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SEPTEMBER NEWS LETTER 2011

ANZAC DAY 2011

Sydney turned on a glorious autumn day for the 2011 ANZAC Day March, coupled with the huge crowds that lined the route of the march it made it a special day of remembrance for all those involved.

As in past years members from the Geomatic Wing of SME volunteered to carry the banner and the senior members of the association took place of honour in front of the Survey Corps Association Banner.

In total there were fifty two (52) personnel from the Survey Association and Geomatic Wing marching on the day.

After the march the members of the New South Wales Association held their annual general meeting under the Morton Bay fig trees near the Red Cross refreshment tent in Hyde Park.

As usual there was a rush by members to fill the position.

The current President Treasurer and Secretary Richard Jackson-Hope was re-elected to fill all positions for the next twelve months.

He then thanked the members of Geomatic wing for their great turn out and for carrying the new banner during the march and thanked the association members for their attendance.

He expressed the association appreciation to Sgt Paul Hunter for arranging the banner party for the march and his assistance prior to ANZAC Day.

He then gave the treasurers report for the past twelve months.

At the conclusion of the treasurers report he said the association has 34 paid up members and at the present time 40 news letters were posted out prior to ANZAC Day.

Reminiscences of RA Survey Officers Mess Bonegilla from the beginning to the end By John Hillier

When the school of Survey moved from Balcombe to Bonegilla "B" block in 1966, as well as the Sgt's mess and the H.P.C. Clewes OR Club, an Officer's Mess was established from two (2) buildings over looking the Hume Weir.

One of these building was the "Flat occupied by the Immigration Block Supervisor Stan Barron and his family. Stan was a Pole who escaped to England as a member of the Polish Air Force and served in the R.A.F. during World War Two and he married while in England.

Harvey Hall agreed that Stan and his family could remain in the flat until he was allocated a Victorian Government Commission home in Wodonga.

The flat became the officers mess dining room and Capt George Hann (the Architect) upgraded it by removing an internal wall to one of the bedrooms to make a larger dining area adjacent to the kitchen.

He also removed part of the lake side wall of the dining room and inserted two full length windows in the space providing a view of the lake and the hills to the east and the south east from the dining room.

The glass for the double doors (floor to ceiling) was obtained for the regiment at Bendigo.

The litho section provided contact glass plates used in the photo litho section.

The glass held in stock by the litho section was used in the production of separate colour printing press plates.

The building immediately to the south of the new dining room had a brick fireplace in the northern end and it was converted into the mess bar at the south end and a lounge room between the bar and the fireplace (there were no internal walls).

When the Army Apprentices School was relocated from Balcombe in 1983 the war time building in the western portion of the camp were demolished and replaced by new brick buildings, sports grounds etc.

The School of Survey was relocated to the new accommodation on the west side of Latchford barracks with messing provided in the Army Apprentices School mess as well as sleeping accommodation.

Ultimately the former school site in B block was sold except for the officer's mess buildings.

As a practical exercise for the trainee apprentices the two buildings were relocated to the northern boundary between A & B blocks on the west side of the existing tennis court in A block.

The building were turned around 180 degrees and joined together to make one large club house for the tennis courts and bowling green on the west side.

A cement verandah with roofing was added to the west side of the club house and all the internal walls were removed.

A 'B-B-Q' was built on the east side under additional roofing to provide shelter and shade for the tennis players.

Local civilians could join the 'Bowling Club' and the members competed in local competitions.

Married quarters were constructed on the 'B' site of the School of Survey for staff including Latch Ford House for the C.O. of the barracks.

There has not been a public bus service from Bonegilla to Wodonga for some time it ceased after the immigration centre closed and Latchford Barracks was built.

Despite the advantages of being close to the Hume Weir the married quarters apparently did not appeal to the occupants. Especially with the introduction of the Defence Housing organisation where houses were available under the Defence Housing scheme in the cities of Wodonga and Albury.

The demolition of Bonegilla housing came about with the introduction of one minister of defence replacing three single services ministers.

All defence property became the responsibility of the defence minister after they were transferred from the three services. These services no longer had responsibility for defence property/assets/and services including water, sewerage and electricity.

As a consequence defence suddenly decided to demolish all of the married quarters in 'B' block as well as the tennis courts, the bowling green and the associated club house.

The former RA Survey officers mess has been demolished and removed from the site while the demolition of the former married quarters is proceeding slowly.

It is understood that once the site has been cleared it is to be sold by defence.

It is interesting to note that 'A' Block immediately to the north has been gazetted as a heritage place and is now known as the Bonegilla Migrant Reception and Heritage Park.

Foot note; John Hillier intends to approach the Defence Department to request that a plaque be placed in 'B' block by the palm tree as the site has significant historical significance.



The demolition of the RA Surveys
Officer's Mess

Then on another occasion a chicken hawk had lifted from the grass and we ended up with a dent about 3 feet long in the leading edge of the wing.

On another occasion after what had been our longest day we were returning to Camooweal flying just above a road – I think George was doing it to stay awake- when we started to cut corners, misjudged and twice actually hit the ground.

I don't know if anyone managed to get a photograph as we passed through the Camooweal camp (barometer base) with table cloths and mosquito nets blowing at the start and end of each sortie.

