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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS ASSOCIATION
(WESTERN AUSTRALIA) INC.

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WESTLINK

5th November 2007

COMMITTEE 2007 – 2008

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Fred BROWN

Vice President:

Mike VENN

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Brian MEAD

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Brian FIRNS, Kim JOHNSTONE.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	From the President	Page 3
2.	Our Front Cover	Page 4
3.	From the Editor.....	Page 4
4.	Address by the GOVERNOR GENERAL.....	Page/s 5-7
5.	Address by LTCOL Clem Sargent.....	Page/s 8-9
6.	THE RECEPTION.....	Page 10
7.	Reflections on the Dedication Ceremony.....	Page/s 11-12
8.	ANZAC DAY 2007	Page 13
9.	IMAGES - ANNUAL RE-UNION DINNER / THE RAE WATERLOO DINNER.....	Page 14
10.	THE WESTON'S VISIT.....	Page 15
11.	THE PURPLE BERET.....	Page/s 16-18
12.	BRIDGETOWN, WA – ANZAC DAY 2007.....	Page/s 19-20
13.	WARREN HALL – CITIZEN OF THE YEAR	Page 21
14.	TOODYAY, WA - ANZAC DAY 2007	Page/s 22-23
15.	DARWIN VISIT – AUGUST 2007.....	Page/s 24-27
16.	ABOUT EMUS.....	Page 28-30
17.	MEMBERSHIP	Page 31-32

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Fellow Members,

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the time and effort that our Hon Sec Brian Mead has put into the publication of this edition of Westlink. Brian has put many hours of soliciting, collecting, collating and editing items, even rebuilding his computer... Many thanks Brian!

Whilst handing out bouquets, on behalf of our Association membership, I would like to congratulate Warren Hall on his nomination for Citizen of the Year in Toodyay. Having known Warren for 43 years, I know that he has also displayed strong character traits of consideration and concern for the needs of others, and has always had time to help someone out. Congratulations Warren! I must mention that on one occasion back in the 60's, Warren loaned me his FJ Holden to go out in on a Friday night, more than my own father was prepared to do.

At the request of Brian, I will update you on my activities. My ARA career is ending, with a discharge, or rather, transfer to the Reserve, due early next year. I moved from my last posting with Defence Community Organisation where I was involved in helping ADF members with concerns or problems of almost any kind to resolve those issues.

I now work for ArmySafe Advisory Service (ASAS). We travel to Army bases all around the country, two weeks each month, to carry out Occupational Health & Safety audits. The aim is to ensure that the Unit is a safe and risk-free workplace. So that, should there be an incident or injury, it is treated correctly and investigated if appropriate - to ensure similar incidents/injuries are not repeated.

My travels to interstate bases have recently provided me with some surprises whilst socialising in messes. To date I have run into Beryl Parkinson, Darby Munro and just last week, Peter Raue.

May we all have a happy Festive Season and a healthy and successful 2008.

VALE: CEDRIC AND ERIC CLUTTERBUCK

As we go to publication, it is with a saddened heart that I inform you of the deaths of two of our erstwhile colleagues, brothers Cedric and Eric Clutterbuck. Eric, aged 82, passed away in Royal Perth Hospital at 12.30AM on Saturday 3 Nov 07, and Cedric, aged 87, also in Royal Perth Hospital, passed away at 3.40AM on the same day.

Cedric was a veteran of World War 2, and Eric served in Vietnam. Both of these gentlemen served many years in the Royal Australian Survey Corps, along with their younger brother Noel. They were held in high esteem by all, and were very active supporters of our Association.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Nannette and Jane, and the whole Clutterbuck family.

A more detailed eulogy will be prepared and published in the next edition of WestLink.

Rest in Peace

Fred Brown

Our Front Cover

The Memorial Plaque has been featured on our Front Cover as part of Westlink's coverage of the AWM Dedication Ceremony that took place on Monday 9th July 2007.

Peter Bowen's suggestion of including [locational co-ordinates](#) as part of the text on the Plaque was acknowledged by John Bullen – The Plaque & Ceremony Project Director:

“Thank you very much for your most helpful suggestion a year ago. It is entirely in keeping with the Survey Corps tradition of leaving behind something useful for the future. Your idea was enthusiastically accepted by everyone, Australian War Memorial included.”

So Bravo to Peter Bowen - from all of us.

FROM THE EDITOR

Our Westlink Issue No. 29 is our Association Magazine for the year - 2007. Once again, Westlink is available to Members in both digital (*.pdf) form and as a hard copy printout. Following Kim Weston's visit to Perth, Westlink Issues 24 – 28 have been added to the web site: www.rasurvey.org. It follows that all future Issues will be added to the web site. My intention is to reconstitute the earlier editions of Westlink to pdf digital form, so that they may also be made available for downloading.

