

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS
ASSOCIATION
Queensland Branch



BULLETIN

PO Box 5784 Stafford Heights 4053
www.rasurvey.org

REUNION EDITION – No 31

AUGUST 2007

FORTH-COMING EVENTS



REUNION AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Saturday 1st September 2007

Our **traditional reunion** event will take place in the **Lighthouse Room at the Gaythorne RSL**. Bar opens at 11.30 am with lunch served at 12.30 pm. The AGM will follow lunch. The cost is \$30.00 per person for a two course dinner with tasty nibbles served before the meal. The Association is meeting the cost of beverages.

RSVP Barry Lutwyche on 07 3264 2191 (Mobile 0414 740 672) before 24 August 2007. Annual subscription of \$10.00 can be paid at the door. Especially we want to see our WW2 veterans. **Transport** can be arranged for those who may need it. Simply tell Barry of your need.

Sunday the 11th November 2007 is a very special day. Yes – it is Remembrance Day but it is also the day for the unveiling and dedication of our memorial plaque at the Kilcoy RSL honouring the members of 5 Field Survey Company who trained on the Kilcoy Showground for seventy days in September 1940 finishing with a march through the centre of Kilcoy, an event still remembered by some. A brief history of that WW2 unit is on page 10 of this Bulletin.

CALENDAR FOR 2007

1 Sept (Saturday)	Reunion Lunch and AGM at the Gaythorne RSL
October (TBA)	Military Mapmakers Dinner at Enoggera
11 Nov (Sunday)	Unveiling and Dedication of 1/5 Fd Svy Coy Memorial Plaque at Kilcoy
November (TBA)	Derek Chambers Award presentation at 1 Topo.

VALE – It is with sadness that we advise that our oldest WW2 veteran, **Andrew Thomas (Andy) Steen** passed away peacefully at the Eventide Home on the night of Monday 30th July 2007 at the age of 101 years. Andy had developed a malignant brain tumour but despite this he remained as articulate and interested as he always was. Andy is survived by his wife Doris children Dale and Wendy and grandchildren Leanne and David and great grand children Hanna, Emma, Shane and Clare. (Full obituary on page 7.

The Derek Chambers Award for 2006 went to Spr Glenn Jeffs of 1 Topographical Survey Squadron. Unfortunately I failed to get a comprehensive report of this important event in 2006. - Ed

The Royal Australian Survey Corps Association (Queensland) acknowledges the generous sponsorship and support of **Pioneer Surveys Pty Ltd**

COMMITTEE

Patron	Lieutenant Colonel EU Anderson MBE (Ph 3408 9179)
President	Peter Bates-Brownsword (Ph 3289 7001)
Vice President	Alex Cairney (Ph 3397 7583)
Secretary	Barry Lutwyche (3264 2191)
Treasurer	Ross Smithwick (Ph 3356 5786)
Asst Treasurer	Mary-Ann Thiselton (Ph 3353 1026)
Functions & Sqn Liaison	John Hook (Ph 3354 2680)
Bulletin Editor & Historian	Bob Skitch (Ph 3265 1370)
North Coast member	Kym Weston (Ph 5445 6927; mob 0427 377 226)
North Queensland member	Dennis Gregor (Ph mob 0409 648 026)
Welfare	Jim Gill (Ph 3264 1597)
Auditor	Stan Campbell (Ph 3285 3970)
Squadron OC	Major David Sapparth
Squadron SSM	WO1 Peter Coles (Ph 3332 7564)

For email addresses refer to website www.rasurvey.org

Note: Refer Veteran's Affairs matters to Peter Bates-Brownsword and Stan Campbell

OUR HISTORY PROJECT – What did we do over all those years – 1946- 1996?

I continue to canvass support for this worthwhile project. Our collective memory can fill in many gaps but it is fading with the passing of years. It is ten years since the disbandment of the Corps we as individuals served, the Corps that gave such outstanding service to our nation for eighty-one years. We need to record what each of the units did over the fifty years following the end of WW2. It really is a simple exercise. I have had responses from Clem Sargent, Noel Sproles, John Bullen, Charlie Watson, Alex Cairney, Percy Long, Richard Jackson-Hope, Ted Laker, Ross McMillan, Barry Lutwyche, Kym Weston, Graeme Baker, Arthur Hensen and Roger Rees in Defence (DIGO) The major gap area is after 1980. The following is the preferred format but I am just as happy to receive your input listed down the page – pen and ink is OK. Please give this matter some thought. Every bit helpsAlternatively, you can enter your data on our website – www.rasurvey.org

YR	UNIT	OPERATION PROJECT	DURATION	LOCATION	NATURE OF WORK UNDERTAKEN	PERSONS TAKING PART	OTHER INFORMATION
1956	N Cmd Fd Svy Sect	No name	On-going	Qld – Macrossan, Charters Towers,	Control for 1" to 1 mile mapping - 4th order triangulation, Intersection, resection, (plane table) baro heighting	Capt EU (Ed) Anderson OC, WO2 Blue Hunter, Sgts Snow Ralston, Jeff Lambert, Garney Cook, Cpls Ted Miller, Geoff Helsham, Sprs Sam Chambers, Brian Berkery, Bob Skitch.	Arrived May at Macrossan. Sect had not returned to Brisbane since sometime in 1955. Xmas in the field.....

NOTICES

VIETNAM – A TECHNICAL TOUR by Bob McMillan-Kay.

