

LOCREP

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

May 2018 Volume 64



50 years on, LBDR James Menz is remembered



The Eyes and Ears of the Battlefield

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Branch Presidents:

Hunter Valley:	"Wheels" Campbell
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Sun 8 Jul 2018 and AGM: at Panania RSL

All meetings commence at 1115 hrs.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings

By now, you should have all received the booking form for the October 2018 Open Day/Reunion/Dinner to be held at the Regt at Enoggera. If you have not received it, info is included in this LOCREP and the form can be found on the Website. Hope you can make it. A good few days should be had by all.

Jnr Vice President Allen Morley has had a fall and is recovering from a fractured hip, some broken ribs and other injuries. I am sure you all will wish him a speedy recovery.

Eagle eyed readers will have noticed a change in the Patrons list. We bid a warm welcome to incoming CO of 20th STA Regt, LTCOL Rod Lang CSC. We look forward to meeting the new CO at the upcoming reunion.

I would particularly like to thank members Bruce Irvine, Terry Erbs and John Dellaca for their contributions to this edition of LOCREP. Well done fellas!

This edition contains many interesting articles. Sit back, read and enjoy.

Ubique

Joe Kaplun OAM, CMC, JP
President

LBDR James Menz

1/2/1946-18/2/1968



50 years on, a commemorative service was held at Jim's graveside.

Bruce Irvine has kindly supplied the following report and photographs of the occasion:

It was a memorable day for those of us who attended Marysville Cemetery at 8.30am and it was also to be a special day of acknowledgement for Jim's family, several of whom still live in the local area and were present to share the day with ex-servicemen who had served with Jim and who felt that they also lost a brother that day 50 years ago.



Members of 131 Div Loc Bty lay a wreath in Jimmy's memory. (L to R) Martin Holden (Honorary Member!), Peter Fuhrmann, John McFadden, Peter Hopper, Geoff Holden, Ian "Scotty" McNicol, Bruce Irvine, Bert Blink, Geoff Blackwell, Barrie Follington, Grabame Dignam and Warwick Brooker.

It was a beautiful morning down there and although only around 32 people attended, it was a very personal time for each of us present and sharing it with Jim's family (three brothers – Ron, Jack and Tony, niece - Marianne and family), wife Hellen and Marysville locals was indeed an honour in itself.

I MC'd proceedings and the first ray of sunshine over the trees that shone at the foot of Jim's grave at the start of the service said it all. He was with us in spirit.



Ron Jones, President of Marysville RSL, welcomed everyone to Marysville and spoke of Jim being highly respected in the local community.



Intimate accounts of connections to Jim were given by then Acting Sgt Peter Hopper and Gnr Warwick Brooker and John McFadden who had been privileged to serve with Jim. There were others in attendance who also had served with Jim and most had travelled long distances to be at the service (e.g. Perth WA, far northern NSW, Adelaide SA and others from NSW, ACT and Vic).

Wreath laying was led by Jim's brothers Ron, Tony and Jack and all those present from Det 131 Div Loc Bty stepped up to pay their respects.



Padre Warwick Brooker offered prayers and the Ode and the stillness of the beautiful morning in

Marysville highlighted the minute's silence in memory of Jim.

Following the service many of us attended the Christ's Church service at Marysville and later that day had a quiet time of reflection at the church of St Thomas at Buxton where Jim's funeral had been held in 1968.



We then said our farewells to the Menz family and all went our separate ways, starting our journeys home which took some a while.

All in all, the 131 Divisional Locating Battery stood up in memory of our mate LBDR James Leslie Menz, KIA 18 February 1968 at that service, 50 years on.

Lest We Forget.



2018 LSTAA Re-union

Locators Reunion Program 12/13/14th October 2018

"50th Commemoration of the Battle of FSB Coral & Balmoral"

Friday 12th Oct:

9 am – Visitors' tour of training facilities, view latest equipment with opportunity for hands-on drone flying.

