
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS
ASSOCIATION
Queensland Branch

BULLETIN

MID YEAR EDITION

JUNE 2000

CORPS BIRTHDAY DINNER

To celebrate the 85th anniversary of the formation of the Australian Survey Corps, the Colonel Alex Laing Memorial Dinner will again be held at the United Service Club, this year in the evening of Thursday 29th June 2000. (We are beating the GST) The Royal Room has been booked. Timing is 1900 for 1930. Bring your partner and join your comrades in this pleasant, less than formal, regimental occasion. Dress for gentlemen is lounge suit and 'after five' for ladies. Total cost per person is in the vicinity of \$50.00.

Please advise Bob Skitch of your attendance by phone (3265 1370), email (bobskitch@mail.com) or by letter before Monday 19th June 2000.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Our Association (Queensland Branch) has been without a patron since the death of Alex Yeates, our past patron of many years. It is with pleasure that I can now advise that your committee at its last meeting moved to request **Ed Anderson** to accept the appointment of patron. Ed has kindly accepted.*

Welcome to our second bulletin for the year 2000 which, at the moment, is mainly due to the efforts of the editor and a small band of helpers

Our aim is to let you know what is happening with our members, where they are going and what they are doing. We can only do that if you communicate with us; just drop a line or telephone Bob, Mary-Ann or me. Our contact numbers are elsewhere in this bulletin.

This year was the 85th anniversary of the first Anzac Day and with the 25th April falling immediately after Easter Monday I did not expect to see so many people out to watch the march. However, it was an eye-opener to see a record number of people there to celebrate and remember with their families.

Anybody who served with Survey or Engineer units at any time or in any place can join in and march behind the Association banner. I look forward to seeing many more next year behind the banner and the 'old theodolite'.

Peter Bates-Brownsword

EDITOR'S NOTE

This Mid-Year issue of our Bulletin has less content but hopefully of no less interest. Increasingly the content will reflect the interests of our post WW2 members – hardly surprising since that great event is now fifty five years in the past and the majority of our members were born during what we still call the 'post-war years'. Of course, contributions from our WW2 members are more than welcome because these are truly inspirational.

This issue introduces Vietnam by way of reflections and background. Some 150 Survey Corps personnel served with the 1st Topographical Survey Troop over a period of five and a half years and many would have a story to tell. **Bob Skitch**

COMMITTEE	
<i>Patron</i>	Lieutenant Colonel EU (Ed) Anderson (Ret) MBE
President	Peter Bates-Brownsword (Ph 3289 7001)
Past President	Jim Houston (Ph 3351 4952)
Vice President	Bob Skitch (Ph 3265 1370)
Secretary	Mary-Ann Thiselton (Ph 3353 1026)
Treasurer	Stan Campbell (Ph 3285 3970)
Assistant Secretary	Barry Lutwyche Membership Records (Ph 3264 2191)
Functions Member	Alex Cairney (Anzac Day, Reunion) (Ph 3397 7583)
Bulletin Editor	Bob Skitch (Ph 3265 1370)
Member – Tpt to Reunion	Grant Small (Ph 3203 2287, Mob 0412 991 438)
WW2 Veteran Member	Hal Jones (Ph 3395 1404)
Squadron Liaison	Jim Gill (Ph 3264 1597)
Note: Refer Veteran's Affairs matters to Peter Bates Brownsword and Stan Campbell	

Correction

In the last issue of this Bulletin I incorrectly ascribed the initiative for the appointment of the late Princess of Wales as our Colonel in Chief to Alex Laing during his period of Directorship. Clem Sargent from Canberra assures me that it was Colonel John Hillier who took the steps to have the Princess so appointed. So be it, and apologies to NRJ.

Bob Skitch

THE GAYTHORNE RSL

Are you thinking of becoming a member of the RSL? The Gaythorne RSL provides a great service to your Association in the form of meeting rooms for your Committee, space to carry out post-outs and, of course, a venue for our annual reunion. Tea, coffee, biscuits or cake are provided at no cost on each occasion. The Club facilities are excellent. Gaythorne is a Club that truly supports the ex-serviceman. The cost is modest.

