
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS
ASSOCIATION
Queensland Branch



BULLETIN

PO Box 5784 Stafford Heights 4053

ANZAC EDITION

APRIL 2003

ANZAC DAY

March with your Association mates on Friday 25th April 2003. Anzac Day 2003 promises to be another memorable occasion starting with the dawn service at the 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment (2 CER) 7 Sqn Cenotaph at Enoggera Barracks adjacent to Samford Road. This year Association members are invited to 1 Topo Svy Sqn RAE for a barbecue breakfast after the dawn service. A thirty seater bus will depart the Squadron at 1000 hours and passengers will be dropped as close as possible to the Assembly point.

At the time of writing full details of the march have not been advised, however, we can assume that the route will be the same as last year and we will form up outside the Treasury Casino in Elizabeth Street. The Squadron is providing banner bearers and this year we will be led by Perc Long, a veteran of many of our marches. Our icon theodolite will precede the banner three paces behind our leader and we seek a volunteer to carry it at the near vertical slope.

After the March: Again we are invited to join the Sappers Association for drinks and BBQ at the Jubilee Hotel in St Pauls Terrace, Spring Hill. Cost is \$15.00 per head and your Association will subsidise the cost of all those who marched. The Squadron bus will take members to the Jubilee Hotel and then depart at 1400 hours for the return journey to Enoggera.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mapmakers of Fortuna

The history of the Army Survey Regiment published by the Ex-Fortuna Survey Association has established a benchmark for other units of the Corps. The book was launched on the 27th March 2003 in the very regal surroundings of the recently restored Bendigo Town Hall. This indeed was an historic event and was attended by many former members and their families. Also there were those who had never served in the Regiment, but the Corps was family and this in itself was a significant event and becomes part of our Corps history. The Fortuna Association must be congratulated both in bringing the Regiment's history to final publication and launching it in such grand style.

The history of RA Survey units in Queensland remains to be told.

At this time of writing we are involved in yet another war, perhaps the most socially divisive we have seen. Your Association take no position on the issues but simply wishes for our our troops Godspeed for a safe return.

Peter Bates-Brownsword

VALE – Brigadier Donald MacDonald, AM – 1910-2003

It is with sadness that we advise the passing of our National Association Patron, Don MacDonald. Don, variously dubbed our pater familias and our doyen, served as our Director during the difficult years of the 60's. The role he developed for the post WW2 Survey Corps ensured its continuance for another 30 years. In effect he brought the Corps back into the Army. In retirement he became our first Colonel Commandant and his frequent visits to the various State Associations earned him the title of 'pater familias'. Don's more detailed obituary is on page 5 of this Bulletin.

COMMITTEE

Patron	Lieutenant Colonel EU Anderson MBE (Ph 3408 9179)
President	Peter Bates-Brownsword (Ph 3289 7001)
Past President	Jim Houston (Ph 3351 4952)
Vice President	Bob Skitch (Ph 3265 1370)
Secretary & Asst Treasurer	Mary-Ann Thiselton (Ph 3353 1026)
Treasurer	Michael Knight (3278 8331)
Functions Member	Alex Cairney (Anzac Day, Reunion) (Ph 3397 7583)
Bulletin Editor	Bob Skitch (Ph 3265 1370)
Membership Records	Kim Weston (Ph 5445 6927; mob 0427 377 226)
WW2 Veteran Member	Hal Jones (Ph 3395 1404)
Squadron Liaison & Welfare	Jim Gill (Ph 3264 1597)
Member (unallocated)	Stan Campbell (Ph 3285 3970)
Squadron OC	Major Adrian Harding
Squadron SSM	WO1 BL (Barrie) Craymer (Ph 3332 7564)

Note: Refer Veteran's Affairs matters to Peter Bates-Brownsword and Stan Campbell
Association address: **PO Box 5784; Stafford Heights 4053**

NOTICES

PNG MEDAL

President Peter is continuing to investigate this matter on behalf of all State Survey Associations. While Peter's talks with Christies in Sydney have been fruitful we still need that specific authority to from the PNG Government. We are having some difficulty in obtaining that. Some unit associations with WW2 service in PNG have already indicated interest and a number of other association members have responded directly to Mary-Ann, our secretary. So those who are contemplating having their medals remounted after the plethora of medal issues since they were discharged and have a mind to apply – please be patient; we are trying to resolve the matter.

LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH DRINKS

This regular informal event continues at the Gaythorne RSL and Rock advises that numbers attending continue to increase. There is ample parking at the Club. When is it? The last Friday of the month of course, next on **Fri 30 May 2003** (the last Friday in April is the 25th – Anzac Day. See you at the Jubilee! Check with Rock Thiselton (Ph 3353 1026) to be sure.

ASSOCIATION BADGE

There has been a re-run, this time not in gold plate but in 'antique gold', a broze like finish. Very handsome, and in Gary Warnest's words, 'not as 'in your face' as the previous gold variety". Place your orders with Mary-Ann and we will try to satisfy them.

INCORPORATION – the vexed question!

The matter of incorporation sits with us. Our cheque has been returned and we are not incorporated. Moves being undertaken by the Queensland Government may absolve small not-for-profit organizations from vexatious liability claims and that may obviate the need for incorporation or at least reduce the cost of liability insurance. In the meantime your Association is looking at ways of re-designating the Association that may circumvent any corporate liability responsibility. It is interesting that many small NFP associations have de-incorporated including the BCOF Association.

VIETNAM – A TECHNICAL TOUR by Bob McMillan-Kay.

Your Association is holding a number of copies for purchase by members at \$36.00 each including postage. To obtain a copy please make cheques payable to the RA Svy Association. Those received so far have been made payable to Bob McMillan-Kay and have been forwarded to him for action.