There was one occasion when that speed freak Jacko's came along for the ride and at his urging George finished off the sortie with a vertical climb and stall-turn over the aerodrome – not recommended for a Cessna 180.

The Red Bull (Jim Steadman) went raving mad yelling profanities at George and saying; "You have stuff my barometers they will never settle."

Jacko took the blame and as punishment he was sent off with the Astro party that consisted of Joe Farrington and Mal Hayes to cook and bottle wash for the observers for six weeks.

George was such a great pilot he always instilled confidence in us.

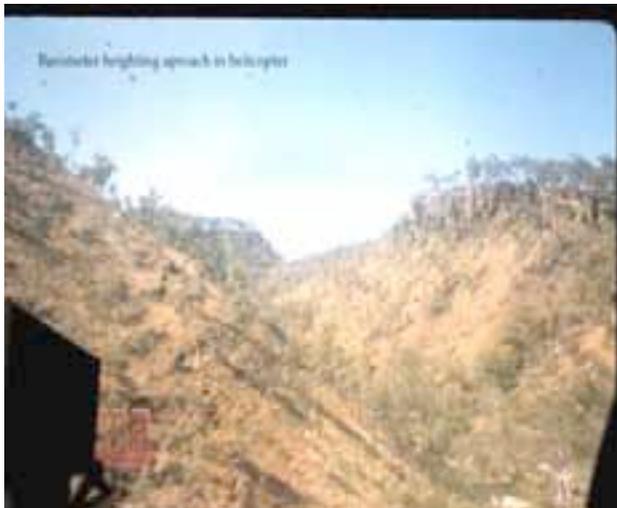
Having never developed film before, I was always apprehensive until I saw the results of a days sortie.

I remember Des Moore our resident cartoonist being told "You do not make fun of the officers or of work" after a cartoon appeared with Clem and I returning from an annotation sortie. It showed us standing beside the Cessna 180 as Clem tossed a coin with the caption, "Heads it's a fence, tails it's a track" it also depicted Norm Vaughn prancing down the main street of Camooweal firing his Luger in the air.

Barometer heighting in the Bell 47 helicopter could also have its moments. I remember one day we were flying along a dry river bed when I yelled at the pilot that there were telephone wires he had not seen.

Too late to go over he tried to go under – fortunately they missed the stabilizer bars but left a long gouge in one rotor blade. We landed at the next homestead, apologized and told them they no longer had a telephone connection, we were not offered a beer.

There is no doubt that modern technology has taken the fun out of surveying.



Barometer Heighting in Helicopter NT

Refueling Helicopter N T

Photographs supplied by Mick Symmons

PNG Plaque

After a protracted period of time the dedication of the PNG plaque finally took place at Ela Beach Memorial Park at 0730hrs on the 24th July 2011

Peter Bates Brownsword Bob Skitch and Percy Long from the Queensland association attended the dedication ceremony. The unveiling of the plaque was a formal affair with his Excellency Grand Chief Sir Michael Ogio

unveiling the plaque. Also in attendance were Ian Kemish Australian High Commissioner to PNG, Brig Gen Francis Aquí, Col Mark Shepard, Mick Pye, Mike Lenz, Mike Larmer, Masang Bangindo, Daulako Bulivakarua. *(See September supplementary issue of Queensland bulletin for the full report.)*



Left to Right Sir Michael Ogio, Mike Larmer, Masanf Bangindo, Mike Lenz, Richard Stanway, Col Mark Shephard, Bob Skitch, Percy Long Peter Bates-Brownsword



Percy Long laying a wreath
Photographs supplied by Bob Skitch

Photographs and attendance ANZAC DAY 2011 in Sydney.

List of members who signed the attendance sheet;

Phil Bannister, Bernie Cain, Bob Campbell, Frank Fischer, Bruce Grisdale, Rob Hunter, John Lymbery, Richard Jackson-Hope, Trevor Marsh John Siddons Peter Raue, Peter Tierney, Terry Topham, Bruce Williams, Bill Boyd.

SME personnel,

Mathew Foley, Bryley Richards, Glen Norrell, Arnold Ratcliffe, Chris Chick, Jenny Ellis, Blake Ellis, Neil Robinson, John Kuttner, Paul Hunter, Graham Symes, Peter Cotes.



Members of SME



John Siddons, John Lymbery and Phil Bannister



Members of SME start of march



Front Bruce Grisdale and Rob Hunter



John Lymbery the only WW2 member to march



Richard Jackson-Hope and Bob Campbell



Peter Raue and Peter Cotes SA



Bruce Grisdale, Rob Hunter and Frank Fischer

ANZAC Day photographs taken and supplied by Bruce Williams

It is that again Membership fees are due as our association is small in numbers your subscription is vital to produce the newsletter and pay for the postage.

Past Newsletters

The past NSW newsletters are available on the Queensland web site along with newsletters from other state Survey Corps Associations. If you would like to catch up with what is going on in other states associations log onto www.rasurvey.org and follow the links to access individual state newsletters.

Items for NSW Survey Corps Association newsletter

If you have items for the next newsletter please forward them to P.O. Box 14 Blaxland.
Or e-mail aro@pnc.com.au

Richard Jackson-Hope editor NSW newsletter.