

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS ASSOCIATION**  
**(WESTERN AUSTRALIA) INC.**

Issue No. 13

**WESTLINK**

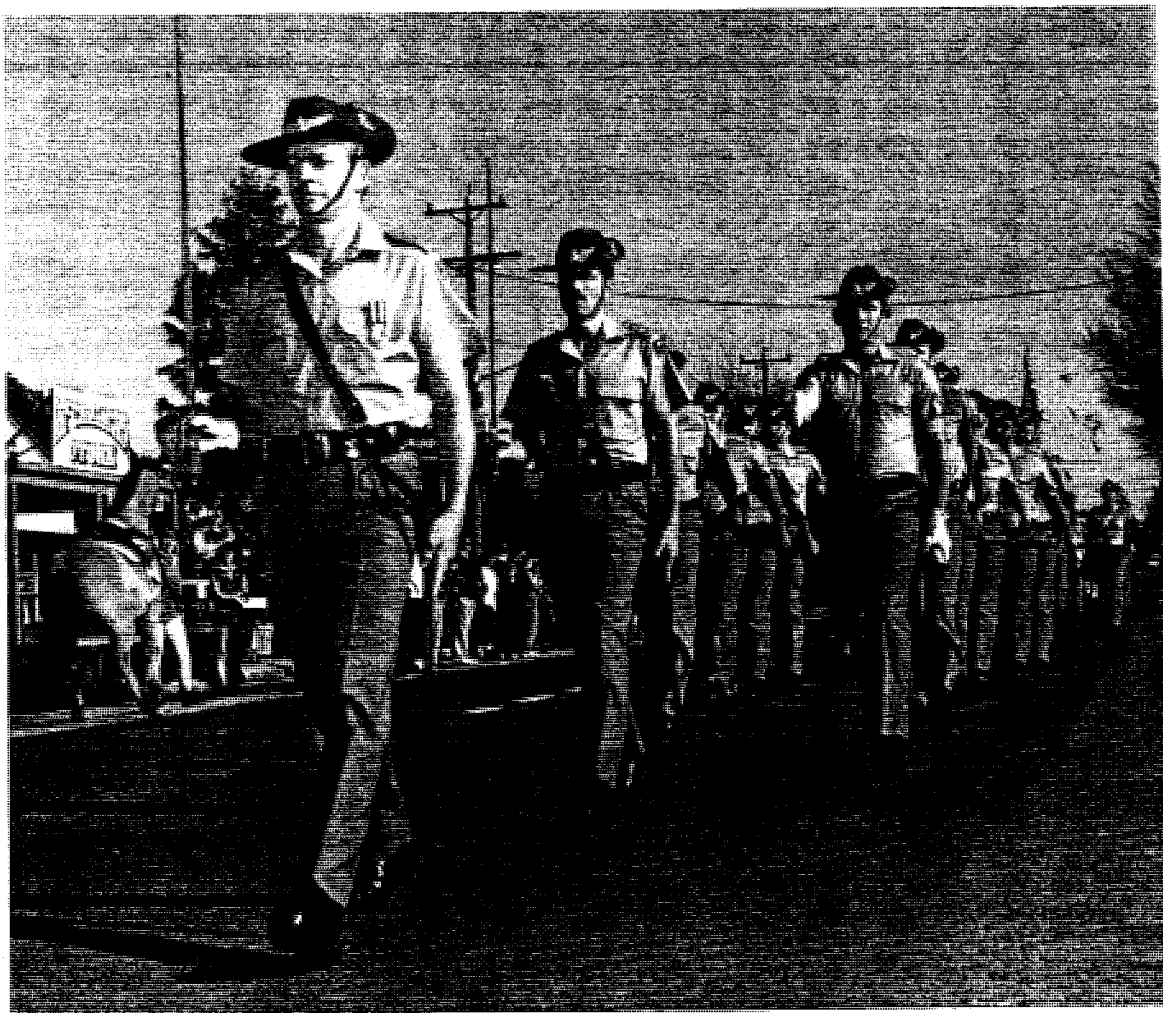
1st December 1996

(Please address all correspondence to the Secretary: Phil Bray, 33 Nalpa Way, Duncraig 6023)

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**YOUR COMMITTEE 1996 - 1997**

President: Ray Sargeant  
29 Bouvardia Way, Greenwood, WA 6024  
Phone: Work 377 8123 Home 448 5787

Vice President: Frank Cohen  
121 North Street, Swanbourne, WA 6010  
Phone: Home 384 7094

Secretary/Treasurer: Philip Bray  
33 Nalpa Way, Duncraig, WA 6023  
Phone: Work 325 2877 Home 447 9699

Committee Members: Leo Clifford  
Cedric Clutterbuck  
Eric Clutterbuck  
Mike Venn  
John Willis  
Pat Wood

Westlink Editor: Barry Parker  
41B Jefferson Drive, Marangaroo, WA 6064  
Phone: Home 342 7245

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**WESTLINK**

A number of other Association members have expressed interest in receiving a copy of our publication. A motion was passed by the Committee which allows non-members of the Western Australian Association to receive future editions on payment of an Annual subscription of \$5.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Further to the above, the Committee decided that current Interstate members would be transferred to the Westlink subscription list.

Those wishing to subscribe to "Westlink" should forward remittance - payable to The RA Svy Association (W.A.) - to Phil Bray, 33 Nalpa Way, Duncraig, W.A. 6023.

**COVER PHOTOGRAPH****"Survey out for the last march"**

Led by their OC, Maj Terry Lord, soldiers from the School of Mil Svy exercise their Right for Freedom of Entry to the Shire of Hume for the last time at Howlong in rural NSW. Following the disestablishment of the Corps on July 1, the school has now become the Geomatic Engineering Wing of SME and will be relocated to Moorebank by 1997.

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

With the disbandment of our Corps this year it is nice to be able to welcome our newest member in Bob Bruce. Bob served in Perth in the early days and found us through a notice placed in the "West Australian" for our Family Day BBQ in Kings Park.

