You may be eligible for one of these...!!"



. **Kevin "Soul" Maker** made this request to **Grahame Dignam** - let's see if we can help Soul out – "Grahame, Over the course of time I have lost, misplaced or just plain worn out my personal photos of my Army days but in particular my Vietnam time. Could you please ask our members if they have any photos of me that they could forward on. I am trying to put together a portfolio of photos for my children and grandchildren. Your assistance in this matter would be appreciated. Cheers "Soul"

. **David Dougherty** sent this email to **Grahame Dignam** re: Geoff Holden's Estonian connection in June's E&Es – "Hi, Interesting to hear that Geoff was in Estonia. I have a link to Estonia in that my daughter-in-law is Estonian, born in Australia and hence 2 of my grandchildren being part Estonian. Her parents arrived here after WW2 being displaced persons having endured the Germans and the Russians, a long and slow trip through Europe before eventually being able to leave from Italy. A few years back when my son and D-in-L were visiting her relatives he cooked Xmas dinner for them, this being a stir fry and living in the country they had never heard of same. I am a "vanaisa" in Estonian .The question now is does this make Geoff a "vana mees" or "vana inimene"? Re comments below from Jill Nieglos, I hope you advised her that Aussies DON'T have accents, it's the YANKS that do. Jill Nieglos responded replied to Bill with the following – "Please tell Bill I was very happy to share happiness with all onboard. We use to laugh and laugh with the Aussies, and their accents. We loved having you all on board! We were all young then, and it was good to help one another. I hope the article about my return helped you Bill. Hugs to all the wonderful men and women who served in Vietnam. From my heart. Jill" Regards, David"

.The 86th Annual Gunner Dinner will be held at Parramatta RSL on Saturday 3rd August 2013.

Tickets are \$65 each and can be booked with: Paul Vanderveer, 64 Fallon Drive, Dural NSW 2158
Cheques should be payable to RAA Association NSW.
Dress: mess dress or black tie, with miniatures. Look forward to a good Locator turnout.

. **Notable Vietnamese Australians – Ed** amongst my wanderings on the net I came across the following and thought that you might find it interesting. It's a list of Vietnamese who have made an impression on Australia for varying reasons –

Anh Do - Comedian, actor, author of *The Happiest Refugee* and brother of Khoa Do
Khoa Do - Young Australian of the Year in 2005, writer, director and brother of Anh Do
Charles Tran Van Lam - Former Foreign Minister of South Vietnam (1969–72), first Vietnamese Ambassador to Australia (late 1950s), President of the Senate of South Vietnam (1973), one of signatories of the Paris Peace Accord (1973).
Giang Le-Huy - Actor
Hieu Van Le - Lieutenant Governor of South Australia and Chairman of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission (SAMEAC).
Nam Le - author of *The Boat*, winner of the 2008 Dylan Thomas Prize for *The Boat*
Tan Le - 1998 Young Australian of the Year
Tony Le-Nguyen - Actor, Writer, Director and Producer
Phuong Ngo - ALP politician (member of Fairfield Council, NSW), Catholic community leader convicted for the homicide of John Paul Newman, and suspected drug lord
Luke Nguyen - chef and owner of *Red Lantern* in Surry Hills, Sydney and host of *Luke Nguyen's Vietnam* on SBS
Nguyen Van Hung - Catholic priest and human rights activist on Taiwan.
Rob Nguyen - Formula 3000 driver
Sang Nguyen - Victorian ALP Upper House politician
Tach Duc Thanh Nguyen - Convicted drug smuggler and member of the Bali Nine
Van Tuong Nguyen - Executed drug trafficker
Vincent Long Van Nguyen - Roman Catholic bishop in the Archdiocese of Melbourne
Batong Pham - ALP Upper House politician in Western Australia
Hoa Pham - Writer
Caroline Tran - Triple J announcer
Natalie Tran - video blogger on YouTube. The Most Viewed YouTuber in Australia
Van Thanh Rudd - Political artist, nephew of Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd
Vico Thai - Television and Film Actor
Tran My Van - Academic
Quan Yeomans - Lead singer and guitarist of Regurgitator
Thang Ngo - Fairfield Councillor (1999-2008), cast member of Once Upon a Time in Cabramatta Documentary, food writer and publisher of Noodlies food .