Coverage of the Dedication of the Memorial Plaque is the major inclusion within this Issue. Thanks to Dr Bob Williams (DSTO, Edinburgh, SA) and Charlie Watson (Secretary of the Canberra Association) for providing me with digital data and other memorabilia. DVD copies of the coverage of the Ceremony are to be given to all Members. Our WA Association was represented by Bob Bruce, Howard and Coral Jones.

I must pass on my appreciation to the contributors - for this year's magazine.

Thankyou to the following contributors;

Bob Bruce, Ross Smithwick, Warren Hall, Terry Linz, Helen Cole and Cedric Clutterbuck.

Brian Mead



ADDRESS BY

HIS EXCELLENCY MAJOR GENERAL MICHAEL JEFFERY AC CVO MC

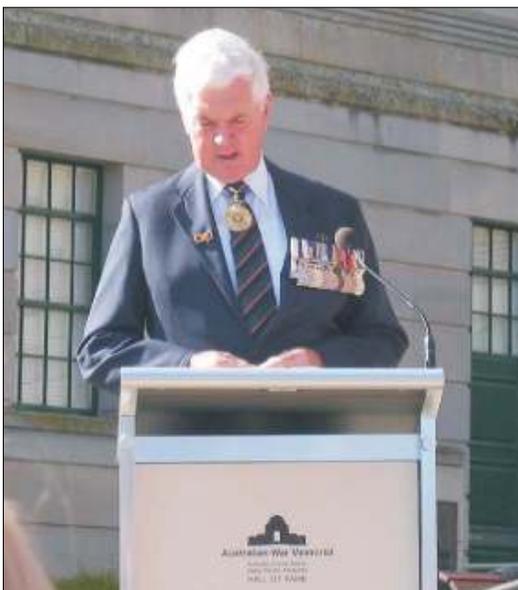
GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

ON THE OCCASION OF

***THE UNVEILING OF A MEMORIAL PLAQUE COMMEMORATING THE
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS UNITS WHICH SERVED IN WAR.***

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL - 9 JULY 2007

- Ms Nola Anderson, Assistant Director National Collections, AWM
- LTCOL Clem Sargent, President, Canberra Survey Corps Assoc and Mrs. Margaret Sargent
- Distinguished guests all
- Ladies and gentlemen



Major General Michael Jeffrey, AC, CVO, MC

As one who has been a frequent user of military maps, it is a great privilege to be here this morning at the Australian War Memorial to unveil the plaque commemorating those Survey Corps Units which served in War.

There is an old saying that Engineers build nations, but surveyors plan the world; and when you look over the proud history of the Royal Australian Survey Corps, you quickly realise this to be true.

Though surveyors played active roles in Colonial Australia, the official origin of the Royal Australian Survey Corps can be found in a report tabled by the Chief of the General Staff, Brigadier Bridges.

This document effectively established a Survey Section within the Royal Australian Engineers in 1910 and, chartered to map the newly federated nation, they began by producing a one-inch to one-mile scale coloured map of Melbourne's Western Port. Its resulting accuracy and quality of production setting the standard for the next 30 years in the industry.

On the 01 July 1915 the Australian Survey Corps was officially raised as a unit of the Permanent Military Forces. The following year, its members were permitted to join the 1st Australian Imperial Force, and immediately deployed to Europe and the Middle East with survey units of the Royal Engineers. The 1st ANZAC Topographical Section was raised in 1917, becoming the first official Australian Survey Corps unit to see active service.

On 01 January 1918 the Topographical Section became the Australian Corps Topographical Section, and was primarily engaged in the frequent updating of the British General Staff maps together with the production of trench maps. Importantly, much work was done in providing position fixes and accurate bearings for the artillery, as well as interpreting the world's first aerial photos of enemy dispositions.

The Topographical Section also made itself particularly useful by developing techniques for rapid response mapping in support of operational plans. This enabled troops going into action to be provided with up-to-date topographic intelligence on enemy defences - a role to be repeated later in World War Two and Vietnam.

Of note, 17 of the 19 original members of the Australian Survey Corps saw active service with the 1st AIF in France, Belgium, Egypt or Palestine; Lieutenant Murray and SGT Stafford being awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for their service.

At the end of the war the members of the Corps were transferred back to the Survey Section, Royal Australian Engineers, and it was not until 1932 that the Corps was re-raised. Like the rest of the post-war Army, it was significantly short of resources and manpower.

At the outset of World War Two, the Corps totalled only 51 members, however this soon increased to 1700. Between 1940 and 1946, a staggering 5500 men were engaged on mapping tasks, publishing more than 1400 different maps of the various operational theatres to which our troops were deployed. An even more compelling statistic is the estimated 75 million maps that passed through the machines of the Cartographic Company between 1942 and 1945 - an astonishing figure.