Copies can be obtained from Bob McMillan-Kay at a cost of \$36.00 including postage. We commend this highly successful book of Bob's Vietnam experience. Bob's address is 14 March Lane, Maryborough, Qld, 4650.

ASSOCIATION BADGE

Association badges are still available from the Ex-Fortuna Survey Association. Place your orders with **Barry Lutwyche** and we will try to satisfy them.

MAPMAKERS OF FORTUNA

Copies may be purchased from the Ex-Fortuna Survey Association (PO Box 865 Bendigo 3552) at \$60.00 plus postage of \$11.50 which includes cost of a padded postal bag.

ASSOCIATION TIE or SCARF

Cost is \$20.00 and \$7.00 postage for each. We suggest you place your order directly with the Ex Fortuna Association, Tracey Phillips, email phipsys@bigpond.com or phone Barry Lutwyche.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS

PLAQUE: The Ex-Fortuna Association has purchased some of the original RA Svy plaques. These are available from Ex-Fortuna Secretary Tracey Phillips, 03 5442 0263; 03 5449 6330 (AH); email phipsys@bigpond.com. Price on application.

RA SURVEY ASSOCIATION PLAQUE

Magna Carto advises that the plaque has been finished and is ready for distribution. The final design incorporates the three badges overlapping, the theodolite badge of pre-WW2, the wartime colour patch and the Post WW2 RA Svy badge. The cost of the plaque is \$50.00 plus postage. Place orders with our Secretary, Barry Lutwyche.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2006 – 2007

'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 Sept to Sept. Subscription is but \$10.00 per year. We encourage you to pay three years in advance (or more if you wish). Subscription is waived for veterans 75 and over who have been standing paid-up members of our Association. **Pay-time was at the AGM 2 Sept 06 – but it is not too late now!**

LAST FRIDAYS

Last Fridays continue at the Gaythorne RSL with increasing patronage. Pop along and have a beer or a softie with your mates.

ARMY COMBAT BADGE (ACB)

Reference: Defence Instruction (Army) PERS 119-1 - Army Combat Badge (see www.army.gov.au/PUBS/downloads/ap119_01.pdf)

The Association has recently been made aware of an Army decision to institute an Army Combat Badge (ACB) to recognise any member who has served for a specified period of time in warlike operations or situations. The ACB does not replace the Infantry Combat Badge. The specified period of time is generally either continuous or an aggregate of 90 days service.

Warlike operations are defined as service in an operational area that has been declared warlike for the purposes of the award of the Australian Active Service Medal. Eligibility for the ACB is retrospective to 1948 and includes

Malaya, Korea, Malay/Thai border, Malaysia, Borneo and South Vietnam campaigns.

To meet eligibility criteria, a member would need to have been "force assigned to an infantry, armour, artillery, aviation or combat engineer based combat team/battle group or similar unit/sub-unit". Annex D to the Reference lists units for qualifying service since 1948.

The Reference provides some scope for soldiers that served in units other than those listed at Annex D to apply for the ACB if they feel they meet the eligibility requirements. Each of these applications will be considered on their merit prior to making any recommendation for their approval. The Reference also details the application procedure for ex-serving soldiers, 1989 onwards.

In the case of ex-service soldiers, pre 1989, the responsibility for reviewing entitlements prior to recommending issue of the ACB was given to respective Heads of Corps (HOC). Corps Associations have been requested to provide respective HOC (in our case RAE) with a list of eligible persons for endorsement. HOC are to endorse the list and forward to DGPERS-A. (The Association's word supported by a record of service will be sufficient for HOC to recommend the application. Where doubt exists HOC will seek clarity through CARO – this would be the exception rather than the rule).

DGPERS-A approves the list and dispatches ACBs to the Corps Association for distribution to eligible members.

The ACB is a dress embellishment, not an award, hence approval and distribution remains an Army responsibility.

The Association has been requested to submit a single nominal roll of applicants providing those details listed at Annex C to the Reference. For Vietnam veterans a copy of the member's record from the Nominal Roll of Vietnam Veterans (www.vietnamroll.gov.au) will be accepted as sufficient evidence of service.

The information provided above is a brief summary only. Association members who believe they may have an entitlement are advised to read the Reference to ascertain eligibility before proceeding with enquiries or applications.

Recipients are requested to assist in disseminating this brief to those without email addresses.

Barry Lutwyche – Secretary
Royal Australian Survey Corps Association

A RA SURVEY PLAQUE IN PNG

Bob Skitch advises that progress on this worthwhile project is slow. Fortunately we have two very interested and supportive groups in Port Moresby – the RSL and the Association of Surveyors PNG – however, the name of the game in dealing with PNG is ‘patience’. Specific permission from the PNG Government is required and Bob has sent two letters to the PNG Minister responsible for events requesting this but no reply so far. The RSL person (who is reputedly of considerable influence) with whom Bob is corresponding has unfortunately fallen ill and is recovering in Australia. He advises that all decision making in the PNG Government goes into abeyance once an election is called and nothing happens until the outcome is fully determined. So... we wait for further advice...patiently! The NSW Association has raised a substantial sum of dollars for the project and Bob says that is really great.

COLONEL ALEX LAING MEMORIAL DINNER – Thursday 28 June 2007

Given the number of nomadic types touring our great continent at this time of year we had a good role-up. Again we were in the Royal Room of the United Service Club for an excellent meal, fine beverages and great camaraderie. The menu comprised an entrée of coconut prawns, a main course of char-grilled sirloin and a desert of white chocolate cheese cake.