ADVERTISING

At the last meeting of your Committee it was decided to provide free advertising for members in this Bulletin. The motivation for this is partly to inform our membership of the business or even hobby interests of the member placing the advertisement and also to attract business to his/her enterprise. This could be valuable where a member has recently left the service and is setting up. Such advertisements might be placed at any convenient spot within the Bulletin at the editor's discretion.

LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH DRINKS

The next monthly meeting for a few friendly drinks will again be held at the Brook Hotel due to the ongoing renovations at the Alderley Arms Hotel.
Present last week: Tony Gee, Bruce Gorden, John Bateman, Fitzy, Derek Stanmore, Hopsey, Rock Thiselton and Perry Burt.

COMING EVENTS

- Thursday 29th June – Corps Dinner at the United Service Club
- Saturday 2nd September – Annual Reunion at the Gaythorne RSL

Advertisement – Inserted for Mary-Ann Thistelton

THE HAIR BOUTIQUE
ASPLEY'S LEADING HAIRDRESSERS
3263 5843
 1379 Gympie Road, Aspley
Proprietor: Sandra Stanmore

‘We choose our hairdressers as carefully as you choose yours’

ANZAC DAY 2000
Reported by Jim Gill

Our parade back a few years

Editor's Note

'Something to distinguish our Survey Sappers' we were promised in the Anzac Day notice in our last Bulletin. It is a secret no longer. It was a theodolite of course – a magnificent old vernier instrument on its cedar legged tripod, borrowed from the Museum of Surveying and Mapping, curtesy of Curator Bill Kitson. Carried in front of the banner it attracted the attention of the television cameras and gave the commentators something to talk about. A more polished version of the same instrument is to become a regular feature of our parade, not necessarily carried by Bob Skitch whose shoulder has only just recovered from the experience.

This year saw ANZAC Day form part of an extended break of five days – following on from the Easter holiday period. This unfortunately had the effect of reducing the number (but never the quality) of our participants in the march.

Although our numbers were down from last year, there were some very pleasing surprises to be had as we 'gathered for the fray. Jock Kay was a very welcome sight – the last time the writer saw him was when serving together in the 1st Field Survey Squadron almost a quarter of a century ago. Another special participant in our throng was Julian Kelly. Julian is the grandson of Michael (Ned) Kelly, well known to older members.

As in past years the march gave us the opportunity to catch up with some good

mates in the form of Jimmy Beard, John Foxwell and Bob Allen. Although these fellows march with their former battalions and 'BATTERY' – Jim's a bit hard of hearing – they always find time to catch up for a chat and/or an ale. This year the former chief clerk of the Regiment, Phil Brookes, swelled our ranks. Phil is a regular and welcome sight on Anzac Day.

One of the most pleasing aspects of this year's march was the support given by the 1st Topographical Survey Squadron RAE. Each year members of the Squadron have volunteered to carry the Association banner and on this occasion four members gave their time to march with us. Our special thanks are extended to Sgt Steve Jones, Cpl Ivan Parsons, Cpl Hamish Goetz and Cpl Terry Malone. (truth of the matter is that some of these blokes have been marching as part of our contingent longer than some of our members)

Those marching were, Ed Anderson, Percy Long, Tony Gee, Julian Kelly, Peter Bates-Brownward, Bob Skitch, Jim Gill, Phil Brookes, Jock Kay, Barry Lutwyche and Alex Cairney. Jim Gill had the honour this year of leading the Association contingent. A new innovation to the parade was the theodolite carried by Bob Skitch.

As in past years the crowd thronging the streets of Brisbane was outstanding – even greater than in previous years. Their enthusiastic response to the marchers was sustained throughout the whole of the parade, some two and a half hours past a point. Those gathered in Creek Street were treated to some heculean feats of strength from our banner bearers, Ivan Parsons and Terry Malone, as wind gusts shearing off building faces billowed our banner out like a Ragamuffin mainsail! The situation was saved by Steve and Hamish rushing in to forestall the near tragedy amid much cheering and clapping from the crowd.