Australian Survey Corps members saw service in the Middle East, Australia, New Guinea, the Pacific Islands and Borneo. Again, as in World War I, members of the Corps displayed initiative, ingenuity and courage to provide Allied commanders information about the battlefield to a standard not before witnessed.

Besides its central mapping role in the war, it is also noteworthy that the Corps was charged with the production of the 'Instrument of Surrender' documents that effectively brought the end of the war to the Pacific Theatre.

Eight members of the Corps were decorated for service during the war; whilst Lieutenant Noel "Gerry" Owers was honoured in perpetuity with the naming of "Ower's Corner" on the Kokoda Track.

In 1948 the Australian Survey Corps was granted the prefix 'Royal' in recognition of its service during World War Two.

In 1966 the Corps was again called upon to support the Army in operations when the 1st Topographical Survey Troop supported with distinction, the 1st Australian Task Force in Vietnam until 1971.

Its function was somewhat similar to that of Australian Corps Topo Section in World War One, once more providing rapid topographic response where required. Transparent overlays for combat operations and sketch maps for village cordon and search operations were typical of such responses – sometimes with an hour's notice.

And although none of the 140 members who represented the Royal Australian Survey Corps during its 5 ½ year involvement in the Vietnam War were honoured, 1st ATF unit diaries show the respect for the Topo unit of the support is provided as being "better than that enjoyed by any other brigade-sized organisation."

Finally, in acknowledging the tremendous work of Survey units on operations, we must not overlook the gutsy and demanding work of the thousands who played an equally important role in mapping Australia, as well as the island nations to our North and East. These soldiers effectively produced 50% of the entire map coverage of Australia at 1:250 000 and 1:100 000 scale, and achieved complete topographic coverage of Papua New Guinea, including the extraordinary complex task of marking and mapping the PNG / Irian Jaya border.

To quote Lieutenant General John Sanderson, at the integration parade in 1996: "Since 1915 the Survey Corps has not just been a major contributor to the tactical success of the Australian Army in two World Wars and other conflicts, it has played an outstanding role in the building of this nation – the Commonwealth of Australia – and the building of other nations such as Papua New Guinea."

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is both timely and fitting that we commemorate those soldiers of the Royal Australian Survey Corps and in particular those survey units which served in War. Although the Corps is no longer, its legacy provides the ethos, the distinguished history and the enduring sense of high professionalism of our military surveyors of today.

Adapting to the new challenges of the 21st Century, the men and women of the 1st Topographical Squadron in Brisbane continue to provide integral and essential support to our fighting forces and I am very pleased to see the ongoing connection between the Royal Australian Survey Corps Association and the 1st Topo Squadron.

Thankyou

ADDRESS BY

***LTCOL CLEM SARGENT OAM,
PRESIDENT, CANBERRA SURVEY CORPS ASSOCIATION***

YOUR EXCELLENCY, Ms NOLA ANDERSON, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

Sir, -- on behalf of my old comrades, their families and friends I thank you for joining us in the dedication of a plaque to commemorate the service of members of the Royal Australian Survey Corps in two World Wars and in Vietnam.

The Survey Corps won no battle honours, but those who served Did Their Duty – duty which became embedded in the Corps Motto – *“Videre Parare Est”* – To See Is to Prepare – to provide troops going into action with the best topographic intelligence and in peace to produce mapping for the defence of our homeland

You know from your own experience the camaraderie shared by all ranks and their dedication to technical excellence.

In 1996, when RA Svy was disbanded, there was a feeling of disappointment amongst serving and past members of the Corps. Your words, Sir, will rekindle pride in our achievements, -- a pride shared by those we honour to-day, -- a pride which I am sure will be carried on by our successors.

Sir, -- we are honoured and grateful that you have been able to be with us

Ms Nola Anderson,

We thank you and the members of the War Memorial staff who have been involved in the planning and organisation of this ceremony – for the guidance they have given and the patience shown to the Association Representatives who were, perhaps, insistent concerning unit designations, the correct insignia and that these line up to survey specifications, and that the correct symbols for the geographical co-ordinates of the plaque be used. I can only suggest that if they at any time become disoriented in their daily tasks they should visit the plaque and they will know exactly where they stand.

DVA,

We acknowledge also, with thanks, the grant by the Dept of Veterans Affairs which enabled the plaque to be cast.

Band Sgt Maj Hooper

The Survey Corps has never enjoyed much pomp and circumstance but you, and the members of the RMC Band, have made this a memorable occasion for us, and reminded us that we once were soldiers. Thank you all.