. **Ron Mason** sent the following in for a date to be remembered – Long Tan Day in Seymour, Victoria...plus some additional information on the availability of merchandise -
 “Paul, on the weekends there is "often" someone in attendance at the Luscombe Bowl (depends a bit on the weather). The back part of the Bowl is a storage room & that is where merchandise is stored. Mitchell sub branch of the Vietnam vets has all phone numbers on the Vic V V A web site & some of the boys can go down to the Bowl by arrangement, I think Saturday & Sunday mornings are the main times someone is in attendance. If this is not practical I may be able to help as we go through Seymour every now & then. I can ask for a list with prices if you wish or you could go direct, email addresses on the Vic Vets web page also <http://www.vvaavic.org.au/> & as they say, follow the prompts ie the list of Sub Branches - Mitchell is the one at Seymour.
 Ron”

Inaugural Evening Service to Commemorate
Vietnam Veterans Day 2013
 to be held at the
Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk
 on Sunday 18th August at 6.00pm,
 High St, Seymour, Victoria

Please join us for a memorable evening to commemorate Vietnam Veterans Day.

Visitors will have the opportunity to view The Wall at night, when it is softly lit from within, and to enjoy the participation of the local school children in the very first evening service to be held at The Walk.

Everyone is welcome and please remember to dress warmly for the occasion.

Refreshments are available upstairs at The Seymour Club after the service.

Please refer any enquiries to Mr Ross Stewart, President, WAA Mitchell Sub-Branch, on 0407 646 988 or rossvva@hotmail.com

Please would you pass on this information to friends, colleagues, families & Associations?

www.vietnamvetstalk.org.au

Supported by Burgess SIGNS

. **Ian Finlay** sent the following in with reference to Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk – “Received this email yesterday from a friend and it is well worth viewing the U/Tube presentation made by Laurie Pegler of the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk in Seymour, Victoria.
 Also note there is a lady there in Comments, Norma Willoughby who says that she is willing to send you a photo of your name on the wall if you would like to contact her at email normajw@bigpond.net.au I am about to do that right now and see what happens. Best Regards Fin” Here’s the link - <http://youtu.be/7Mrk6A7UEWk>
 ...then as a follow up Fin sent this...

“Dicko,
 This lady is fair dinkum, sent back a photo of my name on the wall the very day I emailed her, it’s good to know there are people like her out there.
 Regards Fin”



Name on Panel - I T FINLAY

ARMY Panel Number 22 - Panel background - Soldiers receiving a gift of dolls from the SVN Government



. **Dave Auld** forwarded the following link to some great photos taken in 1967-71 around Vung Tau environs – there's heaps of them. It's worth a gander...

http://www.panoramio.com/photo_explorer#view=photo&position=695&with_photo_id=69851152&ss_play&order=date_desc&user=1643333

. **Bob Billiards** sent us in the photo (right) that he took on his recent sojourn to Broken Hill. It's the Vietnam Veterans very handsome memorial.



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

Welcome – The Association has great pleasure in welcoming a group this time – **Robert Tompsett, Trevor Prideaux (Waghorn)** and **Thomas Lempriere** to the Association fold.

Presidential Perambulations

July is a month of some relevant celebrations.

It is especially the anniversary of the first Eyes and Ears newsletter, which began all those years ago in downtown Nui Dat. From a humble roneoed – ask your grandkids about that word – newsletter 46 years ago, to our current version of thirteen to fifteen pages every month. Congratulations, Ed! Congratulations contributors!

And if anyone happens to have a copy of No 1 E&E, it would be a welcome addition to our burgeoning archives.

Someone among our readership has to have kept a copy in their SVN souvenirs, along with the crotchless knickers and smoking jackets from Baria.