*****MAPMAKERS OF FORTUNA*****

Your Association holds a few copies of the history and these can be purchased for \$60.00 plus \$8.00 postage. Copies may also be purchased from the Ex-Fortuna Survey Association (PO Box 865 Bendigo 3552) at \$60.00 plus postage of \$11.50 including cost of a padded postal bag. If a substantial number request copies, bulk delivery from Bendigo can be arranged.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2001 – 2002 & 2002 - 2003

This notice has to be a permanent fixture of our Bulletin, so here it is again:- 'Don't go to sleep on your membership!'

Keep in touch with you Survey Corps mates by being a paid-up member of your Association.



Our financial year runs from September to September. Subscription is but \$10.00 per year. We encourage you to pay three years in advance (or more if you wish). Some have

already done this. Subscription is waived for veterans 75 and over who have been standing paid-up members of our Association.

MAPMAKERS OF FORTUNA – a History of the Army Survey Regiment – Bob Skitch

We went to Bendigo for the launch of the History of the Army Survey Regiment. Speaking personally, it was a great weekend. So many familiar faces and mutual experiences re-lived.

The formal launch took place at the refurbished City Hall and if it was a little disappointing that we were not in the main hall but squeezed into an upstairs space, the formal launch served its purpose. Introduced by Don Swiney, Mayor Willie Carney in her robes of office welcomed the 200 or so past Survey Corps members and spoke of her regret at seeing the demise of the Regiment. Clem Sargent officially launched the History, praising its qualities but offering some criticism of its perceived deficiencies. Author Valerie Lovejoy then spoke of the task of producing the history which earned her a Master of Arts degree, well deserved.

Following the formal launch we all repaired to the All Seasons Motor Inn on McIvor Road for a very adequate dinner in the aptly named Fortuna Room, excellent wine from the Water Wheel Estate and much camaraderie which continued (so I am told) till well after midnight.

Then on Saturday there was the very informal barbecue at the Eaglehawk RSL – venison hamburgers and Italian sausages, beer, wine and more camaraderie. Many accepted home hospitality with Bendigo based members on

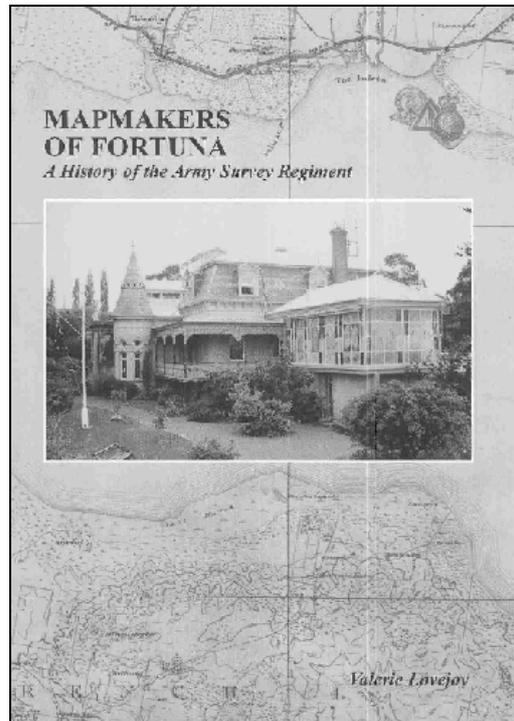
the Saturday night and Sunday. And with that it was all over! Don Swiney has almost agreed to another Fortuna reunion in three years. Maybe it won't attract 200+ but I am sure it will come close.



Peter Bates-Brownsword, Bob Skitch, Don Swiney, Darryl Hocking – BBQ mode

And the History – it looks great; a first class publication. I have not yet read into it, not even my personal references. I have only looked at the many photos, but I am sure I will not be disappointed. In the July issue of this Bulletin we will have a detailed review, perhaps Clem's.

To the Ex-Fortuna Survey Association from the Royal Australian Survey Corps Association – Queensland Branch, congratulations on pulling it off.



See notice on page 2 for ordering copies.

Byrne Goodrick

The December 2002 issue of *Cartography*, the journal of the Mapping Sciences Institute, Australia, provides an extensive valedictory for Byrne Ernest Goodrick. Byrne passed away on 24 November 2001.

Byrne served with the 2/1 Australian (Corps) Topographic Survey Company (more generally referred to as the 2/1 Topographic Survey Company) in WW2 in the Middle East and the Pacific theatres, rising through the ranks to commissioned rank. Byrne's post WW2 career in mapping was illustrious and he was well known to many Survey Corps personnel during the 50s, 60s and 70s in his role as Chief Cartographer with the Division of National Mapping (*Natmap*). He was prominent in the National Mapping Council Technical Sub-Committee as the *Natmap* delegate and from 1977 to 1980 and again in 1982, its chairman. Byrne was awarded the MBE in 1976 for 'public service in the mapping of Australia. He played a prominent part in many of the significant mapping based projects undertaken in Australia over the full extent of his career.

In retirement Byrne turned his attention to mapping for sight-impaired persons, known as *Tactual Mapping* or sometimes *Tactile Mapping*, developing many of the techniques associated with such mapping.

Despite the often acrimonious relationship generated between *Natmap* and RA Svy in those years, the mutual cooperation achieved at the working level was considerable and important. While necessarily taking and supporting the *Natmap* position in the committee levels, Byrne encouraged the working level cooperation. A phone call to Byrne would resolve most difficulties. Byrne maintained his allegiance to the 2/1 Association and never lost his regard for the Survey Corps.

Brian Berkery

Brian passed away in October 2002 in Hobart, Tasmania, after a long battle with cancer.