We had planned to hold the dinner this year on Friday the 6th July (Fridays preferred by our members) but to avoid a clash with the RA Svy Plaque dedication event in Canberra on Monday the 9th July we brought our dinner forward a week. The dinner followed our usual format; Peter Bates-Brownsword welcomed members and called on Roger Rees to sat Grace; then after the passing of the port the Loyal Toast by Colin Moorhead, the toast to honour the memory of the late Colonel in Chief

of the Royal Australian Survey Corps, Diana the Princess of Wales by Peter Osterhage, the toast to the Corps by Grant Small with response by Barry Lutwyche and finally the toast to departed comrades and absent friends given by Alex Cairney. Our icon theodolite was centre piece on the top table.

With us on this occasion was Dennis and Elaine Gregor. Dennis, a past member of the Corps and now heading our sponsoring firm, Pioneer Surveys, was presented with the newly re-created Royal Australian Survey Corps Plaque. (Photos in Photo Gallery)

Roll Call:

Peter and Barbara Bates-Brownsword
Bob and Wendy Skitch
Alex Cairney
Barry Lutwyche and son Stephen
Colin and Ailsa Moorhead
Peter and Dell Osterhage
Grant and Beth Small
Jock Kay and Chris Sparrow
Roger and Effie Rees (from Canberra)
Ross and Darelle Smithwick
Dennis and Elaine Gregor
Adrian Creedy and daughter Alison

Apologies were received from:

Dawn Laing – Dawn had planned a trip to Brisbane but a build-up of commitments in Canberra including a funeral on the day forced her to cancel the trip.
Stan and Helen Campbell
Blue and Irene Blasket
Kym and Faye Weston
Tony and Loretta Gee

Vales with a minutes silence were observed for:

Warren Chadwick
Jim Reneker.

THE CANBERRA EVENT

The dedication of the Commemorative Plaque to recognize the sacrifice and service of the members of the Survey Corps Units in the Western Courtyard of the Australian War Memorial was an outstanding event with 147 attending including official guests.

The Plaque reads:

UNITS OF THE
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS
MILITARY MAPMAKERS TO AUSTRALIA

FIRST WORLD WAR
AUSTRALIAN CORPS TOPOGRAPHICAL SECTION

SECOND WORLD WAR
2/1ST AUSTRALIAN FIELD SURVEY COMPANY. 6 ARMY
TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY COMPANY. 2 FIELD SURVEY
COMPANY. 3 FIELD SURVEY COMPANY. 5 FIELD SURVEY
COMPANY. 7 FIELD SURVEY SECTION. NEW GUINEA
SURVEY SECTION. LAND HEADQUARTERS
CARTOGRAPHIC COMPANY. 1 AUSTRALIAN MOBILE
LITHOGRAPHIC SECTION. 12 FIELD SURVEY DEPOT. 13
FIELD SURVEY DEPOT.

VIETNAM WAR
1 TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY TROOP

DEDICATED TO THOSE WHO SERVED
THIS PLAQUE IS LOCATED AT 35 16 50 S. 149 8 53 E.

The Governor General, Major General Michael Jeffery, AC CVO MC was in attendance and together with our own Lieutenant Colonel Clem Sargent, OAM (Ret), President of the Canberra Survey Corps Association, unveiled the plaque. The Governor General impressed with his easy manner and after the formalities of the occasion his pleasant informal friendliness. The Reverend Gary Kenny, one time Survey Corps officer lead the prayers, including our Royal Australian Survey Corps Prayer and Dedicated the Plaque. Garry was most impressive although hobbling somewhat on crutches with a torn Achilles tendon. Appropriate music was provided by the Band of the Royal Military College of Australia and the Australian Rugby Choir.

Following the service of unveiling and dedication the assembled gathering retired to the court foyer for a light lunch and a great deal of fellowship. Clem Sargent thanked John Bullen for initiating and negotiating the placement and wording of the plaque with the AWM and Charlie Watson for organizing the event.

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS MUSEUM

Following the Canberra event three of our Queensland Association members (Peter Bates-Brownsword, Barry Lutwyche and Alex Cairney) went on to the School of Military

Engineering at Moorbank to assist in the project to re-establish the Royal Australian Survey Corps Museum. The allocated space is about a quarter of the building comprising the Engineer Museum.

Leaving Canberra on Monday night they had two full days of sorting, identifying and listing, departing Thursday morning. Attending from other States were Don Swiney and Gary Warnest from Bendigo, Charlie Watson from Canberra and Alex Munro from South Australia. SME were very welcoming and provided three nights accommodation as well as the usual hospitality.

The range of items is huge, from a single colour offset printing press, the Johnson Ground Elevation Meter (which attracted a lot of interest) Doppler satellite equipment, B8 plotters, Curta calculators, slide rules, plane tables, clinometers, alidades, plaques, trophies and Ken Slater's football boots as a memento of the 'Fortuna Falcons'. There are containers of reports and documents which should be digitized into a data base. What to do with it all? There is so much more to do! A general layout plan has been devised – possibly following the mapping process from field to printed map with equipments used through the years.

Like all museums, it may be possible to display only the 'tip of the iceberg'. Another working bee is intended for late September.

PERSONALIA and other jottings

Stan and Helen Campbell are off to Fiji – the Warwick Hotel on the Coral Coast – on 9 August for a six day break. Post-operative perhaps; Stan is making a good recovery from a prostate operation. Stan and Helen have been warned to stay away from military establishments and major centres of population – avoid all coups!