Another much delayed recognition has been the acknowledgement of the signing of the armistice for the Korean War on July 27th 60 years ago. The Korean War Memorial was only and belatedly unveiled in Canberra in 1999. The community and RSL gave we 1965-1972 Nashos the cold shoulder, whilst the Korean veterans just seem to have been totally ignored and forgotten.

The fifth, ninth, thirteenth seventeenth and twenty-first National Service intakes who were just completing their recruit training in July of 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969 and 1970 now prepared for the wider world of Corps training. 131ers came from various destinations, some by most circuitous routes. Some did not see Holsworthy where the Battery was based, while others never ventured to the School of Artillery at North Head.

Cheers Allen Morley

. **Upcoming Events Calender** – 18th August – Long Tan Day (1966)

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

**. INQUIRY INTO ELIGIBILITY FOR THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
CAMPAIGN MEDAL
– by the Australian Government Defence Honours and Awards Appeals
Tribunal.**

As you may be aware the 131 Locators Association submitted a response for consideration by the Inquiry in May which appeared in last month's *Eyes & Ears*. Consequently we have received the following letter of receipt from the Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal -



Australian Government
Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal

MATTER 22/2013/042
DHAAT/OUT/2013/314

Mr Allen Morley
119 Riverview Street
LANE COVE NSW 2066

Dear Mr Morley

Thank you for your submission to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal's Inquiry into eligibility for the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

The Tribunal will consider your submission along with the other submissions received.

If you have any questions concerning the inquiry, please contact the Tribunal on the email address or telephone number below.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Bermingham'.

Mary Bermingham
Executive Officer
Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal

30 May 2013

. Birthdays in the Battery...August –

First Up – 8th July - Happy 3rd Birthday to the 131 Locators Association Inc

Now let's pick the youngster out for the Month – **Joseph Losiak - Happy 63rd** – great to have you on the database!

Here's what **Brian "Wirey" Hackett** looked like departing SVN on 12th December 1967 (on the left) and at an ANZAC day lunch in Sydney in 2010 (on the right).

Happy 68th "Wirey"!

He hasn't aged – ok he has his hair cut shorter now!