Don Taylor and I had a chat regarding the future of our Associations and certainly feel that without the support and input from serving Survey units and most importantly with no new members we face a bleak distant future. Perhaps something akin to the Anzac and Gallipoli veterans. Our Association is now into its' 11th year and thanks to the efforts of a very dedicated Committee we seem to be surviving. I must offer my thanks to these members and in particular acknowledge the work of our Secretary/Treasurer. Every week Phil either rings me or calls in and I know he is often chasing up other members of the Committee etc.

The years are ticking by and our memories are starting to fade so before much longer how about some of you out there putting pen to paper and letting us have a few of your memoirs and happenings. We would like to put together a collection of anecdotes into an informal history of 5 Fd Svy Sqn. (ex 2 Topo Svy Tp - where is the long ago promised writing).

In closing I would urge you all to encourage any ex RA Svy friends of yours, who are not members, to join the Association. Our future lies in our membership.

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year To all Ex-RA Svy Corps Members*

Ray

**CORPS BIRTHDAY - 1ST JULY 1996      THE LAST BIRTHDAY**

The venue for this historic and sad occasion was again the Gleneagles Reception Centre at Karrinyup. A total of 42 members and their guests paraded for this the last Birthday of the RA Svy Corps. In future we will have to be content with celebrating of the Anniversary of Years since the formation of the Corps. (We certainly won't be celebrating the years since it's demise).

The staff at Gleneagles again did us proud. Not only do we have a large and spacious room to ourselves, there is plenty of "at the door parking" and the venue itself is easily accessible from the Southern and Eastern suburbs.

At the conclusion of an excellent buffet meal our Guests of Honour for the evening imparted to us some reflections and memories of the late Lt. Gerry Owers of the New Guinea Survey Section 1942-43. We are indeed grateful to both Lt. Owers' daughter Mary Beth Gimbari for her recollections and his Granddaughter, Elizabeth, for speaking to us on her personal thoughts and feelings following her recent walk of the Kokoda Trail. I am sure many of us did not either know of, or realise, the significant role played by the Royal Australian Survey Corps during WW2.

(Ed. See address by LtGen Sanderson - page 8 "Surveyors Reintegrated")

**PICNIC IN THE PARK**

Following the success of our first Family Picnic day last year another gathering was held in Kings Park on a lazy, balmy & sunny Sunday the 13th of October. Sadly, attendance was small but the following voted the outing a success and vowed to attend next year:- Peter & Bev Bowen, Phil Bray, Eric Clutterbuck and daughter Lyn. Margaret & Don Taylor, President Ray and Dora. Yvonne Cocker managed a quick visit before dashing off to "baby sitting" duties. Frank Cohen and Noel Clutterbuck helped build up the numbers. And, out of the woodwork, Jo and Betty Mazzarol plus children and grandchildren. Also present Bob Bruce and Mary Moore, Pat Wood and daughter Peran. Barry and Helen Parker brought along daughter Lee-Anne, Granddaughter Kellie and Dorothy Ingham, Barry's cousin visiting from England.

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS ASSOCIATION  
(WESTERN AUSTRALIA) INC  
MEMBERSHIP 1996**

31st October 1996

BARRELL	Lance	10 Welch Way	WARNBRO	6169	593 2661
BOULTER	Bob	223 Scott Street	CLOVERDALE	6105	277 1036
BOWEN	Peter	8 Rosea Close	MAIDA VALE	6057	454 6219
BOWLER	Stephen	3 Seacrest Drive	SORRENTO	6020	447 3796
BOWMAN	Jodi	7/300 Cambridge Street	WEMBLEY	6014	387 6932
BRAY	Philip	33 Nalpa Way	DUNCRAIG	6023	447 9699
BREHENY	Keith	P O Box 80	KINGSWAY	6065	
BREWER	Bob	14 Arthur Road	LESMURDIE	6076	291 6203
BRIMSON	Duncan	40 Nolyang Crescent	WANNEROO	6065	405 4017
BROOK	Eric	6 Binns Court	NORTH FREMANTLE	6159	336 4324
BROWN	Fred	9A Bocaccia Court	SORRENTO	6020	246 4804
BULLOCK	Fred	42 Osmaston Road	CARINE	6020	448 5141
CHERRY	Nevis	8 Abrothos Close	SHELLEY	6148	457 0612
CLIFFORD	Leo	21 Rudall Way	PADBURY	6025	402 1590
CLUTTERBUCK	Cedric	18 Glennon Way	ROSSMOYNE	6148	457 4651
CLUTTERBUCK	Eric	4 Carob Place	GREENWOOD	6024	342 2181
CLUTTERBUCK	Noel	357 Hardey Road	CLOVERDALE	6105	277 7072
COHEN	Frank	121 North Street	SWANBOURNE	6010	384 7094
CRADDON	Clive	212 Corinthian Road	RIVERTON	6148	354 1312
EDDY	Peter	6 Cullen Street	SHENTON PARK	6008	381 2616
EDWARDS	Frank	4 Batavia Way	SALTER POINT	6152	450 3945
FAITHFULL	Jack	253 Hancock Street	DOUBLEVIEW	6018	448 9562
FIRNS	Brian	59 Thompson Road	NORTH FREMANTLE	6159	335 6825
GAY	Doug	89 Beasley Road	LEEMING	6149	310 4685
GOBLE-GARRATT	Mike	16 Redwood Lane	WILLETTON	6155	457 3048
GREENWELL	John	5 Kirwin Place	WILLETTON	6155	354 5682
GRIFFITHS	Leon	1 Gairloch Street	APPLECROSS	6153	364 8019
HALL	Warren	170 Roberts Street	JOONDANNA	6060	444 4351
HANCOCK	Archie	Sun City C'van Park - Swan Drive	GERALDTON	6530	099 382239
HELYAR	Geoff	51 Wedgewood Drive	EDGEWATER	6027	306 1509
JONES	(Spike) R B	2/23 Yeovil Crescent	BICTON	6157	339 4415
KEMP	Bill	15 Moffat Place	WARWICK	6024	447 0534
LAING	Alex	29 Harris Street	HACKETT A.C.T.	2602	
LARSEN	Russell	8 Hollingworth Way	LEEMING	6149	313 5825
LAWLER	Marlene	20B Admiral Grove.	HEATHRIDGE	6027	3079027
LOCKE	Cec	35 Amos Way	GIRRAWHEEN	6064	342 6098
MACDONALD	Don	8/17 Heydon Street	MOSMAN N.S.W.	2088	
MAZZAROL	Jo	52 Cleveland Street	DIANELLA	6062	276 6170
MEAD	Brian	8 Barridale Drive	KINGSLEY	6026	409 8292
MUSGRAVE	Don	27 Marjorie Parade	ROCKINGHAM	6168	527 3473
PARKER	Barry	41B Jefferson Drive	MARANGAROO	6064	342 7245
REANY	Graeme	7 Arrabella Mews	CURRAMBINE	6028	305 3187
ROBERTS	Jim	1 Chidley Place	ROCKINGHAM	6168	527 5180
ROSSOW	Alan	25 Wolsely Road	EAST FREMANTLE	6158	3192789
SARGEANT	Ray	29 Bouvardia Way	GREENWOOD	6024	448 5787
SAWYER	Tom	5 Mandoon Close	DARLINGTON	6070	299 7039
TAYLOR	Hugh	51 Eric Street	COTTESLOE	6011	384 4431
TAYLOR	Don	22 Callistemon Avenue	GREENWOOD	6024	447 0465
TILL	Alf	21 Cromarty Road	FLOREAT	6014	387 5113
UWINS	Bev	12 Kexby Street	BALCATT	6021	344 1968
VENN	Mick	29 Waitara Crescent	GREENWOOD	6024	448 0407
WAKELING	Paul	P.O. BOX 130	GLEN FORREST	6071	
WEBB	Cliff	8 Nalpa Way	DUNCRAIG	6023	448 3176
WILLIS	John	134 Crimea Street	MORLEY	6062	276 7714
WOOD	Pat	39 Hendon Way	HAMERSLEY	6022	342 8981