Mr. Alistair Crombie, we thank you and the members of the Rugby Choir who have given their time to support us to-day. Australian crowds are not renowned for outdoor choral singing, but I believe, that with your help, we have been able to render fitting tributes to our God and to our Nation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The members of the Royal Australian Survey Corps Associations thank you for sharing this dedication with us.



LTCOL Clem Sargent and the Governor General unveil the Plaque.

The Reception



Plenty of finger food and conversation.



Pick the “familiar faces”

Images supplied by Howard P. Jones – RA Survey Corps Association WA.

Reflections on the Dedication Ceremony

by
Bob Bruce



Bob Bruce – 1965

I was an attendee of the Dedication of the Commemorative Plaque to recognise the sacrifice and service of the members of Survey Corps Units – (All Wars). The Ceremony was held at the Western Courtyard of the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, on the 9th July of this year. I would briefly like to report to fellow members – how privileged I was to be there, not only to absorb the significance of the occasion, but also to catch up with some familiar faces.

For sure!! We certainly cannot attend every function going around. In my case it was a heaven sent opportunity to visit my eldest son, his wife and the grandchildren and see some of the sites of Canberra. Of note was my visit to the George W. Lambert (noted Australian artist and sculptor) retrospective exhibition at the National Gallery of Australia. On my way back to the West, I was able to visit some old friends from my Fortuna days and some relatives in Melbourne.

Perhaps I should mention some of the people that I spoke to whilst attending the Dedication Ceremony. Evan Giri, Clem and Margaret Sargent, Reg Smith, John and Joy Hillier, Rocky Camps, Lloyd Patterson, the Reverend Garry Kenny (the Chaplain), Charlie and Barbara Watson, Gary Warnest, John Bullen, Bill and Jan Black, Don Swiney, Bob Skitch, Don Ridge, Steve Maconnachi's daughter Marianne Cuskelly, Stuart Symonds, Alex Munro, Peter Bates-Brownsword – there may be others whom I hope will forgive me for not remembering them at this time.

It was a lovely day - crisp but sunny - a large crowd, that was seated. The Governor General Michael Jeffery gave his usual warm touch, with the Royal Military Band and the Australian Rugby Choir in attendance. With the Reverend Gary Kenny as the Officiating Chaplain, it was all very well organised.

After the Ceremony, we were invited inside for refreshments. Later I was introduced to the Governor General and told him that I was at Swanbourne as a National Serviceman in 1956. He of course served there at a later date with SAS, with more distinction than what I could imagine. I am glad that I went, but was equally glad to get back home. *“Esprit de Corps”* and the *“purple blood”* is one thing, but you cannot beat your own bed.

If it is possible for those, who have not been fortunate enough to visit the Australian War Memorial at Canberra – please do so if you can. It will no doubt provide them with plenty of thoughts to reflect upon, by the time they come to leave. It is certainly hallowed ground and we have all been honoured - to now have our own RA Survey Corps Plaque in this place.

Below: *A recent photo of Bob Bruce (right) with Malcolm Taylor the co-owner of the Wooroloo Post Office, holding a scale model of the old Wooroloo Post Office. Scale modelling is one of Bob's passions.*



Editor's Note:

Bob Bruce served in the RA Survey Corps for 9 years, between 1956 - 1965. He was posted to Lithographic Squadron, AHQ Survey Regt and employed as a plate maker. After leaving the Army, Bob returned to Perth and worked for the Independent Newspapers Group, the Sunday Times Organisation, plus some other smaller firms.

Later in life, Bob tried his hand at market gardening in the northern Perth suburb of Gwelup, before moving in retirement to the country township of Wooroloo. A few years ago Bob moved again - to the WA southern country town of Narrogin – as he says Albert Facey country – “A Fortunate Life” and that suits him fine.

Anzac Day – 2007

The “official” photo opportunity at Langley Park, following the conclusion of the Perth Anzac Day March. Cadet Corporal Scott Tuna and Cadet Corporal Timothy Mills, from the Madeley Air Force Cadet Unit, carried our Association Banner during the March.



*L-R: Gus Bottrell, Fred Brown, Kim Johnstone, Chris Dixon, Peter Bowen, Howard Jones, Brian Mead, Mike Venn, Phil Bray, Leo Clifford, Cliff Webb and Frank Lenane.
Front: Doug Bath.*

After participating in the Anzac Day Religious Service at Langley Park, Members again enjoyed the hospitality of the OC and Members of 13 Fd Sqn, RAE at Karrakatta Barracks. Following lunch, the AGM was conducted and Office Bearers elected for 2007-2008. Office Bearers Details - are displayed on page 32.

Annual Dinner – 2007

Highlight of the Evening – the attendance of Life Member Cedric Clutterbuck.



L-R: Cedric Clutterbuck, Helen Cole, Neville Cole and Nanette Clutterbuck.

RAE Waterloo Dinner – 2007



L-R: Leon Griffiths, Fred Brown and Brian Mead.