August	Name	Regt No	YOB	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	PHILLIP ROSS	3794468	1947	06 05 1969	30 04 1970	
1	JOSEPH LOSIAK	218302	1950	04 11 1969	05 11 1970	
1	JOHN LUCAS	3796256	1948	20 02 1970	11 02 1971	
2	JOHN GREENAWAY	3790617	1946	24 10 1967	22 10 1968	
3	LES SMITHLESTER	1201202	1949	23 09 1968	24 09 1969	
3	MICHAEL BUTLER	3796958	1948	04 06 1970	09 06 1971	
3	GRAHAM GREENLAND	2792441	1948	15 04 1970	29 07 1970	
4	ANDREW OVERALL Lt.	235330	1946	22 02 1969	21 02 1970	
7	MARTY VAN DRIEL	38954	1944	27 11 1967	13 03 1968	† 08.08.98
7	RANDALL JONES	2788775	1947	29 01 1969	28 11 1969	
8	ARTHUR LUXFORD Sgt.	212803	1939	20 01 1969	28 01 1970	† 01.01.08
8	EDWIN LEWIS Sgt.	53909	1935	18 03 1970	11 03 1971	† 26.08.92
9	TERRY WELSH	4721779	1949	03 03 1971	29 06 1971	131
	" "			30 06 1971	30 10 1971	12 Fd REGT
9	GARRY GRIMWOOD	2795771	1949	24 03 1971	01 07 1971	131
	" "			01 07 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd Regt.
12	ALAN THOMSON	42308	1937	20 05 1966	22 06 1967	
13	BRIAN HACKETT	2783449	1945	03 01 1967	12 12 1967	
13	STAN BRIGGS	1731999	1945	27 11 1967	17 09 1968	
13	BOB BRUCE	4718049	1945	11 06 1967	13 12 1967	
15	JOHN POLLOCK	53860	1939	{17 04 1967	24 05 1967	131
	" "			{05 02 1971	07 04 1971	12 Fd REGT
15	KEVIN TAYLOR	2791357	1945	29 07 1969	23 07 1970	
15	NORMAN McMANUS WO2	26202	1924	09 11 1970	19 08 1971	
17	PIERRE GOSS	213990	1936	24 03 1969	25 03 1970	† 06.08.2011
20	PETER BINNS	356367	1947	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
21	NORMAN JONES	5717611	1950	04 05 1971	01 12 1971	12 Fd Regt / AACC
22	JOHN VICKARY	1732218	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
22	STUART SPORN	4718471	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
22	ANTHONY COUTTS	1733291	1946	29 01 1968	21 01 1969	† 1988
23	ROBERT ETHERINGTON	66962	1946	04 11 1969	19 11 1970	
24	JOHAN MOLENCAMP	2795074	1948	03 03 1971	30 06 1971	131
	" "			02 07 1971	09 08 1971	12 Fd REGT
25	LES FROST	215230	1945	22 04 1966	28 04 1967	
25	KENNETH JONES	2786931	1946	27 11 1967	26 11 1968	
25	COLIN WEST		1947	20 01 1969	21 01 1970	
26	MAX TROYNAR	3790244	1945	05 05 1967	30 01 1968	
26	STANLEY PATTERSON	38451	1947	29 01 1969	28 11 1969	
27	LAWRENCE FARR	1734257	1947	27 08 1969	25 02 1970	† 2009
27	KEN PIESLEY	2787174	1946	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
27	GORDON MALCOLM	2785906	1946	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	
27	PETER WHITAKER	2786848	1946	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
27	PETER CREEDON	2790207	1947	31 01 1969	28 01 1970	
27	GRANT PERRINS	1734509	1947	27 11 1969	04 06 1970	
28	DAVID PIMM	215746	1946	17 04 1967	23 04 1968	RAEME
29	TIM FORD Capt.	235300	1945	19 08 1970	05 08 1971	
31	STEPHEN PALMER	18820	1946	12 04 1968	30 04 1969	RAEME † 03.12.72
1	ERIC THOMPSON Sgt.	44153	1948	18 02 1968	18 02 1969	
	" "			13 05 1971	04 06 1971	VISIT

Ed – 11 blokes not highlighted is one of our better birthday months, but we surely can remove ALL of them before the next birthdates?? Hey we've got 11 Members having birthdays in August – so far!!

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received **115** and we've sent out **112**. **Ed** – we're starting to get cooking again – can we get a few more to keep on the boil?

. **Located...**

Dave Doyle sent in some useful info with Locating Locators – “We have a few 131ers in Coffs and the surrounding area that have not put their hands up as yet. John Tickle (Sgt) living in Bellingen; Ted Jux ex school teacher at Woopi.; Sgt Earnie”Shortie” Taylor who was 131 orderly room but I do believe that he did not serve with the detachment will find out when next I see him. Allan Thompson (Bdr) 1st tour, Shortie Gow, Jim Hogno, Wayne Jeffries (who was with me on my second tour, living in Bellingen) and myself make up a good number of Locators for one Area along the coast . DD”

...then **Grahame Dignam** had this to add...

“Hi Paul, G'day Dave,

I am finding that there are Vets that are in contact with a number of their "mates" and they are comfortable with that situation. They don't have a need to be in contact with the larger body. If something happens they will find out eventually.

I have called quite a number of the fellows that marched in Brisbane this year - Grahame Williams also marched and took photos so we know who they are - but when I called and left messages I got no response. Understandable when you think they don't know me from a bar of soap. Happy within their support group and happy to stay that way. Maybe we need to take our banner to Brisbane and march beside the 20 STA Regt Banner to show our colours and get some cre?

There is another group in Sydney pretty much the same - they have contacts - read the *Eyes & Ears* and know where the website is and happy to leave it at that.

We knew Coffs was a hotbed of "Locating talent" and they are apparently happy with the level of contact they have. The only extra thing we could mention would be the website and *Eyes & Ears* link on there because it's not being posted out now so it is harder to circulate. But we would still love to hear some of their stories. Anyway the ball is rolling – which is what the exercise was designed to do.”