Brian was well known to Northern Command Field Survey Section (later 1 Sqn) members having served in that unit from 1956 until his

discharge from the Army in 1961. Brian and I were together on the 7/55 Basic Survey Course at the then School of Survey at Balcombe, Victoria. We were both posted to N Comd in April 56 and thence to join the field section at Macrossan. We were close friends at that time and we both volunteered for Project Cutlass – the shore-ship survey of New Ireland. On completion of that Project at the end of 1957 Brian returned to N Comd Fd Svy Sec and I to the AHQ Survey Regiment at Bendigo. As so often happens with Army friendships, we had no further contact during our Army service, Brian's of six years and my own of twenty six years although I don't believe either of us entirely forgot our earlier friendship. It wasn't until I visited Hobart attending a surveying conference in about 1989 (as a civilian) that I met again with Brian and we had a day or two together re-living past experiences and generally catching up on each other's lives over the previous thirty years. Brian came to Brisbane in about 1993 on a short trip, calling on past friends, Garney Cook, Kev Walsh, perhaps others. His next visit wasn't until September this year and Brian was clearly on the way out. It was a courageous effort. He was accompanied by Tony Benada, his chairman and all-round good mate of many years and again he called on old friends – again Garney, John Cattell, maybe others. With Tony he had revisited many of the old locations of his Queensland days – his final paying off. Brian died about a month later.

Brian worked for NSW Lands department after leaving the Army and in the early 60s moved to Tasmania and took a surveying appointment with the Tasmanian Lands Department. He married and had a family of two sons and a daughter. His great interest was sailing and when I visited him in the late 80s I noticed a dusty 'Mirror' in his carport. We had that in common, mine at the time not so dusty. But Brian's interest took him further, crewing on blue water yachts with the Derwent Sailing Squadron. His interest in the Squadron led him into being its Commodore over a number of years.

Brian was one of those blokes who impart a special quality to friendship and all those who knew him invariably regarded him as a special friend; in the words of one – a lovely man. Brian was cremated and his ashes dispersed over the Derwent River.

Dave Christie

Readers of our December 2002 Bulletin will have read the personalia jotting telling of Dave Christie's visit to Brisbane with a little on Dave's military career. During that visit Dave expressed optimism that he had beaten the cancer that had afflicted him and that he was feeling great. It is therefore with regret that we now advise that Dave had a sudden downturn in February and died in the Austen Hospital on Tuesday 25th February 2003. It seems appropriate therefore to reprint the following extract from our December Bulletin:

Many would remember Dave from his time with the old Eastern Command Field Survey Unit (later 2 Fd Svy Sqn), the Troop in Vietnam (1966/67), the School and later, the Regiment. Dave had an interesting start to his military career. He served as a National Serviceman in the British Army then joined the Australian Army and served with 'K' Force in Korea. On return to Australia he went to Southern Command as driver and was posted to the Map Depot at Kensington where he had a long association. Dave managed to get on to a Basic Course in the late 50s and that was the start of his career in Survey. Posted initially back to the Map Depot he moved on to E Comd Fd Svy in 1963 and was with the Detachment of the 1st Topographical Survey Troop as a warrant officer when it went to Vietnam in 1966.

Leaving the Corps after 20 years service in 1973, Dave undertook teacher training and a degree in survey related disciplines. He joined the staff of the Caulfield Technical College where he continued until retirement a few years ago.

I particularly remember Dave's service in Vietnam with the Det I Topo Svy Tp (later 'A' Section) from May 66 to May 67 and it has often occurred to me that without Dave we would not have survived that first year as well as we did. In the role of Troop SM he made a lot of things happen in both the locations we occupied within the Task Force HQ area at Nui Dat. Whatever the request, Dave's reply would be 'leave it to me' and it would happen. It may have been loads of sand from Vung Tau to solidify the mud, deep trench latrines, shower block, materials for the construction of huts; in all, Dave had the ability make them happen often far in advance of the priority we might otherwise have enjoyed. I learnt not to

ask questions, just accept. Dave always had a practical solution to problems and at one time came up with a very neat solution for extending coordinates into a remote fire support base. Unfortunately we did not have the opportunity to put it to practice but I included it in a descriptive article in the Army Journal.



Dave at work – Nui Dat 1967

Dave's son Brett attended the launch of *Mapmakers of Fortuna*, the history of the Army Survey Regiment at the City Hall and the dinner at the All Seasons Motel in Bendigo on Friday 27th March and at the barbecue the following day Dave's estranged wife..... and younger sonalso were present.

**OBITUARY – BRIGADIER DONALD MACDONALD AM,
Royal Australian Survey Corps 1936 -1967**
(supplied by Clem Sargent)



Don MacDonald

Brigadier Donald Macdonald AM, doyen of the Royal Australian Survey Corps passed away peacefully in Sydney on 8 February 2003, just seven weeks short of his 93rd birthday. He was one of the two surviving pre-WW II members of the other is Major Harry Raisbeck, his birthday twin.

Don was born at Traralgon in Gippsland on 22 March 1910. He undertook articles as a surveyor on completion of his education at St Patrick's College, Sale; passing the Victorian Surveyors Board examination to become a Registered Surveyor in 1931. In 1935 he responded to an advertisement for surveyors to join the Australian Survey Corps as topographers. He applied and was appointed a WO2 in the Permanent Military Forces in January 1936. After initial military training and training in military topographical surveying, he was posted to No 2 Svy Sect in Victoria.

Don was commissioned in 1939 and in 1941 he was promoted to Major to raise 4 Fd Svy Coy in Western Australia. In March 1942 he transferred to 3 Fd Svy Coy in Victoria as OC and in January 1943 he was appointed AD Svy at HQ 1st Aust Army at Toowoomba, his first of a continuing line of staff postings. Don's next appointment in 1944 was with the United States Army as Assistant Theatre Mapping Officer in the Office of Chief Engineer SWPA which included service in the Philippines. In recognition of his war service Don was Mentioned in Despatches and awarded the United States Medal of Freedom with Bronze Palm.

In the post-war army Don became the AD Svy AHQ in September 1945 and served in that capacity until, on the retirement of Colonel Lawrence Fitzgerald in January 1960, he was promoted Colonel, D Mil Svy at Army Headquarters. During his time as Director the Corps was heavily involved in the completion of the 1:250,000 map coverage of Australia and the commencement of the 1:100,000 mapping of Australia and PNG. Don as director was convinced that the future of the Corps was in part dependent on giving it a wartime role in direct support of military operations. He convinced the Army staff that Survey had such a role and this led to the raising of the 1st Topographical Survey Troop of which A Section was to serve in Vietnam for six years. In a sense this brought the Corps back into the notice of the Army and

became a significant factor in its continuing existence for a further 30 years. The present 1st Topographical Survey Squadron RAE is the successor of that decision.