The banner has now been layed up at the Squadron for another year. Although it is some eleven months before we again form up behind it, I strongly urge all of you to give serious consideration to participation in next year's Anzac day march. The feeling of

pride and accomplishment cannot be put into words – come and experience it for yourself.

Editor's End-note: Bob Skitch, Alex Cairney, Perc Long, Jock Kay and a friend of Jock accepted the invitation of the Sappers Association to join them for an after parade beer and a barbecue at the Jubilee Hotel. We had a warm welcome from their president; the beer was good and the BBQ satisfying.

Alex Cairney with Derek Chambers and Ian Campbell – Anzac Parade 1997

VIETNAM

A Memorial to Ian Campbell

President's Note: Ian Campbell died early this year after a long illness. Ian had been classified as TPI as a result of Vietnam service with the 1st Topographical Survey Troop. He was dedicated to the cause of Vietnam Veterans and the travails that many of them suffered in the years since. A couple of years ago Ian wrote some reflections on the Troop but at that time the Bulletin did not eventuate. However, with the recent service of the 1st Topographical Survey Squadron in East Timor, we thought it appropriate to publish Ian's article as a memorial to Ian. Some amendments of fact have been carried out and with additional paragraphs to provide background and continuity.

Preface (by Peter Bates-Brownsword)

During the Vietnam conflict the Royal Australian Corps was represented by a detachment of 1st Topographical Survey Troop, later designated 'A' Section, comprising one officer and sixteen other ranks (later two officers and 20 other ranks) affectionately known as 'the Troop'. The Detachment was deployed in support of the 1st Australian Task Force in May 1966 and located for a short while at Vung Tau in the

Phouc Tuy Province, moving with the Task Force HQ to Nui Dat in June. It remained there until withdrawn in October 1971. As there was standard series mapping of US origin covering the Australian area of operations, the roles of the unit were to provide intimate rapid response surveying and mapping support to the Task Force and to hold and issue maps.

Although equipped to meet a mobile role, the static employment of the section enabled it to provide a better service, producing, often overnight, sketch maps, patrol maps, large scale village maps and map overlays to accompany HQ 1 ATF operational orders. Initially these were provided in dyeline form, but the inadequacy of the dyeline process quickly became apparent and screen-printing equipment was deployed from Australia to the theatre. Larger print runs were carried out on US Army map printing presses at Long Binh and Na Trang and at times by the South Vietnamese Army mapping unit in Saigon. The existing 1:50,000 topographic map coverage, which bore little resemblance to features on the ground, was progressively revised to produce an updated enlargement series at 1:25,000 scale. This and other less urgent production runs were expeditiously carried out by the Army Survey Regiment at Bendigo.

The field surveyors operated in close cooperation with artillery survey to extend the theatre grid throughout Phouc Tuy Province. In its first year of operation all artillery batteries, Australian, US and South Vietnamese, were connected to theatre grid. For this purpose five artillery surveyors from the divisional locating battery were allocated to the Troop part way through its first year of operation. Draughtsmen and printers were sufficiently cross-trained to assist in field operations, acting as bookers and light keepers.

In their own role, cartographers and screen printers, demonstrated that they too were capable of meeting theatre operational demands. The versatility and resourcefulness of the Troop was exemplified when a national serviceman constructed a process camera with only the

lens of an epidiascope to begin with. The capability to reduce and enlarge material widened the range of products offered to the Task Force. The level of support given by this small unit, in which 150 RA Svy personnel served during its five and a half years of deployment in Vietnam, was better than that enjoyed by any other brigade sized unit.

REFLECTIONS ON VIETNAM AND AFTER – as seen by Ian Campbell
(with additional information provided by Bob Skitch)

***Presentation of Nui Dat photograph to
Deputy Commissioner of Veteran's Affairs –
8 June 1994
Ian Campbell, Maj R Coote, DC Vet Affairs***

On its redeployment to Australia, A Section was re-united with its other half, the training component, B Section 1st Topographical Survey Troop, and reformed as 1st Division Topographical Survey Troop and allotted in support of 1st Division in Brisbane. After reductions to the Australian Defence Force in the late seventies it became HQ 1st Division Survey Section.