Locate a Locator Project – the Project took a pretty serious direction in June with an email going out to the “Locateds” looking for more Locators to Locate. We started the project off looking for “200 Not Located Locators” – we've now managed to reduce the 200 to **160**, which now gives us 323 blokes 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.

. **Bill Taggart** sent the following in response to the article in last month's *E&Es* – “Hi Paul, trying to catch up on my back log.

I have been meaning to write you about your comments on page 11 in the subject E&E. They really struck a nerve with me as I agree wholeheartedly and could not have said it better than you did. We face the same challenges with the 1/83rd. The unit was in Vietnam from 1966 until May 1971. I suppose Battalion strength at any given time was in the ballpark of 500-600 men. Multiply that by 4 or 5 years and you get a pretty good size number.

My current email distribution runs a bit under 300 guys. My home grown roster is larger but many are just names that I or my group have told me about. One of the big deterrents to finding more guys is that so many at our age never got comfortable (or even experienced) with the use of PC's and the Internet. Anyone interested in finding us can do a Google search and find us very easily but this not been done by many. From those that do come to my attention, most are thrilled that we found them. The number who we have found who said they had no interest in our group has been blessedly small.

With the Internet and Email making dissemination of information so much easier it sure can be frustrating not finding more guys.

Well thanks for letting me commiserate, maybe both our fortunes in this regard will improve. I sure hope so because time is running out for many of our age.

Be well, Bill

Email... artillery_83rd@yahoo.com

1/83rd Website link... http://83rd_artillery.home.comcast.net/”

.Vale –

Name	Regt No	Rank	Section	Served in SVN	DOB	DOD
*Lennon, Frederick Norman	29712	WO2	Radar	20.05.66 – 11.12.66	29.12.27	25.07.13

*Fred was one of the illustrious “Pioneer Group” of Veteran.

May he rest in peace

. **David Troedel** notified us with the following on 28th July, 2013 – “Sadly Fred passed away last Thursday 25th July, Coral said that he battled on with his Parkinson's until about a month ago when he became worse.

He had the last fortnight in hospital and came home on the 24th and died in the early hours of the 25th where he wanted to be, he was 85 last December.

The funeral is next Wednesday and Fred requested a quite, family funeral.

Regards

David “

..David then added the following with regards to Fred's Service History –

“Hi Paul,

Fred has not been well for some years now, have a look at his Service Record which is very interesting.

I have dug out the email I received from Fred dated 7th June 2006 with his Service Details.

He was having trouble writing then and his wife Coral was his secretary.

Have a look at the attached record which I have re-written in a bit more detail. (see below)

I have recorded 1.7.1947 as the date he transferred from the AIF to the Interim Army as there are 3 other members of 101 Battery that transferred on that date.

Fred records that he was a Tpr No 2/1113 in Japan so I think that he would have transferred to the ARA on 14.6.1948 for 6 years as he was discharged on 13.6.1954.

It looks like he returned from Malaya to 131 Div Loc Bty at North Head and not to Wacol with the rest of the Battery.

I don't know when he was promoted Bdr, probably at 131 or when he was promoted to Sgt, probably prior to Vietnam.

Fred re-enlisted in 1958 and so did In 1958. But Fred enlisted in the AIF in 1946, when you were just over 1 year old!

Regards David”

LENNON Fredrick Norman (Fred) Born 29.12.1927. Bankstown. New South Wales.

1.6.1946 Enlisted AIF for 2 Years (NX503775)

1.7.1947. Transferred to Interim Army. (NP27549)

1947-1948. BCOF Japan. Tpr 1st Australian Armoured Car Squadron.

14.6.1948 Transferred to ARA for 6 years (2/1113)

1949. Tpr 1st Armoured Regiment. Puckapunyal.

1950. L/Cpl. 1/15 Royal New South Wales Lancers. Parramatta.

1950. Cpl. 12 National Service Training Battalion. Singleton & Holsworthy.

1951. Sgt. 12 National Service Training Battalion.

1953. Sgt. 'N' Squadron. East Hills.

1953-1954. Sgt. Royal Visit Car Coy. Randwick.