RA SVY CORPS WESTERN AUSTRALIA - NOMINAL ROLLS 1967 - 1969WESTERN COMMAND FIELD SURVEY UNIT1967

A547140	LT	A W	TILL
6128	WO1	J T C	BOOTON
33672	WO2	P H	WOOD
52930	WO2	R	KEENE
52895	SSGT	I G	ETHERIDGE
4700	SGT	K J	MAZZAROL
54599	SGT	G M	ULLINGER
53196	SGT	R W	McKENNA
53229	CPL	N B D	CLUTTERBUCK
A545573	CPL	R	JONES
A517658	CPL	J R	SARGEANT
54460	CPL	H A	NEWMAN
42814	CPL	J H A	LEISKER
54447	CPL	P A	TOOMEY
42910	CPL	R J	BLACK
43030	CPL	I R	DONALDSON
54660	SPR	V J	ARTHUR
43488	SPR	K F	BREWER
43500	SPR	B H	WILSON
61544	SPR	B	ROZEMA
1200432	SPR	P T	KEENE
216075	SPR	G J	LARKIN
1200402	SPR	D P	YAU
43502	SPR	K A	WESTON
4717672	SPR	L M	GILMOUR

IN

44001	SPR	W B	KEMP	5 January
21226	MAJ	T C	SARGENT	2 Feb - FARELF
53247	SGT	R N	COULTARD	6 Feb - Army Svy Regt
54467	TCPL	B W	FIRNS	18 May
54378	TCPL	B E	PARKER	19 June
37657	SPR	J N	CAMPBELL	29 June
44120	SPR	T M	HANN	03 July
38604	SPR	G J	BAKER	17 Nov - 1 Topo Svy Tp
54080	LT	P R	EDDY	4 Dec - N Comd Fd Svy Unit

OUT

SPR	D P	YAU	13 Jan - School of Languages
WO2	P H	WOOD	24 Jan - C Comd Fd Svy Unit
SSGT	I G	ETHERIDGE	16 Feb - Discharged
WO2	R	KEENE	13 Apr - Discharged
SPR	R T	KEENE	24 Jul - OTU Scheyville
SPR	V J	ARTHUR	24 Aug - 52 Provost Sec Comm 2
SPR	L M	GILMOUR	21 Sep - Discharged
LT	G M	ULLINGER	26 Nov - 22 Const Sqn
CPL	R	JONES	9 Dec - 10LH (FTD Completed)
CAPT	K J	LYONS	14 Dec - 1 Topo Svy Tp
CPL	J H A	LIESKER	20 Dec - Discharged

PROMOTIONS

SGT	R W	McKENNA	WO2 - Mar
CPL	N B D	CLUTTERBUCK	TSGT - May
CPL	H A	NEWMAN	TSGT - Jul
SGT	G M	ULLINGER	Appointed LT - 16 Nov
SPR	J W	CAMPBELL	TCPL - Sep
SPR	B	ROZEMA	CPL - Nov

WESTERN COMMAND FIELD SURVEY UNIT

1968

1226	MAJ	TC	SARGENT
54080	LT	PR	EDDY
6126	WO1	JTC	BOOTON
53196	WO2	RW	McKENNA
53247	SGT	RN	COULTARD
4700	SGT	KJ	MAZZAROL
53229	TSGT	NBD	CLUTTERBUCK
54460	TSGT	HA	NEWMAN
54467	TCPL	BW	FIRNS
54378	TCPL	BE	PARKER
37657	TCPL	JN	CAMPBELL
517658	CPL	JR	SARGEANT
54447	CPL	PA	TOOMEY
42910	CPL	RJ	BLACK
43030	CPL	IR	DONALDSON
61544	TCPL	B	ROZEMA
43488	SPR	KF	BREWER
43500	SPR	BH	WILSON
216075	SPR	GJ	LARKIN
44001	SPR	WB	KEMP
43502	SPR	KA	WESTON
44120	SPR	TM	HANN
38604	SPR	GJ	BAKER