The Royal Australian Survey Corps played a small but significant part in the Vietnam conflict providing mapping support as well as many other tasks to the 1st Australian Task Force. The Australian Task Force was part of the 'Free World Forces', principally United States but including a contingent from the Republic of Korea (South Korea). The Australian area of operations was the Province of Phuoc Tuy, lying north of the coastal city and special area of Vung Tau,

an important seaport and one time holiday resort. A continuing responsibility of 1 ATF was that of securing and maintaining secure the trunk road from Vung Tau to the major US bases north of Saigon, Long Binh and Binh Hoa. The build-up of 1 ATF took place on the back beach at Vung Tau. 1st Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR), from 1965 to 1966 had been deployed on airfield protection at Bien Hoa and it was given the task of securing an area north of the Phuoc Tuy provincial capital, Baria, as the Task Force base. That location became known as Nui Dat after the small but prominent hill feature on its northern perimeter. There the Task Force remained for the duration of the campaign. (Nui Dat means 'small hill' in Vietnamese)

On the 27 May 1966 some 19 Survey Corps personnel under the command of Captain R.F. (Bob) Skitch arrived at Vung Tau and in the sand of the back beach commenced immediately the production of a map enlargement of the Nui Dat location from a 1:25,000 photomap with contours taken the published 1:50,000 topographical map of US origin. The enlargement was drawn on cartridge paper in normal map colours using a combination of pantograph and gridding techniques with materials and equipment borrowed from the Task Force Intelligence Unit. Sergeant Dave King and Sapper Ron Smith (a national serviceman) executed this first task and the result was very creditable. Other similar tasks followed and it is true to say that the Detachment contributed significantly to the final layout of the 1ATF HQ area at Nui Dat.

After fourteen days and following the arrival of unit stores on the HMAS Sydney, and 6 RAR, the Detachment moved forward to Nui Dat (the 'Dat' as it became known). Initially the Detachment was integrated with the Task Force Headquarters, however, after a heavy mortar attack some four months later, dispersal became the order of the day and Captain Skitch chose a location on rising ground at the eastern end of Ingleburn Avenue which was to remain the Detachment's location for the ensuing six years. (Real estate within the perimeter became as highly valued as choice spots on the Gold Coast today. That the Det had

a choice location could not be disputed and at the time was heavily contested by the OC of the Task Force Signals Squadron, Major Peter Mudd. Possession proved to be nine points of the law and the Det remained in situ)

Ian tells – “on the 18 of August in an area to the south of the then destroyed village of ‘Xa Long Tan’ in the ‘Courtney Rubber Plantation’ a patrol from D Coy 6 RAR engaged a large enemy force, subsequently shown to be North Vietnamese regulars, and in the ensuing battle 17 members of ‘D’ Coy and 1 APC crew were killed. Enemy losses by body count were 245 resulting from the withering artillery fire in the darkness following the initial contact. On that particular day soldiers of the Det assisted in ferrying 105mm howitzer shells to our artillery batteries”.

Ian Campbell reflects that “a year later the Government of the day proclaimed the 18th August Vietnam Day, to be the day that Vietnam Veterans remember (like their predecessors before them) the Fallen, the Wounded, the Comrades, but most of all the ‘Australian Spirit’ which prevails in times of need when men and women of our great country are called to serve and keep the Anzac tradition alive”.

During the period (66-72) 143 personnel served with the 1st Topographical Survey Troop under the commands of R.F. (Bob) Skitch (66-67), A.W. (Alex) Laing (67-68), .E. (John) Bullen (68-69), E.P. (Peter) Constantine (Jan 69-Dec 69), K.J. (Ken) Lyons (69-70), P.R. (Peter) Eddy (70-71) and C.W. (Charlie) Watson.