One of his personal accomplishments was to take the heat out of Army Survey – National Mapping relationships, unfortunately short-lived. He was promoted Brigadier before his retirement in March 1967 and his appointment as the first Colonel Commandant of RA Svy in August of the same year was welcomed by all. In that role he accepted the Freedom of the City of Bendigo bestowed on Army Survey Regiment in 1970 and visited units in the field whenever the opportunity presented. He completed his term as Colonel Commandant in January 1973 but retained his interest and loyalty to the Corps to the very end.

Following retirement from the Army he accepted an appointment as Executive Officer to the Commonwealth Surveyor-General in the Australian Survey Office in Canberra, finally retiring in 1975. During his life as a surveyor he had taken a keen interest in the activities of the wider surveying profession. He was appointed National President of the Institution of surveyors, Australia in 1967. Don was awarded the Medal of the Institution in 1972, for 'his outstanding technical achievements reflecting credit on the surveying profession' and in 1978 he was appointed a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia 'for his exceptional service to land surveying'.

Don Macdonald was a gregarious and happy man. Few of those who attended his dining out of the Corps in 1967, will ever forget him, complete with cigar, leading the 'conga line' around the dining room after the port had been passed. Much respected by his subordinates, he was the most experienced efficient staff officer the Corps ever had.

A Requiem Mass of thanksgiving for the life of Donald Macdonald was held at the Sacred Heart Church, Mosman, on 13 February 2003, followed by burial at North Sydney Cemetery beside his beloved wife, Lucy. The services were attended by his wartime comrades of the Survey Ex-Servicemen's Association of New South Wales. His post-WWII comrades were represented by Jan Park (Lt Payne, WRAAC) and Clem Sargent.

PERSONNALIA and other JOTTINGS

Major Bill Thomson, OC of 1st Topographical Survey Squadron has taken up a new appointment with promotion to Lieutenant Colonel. Bill has been posted to the defence Science and Technology Organisation as the SO1 Advanced Systems and Simulation. In this role he is the senior military officer within the Land Operations Division. **Major Adrian Harding** assumed command of 1 Topo in January 2003

The Association has by letter conveyed to Bill our appreciation for the support he has given us during his two year tour of duty with the Squadron.

RA Survey camaraderie: Byrne Goodrick's vale brings to mind the remarkable 'camaraderie' provided by past service, and especially WW2 service, in the various units of the Survey Corps. Of course the 2/1st stoutly maintains their RAE tradition, that being the banner under which they went to the Middle East although becoming a little blurred towards the end of the war; but anyhow – who cared?

The Corps camaraderie was always apparent at the National Mapping Council despite the acrimonious relationship existing between some directors of National Mapping and the Survey Corps. As well as the Directors of National Mapping and the Survey Corps the National Mapping Council included the Naval Hydrographer and the Surveyors General of all States. At one point during its remarkable existence (1950 – 1986) all but one Surveyor General had seen service in the Survey Corps. It was reported that this obvious fact prompted the Victorian Minister for Lands to comment on meeting the members socially – "Is this some sort of an old-boys club?"

Past membership of the Corps may have been the 'glue' holding this body together and the spirit of cooperation which led to the mapping of Australia at consistent scales and specifications with participation from all agencies over that 36 year period. Especially remarkable when it is reflected that the Council had no legislative basis for its existence at either state or federal level. Perhaps, when that 'glue' disappeared with the retirement of most of the ex-Survey Corps members, it was not surprising that the

Council fell apart and ceased to exist, replaced by a somewhat lesser body.

Ken Shaw writes in his Christmas email that he enjoys our Bulletin and assures that Nance and he are both pretty well and, at least, have their medical and physical problems under control. (Ed – that's about the best most of us oldies can hope for.) Ken goes on to say "I was particularly taken with your description of Project Xylon in New Britain. (Ed – actually it was Project Cutlass the article 'Wannabugbug'.) I was there in Rabaul for 6 months in 1946 as an infantry dig guarding and working Jap POWs. The Beehives, Talili Bay, Tunnel Hill, Matupi Crater and Vulcan brought back a lot of memories."

That's interesting, Ken. Tell us more and how did you finish up in the Survey Corps? Your story please! Ken and Nance sent their best wishes to all for a very merry Xmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Bill Harvey and Philippa are well and truly retired in Canberra but keeping active. Bill served with 1 Fd Svy Sqn in the 70's and was engaged on a number of the major field operations undertaken by the Squadron during that decade. He was awarded an MBE for his efforts in managing the aerodist component of the '75 "Sandy Hill" operation. After leaving the Corps Bill joined the Australian Survey Office as their chief geodetic surveyor, a role for which he was eminently qualified. In his Christmas newsletter Bill alludes to a few health problems that discourage him from undertaking lengthy air flights although Philippa enjoys the occasional overseas trip. Philippa, of course, served in the WRAAC at Fortuna as a cartographic draftsman.

Bill Boyd has been working of late, not at selling bridal wear – mainly to males in Bill's case – but in his previous capacity as a cartographer. Bill says that the work he is doing is 'mapping support' for an environmental consultancy. The work involves adding positional detail to line maps, CAD output and aerial photographic imagery in order to geographically represent a certain situation presented in a report. The reports contain ecological survey data relating to plant life and fauna in a specific area where some sort of development is proposed. Bill

says it is a bit like producing battle map overlays. It's about corporal level Bill thinks – probably appropriate for an old codger!

It's interesting to see what some of our members get up to after leaving the army. Bill spent some years in quality assurance accreditation for survey and mapping firms before turning to the family bridal wear business. Not surprising given Bill's background in progressive editing and 'flexiflow' production planning developed at the Regiment's Bonegilla Det. - **Ed**

Received a letter from **Frank (FEG) Miller** from his Gravelly Beach home in Tasmania. Frank sends his best wishes to all from the 'old Fifth'. Frank wondered if he remained a member of the Association and I can assure you Frank that as a veteran of the 'old Fifth' you will always remain a member. We regard all our WW2 comrades as 'life members'.