IN

44283	SPR	BM	TURNER	10 Jan - School of Mil Svy
39318	SPR	DT	BARRY	12 Jan - School of Mil Svy
41896	WO2	WA	MUNRO	5 Feb - School of Mil Svy
39321	SPR	P	BIORAC	8 Feb - School of Mil Svy
43588	SPR	DL	O'BYRNE	1 March
43784	SPR	ER	SCHULZE	5 September
18246	SGT	DR	HOCKINGS	19 March

OUT

CPL	PA	TOOMEY	16 Feb - Discharged
TSGT	HA	NEWMAN	1 Mar - Discharged
CPL	RJ	BLACK	20 Mar - C Comd Fd Svy Unit
WO1	JTC	BOOTON	29 Jun - Discharged
CPL	IR	DONALDSON	18 Sep - Discharged

PROMOTIONS

SPR	KA	WESTON	CPL - Jan
SPR	BH	WILSON	TCPL - Mar
TCPL	BW	FIRNS	CPL - Jan
TCPL	B	ROZEMA	CPL - Jan
TSGT	NBD	CLUTTERBUCK	SGT - Mar

WESTERN COMMAND FIELD SURVEY UNIT1969

21226	MAJ	T C	SARGENT
547140	LT	A W	TILL
54080	LT	P R	EDDY
41896	WO2	W A	MUNRO
53196	WO2	R W	McKENNA
53247	SGT	R N	COULTARD
4700	SGT	K J	MAZZAROL
53229	SGT	N B D	CLUTTERBUCK
18246	SGT	D R	HOCKINGS
54467	CPL	B W	FIRNS
54378	TCPL	B E	PARKER
37657	TCPL	J N	CAMPBELL
517856	CPL	J R	SARGEANT
43502	CPL	K A	WESTON
43500	TCPL	B H	WILSON
61544	CPL	B	ROZEMA
43488	SPR	K F	BREWER
216075	SPR	G J	LARKIN
44001	SPR	W B	KEMP
44120	SPR	T M	HANN
38604	SPR	G J	BAKER
44283	SPR	B M	TURNER
39318	SPR	D T	BARRY
39321	SPR	P	BIORAC
43588	SPR	D L	O'BYRNE
43784	SPR	E R	SCHULZE

IN

1202004	SPR	G G	WATTS	13 January
54876	LT	B P	STREMPPEL	13 Feb - N Comd Pers Depot
52770	WO1	R B	JONES	6 Apr - School of Mil Svy
18425	LCPL	D G	CAMPS	14 Apr - School of Mil Svy
57097	SPR	F J	YATES	30 June
3411873	CPL	G M	WASSER	14 Jul - Army Svy Regt
5716486	SPR	J	AMMON	14 July
5821	SGT	E C	CLUTTERBUCK	21 July
55415	SPR	L R N	ATKINSON	10 November

OUT

SGT	R N	COULTARD	29 Jan - Army Svy Regt
TCPL	J W	CAMPBELL	19 Feb - Discharge
WO1	W A	MUNRO	14 Mar - Discharge
LT	A W	TILL	27 Mar - 11 RWAR
CPL	K A	WESTON	12 Jul - Army Svy Regt
CPL	B E	PARKER	26 Sep - 1 Topo Svy Tp
SPR	D T	BARRY	4 Oct - Army Svy Regt
SPR	T M	HANN	7 Nov - C Comd Fd Svy Unit

PROMOTIONS

LT	P R	EDDY	TCAPT - Jan
SPR	G J	LARKIN	TCPL - Mar
SPR	G J	BAKER	TCPL - Mar
SPR	E R	SCHULZE	CPL - Mar
SGT	N B D	CLUTTERBUCK	SSGT - Mar
LCPL	D G	CAMPS	CPL - May
CPL	B	ROZEMA	SGT - Jul
TCPL	B E	PARKER	CPL - Jul
SPR	D L	O'BYRNE	CPL

**PERSONAL SNIPPETS - WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

I understand that **Frank Cohen** would welcome recipes using honey as the main ingredient. Cedric Clutterbuck donated the largest jar of honey ever seen - it must have exhausted a few thousand bees in the gathering of.

*Ed - (My favourite breakfast snack is toast with sliced banana and a dash of honey lightly grilled - don't get the honey too hot).*

During her last trip to Bendigo **Yvonne Cocker** caught up with the Kernaghans - Jim and Ruth send regards to their friends here in the West. Also seen, the the Svy Regt auction, was Ross McMillan. Yvonne reports that although B8 Steroplotters were bargain priced she resisted the temptation - says they don't fit in with her style of furniture. Couldn't say whether Ross made a purchase though.

**FROM THE OTHER ASSOCIATIONS**

South Australia - Newsletter No. 16 August 1996

**VALE****Dallas Walker**

Died in Kempsey Hospital in late 1995. Dallas was considered something of a character during his many years at Fortuna, and will be remembered by many.

**Bill Shapcott**

Died in Bendigo in March '96, aged 84 years. Bill served most of his time at Fortuna as a draftsman and was a first class penman, best known perhaps for his hill shading on the JOG series. He was also a very good artist, producing many fine pen sketches of Bendigo pubs. (Info Magna Carto).

**Jack Waller**

Died in Bendigo in 'May 96. He was an admin clerk during his many years at Fortuna, going bush with the field survey parties during the years that the Regiment was engaged in the 1st Order Traverse network across Queensland and the Northern Territory.

The South Australian Association propose holding informal and casual gatherings on the 1st Friday of each month. Should any members be heading that way I suggest a call to Alex Munro on (08) 8277 7074 or George Ricketts on (08) 8379 2122 to check date, time venue etc.

**Ex-Fortuna Survey Association****Paul Richards**

passed away 8 June 1996, aged 46

Enlisted into RA Engr Jul 1971 and transferred to RA Svy February 1978

of a heart attack, a lingering problem he had suffered from for some years. Paul was the typesetter at Fortuna many years ago (he took over from Artie Lane)

**Guy Leopold.**

passed away at Daylesford, Victoria, on 20 July 1996.