The Weston's Visit

by
Brian Mead

During August 2007, Kim and Faye Weston found their way to Perth as part of their "Australian Tour". A nostalgic visit for Kim - as he was able to seek out places of interest from his time, as a young soldier, on posting to the Western Command Field Survey Unit. A rendezvous at the Mead residence enabled the Westons to catch up with old friends Barry Parker and Brian Firms. Mike Venn and Kim Johnstone called by as well.



Standing at Rear: *Brian Mead, Faye Weston, and Kim Weston.*
Seated at Front: *Kim Johnstone, Barry Parker and Brian Firms.*

Whilst enjoying some cold refreshment and finger food, Kim, as webmaster, took the opportunity to explain the future directions of the web site: www.rasurvey.org and obtained digital copies of Issues 24 – 28 of Westlink. Old Unit photo albums were of special interest, as well as some "gems" brought along by Brian Firms, *circa Balcombe 1962.*

On leaving Perth, Kim and Faye moved on to Kalgoorlie. From there, they planned to head north and visit various mining sites and places of historical significance.

The Purple Beret

by

**Ross Smithwick – Treasurer
RA Svy Corps Association (QLD Branch)**



Abstract: *The “Purple Beret” was instigated by the Queensland Association. The preference for a beret, instead of a “cap”, arose as their Members felt the need for a more formal headdress – on such occasions as Anzac Day. Ross Smithwick volunteered to take on the historical research and liaison required in the production of the “Beret”.*

Pictured: *Ross Smithwick – Anzac Day 2007, Brisbane. QLD.*

Our Association originally had 100 berets (Mark 1) made through Christie's of Sydney. We still don't know what went wrong with the colour, but the final decision was not to accept them, although the colour was acceptable to most members who saw the beret in the "flesh". Personally, I was extremely disappointed, as Christie's had been provided with a swatch (1962 Shoulder Flash with the embroidery picked off by my wife).

Our Corps was one three that did not have a British Colour Council (BCC) code for its colour, purple in our case. This is verified by the Army Dress Manual of 1963 (see included summary – next page). The whole process would have been simple if we could have specified a code.



There is a fair variation in the Colour Patches from WWII (see adjacent image), so there was no firm basis to support using the colour of a patch from this period.

*2ND AIF – Australian Survey Corps
(AIF Personnel), 1943 - 1949*

Army Dress Manual 1963				
Lanyard				
Corps	Colour	BCC*		
Royal Australian Engineers	Blue-black	50		
Royal Australian Survey Corps	Purple	n/a		
Royal Australian Corps of Signals	Royal Blue	197		
Royal Australian Army Chaplains' Department	No details shown for RAA Ch D			

* Colours in terms of the British Colour Council standard code numbers as applicable

Shoulder Titles - Embroidered		
Corps	Background	Lettering
Royal Australian Engineers	Red	Blue
Royal Australian Survey Corps	Purple	White
Royal Australian Corps of Signals	Royal Blue	White
Royal Australian Army Chaplains' Department	Purple	White

Mess Jackets

Corps	Body	Collar	Shoulder Strap	Cuffs
Royal Australian Engineers	Scarlet (209)	Blue-black (50)	Scarlet (209)	Blue-black (50)
Royal Australian Survey Corps	Scarlet (209)	Purple No comparable BCC shade**	Purple	Purple
Royal Australian Corps of Signals	Scarlet (209)	Light Purple (180)	Light Purple (180)	Light Purple (180)
Royal Australian Army Chaplains' Department	Blue-black (50)	Purple No comparable BCC shade**	Purple	Purple

** Where no number is shown, there is no comparable BCC shade, & the colour is to be that of samples held at headquarters of commands.



The 1962 Shoulder Flash was chosen as the colour for the beret. The colour of the flash from its introduction to its demise was consistent & closet to the colour of the Colour Patch of the 1st ANZAC Topographical Section (1st AIF).

The AWM hold one of these very rare Colour Patches (RELAWM07941.058). In the end, the swatch sent to us by Christie's for approval matched the AWM Colour Patch. The AWM confirmation email and attached image that was sent to us is quoted as follows:

Confirmation Email:

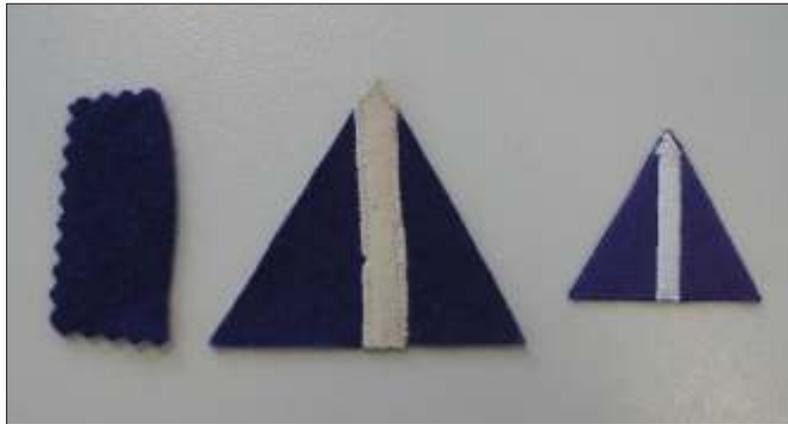
Hello Ross,

I have attached several photographs which compare the colours of your range of patches and the Memorial's First World War colour patch of 1 Anzac Topographical Section, RELAWM07941.058. I would say that the fabric swatch is a perfect match to the Memorial's colour patch. The new colour patch that you sent is a much lighter purple while the two shoulder titles are much darker.

I hope these images are of assistance to you.

Kind regards,

*Danielle Cassar
Assistant Curator
Military Heraldry and
Technology
Australian War
Memorial*



Christies Swatch, WWI Survey Patch, Colour Patch - 1 Topo Svy Sqn, RAE

In summary, the maker in NZ would not do a remake unless Christie's ordered 300. To keep faith with "we stand ready to take the berets that were recently produced and remake the berets with sample produced prior bulk production for colour match approval at no further cost to the Association". Christie's had 300 made & replaced our 100 with the Mark 2 ones.

As the Ex-Fortuna Association expressed interest in the berets last year, our Association is going to provide berets to their members at a cost of \$30, which includes postage & handling. I reckon that between members of the QLD Branch & the Ex-Fortuna Association, the 100 berets will be close to being sold before next ANZAC Day - this being my forecast.

Editors Comment:

Members of the WA RA Survey Association have responded enthusiastically to the "Purple Beret" and a bulk purchase from Christies has been undertaken.

Bridgetown, WA – ANZAC DAY 2007

by

Terry Linz – Secretary Bridgetown, RSL

Bridgetown had a special Anzac Day this year. The RSL decided to dedicate the ceremony to the Bridgetown men who did not return from WW1.

In 2006 we received a CD from a Mr. Jerry Van de Ham in Holland - the CD contained information of the 46 men on our WW1 Roll of Honour. Jerry had no real connection with Bridgetown but spent a couple of years working in Perth and he used to tour the South West on his motor bike. As an ex-serviceman and like many Europeans, he had a special interest in War Memorials. One particular day, Jerry was taking photos of our Cenotaph and struck up a conversation with a local, whose uncle - Bertram Thomas Hill - was killed somewhere in Europe but the family had no idea where he lay.

Jerry told him he was returning to Holland soon and would try and locate the grave site. With the help of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission he eventually tracked down the headstone, photographed it and along with photos of the cemetery, he passed them onto the Family in Bridgetown.



**5034 Private Bertram Thomas Hill - 48TH BN AUSTRALIAN INF
FRANCE 744 AIF Burial Ground Grass Lane Flers**

Jerry then decided to try and locate all the 46 men and it took him over 20 years (not full time of course) but he did it. All the sites were photographed and the records from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) were collected and stored on a CD. We in turn with the Shire tried to track down any living relative and notified them of the ceremony. We produced certificates showing:

- Jerry's grave site photographs.
- The details of the whereabouts of the grave site.
- Details of the soldier's next of kin.

Jerry and his family intended to visit WA for a holiday coinciding with Anzac Day, but tragically he passed away with a brain tumor last November. In the case of the relatives that we were unable to locate - their certificates are being held by the local schools. The day turned out a great success. A permanent display was placed in the Town hall with the story of Jerry and his work - plus details of the 46 men.



*Bridgetown Memorial Park – ANZAC DAY 2007.
Relatives pictured - holding their Certificates.
Bridgetown, WA*

Editors Note: Terry Linz's work with the DVA sponsored "Men in Sheds Program", was featured in Westlink, Issue 27, dated 29 December 2005.

WARREN HALL

Toodyay - 2006 Citizen of the Year Nomination

The text of Warren's Nomination is quoted from The TOODYAY HERALD, Volume 244, dated Feb 2007.



“Warren Hall was nominated in recognition of his contributions to the community. He has been an active member of the Toodyay RSL Sub Branch, Julimar Bush Fire Brigade, Toodyay Lions and the Toodyay Masonic Lodge.

AS Welfare Officer for the RSL, Warren usually visits elderly RSL Members who are in poor health and often runs a variety of errands for them. Listed on the Julimar Bush Fire Brigade Roster, Warren is always seen participating in fundraising events and helping to further establish the brigade's facilities.