In his letter Frank reflected on his post WW2 return to Tasmania. He says:

"My sudden departure from Morotai led to a manpower discharge at Brighton Camp in Tasmania and a return to the Lands and Surveys Department and civilian service; four years in the bush and studying in 'camp' and I received my licence as a Land Surveyor. In time I became a District Surveyor, with no set area and no good relationship with the bosses."

"In 1966 an exit door opened and I became a surveyor with the Public Works Department and Launceston based. I got experience in engineering and enjoyed the extra work and became a District Surveyor again with north east Tasmania as my domain and a splendid boss in Hobart, Chief Surveyor Wally Jones – for a while 5 A.F.S.C."

"In 1984 I was 'paid off' with heart trouble – 1990 brought by-pass surgery in Adelaide and I'm still here enjoying being paid to not-work. On good days I ride my bike for a few kilometres for exercise and pleasure."

P.S. In No! Section was 'Peanut' Dutney (not Putney) the 'Kingaroy Kid'.

From all of us in the RA Survey Association here in the Sunshine State, very best wishes Frank for many more years of cycling – **Ed**

Jeff Senior sent a Christmas card to the Association conveying best wishes to all his 5 Coy mates. Jeff published his personal account of his experiences with 5 Coy and other units in which he served during WW2 entitled 'Grandpa's War Service' an extract of

which was re-produced in our April 2002 issue.

Andy Henry of Glasshouse Mountains has sent in a piece which claims discovery of a new medical condition – Activated Attention Deficit Disorder, or 'AAADD. He writes:

"This is how it goes: I decide to wash the car; I start toward the garage and notice the mail on the table. Ok, I'm going to wash the car .But first I'm going to go through the mail. I lay the car keys down on the desk, discard the junk mail and I notice the garbage bin is full. Ok, I'll just put the bills on my desk and take the garbage bin out, but since I'm going to be near the mailbox anyway, I'll pay these few bills first.

Now, where is my chequebook? Oops, there's only one cheque left. My extra cheques are in my desk. Oh, there's the coke I was drinking. I'm going to look for those cheques. But first I need to put my coke further away from the computer, oh maybe I'll pop it into the fridge to keep it cold for a while.

I head towards the kitchen and my flowers catch my eye, they need some water. I set the coke on the counter and uh oh! There are my glasses. I was looking for them all morning! I'd better put them away first. I fill a container with water and head for the flower pots -- Aaaaaagh! Someone left the TV remote in the kitchen. We'll never think to look in the kitchen tonight when we want to watch television so I'd better put it back in the family room where it belongs. I splash some water into the pots and onto the floor, I throw the remote onto a soft cushion on the sofa and I head back down the hall trying to figure out what it was I was going to do?

End of Day: The car isn't washed, the bills are unpaid, the coke is sitting on the kitchen counter, the flowers are half watered, the chequebook still only has one cheque in it and I can't seem to find my car keys! When I try to figure out how come nothing got done today, I'm baffled because I KNOW I W AS BUSY ALL DA Y LONG! !! I realise this is a serious condition and I'll get help, BUT FIRST I think I'll check my e-mail...

Never mind Andy – we all suffer from that one; but maybe not to the same extent as you! Well...maybe – and you're such a young bloke!

Ed

A newsletter has been received from the **3rd Aust Field Survey Coy (AIF) Association**. Raised in Victoria in January 1941 (located Woodend and Colac) the 3rd moved initially to the old Hamilton Town Hall in Brisbane and then progressively to Port Moresby, New Guinea from April 1942 with sections deployed to Milne Bay and the Ramu Valley. 3 Coy returned to Australia in May 1944 and was based at Atherton until its final demobilisation in 1946. The history of 3 Coy, entitled 'Soldier Surveyors' was published in 1996 by the Association and produced by the Royal Australian Survey Corps. It is a remarkably well researched and detailed history of this fine WW2 survey unit.

The Association was formed shortly after the end of WW2 and like all unit based associations, the members are all in advanced years with numbers rapidly diminishing. But not their enthusiasm as their newsletter attests. There were 45 members marching on Anzac Day 2002 and after the march a lunch with a pint or two was enjoyed at the 'Bull and Bear' – the Association's annual reunion. A \$200 cheque and a copy of their history formed their annual RMIT University award and the newsletter records items about various members including recognition of the 'OBES' (over bloody eighty) and the inevitable 'vales'.

Many of the names mentioned in the newsletter had significant careers in survey after the war but it would be foolish to identify any one such name to the exclusion of others. From our Queensland Branch of the Royal Australian Survey Corps Association, best wishes to the 3 Coy Association for many more well attended Anzac Day marches and reunions.

Brian Mead has taken over the role of Secretary of the Western Australian RA Svy Association. Brian says he enjoys receiving the newsletters from the other State's Corps Associations and enjoyed our Christmas issue with the note on Alex Cairney's family and the critique of Bob McMillan-Kay's Vietnam book. He intends to promulgate the book to WA members of the Association. Brian remembers Bob Kay well both at the School in the late 60s and later at Bendigo.

Brian goes on to say that they have 35 financial members and their regular activities

are Anzac Day, an annual reunion dinner held close to Corps birthday and a low key Christmas function. Their membership is ageing and at 55 Brian is considered a 'young bloke'. They find it hard to attract new members, especially since the demise of the Corps. Those who were still serving in the mid 90s express a mixture of disappointment, frustration and anger which is not conducive to their becoming members of the Association.

Brian is still working in the mapping profession in photogrammetry. He and his wife Annette have lived in Perth for these past 15 years. They have a married daughter Melisa and two grandchildren to dote on. Their son Matthew has his own Pizza business at Applecross and a very active social life. All is well in the Mead household. In conclusion Brian passes on his best wishes to all those familiar names that make up the Queensland Association.