Bob and Wendy Skitch are in the countdown for their trip to South Africa for their son Christopher's wedding to Sharon Ferreira. Sharon's family comes from Durban and the wedding is to take place at a resort area in the Drakensburg Range two hours drive west of Durban. A week long festival is planned by Christopher. Following the wedding Bob and Wendy plan a three day visit to the Victoria

Falls (in Zimbabwe??) and then a week at the Kruger National Park and finally three weeks in Cape Town. Lots of excursions along the way.

Durban has special significance to Wendy. Her father was born in Durban and spent the first four years of his life there. They depart on the 19th September and return on the 3rd November.

Les Wellins has left his home at Tawny Court, Bray Park to return to the Bendigo area – somewhere between Bendigo and Bridgewater I am told. Les, whom we know as Pud, was an Eaglehawk boy so perhaps that is the reason he is deserting the Sunshine State for the bleak weather of central Victoria.

Kym and Faye Weston I had a call from Kym somewhere north of Perth heading south. Kym and Faye are touring Australia in their Wanabago or similar and will not be home until November. They plan to spend some time in Perth looking up old Corps mates and then in Adelaide doing the same. Where they head after Adelaide depends on where their whim takes them; maybe north again or east through Victoria. Sons Ross and Nial are house sitting at the Weston ranch and apparently Nial is the brains behind the website, (Kym is our webmaster www.rasurvey.org) and will henceforth enter our bulletins in Kym's absence.

Peter and Irene Blaskett arrived home a week ago after a further Central Australian experience during which they became stuck in the Alice with a blown up motor waiting for parts to arrive. The parts arrived finally and they headed home. They now plan to resume that adventure at the end of August and will be away for another six weeks or more. Whereabouts this time – who knows? Flexibility is the name of nomad touring these days.

Garney Cook is on our sick list in a big way. Garney called me recently to say that he has had a cancer tumour removed from his stomach but unfortunately it has spread to his lymph glands. He was told to go home and get on with his life and this is what he is doing. Garney is a pragmatic fellow and like always he takes this adversity in his stride. He is being

well looked after by Eileen and daughter Debbie is not far away. Grant Small and I visited him recently and Garney was in pretty good spirits. Eileen produced a batch of scones for morning tea and we had a great few hours together reminiscing on old times. A certain gentleman of the name Spencer Snow got more than a few mentions. Garney had had a few visitors – Col Pugh, Chris Lancaster and Jeff Lambert. Garney will turn 80 this year and no doubt the family will live it on for him.

David Flood sent a note to our secretary Barry Lutwyche asking for information on *Mapmakers of Fortuna*, which Barry was able to provide. David gave his location as Warwick Qld but no further information. He had seen a copy of a 2004 Bulletin which contained an article on the Derek Chambers Award and wondered if that was the same Derek Chambers he was at school with in Caboolture in the mid '50s. A perusal of the Fortuna Nominal Roll lists David as a national serviceman. Some may remember him. dhfloo@activ8.net.au

Peter Cates is reported in *Magna Carta* to have taken on a volunteer role for two years with 'Australian Volunteers International and the AFL to help develop AFL in PNG. Cheryl remains in Adelaide with the dogs and close to the grandchildren. Service life runs strongly in the Cates family. Peter's youngest son has just been posted to 4RAR in Sydney. Another son is with the SAS and a third is at Duntroon.

Dale Johnson: Brian Mead in WA received a call this morning from a former RA Svy member - Dale Johnson. He served from 1978 – 81. Dale had heard on the grape vine that the Corps had disbanded but became very curious on sighting a RA Svy Memorial at Calloundra, Qld. His time was spent at 4 Fd Svy Sqn and although he was a Carto Tech, he was employed for long periods in the Litho cell. Noel Morrison was the litho operator posted to 4 Fd during this period. He remembers TJ Wicker, Alex Munro and Billy Griggs.

Dale is now employed by the Post Office in Tasmania and I promised to pass on the various contact details to him. (Our plaque at Caloundra has served a purpose!...Ed)

Tony and Loretta Gee have returned from their Darwin excursion (no report yet) and have embarked on a six week overseas trip. Tony again requests no emails please. No threats this time! Where are they going? Tony hasn't said.

Lloyd Patterson has taken up the cudgel on behalf of ex-service men and women! Lloyd had quite a spread in the Border Morning Mail (Albury) on the point that ex service men and women did not receive a half yearly pension increase in July. Lloyd points out that over the past 17 years the average increase in superannuation (DFRDB) has been 2.7% yet parliamentarians have received 6%. Since June 1997 (10 years) parliamentarians pensions have risen by a whopping 55% while service super has risen by only 30% in accordance with CPI. We know of course that DFRDB is now one of the few pension schemes tied to CPI while most others are adjusted in accordance with average male weekly earnings. Lloyd makes a number of other succinct comments. Well done Lloyd!

ANZAC Day in Bendigo. The Ex Fortuna Association turned out in force to march on ANZAC Day – 40 marchers! Well done fellows. I wish we could match it!. Keith (Akky) Barbour participated in a wheel chair – great to see!