He served as the CSM of 2 Topo Svy Coy at Powlett Street, East Melbourne, after having served in the Infantry.

**Alan Tredinnick**

passed away in his sleep in Bendigo on 29th June 1996 aged 89 years. Although significantly visually impaired, Alan was of good health almost to the end. Alan discharged in Feb 62 after having served in the CMF, AIF, Interim Army and the ARA, with his last posting as RQMS at the Survey Regiment.



**FROM THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS NEWSLETTER - "SAPPER NEWS"**  
(Vol 6 No 2 - 31 August 1996)

**SURVEYORS REINTEGRATED**

By Warren Ennis, Editor

On Monday 1 July 1996, more than 300 members of the Royal Australian Survey Corps (RA Svy) and the Corps of Royal Australian Engineers (RAE) paraded at the Australian Army Engineer Centre, Moorebank, to integrate the two Corps.

RA Svy was disbanded after the removal of the Corps' non-military mapping functions following the recommendations of the Wrigley Review in 1991 and the introduction of the Commercial Support Programme which removed more than two-thirds of the Corps' non-core functions. RA Svy's remaining functions and resources were consolidated into RAE. This will ultimately improve the Army's operational capability and enhance career prospects.

The parade was reviewed by the Chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General J.M. Sanderson, AC. The Reviewing Officer Hosts were the Director of Engineers - Army, Colonel G.N. Pearce, AM and the Director of Survey - Army, Colonel S.W. Lemon. The Parade Commander was Lieutenant Colonel D.H.O. Burns. The Parade Regimental Sergeant Major was Warrant Officer Class One L. Mountain. The Army Band Sydney, led by Band Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer Class One K. Noon, CSM, provided the music for the parade.

The parade was attended by a large group of spectators who consisted of official guests, serving members from RA Svy and RAE units, former-serving members from both Corps, families and friends.

During the ceremonial procedures, the integration of the two Corps was symbolised by the merging of separate divisions of troops of each Corps to form a united division on the parade ground. This was a stirring moment which evoked mixed emotions for all who witnessed the historic occasion.

After the Corps were united, the parade was addressed by Lieutenant General Sanderson. A complete transcript of the General's address speech follows:

We are here today to mark the amalgamation of two Corps of the Australian Army, each with an individual and interlinked history of outstanding service to our nation; the Royal Australian Survey Corps and the Royal Australian Engineers.

It is a great pleasure for me to be the reviewing officer at this historic event. I have direct association with both Corps and a deep respect and admiration for their achievements over this near century of the Australian Army's history. May I welcome you all to this Parade, in particular those representatives of the civilian surveying organisations, who I hope will continue their association with Army surveying in its new form.

In amalgamations of units or corps, there is always a note of sadness. We anticipate the possibility that one title is carried on and another passes into history, although I note that this has not always been so with respect to the Survey Corps. Importantly one Corps absorbs the history and traditions of the other, and in doing

so undertakes the sacred obligation to preserve those traditions in the memory of the achievements of the other. It is appropriate today therefore, that we acknowledge the outstanding achievements of the Royal Australian Survey Corps over the years and make clear to you, the members of the amalgamated Corps, the proud achievements of the surveyors of the Australian Army.

Eighty-one years ago today - in 1915 - the Australian Survey Corps was raised from the surveyors serving with the Royal Australian Engineers. Since that time 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. Without the impetus of military survey, much of this continent would have remained unmapped, and hence much of civil

infrastructure, which we take for granted today, would have been retarded in its development.

The starting points of serious military survey in this country was the establishment in 1910 of the 'Survey Section, RAE.' General McNicoll, in his history of the Royal Australian Engineers, speculates that only five years later in 1915 the Director of Engineers was none too happy and perhaps a bit surprised that these surveyors, with a strength of three officers and 16 other ranks became independent. The peculiarities of our federal Defence legislation of the time created a situation where the Survey function had to be separated from the endeavours of the AIF.

Between 1920 and 1932, in the normality of peace, the surveyors again returned to RAE, so the historical links between the two Corps are close.

The Survey Corps gave distinguished service in World War I, during which two Distinguished Conduct Medals were won. In terms of valour, it is one thing to perform an heroic act in the heat of battle; however, it requires a particular mix of calmness, courage and professional skill to continue mapping with plane table, notebook and instruments for prolonged periods in no-man's land under enemy fire. This is the story of Sergeant Stafford during the Battle of Amiens in 1918, and Warrant Officer Murray at Gaza-Beersheba.

During the Second World War, the Survey Corps grew from a strength of 50 to about 1,700. Members of the Corps served in Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. But perhaps the Corps' finest achievement was the mapping of the operational areas of Papua and New Guinea. Imagine the situation in early 1942; the most inhospitable jungle terrain in the world, extreme cloud and weather conditions, a determined enemy, and no maps. Commanders and soldiers cannot fight successfully without accurate mapping and terrain information. Starved of funds before the war, no mapping of military use had occurred in the then Australian territories. Under the most adverse circumstances, and often in front of the forward troops, together with US Army Air Force Photo Recce aircraft, the Survey Corps produced enough maps of high quality to fight and win on the Kokoda Trail and in the remainder of the New Guinea campaign.

As the island hopping campaign began, commanders demanded further accurate terrain

information and maps. It was provided by the Australian Survey Corps. And when the time came for Sir Thomas Blamey to accept the surrender of the Japanese in 1945 at Morotai, a survey corps unit on that island produced the Instrument of Surrender document that ended hostilities in the Dutch East Indies. In post war conflicts, members of the Survey Corps again performed distinguished service in Vietnam from 1966 to 1971.