THE NOT SO WELL LIST

John Hook is not so well having had a 'heart turn'. John has undergone by-pass surgery with excellent prognosis. Best wishes John from all you Association comrades.

Noel Clutterback has been not so well. He had a couple of small strokes a while back but older brother Eric tells me he is fine now. Noel was CQMS par-excellence in 1 Sqn for a few years.



1ST TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY SQUADRON

Officer Commanding 1st Topographical Survey Squadron in 2002, Major Bill Thomson has moved to the Defence Science Technology Organisation in Adelaide. Bill left on promotion to Lieutenant Colonel and will be the senior army adviser to Land Operations Division at DSTO.

Major Adrian Harding assumed command in January 2003 with an annual series of direction setting exercises to determine the best way for the squadron to develop in 2003.

CROC 03 is the major exercise for the year and will be a joint USA/Australian exercise. The last two years have been very dynamic and productive and have provided a sound

basis for the Squadron Concept of Operations at the theatre and land command levels..

The squadron is in the process of receiving the Aerial Digital Imagery Acquisition System (ADIAS) from Defence Materiel Organisation. This capability replaces the RC 10 Camera and represents a huge step forward in establishing a reliable and more rapid means for collecting data remotely sensed data.

Receiving this new equipment and integrating it into the squadron's capability will provide an ideal opportunity to test and consolidate our operational procedures for support to the operational and tactical level commander.

The Geomatic community continues to expand with members now entrenched in 4 RAR, the Incident Response Regiment, SASR and Combat Engineer Regiments. Vacancies exist for both Sappers and Corporals in all these units and provides members with the opportunity to work in operational environments.

1 Topo continues to rotate members through East Timor for 3 months; the experience provides real time validation of our operational procedures using the Topographical Operational Support System.

A number of new systems and equipments are being considered for the Squadron, included is a replacement for the Heidelberg Printing Press. Since the demise of both Lithographic Photo and Print as trades, the Squadron has been more reliant on plotters to provide printed maps and products. Options that are being considered are an array of large format plotters to provide a high volume map production capability.

Ex Geo Defender 03

1 Topo Survey Sqn conducted Ex Geo Defender 03 over the period 24 – 28 Mar 03, this being the Sqn's Infantry Minor Tactics (IMT) activity for 2003. The Exercise was conducted within the Canungra Training Area.

The aim of this exercise was to provide valuable experience to the junior soldiers and NCOs by practicing all corps (Infantry) skills, developing teamwork, and developing and

assessing JNCO leadership all in a field environment.

Lead up to the exercise consisted of Battle PT, WTSS (weapons simulation) training, and Range shoots being conducted from January through to March 2003. The exercise commenced with three days of lessons conducted both in the classroom and the barracks environs, before deploying to the Canungra Training Area. Lessons were delivered by Corporals, and included all-corps field training including section formations, contact drills, navigation, first aid and pyrotechnics.

The scenario had 1 Topo Svy Sqn (-) deployed in support of the Joint Task Force. One platoon of 1 Topo Svy Sqn was tasked to provide local area security to JTF HQ for a maximum of one week. 1 Topo Svy Sqn provided sector defence to maintain security for deployed JTF until relieved.

With Army currently deployed on a number of operations, training such as infantry minor tactics is very important to ensure that members are prepared and deployable at short notice, with not only the technical skills, but also the basic soldier skills.

THE AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS' POCKET BOOK – courtesy Kevin Moody

This remarkable little 'red book' contains many items of wisdom. In a section headed 'Things a soldier should know' can be found:

- Shave first thing every morning,
- Don't neglect to write home,
- Eat when hungry and ensure that every mouthful of food is thoroughly masticated before swallowing,
- Keep your bowels open....,
- If possible avoid altogether alcoholic liquor, tobacco and drugs.
- Prolonged exposure to sun may be dangerous to life'
- The Australian officer believes in a fair deal, generous leave and the comfort of his troops.
-and many more.

DARWIN REVISITED

In our December 2002 issue of our Bulletin brief mention of a ceremony conducted at the Darwin Cenotaph to dedicate a plaque to honour the memory and recognise the contribution of the NT based units of the Survey Corps who served in Darwin during World War II. Here is Artie McClure's own account.

"I received an invitation from the Institution of Surveyors to attend the unveiling of a memorial in the form of a commemorative plaque at the Darwin cenotaph, Bicentennial Park on the Esplanade.

I did not hesitate to accept, as it was some 60 years since I was there. So my partner, Anne and I decided to drive up, making it a five week holiday trip, spending time in interesting places, travelling out through Charleville up to Mount Isa and through the Northern Territory. I must mention the NT had the best roads that we travelled on.

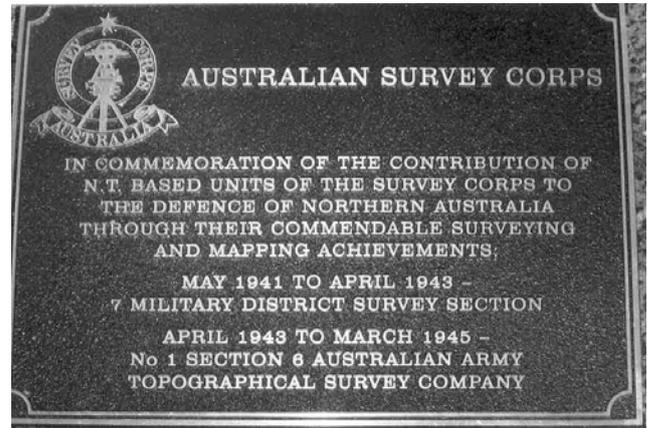
We spent one week in Darwin. Trevor Menzies (Institution of Surveyors) had something arranged for us every day. We saw the patchwork quilt with our names on it hanging on the wall of the Parliament House library¹. We visited old campsites, or where they used to be. We visited the Adelaide River War Cemetery and in seeing the war graves there, realised how lucky we were not to lose any of our members during the air raids.

We returned to Brisbane visiting old campsites on the Atherton Tableland in making the 9,500 km return trip to Caboolture.

