

LOCREP

*The Newsletter of the Locating Surveillance & Target Acquisition
Assn Inc.*

March 2015 Volume 57



The Last 131 Bty Boot out of Afghanistan

(See full story inside)



The Eyes and Ears of the Battlefield

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Hunter Valley:	"Wheels" Campbell
Northern NSW:	Dave Auld
STA (formerly SEQ Br):	Phil Swinsburg
131 Locators:	Bob Billiard

Remaining meetings for 2014/15 are scheduled as follows:

24 May 2015 (Committee)

19 Jul 2015 (AGM)

Meetings are held at Paddington RSL, commencing at 1115 hrs and all members are welcome.

The Committee is looking at relocating meetings to a venue on the South side of Sydney, since most members reside in that direction. More later

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings and welcome to the first LOCREP for 2015.

I hope you all had a great Christmas and an enjoyable New Year.

2015 also brings good news for the Association.

A recruiting drive by our Junior Vice President, Major Russ Hamsey, has increased our Service Membership by nearly 100 serving members. Great work!!!

I extend a personal welcome to all of our new Service Members. I hope that you will find membership rewarding and I look forward to some great anecdotes from the current bunch of new members. It's your newsletter, so go for it!

There is also good movement on the Museum front at Pucka, with an AN/KPQ-1 Radar to be installed for display. More to follow.

ANZAC Day will soon be upon us with Banners to be paraded in Sydney, Brisbane Melbourne and Coffs.

This edition of LOCREP is jam-packed with much interesting info.

I hope you have an enjoyable read.

Ubique

Joe Kaplun
President

Cover Story

The last Boot out of Tarin Kot, Afghanistan



In Nov 2013, soldiers of 131 STA Bty departed Tarin Kot, Afghanistan for the last time. BC 131, MAJ Dave Klomp and his team determined that one way to commemorate this momentous occasion was to preserve the last 20 STA Regt boot to leave Afghanistan. Upon arrival in Al Minhad Air Base for transit back to Australia, the boot was removed from the owner's foot, cleaned and prepared for preservation.

The boot belonged to BSM 131, WO2 (now WO1) Steve Carmichael who was bemused to see how a piece of his personal equipment was to mark an important time in the Regt's history. Upon return to Australia, the boot was mounted on a suitably inscribed plaque and presented to the CO, LTCOL Bede Galvin during the welcome home celebrations for 131 Bty. "*The Last Boot in Afghanistan*" now rests in the Conference Room in RHQ and emerges for truly important occasions such as a Regimental dining-in. The boot always attracts attention and usually provokes lively conversations.

20 STA Regt commenced operations in Afghanistan in 2007 and over the years provided 12 battery rotations to the campaign. The unit has flown over 55,000 hours on its Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) on operations. The Regt flew the Insitu ScanEagle UAS from 2007 until 2012, when it was replaced

by the current in-service Shadow 200 UAS. The Regt commenced operations in Afghanistan whilst maintaining operations in Iraq. From the birth of 20 STA Regt, the unit has provided 15 Battery rotations to operations in three theatres (including a short deployment to East Timor).

Changes of Address and Email Address

In any organisation like ours, keeping in touch with members is of critical importance.

Regrettably we lose contact with members from time to time because they move house, get a new email address etc. etc.

When an email to a member advising of the availability of the latest LOCREP bounces, we have a backup system whereby a printed copy is sent to the last known postal address enclosing a note asking the member to advise the Secretary of any changes.

Notwithstanding that system, we still lose contact with some members.

Will members please ensure that when a change of any sort occurs in their contact details, they inform The Secretary (Bob Morrison) whose email address is robmor47@ozemail.com.au Bob's mobile number is 0417 447 504.

Warning Order,

Coffs Harbour Re-union 2016

(The last Hurrah)

As foreshadowed in LOCREP Vol 56 (Sept 2014), the last in the series of Coffs Harbour re-unions will take place next year (2016).

In the normal cycle, it would have happened this year. However, the Northern NSW Branch Committee took the view that the Centenary of the Gallipoli Landing would occupy pride of place in the hearts and minds of most people in 2015. Therefore a Locators' re-union might

prove to be a distraction and suffer by comparison.

At its most recent meeting the Committee decided that the final Coffs re-union would be held on the October long weekend in 2016 (1-2-3 October).

Please note this in your calendar and start planning travel and accommodation early.