Warren is an active contributor and volunteer to the Toodyay community through events - like the Avon Descent, Toodyay Show, Christmas Street Party and the Lions Auction.

Warren is also involved in the Music Festival, Moondyne Festival, International Food Festival and is a volunteer driver for Silver Chain.”

Warren – Proudly displaying his Certificate of Nomination.

Toodyay, WA – ANZAC DAY 2007

*As told by
Warren Hall*

Anzac Day - 2007 in Toodyay began with a Lions Club “Gun Fire” Breakfast at 0500 hrs, which catered for about 100 local town people. Courtesy of a one off - \$500 grant from the Federal Government, the normal fare of toast, jam and coffee was extended to bacon, eggs and rolls. It felt like the local RSL was feeding the whole town. Warren said “Word will pass around and next year 500 might turn up – could be interesting when the RSL needs to find another \$500!!”



Warren Hall – Parade Commander

By mid-morning, those participating in the Anzac Day March began to assemble in Stirling Terrace – the main street of Toodyay. Six years ago, Warren took over the position as Parade Commander from a former RSL Member, who wished to retire. At 1030 am, the Commander Warren Hall called those assembled to order - prior to the commencement of the 1km march to the Cenotaph Memorial in Anzac Road.

The Order of the March was as follows:

- Pipers and Drums.
- Local RSL Members.
- Volunteer Fire Brigade.
- Emergency Services.
- Emergency Service Cadets from the Toodyay District High School.
- CWA - together with Former Army Nurses.

At 1100 am, there was a flyover by the RAAF, from the Pearce Air Force Base to coincide with the arrival of those marching at the Memorial. At 1130, a Religious Service began. Letters from soldiers at the WW1 Western Front were read as part of the Service and all those present, were left with a feeling of sadness – the cost and tragedy of War.

By mid-day the fellowship moved to the Toodyay Club – the Official Building for the RSL in Toodyay. Lunch was provided and refreshments offered at the bar. The Pipers played a selection of tunes, with the locals singing along. By mid-afternoon, the crowd had begun to drift away.

Below: Commander Warren Hall inspects the Emergency Service Cadets - as part of the Anzac Day Service, at Toodyay District High School.



Editors Comment:

Warren Hall served for 20 years in the RA Survey Corps. As a Carto-Tech he served at Army Survey Regiment and in 5 Field Survey Squadron.

DARWIN VISIT AUGUST 2007

by

HELEN COLE – nee Clutterbuck

During August, Neville and I had a visit to Darwin and the beautiful scenic spots of Kakadu, Katherine and Lichfield. We also visited many of the military sites in the Northern Territory.

Whilst walking through Bicentennial Park which overlooks the Harbour, we read the memorial plaques. I found one commemorating the contribution of the Survey Corps to the defence of Northern Australia through their commendable surveying and mapping achievements 1941-1945. Also in the Park is a Cenotaph which is Darwin's memorial to the armed forces, rescue services and civilian personnel who gave their lives during conflict.



***AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS MEMORIAL PLAQUE
BICENTENNIAL PARK - DARWIN***

A highlight of our visit to Darwin was our visit to the Robertson Barracks built 10 years ago. The Barracks were named after my grand mother's brother – Lt General Sir Horace Robertson [1894-1960]. Lt General Sir Horace Robertson served in three wars, played a leading role in formation of the Australian Armoured Corps and distinguished himself as Commander-in-Chief British Commonwealth Occupation Force, Japan.



Lt General Sir Horace Robertson

I would like to thank Fred Brown for his kind assistance in giving us the contact of Major Simmons to arrange the visit. Major Simmons met us at the gate of the Barracks and drove us around pointing out much of interest, including the new helicopters. We then visited the Administration Building and met Brigadier Orme. We had our photos taken beside a portrait of Uncle Horace. There is a plaque pertaining to his military history beside the portrait. We also were shown books and photos relating to Uncle Horace's war service.

We then visited the Officer's Mess where there is a portrait of Uncle Horace donated by his nephew Bruce Robertson and Pauline Alder [Robertson] who reside in Sydney. We took photos to show the family as they have been unable to visit the Barracks.

Following our visit to Robertson Barracks my husband and I visited Coonawarra Army Barracks. My husband lived there as child. His father who was in the navy was stationed there following WW11.

One afternoon we visited Charles Darwin National Park which is part of the network of military sites established during WW11. The site includes an interpretive display outlining Darwin's role in the Pacific War.



Coastal Defence Gun - East Point Military Museum

Another visit was to the East Point Military Museum. The Museum tells the story of the destruction of the massive air raids that lasted almost 2 years. It is housed in the original command post used during WW11 to plan strategy for the defence of the top end.

We saw weapons, photographs and equipment used during the war- Aviation, Navy and Army exhibits. We also watched a video showing the Darwin air raids. This Museum is run by volunteers.