So the event brought back many memories of what we were involved in and of our old army mates. Many are no longer with us.

¹ The Darwin Commemorative War Quilt contains about 1600 patches recording nearly 2000 names of people who spent time in the Northern Territory during the war years. Named are civilians, defence personnel, nurses, police, evacuees, Commonwealth & Northern Australia Railway Volunteers, the Civil Construction Corps and various religious groups. The Quilt measures five metres by three. Patches were signed by people who visited Darwin during the Year of Commemoration of the Bombing of Darwin, 1992, or who wrote from interstate or overseas during that year.

*"At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We shall remember them.
Lest we forget."*



The Commemorative Plaque

ONCE WERE RECRUITS – Bob Skitch

The one thing we all share in common, or at least most of us, is our recruit training. Remarkably, it seems better in retrospect than maybe it was. Did we really enjoy our recruit training? Some aspects perhaps. Has it changed much over the years? I understand that it now takes only two months so what has been left out? – and certainly Kapooka is a different place to the one I remember.

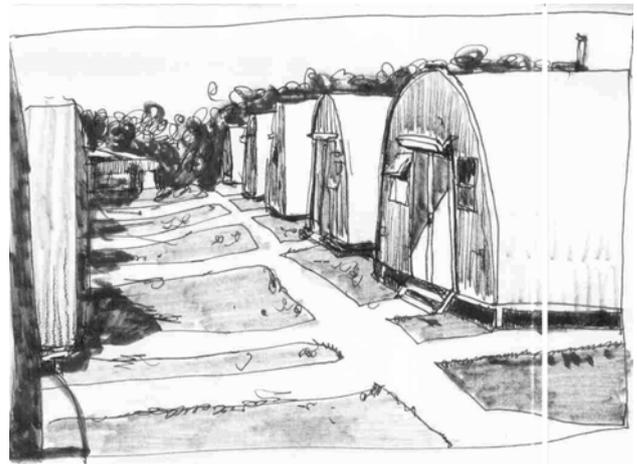
In 1955 quite a swag of us left Perth as 'corps enlisted' recruits destined for 'Survey', all having fallen for Major Frank Buckland's recruiting campaign conducted through the 'Commonwealth Vacancies' column of the Westralian newspaper. Yes, we fell for it and it was some days later that it dawned on us that this involved joining the Army. In that batch of enlistees was George Ullinger and Max Haworth (both Korean vets), Maurie Jecks, John Lambie, Johnny Williamson and before us, Tony Slattery, Jorge Gruszka, Joe Farrington (who saw it as a means of getting back 'east') and others. We were all 'five obliques' (ie, our regimental numbers were 5/1234 indicating a WA enlistee). No slow train east for us important Survey Corps enlisted people – we flew TAA in a DC4 Skymaster overnight to Adelaide (it took all night) and then on to Melbourne in a Viscount. In 1955 one wore one's best clothes when flying – suits were the order of the day!

Arriving at Essendon airport our VIP treatment came to an end. We were issued with tram tickets, destination Royal Park personnel depot and we humped our suitcases out of the airport to the tram stop and then again from Flemington Road up the hill to Royal Park where we remained for two weeks on camp duties. It was my first experience of the 'hurry up and wait' routine. So much for the urgency of joining the 7 of 55 Basic Survey Course. It wasn't entirely wasted, however, I learnt how to convert a pair of blood-red Boots AB into highly polished black ones, how to blanco my gaiters and put them on the correct feet, wear my chinstrap under the point of my chin etc etc. Also we were fully kitted out.

Finally we entrained at Spencer Street on a slow slow troop train (all soldiers aboard) to Albury (no *'Spirit of Progress'* for us) and from there on the oldest train in NSW to Wagga Wagga, arriving in the late afternoon. The station platform at Wagga seemed lined with tough-looking NCOs at 10 metre intervals in immaculate KDs, perfectly blanched belts and gaiters and gleaming brass. Out of the station and onto the backs of trucks for the relatively short journey to Kapooka where we were confronted by guards at the gate and on various installations within the camp area all armed with (of all things) pick helms! From the unwelcoming expression on their faces I got the impression that they would be prepared to use them. I decided then and there that I would maintain a low profile for as long as I remained at Kapooka. So low in fact that some years later I happened to chance on my personal file and noted that my recruit training assessment proclaimed that 'this soldier has no NCO potential'. I think I was a sergeant at that time.

I

Since WW2 Kapooka Camp had been used variously as an immigration centre and an Army training depot, the latter especially during the Korean campaign. It became the 1st Recruit Training Battalion (1RTB – there was a 2RTB over the hill, unused in 1955 and known as 'Silver City') replacing the previous State based recruit training companies. The whole camp comprised rows of Nissen Huts (a sort of water tank cut in half) and divided into six rooms – two recruits to a room.



Club Med – Kapooka style

The partitioning was in single thickness canite board, a material not noted for its structural strength, and lurching against a wall could easily create a man-sized hole into an adjoining room. Each recruit had a bed, mattress, 2 white sheets, one pillow case, a tables personnel (on which it was forbidden to iron but we did), a robes metal single, a cabinet wooden 4 drawer and a chairs metal nesting. Quite luxurious really! Our civilian clothing had to be handed in and was spirited away somewhere; not to be seen until the day we marched out. First lesson given by a platoon sergeant with a voice like a wood rasp was how to fold and store our kit and make our beds hospital style – or was it army style! IRTB was organised along the lines of an infantry battalion into companies and platoons. Sections became training squads and the worst thing that could happen was to be 'back-squaded'. We were assigned to our Company – mine was Baker Company (still using the old WW2 phonetic alphabet), platoon and squad and with that our squad instructor for the first phase of our training – the bull-ring. Mine was a particularly unpleasant up-jump of a corporal, a Scottish exile, who took great delight in subjecting his squad to as much discomfort on the parade ground as he could dream up. Thankfully, our training moved on after that first four weeks of purgatory to weapons training, principally the 303, the Bren and the Owen; only a short time on the latter. Our weapons instructor was a WW2 dig, a corporal and a decent bloke. In fact quite a few of the corporal instructors were WW2 vets, then in their mid thirties or older, some with Korean service. Our weapons lessons were usually carried out under shady trees and rarely got too physical. Of course there was bayonet drill as a form of exercise – in-out-on-guard, the

action vocalised at the top of one's most fierce and snarly voice. The final month of training was fieldcraft where we learnt fire and movement and map reading from a Korean vet, one Corporal Henry – a very smart NCO who managed to get away with a very 'with-it' haircut. Not a bad bloke either! Interspersed with all this were things like grenade practice, the gas chamber where we were given a taste of tear gas locked in total darkness (do they still do that?) and of course the firing range where we fired with the 303 on bulls-eye targets.