From the South Australian Association Newsletter

- **Noel Ticehurst** met with Richard Jackson-Hope in Sydney recently and they toured Victoria Barracks together. (The NSW Association is planning to install a replica of the AWM Plaque somewhere within the Barracks) Noel spent some time there in 1963. Noel commented that the old guardhouse is still in its original condition. Researching his family history Noel found that his Great Great Grandfather came to Australia as 'Pommy Redcoat' in 1845 with the 11th North Devonshire Regiment of Foot. Noel reckons that both he and his GG Grandfather did guard duty from the same guard house.
- **Rohan Gillies** continues as Commodore of the Bendigo Yacht Club. Rohan was interviewed recently on the ABC (Alex Munro happened to hear it) and the effect of the drought on the Club's sailing schedule. The once huge expanse of Lake Eppalock has been reduced

by the drought to a fraction of its normal size – very shallow at that!. Impossible for sailing.



Noel Sproles emails: We are thinking of getting a Hilux 4WD to replace the CRV so as we can do some really serious bush

bashing. It is a second hand one but still has plenty of miles service in it. Attached is a photo of it.

VALE

Andy Steen(continuing from page 1) Barry Lutwyche and I visited Andy at the Peninsula Hospital just before he gained a place at Eventide Home and he continued to regale us with his stories of his service life. Andy had a great regard for the key role played by the Queensland Railways during WW2 and gave me a newspaper clip he had kept for years extolling the role QR played during the war.



Andy Steen on his 100th birthday

Andy's funeral took place at the Albany Creek crematorium on Friday 3rd August. Attending from the Association were Bob and Wendy Skitch, Alex Cairney, Ross Smithwick and John Kay. Captain Tom and WO2 Peter Coles (SSM) represented 1 Topo Svy Sqn. It was a simple but moving service with the RSL

performing the 'Poppy Ceremony'. We entered the chapel to the tune of 'Tenterfield Saddler' and Andy's nephew Laurie Steen read a eulogy of Andy's life. It is an interesting account of the his life and times....

Andy was born on the 4th May 1906 in Grafton. He was the first of seven sons to Andrew and Jane Steen. At that time there were only 4.1 million people in Australia. There weren't many cars around so Andy was taken home to Camira Homestead, a farm about 30 miles away by horse and sulky.

Andy rode his horse 'Creamy' to Whiporie school each day and at lunch time he and the other eleven class mates would take the horses for a drink at the creek, then all race back to school for the next lesson.

Andy started work early at the age of 12, milking cows on local farms and watering cattle in times of drought. He worked for the railways for several years as a fettler and then with work running out due to the depression Andy had no choice but to join the countless other young men of his time and commence a journey as a sundowner looking for work traveling up the coast of Queensland. Andy spent many a night using his long leather coat as his swag and sleeping under the grandstand of the Cairns showground.

With his farming experience he was then offered a job on a mixed farm in Atherton where he did whatever was required of him including driving a one ton truck full of corn to Cairns. Andy did this never having driven before nor possessing a driving licence. He achieved this later in Grafton. Armed with his driving licence Andy made the journey to Brisbane where he then successfully obtained his taxi licence and began driving the first V8 taxi for 'Chicago Yellow Cabs' in Brisbane and residing in a boarding house in Redhill. This is where Andy met Dot. They married in the Presbyterian Church in the Valley in 1938.

Andy settled his family in Redhill but with the outbreak of war in 1939 he entered the Army in 1940 and was assigned to 1 Field Survey Squadron as a civilian axeman. On the entry of Japan to the war Army civilians were enlisted and Andy was conferred the rank of Corporal. On survey operations in north Queensland he contacted scrub typhus, a disease which at the time only one in three survived. Andy was medically discharged on the 25th October 1944.

On discharge Andy found employment with the PMG at Boonah and was later transferred to Dalby and then to Ipswich having served as a foreman linesman, finally retiring in 1971 to Brighton. On retirement Andy was awarded the Imperial Service Medal (ISM) for his service to the nation. The medal is engraved Andrew Thomas Steen Esquire and thereafter Andy liked to joke that he was now an 'esquire'.

In early retirement Andy and Dot travelled extensively, both within Australia and overseas to the United States before devoting his time to his garden and his family.

John Graham Armstrong passed away on 23 July 2007 at the age of 87. John enlisted in 2 Field Survey Company in August 1942 and was demobilised in October 1945 at the rank of Sergeant. With 2 Coy he spent his early months at Dungog, NSW and then moved into south east Queensland and was involved in the mapping of Fraser Island, a vital ling and eastern outpost of the 'Brisbane Line. John was deployed to the New Guinea Theatre in December 1943 based at Lae and then to Torokina, meeting the mapping needs of the US II Corps Bougainville. John's section was involved in extensive mapping, producing some 83 maps. John was a licensed surveyor on enlistment and continued in survey practice in the Tumberumba area after the war. In 1951 he married Marie Reece and they built their family home on the Edward river at Deniliquin. After experiencing severe floods at the end of 1956 John moved his young family permanently to Sydney so that he could assist his father in the family business known as Standard Weighbridges. John's family remembers him as wise and patient and very generous He was always a gentleman. John is survived by his sons Ian and Roger.

Robin Wilson passed away peacefully at Gawler Health Service (SA) on May 30 2007 aged 79 years. His much-loved wife of 53 years, Margaret survives him. Apart from Army and the Corps and of course his family, Robin's great passion throughout his life was his pigeons and in retirement he became something of an authority on the 'homing' pigeon with a weekly timeslot on local ABC in South Australia.

JIM – Not a survey story – but!