13.6.1954. Discharged.

13.1.1958 Re-Enlisted (2/9712) 1 RTB Kapooka, School of Artillery, 1 Field Regiment/101 Field Battery. Holsworthy.

Malaya L/Bdr. Delta Troop, 101 Field Battery

4.10.1959. Butterworth. 101 Field Battery. 26 Field Regiment. Royal Artillery

17.11.1960-24.9.1961. Terendak/Malacca.

25.9.1961 4 Field Regiment. Wacol.

1961 Bdr January/February

1962. Subject B for Sgt. SofA.

1962. 131 Divisional Locating Battery North Head. Radar Troop.

20.5.1966-11.12.1966 SVN: Sgt. Detachment. 131 Divisional Locating Battery.

1967. Sgt/WO2. AIG. School of Artillery.

1969-1970. WO2. Long Range Gunnery Staff Course (Loc) Offrs- Lark Hill. UK.

1970. WO2. AIG. Wacol School of Artillery.

13.1.1976. Discharged.

...David Troedel...has one more piece to conclude with – “Hi Paul,

The above is the updated Service Record for Fred Lennon.

I have listed him as a Cpl in 1950 posted to 12 NSTB as he was a L/Cpl at 1/15 RNSWL and would have been promoted to Cpl to train National Servicemen.

He was promoted to Sgt in late 1951 at 12 NSTB.

Fred was a L/Bdr in 101 Battery and we think that he was promoted to Bdr in 1961 as he was on the Subject B for Sgt in Jan/Feb 1962 at the School.

As he was posted to 4 Fd at Wacol from Malaya and Coral and the kids went to their house in Curl Curl.

Most likely he completed Subject B for Sgt and was posted to 131 Bty as his family lived in Sydney.

I did a bit of research as I was curious as to what sort of unit 'N' Squadron was and came up with articles on 'N' Squadron, 1st Australian Armored Car Squadron, and Royal Visit Car Coy.

See Attachments.

Hope this information helps.

Regards David"

. **Ron Mason** commented with – “Paul, thank you for passing on the info about Fred, have often wondered how he was going. One of the best. Ron”

. **George Lane** comments – “He will be missed greatly - he was a Gentleman Soldier. He was in charge of Bravo Radar and it was a pleasure to serve with him. George.”

. **Dave Crowther** shares some thoughts – “With deep sadness. I was his Bdr in Bravo Radar from his transfer from Transport Sgt until I was moved to Alpha Radar when “Simmo” moved from Survey to Alpha not long prior to our tour. A true gentleman, soldiers man, father figure and a **FUNNY “BASTARD”** to boot. I still remember many of his **“SICK” JOKES** shared with the nashos at tea break at North Fort. All attempts by me to locate Fred were fruitless. My sincere condolences to Coral and family. Please ensure “the Don” is notified. DC”

. **Merv Nairn** remembers Fred with – “My first boss when we arrived in Nam a great boss and as George said a true gentleman. One of the group we were never able to track down, would love to have caught up with him. Sorely missed. Condolences to his family.”



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 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 – The next **Committee Meeting** will be held on **24 November 2013** at Paddington RSL at 11.15am and it is to be also our **Christmas Function** this year held at the Club. Members are cordially invited to attend. Details of scheduled Committee meetings will be available in the next issue of the *Associations* Newsletter LOCREP.



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

www.artilleryhistory.org



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



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

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

. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE

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

. 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery...



Dedicated to the men of the 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery who served in Vietnam from 1966-1971. We left Fort Sill in October 1966 for Vietnam. We originally were at Bear Cat, Nui Dat and Xuan Loc. We later were in many other locations in Vietnam. We also welcome our Australian and New Zealand Allies to whom we owe so much.