Vietnam was not a popular war and the diggers returning to Australia from that theatre were not applauded. Mostly they arrived back in civilian clothes and crept back into the society from whence they came with orders to report to a personnel depot within fourteen days for discharge. From the jungles of Vietnam and into the bosom of their families within 24 hours! Many carried with them experiences they could never confide to those closest to them. Even the RSL was distainful – Vietnam was not a real war. Those of us who returned to military units were more fortunate.

Ian continues – “in 1987 a belated welcome home parade was staged in Sydney with the catch cry ‘TOGETHER ONCE, TOGETHER AGAIN’. In 1988 in Melbourne, an International Reunion with the further catch cry ‘THE TIDE IS TURNING’, and the belated welcome culminated some three years later in 1991 with a third and final reunion in Brisbane, this with the catch cry ‘PROUD AUSTRALIANS’. This was held over three days from Friday 16 August to Sunday 18 August. On the Friday evening the Rt Hon, the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, James Soorley held a civic reception at the Town Hall for representatives of the various armed services and corps of the Army. 1 Topo Svy Tp was well represented”.

Our resident cartoonist, banner maker extraordinaire and Life Member of our Association, Hal Jones made the survey banner for the reunion. The Troop representatives presented the Lord Mayor with a beautifully framed under glass copy of a John Allcott painting of a Merchant Navy Ship the S.S. ‘City of Brisbane’ along with the then just released book called ‘Vietnam Remembered’ which lists every unit and every person who served in Vietnam. As it was in alphabetical order A Section, 1st Topographical Survey Troop with the 143 names of the members who served was ‘First Cab off the Rank’ so to speak (a very fitting honour, don’t you think Survey Corps members?).

On the Saturday there was a well attended march through the streets of Brisbane followed by an open air concert at the Botanical Gardens featuring the likes of Normie Rowe, John Schumann, Barry Crocker just to name a few. On the Sunday there was a morning church service at St John’s Cathedral followed by a wreath laying ceremony at the Vietnam Memorial, Anzac Square, after which an 6 RAR ‘beat the retreat’ the main parade ground at Enoggera Military Barracks, thus bringing to a close a long and eventful weekend for all personnel who served in Vietnam, their family and friends and the public alike. Truly a fitting tribute from the City of Brisbane.

OBITUARY– DEREK CHAMBERS

Our last Bulletin advised the sad death of our friend and colleague Derek Chambers on Sunday 9th April 2000. Derek's funeral at the Albany Creek Crematorium attracted a large attendance of past members of the Royal Australian Survey Corps and other who had served with him. It was obvious that Derek had made many friends both during his army service and since then, and from the very fine spoken eulogies at his service, his family was close and loving.

Derek was born on 5th August 1946 and enlisted in the Australian Regular Army soon after leaving school on the 11th November 1963. He attended the Basic Survey Course at Balcombe in 1964. His course colleagues included Bob Mills, John Sharver and Chris Dahlberg. Derek's first operational posting was to the Eastern Command Field Survey Unit based at Randwick, Sydney and throughout 1965 he served on mapping operations within NSW. Derek had been 'shadow posted' against the Divisional Topographical Survey Squadron (a paper based unit assigned to several of the Army's cold-war contingency plans and commanded by Captain Keith Todd). With the deployment of 1RAR to Vietnam in 1965, it became obvious that the Survey Corps needed something more than a 'shadow manned paper based' unit to meet its overseas contingency commitments. This saw the raising of the 1st Topographical Survey Troop in late 1965 with actual troops on the ground. Derek Chambers was posted against the strength of the Troop and loaned back to the field survey unit and at the time it seemed to Derek unlikely that his employment would change too radically. However, change it did when, with the assignment of the 1st Task Force (later 1 ATF) to an escalating conflict in South Vietnam, a detachment of the Troop was placed in the order of battle of the Task Force.