The truly outstanding work of the Survey Corps has been performed outside the battlefield. In the early days of triangulation and trigonometric survey in this country, men like Warrant Officer (later Major) Jack Lynch served with great energy to solve the problems of triangulation and control, and the inconsistency between the maps inherited from the former colonies. We take it for granted today that one map sheet joins another in a consistent frame of reference, but as late as 1930, the Survey map of Albury-Wodonga demonstrated that the New South Wales and Victorian triangulation systems would not join. Survey took the lead in nominating the Sydney Observatory as the origin for geographical coordinates in eastern Australia, and reobserved and recalculated the triangulation systems of the eastern States.

The Survey Corps has been a pioneer of many technologies in Australia; air photography with the RAAF in the 1930s, the use of ground and airborne electro-magnetic distance measurement, the use of optical and electronic geodetic and navigation earth satellites and computer assisted cartography.

The Corps has been fortunate to attract long serving NCOs and officers of high quality, willing to dedicate themselves to the craft of military survey. To give an example from an earlier era, the Corps Director from 1942 to 1960, Brigadier Lawrence Fitzgerald, first joined the Corps as a corporal in 1924. But right up to the present, the professionalism of the Corps has been evident in the service of its members in remote areas of northern Australia, on long deployments in Papua New Guinea, and on defence cooperation tasks in Irian Jaya, Kalimantan, Sumatra, and in the islands of the South Pacific. These were demanding and risky deployments that added to the professional reputation of the Survey Corps. It is also important today that we remember those who died during their service with the

Survey Corps. Their memory is now part of the ongoing obligation of the Royal Australian Engineers.

We must acknowledge that because of the way in which technology is developing, the task of mapping and nation building, carried out by the Survey Corps for over eighty years is now best suited to other agencies. That aside, the military roles of our surveyors will continue in other ways. On behalf of the Australian Army and the community, may I say "well done" Royal Australian Survey.

Now we must face the future and the Army must restructure itself in many ways to meet the demands and the realities of the future. There will be many changes. But the future of Survey within the Royal Australian Engineers is a most exciting one. Military Geographic Information Systems will form the bed of all operational

endeavour in the future. The battlefield will be digitised one way or the other. We must be quick to recognise and bring this reality to fruition. Engineers shape the battlefield for us, but surveyors describe it in a way which allows all Services and Branches of the Australian Defence Force to act in concert. This is dynamic process and relationship. Vital and evolutionary. What challenges you face in the expanded Royal Australian Engineers! Don't stand back from these challenges. Engineers never have. The Corps has been like a Cornucopia bringing forth new ideas, new uses of technology, new approaches to the military problems of the day. There are great rewards in this - not simply in career prospects, but in a creative and rewarding partnership.

Congratulations on this fine parade today. I wish you all - the members of the new amalgamated Royal Australian Engineers - good luck and good soldiering.

### **INTRODUCING 1ST TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY SQUADRON**

By Captain Steve Hledik, Second-In-Command, 1st Topographical Survey Squadron

The recent integration of the Royal Australian Survey Corps into the Corps of Royal Australian Engineers (RAE) has resulted in the transfer of 1st Topographical Survey Squadron (1 Topo Svy Sqn) to RAE.

1 Topo Svy Sqn is a direct descendant of 2nd/1st Field Survey Company which was an RAE unit raised in 1940 for active service during World War Two. The Squadron is thus considered to be truly returning to its original Corps.

The Squadron is commanded directly by the Commander Land Command Engineers and is located at Enoggera. It also has two map stores located in Townsville and Darwin. The Squadron's role is to provide topographic support in an area of operations. It achieves this task by collecting information from a variety of sources and presents it to commanders for planning and conducting operations.

The Squadron has a Regular Army strength of six officers and 103 other ranks. Ninety-four of the other rank's positions consist of cartographers, photographers and printers. However, these three trades will shortly be integrated into one trade, geomatic technician, in 1997. 1 Topo Svy Sqn is a fully integrated unit and has a General Reserve strength of two officers and 25 other ranks; however, only eleven of these positions are currently manned.

The Squadron is comprised of an administration troop; a field troop with four field topographic sections; a support troop with three support sections and an imagery section; a military geographic information (topographic) (MGI(topo)) troop with three MGI(Topo) sections and a system support section; a product distribution troop with a distribution support sections and four mobile distribution points; and a reprographic section that has a field reprographic cell and a reprographic support cell.

The Squadron is structured to support;

- a formation headquarters and three manoeuvre formations concurrently in the combat zone with a field troop of four sections, mobile product distribution points and a field reprographic section;
- force headquarters and units not in the combat zone and the carriage of tasks too large for deployed topographic elements from the support troop and reprographic troop; and
- all Land Command units with the supply of military mapping and topographic information products from the product distribution troop.

Functions performed by 1 Topo Svy Sqn include aerial image acquisition, precision position determination, construction of special topographic products, bulk product distribution, and bulk reproduction of products.

Developments in digital mapping techniques continues to influence how 1 Topo Svy Sqn achieves its mission and to expanding its ranges of products. Project TOPOSS has been established to investigate the application of new technology for the Squadron's various levels of support. The Squadron's Military Geographic Information (Topographic) Troop is also developing the provision of military topographic information (MTI) to support specific requirements of engineer battlefield assessment (EBA) and intelligence preparation of the battlefield (IPB).

This year, 1 Topo Svy Sqn has provided support to Exercise Ready Soldier, Exercise Silicon Safari, Exercise Thunder Bay, Exercise Diamond Blue, Operation Shepherd, Operation Beachcomber, Exercise Taipan Watch and Exercise Northern Predator, and is currently preparing for Exercise Swift Eagle. 1 Topo Svy Sqn also accepts tasking that is not related to specific exercises but is needed to assist other Land Command units with their training.

Other activities conducted this year include participation in the Australian Army Skill at Marksmanship Competition, initial employment training, troop level military and adventurous training with the Royal Australian Airforce's search and rescue crews. Almost all former Royal Australian Survey Corps soldiers from the Squadron also participated in the Corps Integration Parade on 1 July 1996.

At his year's Brisbane Waterloo Dinner, hosted by 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment in June, the RAE Association presented 1 Topo Svy Sqn with an RAE corps badge which has now been mounted at the unit's entrance. A large black and white triangulation station beacon still stands firm on the hill adjacent the Squadron to remind all who pass where our immediate ancestry resides. However, nobody in the Squadron denies our future within RAE and we proudly include the topographic support function in the Corps' enhanced capabilities.