As planning progresses, information regarding activities etc. will be notified in LOCREP

Refurbishment of Display Equipments at 20th STA Regt, Enoggera

In consultation with the 2 i/c of the Regiment, Keith Ayliffe and Terry Erbs have commenced a program of refurbishment of certain historic Locating and Surveillance equipments which are on display in the environs of the Regiment.

Such displays and photographs are part of the policy of exhibiting the Regiment's history by displays and photographs dotted throughout the unit's barracks and buildings, rather than in a museum. This policy is the brainchild of 2 I/c, MAJ Russ Hamsey and is aimed at showing the contemporary members of the Regiment what has gone before.

First cab off the refurb rank is the pedestal and dishes element of an AN/KPQ-1 radar. The set has been relocated to a temporary shelter while the refurbishment work takes place.

There are numerous items in need of refurbishment and Keith and Terry could use some help.

It is expected that this appeal will draw interest from locals, since it involves a commute to the barracks on designated work days.

That is not to say that others are not welcome but with the way things are done in the modern ADF and with Enoggera Barracks being on Safe Base Charlie, living in is not an option.

Thus, members who would like to make the trip from distant places need to know that they will be living out for the duration of their stay and they should plan accommodation etc. accordingly.

Keith is the point of contact if you'd like to lend a hand. His phone number is (07) 5443-7102.

ANZAC Day 2015 (Sydney)

Thanks go to Barry Willoughby of the RAA Assn (NSW) for information about the Order of March and forming up details for the ANZAC Day March in Sydney this year. The Order of March is as follows:

1. LTCOL Alain Dunand Pres RAA Assn (NSW)
2. RAA Assn Banner
3. A Fd Battery & A Fd Bty Assn
4. 1 Fd Regt Assn
5. 1 Fd Regt Batteries
6. 4 Fd Regt Assn
7. 4 Fd Regt Batteries
8. 7 Fd Regt & 7 Fd Regt Assn
9. 12 Fd Regt (Vietnam) RAA Assn
10. 102 "Coral" Battery RAA
11. 104 Fd Battery
12. 21 Fd Regt Assn
13. 23 Fd Regt & 23 Fd Regt Assn
14. 8/12 Medium Regt (Ex serving members)

15. Locating, Surveillance & Target Acquisition Assn

16. Det 131 Div Loc Battery (1 ATF)

17. 9 Heavy & 9 Light Anti-Aircraft Regt Assn

18. 18 Light Anti-Aircraft Regt Assn

All detachments are to form up **along** the Northern footpath of O'Connell Street NO LATER THAN 10.00 am, in the Order of March, awaiting the order for the Korean and other contingents to move off.

When the preceding contingents have moved off, then the RAA contingents will move onto the roadway ready to move off when advised.

Former members of 20th STA Regt are especially invited to march if in Sydney at the time.

Look for the distinctive Association Banner in O'Connell Street:



Association President Joe Kaplun has been in touch with ANZAC House and has supplied historic briefing notes for the TV commentary team, detailing the background of the Association and its banner, current information on 20th STA Regiment and historic data on its predecessor units, dating back to the 1950's.

ANZAC Day (Brisbane)

Look for the same banner, which will be paraded by members of 20th STA Regiment at the forming up place at 10 am at the corner of Mary and George Streets.

Again, President Joe Kaplun has been in touch with local March organisers, supplying the same information for the TV commentary team, as was done for Sydney.

The Exchange Hotel is the venue after the March.

ANZAC Day (Melbourne)

The ever reliable John Dellaca (left front below at the 2014 march) will be at forming up place (usually in Collins St, near Swanston St) with the (Det) 131 Div Loc Bty banner pictured below.



Members of the formerly Melbourne-based 132 Div Loc Bty are most welcome to join with John and the boys in the march as are members or former members of 20th STA Regt who may be in Melbourne at the time.

John suggests that anyone intending to join them for the march should check "The Age" the day before to verify the time and place of assembly which may change this year because of possible changes to the usual order of march.

Banners, Banners and More Banners

Many members will recall the two banner display cases which adorned the walls of the Locating display at the former Australian Army Artillery Museum at North Fort. They contained the Locating Artillery Association banner and the Det 131 Div Loc Battery (SVN) banner.

One of those has been relocated to 20th STA Regiment and now houses an Association Banner of which the Regiment is custodian. The case stands alongside the bar in the James Menz Club where it will shortly be hung.