By Bob Skitch

I didn't find out his name; there seemed little point in exchanging names so 'Jim' will do. He could well have been a Jim. I watched the very elderly gentleman slowly making his way up the ramp from the water of Caloundra's newly constructed sea water swimming pool. He was slow but determined. He might have been a tall man had he been able to stand erect but his once muscular body was wasted. He was using a walking frame. He passed through the gate of the enclosure a little ahead of me and then stopped and held on to the fence, perhaps to regain his breath. His wife waited a short distance away and as I drew level with him with my two English friends. I commented on what a fine facility the new pool was. He looked at me. His craggy face had unusual strength, his hair barely thinning was thick and white but his most striking feature was his strong blue eyes that sparkled, reflecting merriment and a love of life.

Somehow we moved into conversation. I told him my two English friends were from Clevedon on the southern side of the Bristol Channel opposite Cardiff in Wales and Jim immediately sparked up interest at this and declared he knew the area well. Indeed he did. He had been based in Wales at Pontypool during the War training as aircrew with the Royal Air Force. He was one of the many Australians to train under the Empire Air Training Scheme that recruited potential flyers from all of the British Commonwealth countries. Many trained in Canada; some in the United Kingdom. Jim was able to reel off the unpronounceable Welsh names of towns where he stayed during training. Jim became a navigator of the Avro Lancaster heavy bomber. Jim told us his tale, a tale perhaps that could be told by many who served in Bomber Command during those desperate years.

Following his training in Wales he was posted to his squadron at Heveningham in East Suffolk, somewhere north of Ipswich. He was to navigate Lancaster bombers on repeated missions over occupied France and Germany – how many? – He lost count. Jim was 21 years old. The Lancaster had a crew of seven. His skipper, the pilot was a 22 year old Welshman. The oldest in the crew was 27 – the rear gunner. Jim loved the Lancaster – the greatest war plane ever built; powered by four Rolls-Royce Merlin engines developing 1150 hp each – greatest engines ever made. Who would argue with Jim on that count? The Lancaster with a full load of bombs would leave the airstrip any time after 9.00 pm rendezvousing with like planes, not all Lancasters, from aerodromes all over England and even

Scotland. Their fuel load gave them an endurance of 12 hours, sometimes more. Missions were often ten hours but could be more. Rendezvousing as they crossed the channel the accumulated size of the striking force could exceed 1000 aircraft, flying in the blackness of night. For Jim the navigator the most welcome sights was to see the green flares dropped by the 'Pathfinder' – they were on course with the target ahead. Jim reckoned the Pathfinder pilots were all crazy, the risks they took. But then his own experience was only a little less hair raising.

Even the Lancasters with a full load had trouble achieving bombing altitude of 23,000 feet. Jim's 21 year old Welsh pilot used to talk to the engines encouraging them to give him a little more – 'C'mon babies, just a little more' and the Merlins would respond with an added 'brmmm, brmmm'. Jim said you could hear them respond and feel the plane lift just a little more. Sometimes they returned with a flak damaged aircraft and be berated by the ground crews – 'we sent you out in a perfectly good aeroplane and you bring it back in this condition'. Jim said his crew did two missions over Berlin and that was enough – it was a long way and on both occasions they lost half the fleet. The flak was unbelievable and the distance took them to the limit of their endurance. After the second Berlin run on their return to their Suffolk base at six in the morning the weather was foul and their airstrip and was fully fogged in. The ground control (female) said airstrip closed divert to Lochinvar in Scotland. But their fuel gauges were showing empty; there was no way they could sustain another hour's flying. Jim's skipper responded to this effect but the reply was 'just do the best you can'. A quick crew conference took place over the intercom and they thought of ditching in the North Sea (they would have frozen), of parachuting out. Jim said all of a sudden he felt the wheels touch the runway and they were down. There had been an intense flash of light that showed up an emergency runway just a few miles away and his skipper – the 21 year old Welshman – literally dropped the Lanc onto it. And what caused the intense flash – that was another tragedy; two aircraft had collided and exploded. Jim wonders how they came through all of that. Two years of nightly bombing raids with only the occasional week-long break. He said they all believed they had bullet proof skins. When I shook my head in wonderment Jim quickly responded with 'of course – we always made sure we were in the centre of the striking force. There were those who wanted to get out to the fringe and take on the German fighters; they didn't last long'!

Jim happened to be in London on the day of Germany's capitulation. He said it was an incredible sight. The streets were jammed full of Londoners

celebrating. Traffic simply stood still. The bridges over the Thames, Parliamentary Square, Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly Circus – all of them full of people singing, dancing, laughing, crying.

I asked Jim what he did after the war. He said 'Well – when I joined I was a school teacher in a one-teacher school west of Gympie. After we Aussies returned to Australia we who wanted to continue with school teaching were given the choice of where we wanted to teach. Most nominated the big schools in Brisbane but I simply said I wanted to go back to where I started. So that is where they sent me – to my one-teacher school in that small country town. Nothing had changed. I was welcomed back and within a week of so the war was behind me. I never regretted that decision. My subject specialty was mathematics and perhaps that is why I became a navigator. I stayed on there for another couple of years and then started to move around a bit. I was appointed principal of Bowen State High and after eight years there the Department sent me to Inala State High as principal. I asked what had I done to deserve that and was told it was by direction of the Director General. Inala was a school of 1400 students and had a pretty rough reputation but I found that there were only about a hundred who were in any way a problem and I soon got to know them and one by one I pulled them into line. The rest were magnificent young people many of whom went on to great achievements'.