The Entrance - Adelaide River War Cemetery

On our way back from Katherine, we visited Adelaide River [112 kms south of Darwin on the Stuart Highway]. From 1939 the township became a huge military base – a hospital, army camp and thousands of personnel were stationed there.

Following the bombing of Darwin in 1942 both the Australian and American military headquarters were relocated to Adelaide River. The town also has a war cemetery site. Other military sites to visit are the WW11 storage tunnels, Strauss Airstrip [65 kms south of Darwin on the Stuart Highway] and the Australian Aviator Heritage Museum.

As you can see by our time spent in the Northern Territory there is much to see and do. We did see many scenic spots but I have concentrated on the military history as I thought this would be of interest. I hope I have encouraged others to visit this fascinating area of Australia.



Helen and Neville Cole - at the Robertson Barracks Entrance

Editor's Note: ***Helen Cole is the daughter of Cedric and Nanette Clutterbuck.***

About Emus

by
Cedric Clutterbuck

Background:

In 1932 emus were so bad near Northampton, Western Australia, that the Army was ordered to take Military action against the birds. Major Meredith with several soldiers, Lewis gun and 10,000 rounds of ammo, fought a battle lasting eight days and local farmers claim they only got one emu. For this the Major was awarded the O.B.E., One Bloody Emu.

Whenever I hear or read about that 'Great Emu War' (see next page) , I'm reminded of the following: During the early part of World War II, we were camped in an abandoned farmhouse out of Morawa, W.A. with No. 1 Sec., 4 Fd Svy Coy.

One morning, a mob of about a dozen emus was noticed in a paddock some distance from the house. One of the boys decided to have a shot at them with his .303 but wasn't too sure of the distance, so we got out one of the range-finders and came up with 1200 yards. So our 'bloke' with the rifle set his sights at 1200 yards and 'let go'. Two of the birds dropped and the rest scattered a short distance and then came back to see what was wrong with their mates.

We jumped into an Army ute and went over to see the two emus lying on the ground, the others having gone by this time, and on close examination, found that the one shot had got them both thru the neck. Not bad from 1200 yards. Unfortunately, the boys like Gordon Hadwigger, Ian Grosvenor and Snow Simpson are no longer around to back me up on this, anyhow we reckoned our marksman was wasting his time in a Survey Unit and should get a transfer to the 'PBI'.

So, the final score:

Survey; one bullet, two emus.

Maj Meridith's mob; ten thousand bullets, one emu.

You'd better believe it!

THE EMU WAR

Internet Reference: <http://www.cane-toad.org/emuwar.htm>
(Reproduced from GEO Magazine)



Following the long hot summer of 1932, wild emus in the Murchison district of Western Australia went on the rampage in search of food and water - much to the chagrin of local farmers who feared for their crops. In a bid to stop the advancing emus along the rabbit-proof fence farmers enlisted the help of the army. Armed with Lewis machine guns and 10,000 rounds, a party, led by Major Meredith of the Royal Australian Artillery, was sent to the Campion district where it was estimated 20,000 emus were causing damage.

However, due to the abundance of food the emus were gathered in small groups, most of which were outnumbered by the 50 settlers who had turned out to meet Major Meredith and his men. A group of 40 emus was sighted and beaters were sent to herd them into firing range. At a distance of 1,000 metres the first burst of fire landed short, with the second killing about a dozen birds as they raced for the cover of trees.

In an attempt to improve its tally the army party resorted to ambush tactics. Later the same afternoon the guns were set up at a dam. Close to sundown, as 100 birds approached to within 100 metres, again the gunners opened fire. The birds scattered and dispersed, so much so that further shooting was pointless.

The following day a similar strategy was employed in a paddock where emus had caused widespread damage. This time a flock of more than 1,000 headed for water and the waiting guns. Again the birds ran off, their escape aided by the jamming of one of the machine guns. Onlookers were surprised by the emus' ability to sustain injury and keep running.

Major Meredith was quoted as saying: "If we had a military division with the bullet-carrying capacity of these birds it would face any army in the world. They could face machine guns with the invulnerability of tanks. They are like Zulus...."

.....

Less than a week after the "Emu War" had begun the Defence Minister of the day, George Pearce, ordered a withdrawal. The action prompted debate in the House of Representatives, which included the following comments:

Mr Thorby (NSW): *"Who is responsible for the farce of hunting emus with machine guns mounted on lorries? Is the Defence Department meeting the cost?"*

Prime Minister Lyons: *"I have been told the Defence Department will not be paying the bill."*

Mr James (NSW): *"Is a medal to be struck for this war?"*

.....

Editors Comment:

Upon reading the account of the "The Emu War", one might form the opinion that Major Meredith was indeed a "turkey".

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