### **GENERAL ITEMS**

#### **THE BLACKHAWK DISASTER - LETTER OF CONDOLENCE & DONATION TO SASR**

The President, on behalf of all members of the Association, sent letters of condolence to the Special Air Service Regiment and the 5th Aviation Regiment following the tragedy of 12th June 1966

A donation of \$100, the proceeds of a raffle held at the Corps Birthday Dinner, was donated to the Black Hawk Accident Fund as a token of recognition of the support given to 5 Field Survey Squadron by the SASR over many years.

#### **DEFENCE SERVICE HOMES INSURANCE**

The 1995-96 Budget has extended the pool of persons eligible to insure their homes under the Defence Service Homes Act.

All eligible persons are now able to insure their homes under the Defence Service Homes Insurance Scheme irrespective of whether they have received a DSH loan and also take advantage of our competitive Contents Insurance.

For further information you can telephone (09) 366 8222 if you are calling from the Perth metropolitan area or toll-free on 1800 113304 ext 333 if you are calling from the country. Alternatively, you may call in personally to the 12th floor of Veterans' Affairs at the AMP Building, 140 St George's Terrace Perth.

#### **KOKODA TRACK WALK**

Following the talk given by Elizabeth Giambazi at the Corps Birthday Dinner, we have located the details for the walk. Anybody who is a 'THRILLSEEKER' and would like to walk the Trail can contact:-

Frank Taylor of 'Kokoda Treks and Tours' at 7 Laga Court STIRLING 6021  
Phone 09 - 446 9856

**MACHINE GUN NIGHTMARE**

*The following is an extract from the book "The Lady Was Not a Spy" written and published by Mr. 'Jungle' Jim Davies at 29 Porteous Road, Sorrento. Phone (09) 447 1688.*

"When Bill McGauran, of the Perth suburb of Redcliffe, was camped at Jurien Bay with his mates in the 4th Field Survey Company they thought their time was up. About 3 o'clock one morning they heard a big plane. It was right over them. Then, all of a sudden, it opened up with machine guns and bullets thudded into the sandhills all around them. They found out later it was one of our Catalinas. It had taken off from Crawley Bay, on the Swan River, and was on its way to machinegun and bomb Japanese on Timor. When they were over Jurien the crew decided to test their guns. Little did they know when they fired into the sandhills that there were troops camped there. Bill said his company was responsible for some of the lights seen in the hills near the coast. "We were moving around a lot at night," he said. "We had Lucas battery lamps. They were fitted with Morse adaptors, and we used to signal each other". Bill said they didn't say anything, for security reasons. They didn't want people to know they were there. "One of our jobs was to remove the sea level signs from all railway stations," he said. "The height above sea level was vital to artillery. They had to know the temperature and barometric pressure". After nearly two years of survey work in Jurien Bay, Dongara and Mingenew, about 80 members of the 4th Field Survey Company were sent to Fremantle to board the Stateship Koolinda. The code name on all their equipment was "Jarrah" and they thought they were going to Timor, but they went to Derby and then back to Broome. Not far out of Broome they got another scare. A Japanese plane circled the ship. But the Koolinda's master put their minds at rest. "Don't worry about him," he said, "The Japs won't bomb us. This is a sacred ship."

*To find out why the Koolinda's master said this, you'll have to read the book. I am indebted to Mr. Davies for his kind permission to print this extract in "WESTLINK". The book details many interesting and little known events that happened in Western Australia during world War 2 years, with input from Japanese, American and local sources.*

*I'm interested in any further information on these incidents, including dates. I assume the machine gun incident was sometime in 1942 and the Broome incident 1943 or 1944. Information is also wanted on possible other shooting incidents along the coast involving lightkeeping parties. I understand a member of 4 Australian Field Survey Company, of Dutch origin, was arrested and jailed as a suspect spy near Exmouth?*

*Submitted by: Pat Wood*

oOo

**NEED A MAP**

The West Australian Travellers Atlas is a guide to roads and country towns in the south west of Western Australia. All Edition 1 maps have been revised and Map coverage has been extended by including five new maps focusing on the areas around Denham, Carnarvon, Exmouth, Karratha and Broome. Produced in conjunction with The West Australian newspaper using maps as comprehensive information on WA's colourful natural and cultural heritage. Local tourist attractions and accommodation for each region are described and advertised, accompanied by colour photographs.

The Travellers Atlas is available from DOLA's Central Map Agency, newsagents and bookstores.

DOLA's colourful StreetSmart Touring Maps series provide information on the quality of roads, picnic and camping locations, environmental dangers, and sites of cultural and physical interest including tourist attractions and travel tips. Maps are available for \* East Kimberley \* Batavia Coast \* Southern Forests \* Greater South West \* South Coast \* Gascoyne Coast \* Goldfields \* Rainbow Coast \* South West Corner \* Blackwood Valley \* Esperance.

## I'd Rather Pick Up a Brown Snake By Lance Barrell

In the early 80s the Army were undertaking a mapping program throughout the Kimberleys from Beagle Bay in the west to Mount House in the east. From descriptions of past survey operations in the region I had conjured up a vision of the Gibb River Road (GRR) as some sort of monster that had great delight in destroying even the most prepared vehicle, although time of year and the luck of the draw all played their part in what was to be my first taste of the Kimberley.

I had been bashing my way around Napier Downs updating mapping and headed into our base camp at Winjana looking forward to a bit of civilisation and was met by Ron (name changed). He was a crusty old staff sergeant with more bush time than Burke and Wills. He stood in the middle of the camp with the stance and look that your mother gives you when your late. "Don't bother getting comfortable, change of plans, we've got to get the aviation fuel from Beverley Springs and move it to Gibb River Homestead". Ron had two flatbed 5 ton trucks fuelled and ready; I was to accompany Ron as we were short handed, whilst the young mechanic was to drive the other truck.