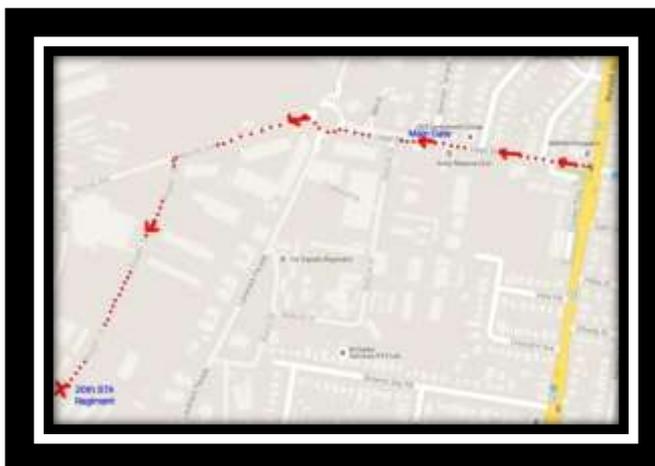
11am - AN/KPQ-1 A12 "Long Tan" Radar dedication service conducted by both LSTAA and Regiment's padres & supported by the Army band.

Dress – For dedication - men jacket & medals

Noon – Barbeque lunch provided by Regiment at James Menz Club. Please pay for own drinks – profits to the Menz Club

2pm – End of Regiment visit, visitors depart base.

The Regiment will facilitate base entry, details will be issued beforehand to those attending the re-union. If base security remains unchanged, car and pedestrian entry will be via the main gate (see map).



Saturday 13th Oct:

Daytime - free to tour Brisbane and environs
Evening - Locator's Reunion Dinner at Kedron Wavell RSL.

The dinner is to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Battle of FSB Coral & Balmoral May 1968 and the Regiment's birthday.

Dress - men jacket & tie with miniatures, ladies after 5pm.

Drinks - 6pm dinner, 7pm. Cost \$65 with free beer or wine, until bar credit reached.



Sunday 14th Oct:

Noon – farewell drinks/lunch at Ship Inn Hotel at South Bank.

Drinks & meal at own cost [see menu]
http://www.theshipinn.com.au/shipinn_restaurant.html



ACCOMMODATION

Interstate visitors may wish to stay in or near Brisbane CBD, where there is a wide range of accommodation available with good public transport to Enoggera and Chermside venues. The best option for comparing and booking accommodation is to visit wotif.com. Alternatively there are several motels/hotels near Enoggera and Chermside, which may suit visitors:-

<http://www.essenceapartments.com/>

<https://www.chermsidecourtmotel.com/>

<http://www.questapartments.com.au/properties/qld/chermside/quest-chermside-on-playfield/overview>

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

For caravans the only suitable nearby location is the Newmarket caravan park, 2km SE of Enoggera and 5km NW from Brisbane CBD and with good access to public transport.

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

TRANSPORT

For all public transport trip planning use - <http://translink.com.au/>

Brisbane airport Domestic & International terminals - trains every 15min to Central Station, Brisbane CBD, a trip of 20min/\$18.50.

Kedron Wavell RSL - 10km north of Brisbane CBD, buses from King George Sq & Roma St Rail Station to Chermside bus station every 10minutes - No 333/330/340 - 25min/\$1.98 concession fare, then an easy 5 minute walk to RSL.

Enoggera - Ferny Grove line train, from Central Station to Enoggera rail station 8km /19 minutes/\$1.98 concession, or No 390 bus - 26 minutes/\$1.98 concession and city taxi fare approx. \$25

[note - Taxis have no access to base due to security restrictions].

Activities for visitors:

visitbrisbane.com.au/information/articles/activities/30-things-to-do-spring?sc_lang=en-au

Costs and Payment:

An RSVP form will be circulated after ANZAC Day, seeking your response before the next Committee Meeting in late May.