In February 1966, the Troop, fortuitously, had undertaken DP1 training at Old Holdsworthy. Thus, in April 1965 when the Vietnam Detachment undertook its three weeks battle efficiency training at the

Jungle Warfare Centre, Canungra, it was well conditioned. Following pre-em leave, which Derek took in Brisbane, the Detachment, left for Vietnam from Richmond RAAF base on Thursday 26th May 1966.

Derek served with distinction throughout his 12 month tour of duty in Vietnam.

On return to Australia Derek was again posted to Eastern Command. In that year he became engaged to Lorraine Wyatt whom he married on 30th December 1967. (Alex Cairney conjectures that they may have been 'childhood sweethearts' from way back, but then Alex is a romantic old devil!)

Derek, now a corporal, was posted to the Northern Command Field Survey Unit (soon after, 1st Field Survey Squadron) in June 1969 and from there he served on survey operations in Papua New Guinea (then the Territory of ...) and in North Queensland. These were all heavy years for the units of the Royal Australian Survey Corps with major field operations taking place in PNG, Indonesia (from 1970) and, of course, the Australian mainland. With promotion to sergeant, in October 1978 Derek was posted to the 4th Field Survey Squadron in Adelaide.

At the rank of staff sergeant, Derek returned to Brisbane for discharge after 20 years of excellent service to his Corps and country. Derek took employment in the insurance industry until his health finally caused him to retire from that in 1999.

Derek is survived by his wife Lorraine and his children Michelle, Grant and Kerryn.

Derek with John Hook and Bob Skitch at one of our reunions

KEITH TODD – a recollection by Bob Skitch

Keith passed away earlier this year, finally losing the battle with cancer of the lung. Since final retirement from the Queensland Public Service, Keith and Gloria have lived at Caloundra in a house that Keith extensively renovated, turning a relatively modest house into a very comfortable home. In remission for some twelve months, Keith spent time with his computer, scanning his collection of photographs and generally putting to record his experiences from army days and since.

Keith and I were contemporaries in the Survey Corps. Together we went through recruit training at Kapooka in 1955. There was one difference, however, Keith joined the Corps as a licensed surveyor with the conferred rank of sergeant. Despite this, in recruit training he was Recruit Todd and few in his training squad were aware of his hidden rank. All was revealed when he was charged with others with some offence (I have forgotten what – but rest assured, it was minor) and while the other miscreants simply fronted the Company OC to be awarded a week's CB, Keith had to be marched up the hill with a sergeant escort to front the CO and receive a reprimand. In recruit training, all would be forgiven on marching out!

On marching out of Kapooka to the School of Survey at Balcombe Keith was able to display his rank and become Sergeant Todd. I recall that Keith did one or two short courses, photogrammetry I think, perhaps a Sergeant's qualifying course, before being posted to the Southern Command Field Survey Section. I pursued my basic course and didn't see Keith again until we were both posted to the AHQ Topographic Squadron (later to join the AHQ Survey Regiment) to undertake Project Cutlass, the mapping survey of New Ireland.

I worked for a number of months under Keith who was in charge of one of the traversing parties, running a chain and theodolite traverse from Kavieng to Namatanai, a distance of 265 miles, a long

and arduous job. It had its compensations. Our base was above a fast flowing stream adjacent to the village of Fangalawa and following a hard day on the traverse a plunge into the stream's remarkably cold water was reviving. (This activity proceeded with caution when it was reported that a crocodile had taken a village woman upstream from where we bathed). Seafood was plentiful and we sometimes dined on crabs and lobsters until we could eat no more. The traverse was measured in catenary, in both imperial measure and metric measure and the converted comparison had to be better than 1 part in 10,000. It mostly was although an occasional re-measure had to be undertaken. Azimuth was controlled by star observations at 10 mile intervals. Keith demanded and achieved high standards and this was a mark of Keith's career in the Corps.

I recall that Keith left New Ireland shortly after the completion of his sector of the traverse, although he spent some weeks on the computation and adjustment of the major loop closures involving countless legs of chain and theodolite and 'shore-ship' traverse – all by hand with eight figure natural trig functions and Brunsviga hand operated calculators.