We'd got onto the GRR and I settled into the wedge position; that's jamming yourself into the seat, foot on the dash; and empty truck on corrugations doesn't lend itself to comfort. I'd been into Beverley a month before but hadn't been further east so I searched the cab for a map to get some idea of how far we were going. "Where's the Map?". "Don't need one", was Ron's gruff reply, "spent 9 months up here in the 60s, can't miss Gibb River, just off the road it is, big sign at the gate." I made some comment that he apparently chose to ignore, going on to say; "Maps! Don't need them. besides I'd rather pick up a brown snake!". I gathered I was out of line so settled back to watch the scenery that was still bouncing before my eyes. Anyway it's just one long road, what could go wrong.

Beverley Springs is 42km off the GRR, a little rough in places with a few creek crossings although it had taken one hour last time in the 60 series cruiser I had some doubts as to whether we could pick up the 37 drums and get into Gibb by nightfall as it was already midday. It was slow going in the truck, nearly an hour and a half into Beverley, finding the 44 gallon drums at the airstrip. Not a problem 18 drums on one truck, 19 on the other. We set about loading the first truck under Ron's constant supervision; 16 drums and the tray was full

We decided to drive down the strip, hit the brakes, now we can fit one more; repeat the process several times and all drums are loaded. The trip out was slow, 2 hours, loaded to the stoppers rarely out of second gear. "We're not going to make Gibb by dark". "Bull" says Ron, "just up the road, around the bend and into Gibb, dead easy".

The GRR in those days had its share of creek crossings, mustering had just finished and the road trains had made a mess of the road, potholes and corrugations being the norm; not really the right place for a commercial truck. Didn't see another vehicle and rarely saw third gear, 60kpm at best continually slowed by crossings that the heavily loaded truck eagerly drove into (despite down shifting and brakes), then reluctantly crawled out the other side. I'd had enough of the continual bouncing around so Ron handed the driving over to me. By his calculations I wouldn't have time to warm the seat as Gibb was just up the road. The sun was doing its disappearing act behind the King Leopold Ranges with crossings and pot holes appearing deeper in the fading light. "are you sure you know where your going?" "Don't be stupid" was the sharp reply, "was here when you were only a boy". I had been expecting that one. "Lets pull up, things'll look better in the morning". "Rubbish, just up the road, can't miss it".

With the truck continually vibrating, tacho gone haywire, ashtray opening and closing at will and gear shift doing the same sort of tribal dance all over the cab we continued ever so slowly down the road that was by now getting the better of truck and driver. It was one of those real black nights and I was sure we had missed Gibb. I had taken note of the trip meter upon leaving Beverley, a quick check will convince Ron. The speedo had long given up the ghost along with the dash board that was now trying to take up residence in our laps. Needless to say Ron's constant peering into the darkness confirmed my suspicions, time for some serious talk. As near as we could figure we're somewhere between Beverley and Kalumbaru, or is

it Wyndham. Bedding out, and some cold tin beans; all will be revealed in the morning.

We hadn't seen a soul the previous day and to our amazement awoke to find a tourist camped down the road. How embarrassing, "Excuse me mate, can I have a look at your map?" They had a Shell Road Map that covered the top end of Australia, bloody useless to us, and I wasn't convinced they knew where they were either. We waved them goodbye, now for a little arithmetic; average speed multiplied by hours driven equals?... "We must have missed Gibb". "Can't have, big sign, gate etc".

I'd heard it all before. Ron begrudgingly agreed so we headed back, about one hour later coming across a gate, but no sign. Ron paused, scratching his head; "Could be, twas 20 years ago you know." (notice a change in confidence). The gate was locked, "It's OK, the homestead is only in a little ways" says Ron, who has now recovered from temporary amnesia. The walk in was somewhat longer than Ron had remembered. True to form we found the homestead abandoned, up for sale, great! By the time we arrived back at the trucks we hadn't decided on our next course of action and were going through the ritual head scratching faze when a donkey shooter contracted to the Agricultural Dept. arrived with key in hand, mission accomplished.

The return trip to Winjana was uneventful although with the truck again empty the road continued to shake both truck and passengers. Got back to camp, we'd better keep our mouths shut about our little misadventure, "Drums delivered Sir, dead easy!" The GRR had lived up to its reputation, all gauges dead, electric's spasmodic, jerry can holders cracked, tail light assembly dragging on the ground and anything that wasn't supposed to move, did. It was just as well the mechanic was with us to confirm the impact of "that road" and that due care was taken. A few weeks after returning to Perth we received a call from Darwin asking the whereabouts of the aviation fuel, appears that the drums had vanished. Not wishing to point the finger but the donkey shooter was using a chopper, and we all know they don't run on super.

My first trip to the Kimberley, and the other that Ron and I were to do over the next ten years leave many fond memories that I should one day take the time to record. We both retired from the Army and Ron regularly likes to go bush. Look into his vehicle today and you will find an abundance of maps, but not a brown snake to be seen!



(E.d.: Substitute "a" for "o" and "y" for "n" and it spells the President)

#### **ARMY AMENITIES HOLIDAY UNITS - MANDURAH & KALBARRI**

**Kalbarri Beach Resort** - 2 units, both 2 bedrooms (one double - other bunk bed plus single)  
Rates for Retired ARA/Defence Civilians (outside School Holiday periods)

Daily \$40 and Weekly \$230.

**Mandurah** - 14 Beam Road - four units (Units 1,2 & 3 sleep a family of 6/Unit 4 accommodates family of 8). Rates: 2 bedroom Daily \$35 Weekly \$150  
3 bedroom Daily \$40 Weekly \$170

Brochures and information may be obtained from:  
Service Personnel Leeuwin Barracks (09) 311 2337

#### **Acknowledgments**

- Fred Bullock for arranging printing of this Journal.
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- "Army" Newspaper for their provision and permission to reproduce the photograph on our cover.

***A  
Very  
Merry  
Christmas  
and all Best  
Wishes for a  
Happy New Year***