For your information, the dinner cost is \$65 per person, with initial free drinks and wine. The Regimental barbeque is at no cost to visitors, you only need to pay for your own drinks.

Sunday lunch at own cost.

Payment for Commemoration Dinner of \$65 per person - direct transfer to Defence Bank 803205 20400195 - please include your name as reference or by cheque to Treasurer SGT Rodney Alchin c/o 20th STA Regiment RAA, Bugden St. Enoggera Qld 4051, using the RSVP form previously distributed.

A copy of that form is available on the Association website www.locatingartillery.org then click on "Notice Board", then the link to the 2018 re-union.

Merchandise

Full details of available merchandise is on our website www.locatingartillery.org

To order, enquire re prices, mailing costs etc., please contact Joe Kaplun:

Mobile 0407 741 473

Home 02 9774 1473

Email joekaplun@optusnet.com.au

6 Apex Ave Picnic Point NSW 2213

Unidentified Bank Deposits

A message for everyone, **PLEASE** identify yourself by phone or email to the Secretary if using direct deposit on line, or if paying over the counter.

Directions for our Website

Please send your stories and photos to Allan Harrison at allan@harrisonsolution.com.au

The website address is www.locatingartillery.org and Allan would be pleased to get your feedback on how the website is shaping up, at his email address above.

If sending group photos **PLEASE** include the names of people in the group.

Narrow Escape for AN/KPQ-1 Radar A12



SEQ Branch President Terry Erbs has provided us with details of the latest drama in the life of Radar A12:

A severe thunderstorm in Brisbane recently blew several large branches onto the shelter protecting the AN/KPQ-1 radar A12. The radar wasn't damaged but it was a near miss for A12 radar with minor damage to the shelter.



As 2I/C Major Geoff Meekan stated, "A12 radar is a significant and irreplaceable piece of the Regiment's and RAA history, being directly linked to the events on and IVO the ATF's Nui

Dat base that precipitated the Battle of Long Tan – It's our part of cultural heritage!"

With commendable initiative Geoff had the radar removed to safe storage. Repairs to the shelter and assessment by an arborist of the "offending" gumtree will be done before it's reinstalled before ANZAC Day.

We invite you all to attend the Locator's reunion in Brisbane as 20th STA Regiment, with the support of LSTAA, are planning a dedication service of the A12 radar during the open day on Friday 12th October. It will be dedicated to the service of the 463 who served with Det. 131 Div Loc Bty in South Vietnam between 1966 and 1971.

ANZAC Day Reports

COFFS HARBOUR

Association Padre Rev Dr Graham Whelan OAM PhD worked overtime with the man upstairs to give us a break in the wet weather for both the Dawn Service and the march/main service this year.

The usual three or four stalwarts who march each year in Coffs were blown away by visitors from near and far, with 12 former Locators on parade.



On hand were Dave Auld, Peter Binns, Charles Brewer, Jim Bushel, Dave Doyle, Allan Harrison, Jim Hogn, Kim McGrath, Bob Smith, Ernie Taylor, Wayne and Zita Thompson.

Banner bearers Cadets Paris Knight and Kate Springer from 27 AACU did a fine job as did our Padre who officiated at both the Dawn and main march Ceremonies.

According to locals, the turnout for the main march exceeded the records set at the Centenary March last year. A massive crowd crammed the Cenotaph area adjacent to Coffs Ex Services Club and rumour has it that the local Council would like to move the Cenotaph to another location which can better accommodate the crowd which grows year by year.

Once again, 725 Sqn RAN were present in numbers and we were treated to a couple of fly pasts by their Sikorsky MH-60R Seahawk "Romeo" Naval Combat helicopters.



Post-march we attended a magnificent lunch at Coffs Ex-Services Club and were entertained by the hilarious former test cricketer and ABC cricket commentator Kerry O'Keefe. He had us rolling in the aisles with his self-effacing humour.