If the NCOs weren't bad blokes, I am not so sure about the officers. I don't recall the Baker Company OC, a captain I would presume, but I do recall our one piper platoon commander. I was often fascinated by that single little lozenge on each shoulder that gave him a God-like authority over us all. On morning parade he would invariably find sufficient fault with at least one of our number to award that unfortunate individual extra duties after 'fall out', sufficient to make that individual late for evening mess parade. Of course the very first lesson we *raw* recruits learnt after how to make our beds was how to salute an officer. We had a dispensation from saluting for our first week of training, *raw* recruits being identified by the wearing of a white card stuck into the front of their puggaree. I had to deliver a message to our platoon commander on one occasion late in our training and for some reason I failed to deliver the salute before opening my mouth to deliver the message. From the bellowing ruckus that followed I felt certain that I would be back-squaded, but instead got off lightly by having to salute a tree 100 times after fall-out from training under the somewhat amused gaze of the platoon sergeant.

A further word about the camp itself. The laundry facility within Baker Company's lines comprised two or three 'Fowler Stoves' (wood-fired coppers in other words) located outdoors for boiling one's clobber – provided one could find some firewood – and a shed with concrete troughs and bench space for ironing. Starch for KDs could be purchased from the canteen.



All mod-cons!

The campsite was lightly vegetated with box gums that seemed to shed thousands of leaves – a problem, because the presence of leaves on the gravelly ground between the huts seemed to cause platoon sergeants to go into a state apoplexy. Rake drill was as important as rifle drill.

Kapooka at the time was socially interesting. There was quite a number of Korean vets going through recruit training to join the regular army and a number of these were Kiwis, Maoris that is, and the boozier late at night was often entertained with a rather drunken haka. Ah yes, the boozier! It was a corrugated iron unlined shed without a dirt floor, well compacted with spilt grog. The rule was no shouting. Only two beers could be served to each customer but there was no limit to the number of times you could front up. So the first hour or so in the boozier was spent circulating in the queue with two glasses in hand until one's initial thirst was quenched. The dry canteen had a floor and sold a range of canned food. We never had enough to eat and a few beers would cause the onset of a raging appetite. Cans of steak and onions were a favourite late night snack, heated up on one of the camp boilers, but pity the bloke who marched (or jogged) behind you the following day, especially on those sprints up Mt Pomigilarna on the western side of the camp.

For the first half of my sojourn at Kapooka all local leave had been cancelled because a previous graduating squad had trashed a café in Wagga on their last night in town. We had one escape, however, when the padre took a busload into Wagga one evening to see a religious film. A few managed to avoid the film and visit a nearby pub (not me) and still get the bus back to the camp after the

picture ended. Kapooka had its own cinema – open air where one sat in comfort on lengths of 3 x 2 positioned bum high.

Guard duty came up regularly, overnight and at weekends. It was practice for the orderly officer to select one soldier from the guard squad as his 'stick orderly', that person being the best-turned-out soldier in the squad. I had that rare honour bestowed on me (by mistake my generous colleagues maintained) and I can't remember what duties I had to perform. They were certainly of a minor nature. My squad copped a guard duty over Easter – four days – but we were given a four day break a week or so later. Maurie Jecks, Keith Todd and I and a couple of others managed to get a somewhat scary lift to Melbourne with a WO who had a big old Chev sedan. It broke down somewhere around Seymore. The WO's mate was travelling in a car some distance behind and pulled up to see why we were stopped. We completed the journey at break-neck speed under tow with the two cars joined by a hank of fencing wire purloined from an adjacent fence. Jecksie and I were dropped off at Brunswick where at 2am we managed to get a taxi to the hotel where we had booked for three nights – the Carlyons, opposite Spencer Street station. Our trip back with the same WO was thankfully less eventful.

Another long weekend – Anzac Day I think – took a group of us (Maurie Jecks, George Ullinger, Maxie Haworth and a Kiwi bloke called Brigsie) to Tumut by bus where we stayed at a local pub – where else! Jorge Gruszka and I had a weekend at Albury on another occasion. One of our number was a stocky ex-Korean dig with a very ginger complexion and gingery short-cropped hair – a quiet sort of bloke who said very little but had a gingery temper so I was told. After a skin-full at a pub he went to a local café in Albury to have a feed of steak and eggs. On being asked how many eggs he demanded eleven fried eggs. I have no idea whether he got them but his gingery appearance would not have invited argument.

Our passing out parade was conducted on the grassed oval where it was near impossible to keep in step. We had had a couple of rehearsals in the days preceding under the gaze and bellow of the RSM and gradually mastered the keeping-in-step

problem. Come the actual day of the event and the parade took place with the Commanding Officer on the dais but with one hitch. The RSM in bellowing out an order parted company with his upper and lower dentures. They were propelled from his mouth to take up a position two paces in front of him. With military precision in what appeared to be a practised drill movement he took two paces forward and went as if to ground arms, retrieved the denture and slapped it back into position. Fair dinkum – none of us laughed!!



Recruit training finally came to an end and despite frequent rather frightening comment by the training staff that all we 'survey' recruits were destined for infantry and the Malay Emergency that was on at the time, we all boarded an old army bus that took us to the School of Survey at Balcombe. We had made it!