It is also dedicated to those members of the 1/83rd who did not return. We will never forget their sacrifice. Website: http://83rd_artillery.home.comcast.net/~83rd_artillery/

. **Bill Taggart** found a few spare minutes to reminisce and found something to enquire about – “Hi Paul,

I was looking through a diary today that I kept while in Vietnam and I found an entry where I mentioned meeting an Aussie named "Basher" while on a detail helping to build our Mess Hall at Nui Dat. Apparently, I had a long talk with him and thought he was a very nice guy. I also added how nice he made Australia sound. Anyone in your group known as "Basher"?

Bill Email... artillery_83rd@yahoo.com 1/83rd Website link... http://83rd_artillery.home.comcast.net/ “

...one more item from Bill...

“To all the Aussies,

In the July/August issue of The VVA Veteran (the publication of the Vietnam Vets of America) is a book review that I thought you guys might be interested in. I am attaching a copy of the page from the magazine which shows the review. The book about Australia's Vietnam War experience is titled: **The Complete Story of the Australian War**. It is written by two Australian Army Veterans.

Bill Email... artillery_83rd@yahoo.com 1/83rd Website link... http://83rd_artillery.home.comcast.net/

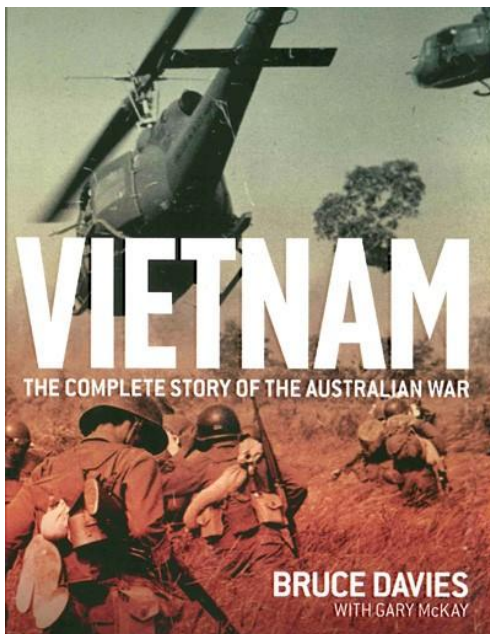
Ed – I dug out a link (below) as Bill's attachment lost some definition

- <http://www.awm.gov.au/shop/item/9781741750287/#.Uff0EXBuvIU>

However, Bills point is covered in the opening paragraph of the review, in the July/August issue of “The VVA Veteran” (the publication of the Vietnam Vets of America) is that “...many Americans are not aware of it, the United States did not fight in the war in Vietnam alone. As Vietnam veterans know very well...etc etc”

“Vietnam - The complete story of the Australian war”

Bruce Davies with Gary McKay



For Australians, Vietnam remains one of most difficult - and controversial - wars we have fought. On the fiftieth anniversary of Australia's first involvement comes *Vietnam: The Complete Story of the Australian War*, for anyone who wishes to understand why Australia went to war, and who wants to make sense of the intensely unrelenting warfare.

For Bruce Davies and Gary McKay, the history of Vietnam - its wars, colonial domination, its search for freedom and its subsequent loss - speaks to an Australian anxiety of a very small population far away from the centre of an empire to which it was firmly committed. The rise of Japan, the War in the Pacific and the postcolonial independence of the peoples of Southeast Asia, coupled with the mercurial influence of Ho Chi Minh and the rise of communism, form the background to the commitment of Australian forces.

Vietnam takes the reader to the front line, describing the experiences of soldier, politician, villager, enemy; and into the war room to unpick the military and political strategies. We see the challenges the Australians faced against not only a dogged enemy, but also those by the allies in their quest to defeat a powerful counterinsurgency. The authors' new archival research in Australia and America raises questions about the

operational performance of both sides, and recently discovered documents shed new light on the enemy's tactical thinking.

Meticulously researched and marked with acute critical analysis and a deep understanding of the place and the war, *Vietnam* shows the experience of Australian soldiers as never before.

Hard cover, photographs, 704 pages

Editor contact email: three-zero@hotmail.com **Ed** – Paul ‘Dicko’ Dickson

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