Gnr Matthew Croucher, 20th STA Regt, checks out the banner

The Sydney-based banner is currently stored in the other banner case at the home of President Joe Kaplun. Negotiations are under way for a more permanent home in a supportive RSL Club.

The new banners are heavily embroidered and cannot be stored other than on their frames.

The old Locating Artillery Association Banner is currently being looked after by Immediate Past President Allan Harrison at his home in Arrawarra NSW, near Coffs Harbour.

Members may recall that the President of Coffs Harbour Ex Services Club Dave Doyle OAM, a prominent Vietnam era Locator, requested that the Club take over the banner as custodian when the Association name and banner change occurred. The then Committee agreed.

That arrangement is still work in progress awaiting the refurbishment of the club's main pedestrian entrance, which will feature the banner, behind glass.

A formal "Laying Up" ceremony will then be held, involving Association member and RSL Sub-Branch Padre, Rev. Dr. Graham Whelan PhD.

More to follow on that issue.

Finally, the long banner donated to the LSTA Association by the Australian Artillery Association at the National Gunner Dinner in Caloundra last year is given a regular airing at Committee meetings and other appropriate occasions in Sydney.



Pictured above is the banner in the beer garden, (not far from Joe's cellar) following a recent Committee meeting. The members of the Committee were a little camera shy.

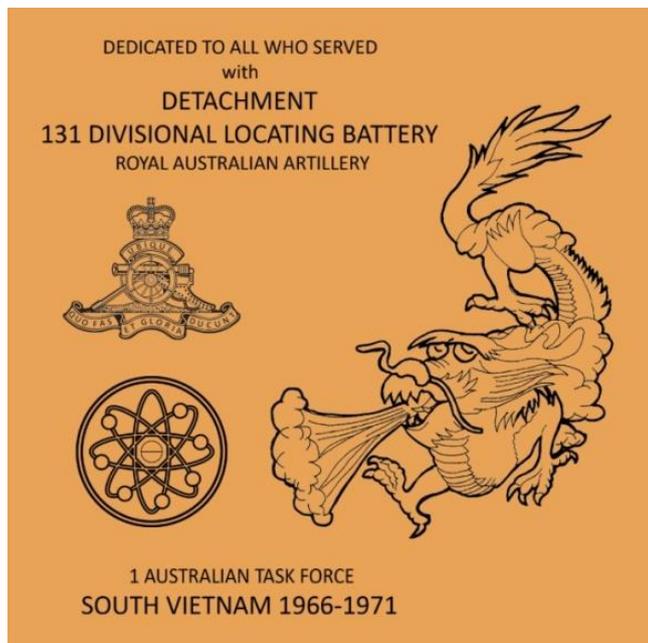
Det 131 Div Loc Bty Paver at Seymour

The Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk (the Seymour Walk) is located in Seymour, Victoria. It was officially opened in May 2013.

The Seymour Walk is intended to commemorate the service of all who played their part in what

turned out to be a significant part of Australia's military and social history.

The 131 Locators Association has installed a large sandstone paver on the Walk, commemorating those who served in South Vietnam with 131 Div Loc Bty Detachment.



With the 49th anniversary of the first Detachment members arriving at Nui Dat occurring on May 4th 2015, the Association will hold a dedication service in Seymour on that date.

Members who'd like to go to the service will be most welcome. Please contact the President of the 131 Locators' Association (Allen Morley) on 02 9428 3275 for further information.

News from 20th STA Regiment

The Regiment is currently undergoing induction training, aimed at refreshing skills at all levels.

Flying operations will recommence shortly.

Electronic Banking

In this day and age, electronic banking is part of our way of life and paying the Association for merchandise, a membership fee etc. by electronic means is most acceptable. Please use BSB 032 082 and account number 229365 to transact.

It is absolutely vital that you identify yourself and the nature of the transaction, so that the funds can be properly allocated, e.g.

"Joe Bloggs – membership" or "Bill Brown – merchandise".

Vale Graham Greenland

Sadly we have to report the passing of member Graham Greenland.

Graham has been residing in the Lismore area in recent times.



Graham, in the burgundy shirt, at a recent re-union

He was a National Serviceman and served in 131 Div Loc Bty from 1969 to 1971. He saw active service with the Detachment in South Vietnam from April to July 1970.

Graham is remembered by his friends as a quiet and unassuming man, who has left us far too early. His memory is perpetuated with a paver in the Memorial Walk at North Fort.

We send condolences to Graham's family and many friends at this sad time.