On leave in Brisbane following the completion of Project Cutlass (1957 I think, or it may have been 1958) I ran into Keith in one of Brisbane's arcades, in uniform and wearing two pips. Keith had been through the rigours of the School of Infantry and the Tactics and Administration Courses (Tac & Adm – known as a 'Knife and Fork' course). Also he had married Gloria and together they were preparing to move to Singapore to take the Australian appointment with the 84th Survey Squadron, Royal Engineers. Keith was assigned to field duties and I am aware that he spent quite a bit of his Singapore tour on control surveys in Sarawak, North Borneo. Keith and Gloria would have returned to Australia in about 1961 and I am not very clear on the unit he was posted to, Central Command perhaps until 1965.

Late in 1965 I was posted to Eastern Command (Randwick) to in effect take over from Keith the 'shadow manned' Divisional Topographical Survey Squadron (displaced by the 1st Topographical Survey Troop). Keith had been 2IC to Bob Hammett in the Eastern Command Field Survey Unit and was to attend the Army Staff College in 1966, the first Survey officer to do so. Following Staff College, Keith had a non-corps staff appointment for two years in G Branch Army Headquarters and returned to the Corps in 1969, this time to the Regiment as OC Cartographic Squadron. Kevin Walsh was his 2IC and speaks well of his time in that appointment. So does Pud Wellins – a thorough gentleman was Pud's comment).

In 1972 Keith was posted to the 1st Field Survey Squadron, Brisbane, as its Officer Commanding. Never far from field survey, the Squadron in 1972 and 1973 undertook major field survey operations for 1:100,000 mapping control, based on Normanton and Cooktown. Many of our Association members remaining in Queensland would have served on those operations. At that stage, field operations were becoming very large indeed, often with 100 personnel deployed, most of whom were non-survey support personnel, engineers and aviation.

I took over from Keith in January 1975, or more specifically, Andy Strachan who had been administering command for a year. Keith had decided to call it a day in 1974 and after taking his accumulated furlough credits and having completed twenty years service, he left the army in 1975 and entered the private sector in survey practice, specialising in photogrammetry and cartography. Keith was associated with his brother Bob Todd who had had a large survey practice at Mount Isa over a number of years, later moving to Caboolture. In about 1983, after some ill health, Keith took a staff surveyor position in the Department of Mapping and Surveying (later, Department of Geographic Information), finally retiring in about 1989.

Keith Todd as a surveyor was a perfectionist. He was not an easy person to work for and yet those of us who did, learnt

a great deal. His wit was quick and his sense of humour, sharp, but if you could match it, you had Keith's respect. Above all, he appreciated the honest person and if you were that, Keith was a good boss. I greatly regret his passing.

Keith is survived by his wife, Gloria, three sons and two daughters.

THE HUMOUR OF HAL JONES

Hal feels that he is not able to contribute cartoons and wise humour any longer, however we have much from past issues of our Bulletin which remains fresh. Perhaps it reflects the ethos of WW2 and the way the Army was. Remember the Bluey and Curley cartoon strips of the war and post war years? Hal had 'Stanley' and of, the wisdom of Halee Jones.

Halee Jones.....he say:

- *Only one sure way to handle a women – but nobody knows what it is!*
- *Man who let little success go to his head, he find plenty of room for it there!*
- *Man, he getting old, when gleam in his eye is only sun striking his bi-focals!*
- *Waiting for your ships to come in – it good way of missing the boat!*
- *Always borrow from a pessimest – the never expect it back!*

Stanley is on page 10

POSTSCRIPT

It can be confirmed that at its last meeting your Committee passed a resolution to honour the memory of **Derek Chambers** by offering to the 1st Topographical Survey Squadron a prize in the form of a \$50.00 book voucher to be awarded to a young soldier (Sapper, Corporal or recently promoted Sergeant) who has made the most significant contribution to the *esprit de corps* of the Squadron during the preceding 12 months. The prize is to be called 'The Derek Chambers Prize for *Espirit de Corps*'.

THE HUMOUR OF HAL JONES continued

Stanley the Surveyor Soldier has trouble at home