We were at the end of our conversation. Jim said he should catch up with his wife who by then had moved up the walkway to the esplanade. Jim's face suddenly lost its smile and his eyes their twinkle. He said 'All that bombing – why did we do it. So much destruction – what did it achieve'? I watched Jim slowly make his way up the path to his waiting wife. I continued with my English friends and we gave him a parting wave. He was smiling again and so was his wife. I was left with the feeling I had been privileged to encounter a remarkable old gentleman with a story worth recording.

PS: My second cousin, Bob Skitch (yes – same name as me), was a Squadron Leader with the Pathfinder Squadron. He was awarded the DFC.

5 FIELD SURVEY COY LINEAGE – extracted from the Corps history '**Australia's Military Map-makers**' by Chris Coulthard Clark, supplemented from '**Lebanon to Labuan**' by Lawrence Fitzgerald.

Jan 1940 - Northern Command Field Survey Company (Militia – part time raised locally) and initially trained at Kelvin Grove Drill Hall.

Sept 1940 - N Comd Fd Svy Coy commenced 70 days continuous training at Kilcoy showground.

Dec 1940- N Comd Fd Svy Coy of 44 members placed on full time duty;

Jan 1941 - Based at Hamilton Old Town Hall, re-titled No 1 Field Survey Company under the command of Major Eggeling. Largely engaged on survey work north of Brisbane, part mapping and part general purpose for Engineers.

Apr 1942 - Placed on Order of Battle **1st Australian Army**.

May 1942 - Detachment of 6 officers and 109 other ranks moved to Townsville (Alligator Creek)

Jul 1942 - Detachment of 2 officers and 36 other ranks deployed to Cairns.

Aug 1942 - Company HQ moved from Hamilton Town Hall to Gladstone.

Oct 1942 – Re-designated **5th Field Survey Company**. Strength now 7 officers and 173 other ranks.

Sep 1942 - No 1 Section moved to northern Cape York and commenced mapping the northern part of the Peninsula.

Nov 1942 - First deployment (a detachment) to New Guinea.

Jun 1943 - Company HQ remaining in north Queensland engaged on 1" to 1 mile mapping of coastal areas working progressively up the coast.

May 1943 - Detachment to Merauke.

Apr 1944 - RTA Grovelly then to Atherton.

May 1944 - 5 Company transferred to order of battle 1st Australian Corps – based at Wongabel

Apr 1945 - Detachment to Morotai. Undertook provision of theatre grid for artillery.

2 Jul 1945 - Detachment allocated to Division for Op Oboe, OIC Capt Frank Noonan. Theatre grid established at Brunei and passed to RAA.

Nov 1945 - On RTA Coy transferred from Brisbane to Chatswood NSW to become a holding and training unit for interim army trainees. Personnel then posted to sections of 3 Field Survey Coy in Qld, Vic, WA and Carto Coy in Bendigo.

July 1946 - 5 Coy Det to Khancoban to undertake reconnaissance mapping for Snowy Mountains Project.

Mar-Jul 1946 - Detachment to Spencers Gulf – trig control for hydrographic survey. 5 Coy det remained based in Adelaide under Major Lockwood.

Oct 1946 - Detachment undertook reconnaissance of 'Guided Projectile Range designated **LRWE Survey Section** with remainder in Adelaide.

Feb 1947 - 5 Coy Det in Adelaide becomes 4MD Svy Sect.

NOMINAL ROLL AT AWM DEDICATION CEREMONY

Name	Name	Name
MAJGEN Michael Jeffery AC, CVO, MC. Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia		
Clem Sargent	Gary Warnest	Owen Moss
Margaret Sargent	Stu Symonds	Di Chalmers
David Sargent	Don Swiney	David Smith
Margaret Riley	Peter Bates-Brownsword	WO1 Bob Hopper
Glyn Sargent	Bob Thrower	Bob Stedman
Liz Sargent	Margaret Thrower	Diane Stedman
Charlie Watson	Tracey Phillips	MAJ Peter Crabbe
Barbara Watson	John Phillips	Mike Bodman
Jen Watson	John Hill	Matt O'Brien
Bob Purdam	Alan Sharrock	Heck McMillan
Jenny Purdam	Milan Govedic	Kevin Gill
Rob McHenry	Graham Baker	Raffe Roche
John Mobbs	Hook Baker	Ian Gollings
Bryan Henshaw	Peter McCurdy	Peter Raue
Mark Heinrich	Robyn McCurdy	MAJGEN John Whitelaw
Peter Demaine	MAJ Simon Buckpitt	Dawn Laing
John Bullen	Matt Jackson	Gary Kenney
Yvonne Bullen	Stacey Jackson	Jeannie Kenney
David Miles	Peter Ralston	Sinclair Whitbourne
Ray Redman	Gary Drummond	Anthony Lark
Colin Cuskelly	Anne Drummond	Julia Coote
Marianne Cuskelly	Ross Jenkins	Brig Bill Sowry
Allan Adsett	Evan Giri	Alex Petro
Alex Munro	Tony Haseloff	Joy Buckland
Joan Munro	John Hillier	Sue Hopman
Reg Smith	Joy Hillier	Greg Goodman
John Yarra	LTCOL Brian Sloan	Cathy Goodman
Hugh Sutton	MAJ Judy Friend	Wendy Skitch
Ross McMillan	Ken Lyon	Bob Williams
Marie McMillan	Howard Jones	Kevin Miles
David McMillan	Coral Jones	WO1 Stephen Hill CSM
Bruce Radcliffe	Ian Shepherd	WO1 Mick McConnell
Vivienne Radcliffe	Peter Jensen	Sue Manner
Bruce Williams	Brian Reaby	Rocky Camps
Charmain Williams	Betty Dallimore	Lloyd Paterson
Bill Montague	Frank Fischer	John van de Graaff
Alex Cairney	Lynne Fischer	Mary van de Graaff
Barry Lutwyche	Valerie Lovejoy	Megan Owens
Peter Watson	Colin Lovejoy	Jodie Hodges
Bill Black	Bob Bruce	Bob Skitch
Jan Black	Bruce Daniel	Phil Bannister
Colin Van Sendon	Marcia Daniel	Jane Bannister
Margaret Kucharski	MAJ Geoff Ford	Len Kemp
Len Bradley	MAJ Graham Hales	Margaret Kemp
Lorna Bradley	Ian Miller	Richard Owens
	Bob Campbell	Geoffery Owens



HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR BULLETIN – Electronic or Australia Post?

Yes – I ask the question again! It has become apparent that some members, to whom we have been only emailing our Bulletin in PDF, have indicated that they wish to have hard copy posted to them even though they have an email connection. Perhaps the PDF file is too large for them to receive or they have no colour print-out facility so are reduced to reading it on their monitor. Perhaps even if they are able to print out, they are not able to achieve the photographic quality of our Photo Gallery pages that accompanies each copy posted out. Without a hard copy print-out it becomes unlikely that wives or partners will have the opportunity of perusing the Bulletin. (Some wives are more enthusiastic about seeing our Association Bulletin than their member husband.) I personally find reading documents of any description and length on a monitor screen is a pain.

So... For this issue we are posting out hard copy to all members. Now, if you truly decide that you do not wish to receive the posted Bulletin and are perfectly happy receiving it electronically, either by email and or from our website (www.rasurvey.org) then please advise secretary Barry Lutwyche by email barrylutwyche@hotmail.com or sec.qld@rasurvey.org.

PHOTO GALLERY



August 2007

Colonel Alex Laing Memorial Dinner



Barry Lutwyche responds to toast to Corps.



'Your Committee hard at work' -

- * Peter Bates Brownsword (President),
- * Ross Smithwick (Treasurer)
- * Alex Cairney (Vice President),
- * Barry Lutwyche (Secretary)
- * Bob Skitch present - took the photo.



Roger Rees, Elaine McGregor



Peter Bates Brownsword presents RA Svy Plaque to Dennis Gregor

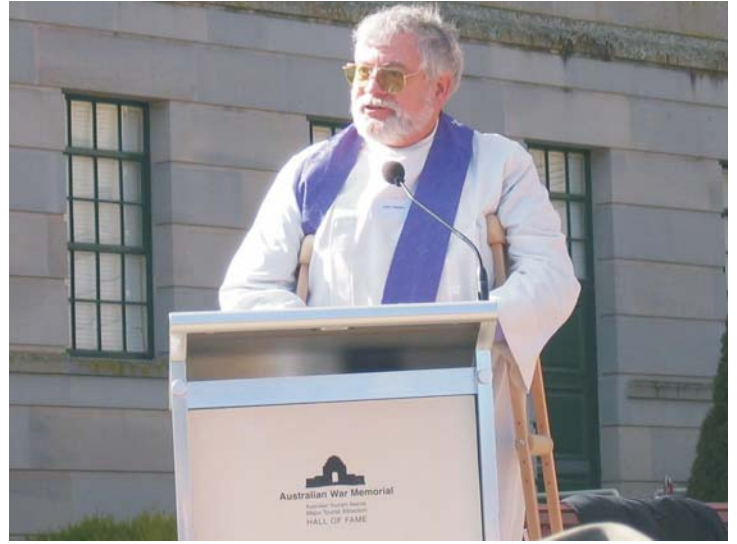


Beth Small, Adrian Creed, Darelle Smithwick

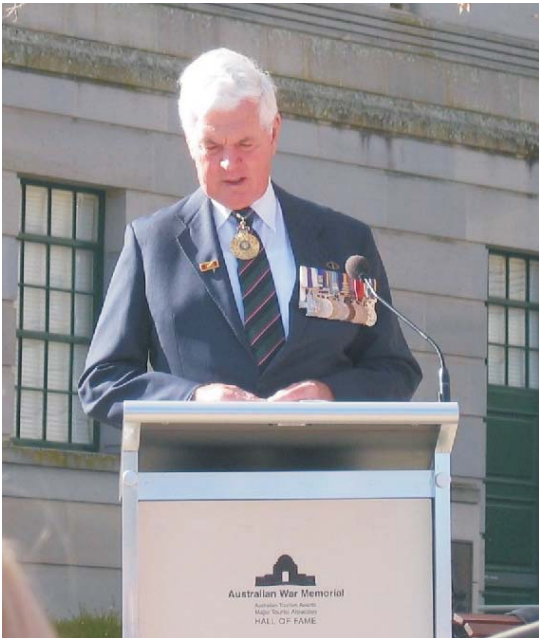
RA Survey Plaque Dedication at Australian War Memorial



RMC Band and Australian Rugby Choir



Garry Kenny sets the tone



Major General Michael Jeffrey, AC, CVO, MC



John Hillier and Robert Stedman



Lieutenant Colonel Clem Sargent AOM and the Governor General unveil the Plaque



Garry Kenny dedicates the plaque