BRISBANE

Unlike last year, the morning was overcast with light rain persisting on the drive to Enoggera and during the welcome traditional "Gunfire Breakfast". The rain cleared as the Dawn Service started with the opening address by 2I/C MAJ Geoff Meekan, then Regimental padre James Hall read the lesson and WO1 David Nutini the ANZAC requiem.

A large crowd of past & serving members, family and friends listened attentively as CO LTCOL Rod Lang CSC described the loss of Gunner James Menz, KIA 50 years during a mortar attack on FSB Anderson. He recounted how subsequently the "Locator's Lounge" at Nui Dat was renamed the "Menz Club", perpetuating Jim's memory and how the club continues to be the focal point for Regimental social activities. This story was particularly poignant to the 5 Vietnam Veterans attending the service, especially after the story in "Eyes & Ears" of the memorial service for Jim in Marysville, largely organised by fellow surveyors.

Wreaths were then laid by the CO for the Regiment, Dereck Hinde for 131 Div Loc Bty and Terry Erbs for LSTAA.



After the service the Menz club was opened for drinks and in the car park a hearty breakfast was cooked for the hungry hordes! The happy crowd gathered in the Checkley Annex to eat and chat with family and friends before heading into Brisbane for the Anzac Day march.

Many thanks to SGT Rodney Alchin for organising the LSTAA banner and "volunteer" carriers. From 9.30am the banner was again successfully used as our rallying point at the corner of Mary and George St.

It was the usual "hurry up and wait", so there was ample time to chat and discuss the usual - family, health and who was "missing in action" - heard David Dodds wasn't doing so well - all the best mate!

Also missing this year were Steve Hall, Pete Ravalje & Lionel Outten, but it was great to see Kevin Banks, and it was his 70th birthday!



Det 131 stalwarts, John Bristow, Derek Hinde, T.C.White, "Doc" Sheedy, Joe Losiack. Terry Erbs & Grahame Williams

The Brisbane march officially started at 10am and we formed up at 11am and completed the march with the usual group photo on the GPO steps at 11.30am.



"Olds & bolds" - John Bristow & Phil Sheedy



Ex BDR Paul Matthews, Retired MAJ Chris Flear, LTCOL Rod Lang CSC, CO 20th STA Regiment RAA.

Then it was a pleasant walk to the Stock Exchange Hotel to enjoy the customary few refreshing drinks with mates, family & friends. As usual, many drinks were enjoyed, stories retold and mates exchanged news. It was very enjoyable day and I believe everyone got home safely, although serving members had to work the next day! Numbers were down a little from last year, but the reunion in Brisbane 12/13/14th Oct was discussed with much anticipation – please look for the next reunion email RSVP notice shortly.

MELBOURNE

This year our numbers were swelled by the travelling group being in Melbourne. They travel to Brisbane, Sydney, and Melbourne.



Left to right, "the young guns", LT's A McDonald, S Cole, B Tait, C La Rose-Knight and S Condon.



Dual Honours for RSM WO1 David Nutini

Pictured below with his wife Rebecca, is WO1 David Nutini, RSM 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment



WO1 Nutini is holding the award he received (Gold Commendation) for his role as RSM OP ACCORDION.

Additionally, CO LTCOL Rod Lang announced during the ANZAC Day commemorations at the Regiment, that WO1 Nutini has been appointed Master Gunner.

Association members will be delighted to hear of this prestigious posting and we offer our warmest congratulations to the RSM.



As the majority of them arrived in Vietnam 1968 it was decided to make it a 50th anniversary which was wonderfully organised by Russ Jackson and Graeme Owen which started with a lovely gathering of Locators and their partners at the Rendezvous Hotel.

We had a great lunch after the march in St.Kilda at the Beachcomber Restaurant, finishing off next day with a trip to the deBortoli Winery and the Vietnam Veterans memorial wall in Seymour.

