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1996

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

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**WESTLINK**

1st December 1999

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

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**YOUR COMMITTEE 1999 - 2000**

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**SUBSCRIPTION TO WESTLINK**

WESTLINK is available on subscription to ex-Survey Corps members living Interstate for an Annual Fee of \$5. WESTLINK is published in July and December and will keep you in touch with all of the news from over here in the 'WEST'.

The subscription to WESTLINK should be forwarded to the Secretary, Philip Bray 33 Nalpa Way DUNCRAIG WA 6023. Please make remittance payable to the RA Svy Corps Association (WA) Inc.

**ERRATUM****WESTLINK - July 1999 Issue No 18**

**Page 2. From the President** Reference was made to the "Old Boys Association"  
The correct name should read "4 Field Survey Company  
Old Comrades Association".

**Page 9. Devil's Inn Renamed** It was reported that the Inn had been renamed the "Ryan Inn".  
Correct designation is the "Ryan Club".

**Nominal Rolls 1976 & 1977** Unit title should read "5th Field Survey Squadron".

**PRINTING OF WESTLINK**

The Association would like to acknowledge the assistance of Fred Bullock in the reproduction of this edition of WESTLINK.

**COVER PHOTOGRAPH**

52770 WO1 Robert Biram JONES

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

It seems that the time is fast approaching when we must address the question "For how much longer can we exist as an Association? Membership and attendance's at our functions is falling fast. We were certainly disadvantaged by the demise, firstly of 5 Field Survey Squadron in 1990 and then the subsequent disbanding of the Corps. Unfortunately we were unable to recruit only one or two of the Reserve members to our ranks. 1999 has really been a disappointing year for the Association. As the RSL has a minimum on the number of 'marchers' constituting a unit it is a definite possibility that we may have to accept the invitation of RAE to march with them. Hopefully still holding our banner high.

It was great to catch up with Rod Keene and remember some of our experiences - certainly shows the bondship that can exist in his journeying up to Geraldton for the day to visit Archie.

He was disappointed in not being able to visit Spike before his death and instead penned the poem "Tears for Spike" which was read at his funeral.

I too, carry memories of Spike - of being detoured to the Swan Yacht Club on many a trip to Swan Barracks from Fremantle. He was later appointed Commodore of the Club and in later years granted Life Membership. I believe he was very involved in the drawing up and laying out of the pens for the Club.

I was in touch with Clem Sargent recently to ask permission to reproduce his article 'The Royal Australian Survey Corps, 1915-1990' from "Sabretache" The journal published by the Federal Council of the Military Historical Society of Australia. Not only was this readily given but Clem has provided a full size copy. Originally we planned to reproduce this in serial form in Westlink, but the Committee decided that such treatment would not do justice to such an important and informative document. It should be ready for distribution at the same time as this magazine.

I would like to extend, not only personal thanks, but, on behalf of all members a record gratitude and appreciation to Phil Bray, our Secretary/Treasurer for dedication and devotion to the Association. Although often far from home he still manages "organise" (The July issue was produced by him from Bangladesh - Barry being away on overseas holiday).

Ray

**ANNIVERSARY DINNER - Saturday 3rd July 1999**

Those of you who didn't make it to this years' Corps Anniversary Dinner missed a most enjoyable evening. The venue this year was the Victoria League Club in Shenton Park, a venue which suits the Association's requirements perfectly.

The evening commenced with the President presenting the ladies with a flower as they arrived, followed by pre-dinner drinks in the Drawing Room. This room can only be described as a "Time Capsule" being decorated with antique furniture, a baby grand piano and a large collection of Royalist Memorabilia of the Victorian era.

The menu chosen by the Committee was superb and the food was well presented and could be likened to a 5 Star restaurant. At one stage during the evening Brian Mead was overheard to say "the Function Centre had a certain ambience".

After dinner we invited Jean Scones from the Victoria League of Commonwealth Friendship to give us an overview of the history of the League and it's current activities. Interestingly one of the League's main activities is that of fund-raising for various Perth charities.

**FAMILY PICNIC DAY OR "A CLAYTON'S PICNIC"**

A very disappointing turnout for what in previous years has been such an enjoyable and successful day.

Ray and Dora Sargeant ; Jo and Betty Mazzarol with son Tim and family ;  
Frank Cohen ; Fred Brown ; Bob Bruce ; Helen & Barry Parker

spent a few hours enjoying each others company, reliving and recalling days and comrades throughout the Corps.

**PERSONAL SNIPPETS - WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**DON TAYLOR** Still has a few hurdles to cross following his recent surgery but is making a steady trip down the road to, hopefully, what will be a full recovery.

**FRANK COHEN** - looking somewhat like a patchwork quilt at the moment. Frank, like many of us from the early years has developed tendency to skin cancers.

**BRIAN FIRNS** - usually picks up Frank Cohen to attend our Committee Meetings - had to engage Frank as driver at our last meeting as on the way up he had an interview with the RBT (Random Breath Testing Bus). Luckily he was just on the borderline Suggestion Brian, don't spend so long at the "Office" next time.

**RAY SARGEANT** - who works with the Joint Logistics Unit has been heavily involved with de-archiving stores for the Timor Operations. Ray is currently planning "Operation Goldfinger" for his retirement. He and Barry P will be doing a recce in the Kalgoorlie and Northern areas mid 2000. and has to pay for maps from Colin Yandell at DOLA.

'Our Poet Laureate From Afar' **ROD "Lofty" KEENE** was in Perth recently for 10 days, during which he made a quick trip up to Geraldton to see well known RA Svy identity and character **ARCHIE HANCOCK**. We recently published a poem written by Rod entitled "Archie" (Issue No 17 - 1 Dec 98). Is there a sequel in the offing Rod? **Archie** is not in good health but we know he'd enjoy a visit from any old Svy bods visiting or passing through the Geraldton area - he's at the Sun City Caravan Park , phone number 9938 2239.

The evening of Wed 8th Sept saw a few us gather at the Carine Tavern for a beer and a chat with Rod - attending were Ray Sargeant, Frank Cohen (he travelled up to Geraldton with Rod), Jo Mazzarol, Noel Clutterbuck, Barry Parker, and surprise - Barry Harms.

Likewise Rod would welcome visitors from the West and suggests that any members venturing to North Queensland give him a call ( I believe he can organize accommodation) - his address 7 Andrews Close, Port Douglas FNQ 4871 Phone 0740985534.

**OUR MOBILE SECRETARY/TREASURER PHILIP BRAY** is home from his stint in Bangladesh on a UN mapping project for the Bureau of Statistics, however he is scheduled to return there a week or two before Christmas.

**BARRY and HELEN PARKER** have returned from their overseas trip and now joined the ranks of Service Pensioners. In 4 months they roamed around the UK and the United States. Memorable activities included canal boat and steam train trips in the UK and 4 days spent in New Orleans in the USofA. Highlight, however, was a 5 day cruise on the "Viking Serenade" from Los Angeles to Ensenada in Mexico .

**JO MAZZAROL** seems to be keeping himself very busy for a retiree. One of his major activities is his involvement with the Blacksmiths Association of W.A. - as well as being responsible for handling public relations for the Association Jo also is Editor for their magazine. The Blacksmith's Association recently had a significant role in the building of the "Duyfken" replica in Fremantle, producing hardware for the cannon and numerous nails, pins and rivets.

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**A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL**

## VALE

**ROBERT BIRAM JONES**  
**WO1 - RA SVY**

Another legend lost -

The Association reports with regret the death on 8th October of Robert Biram Jones.

Spike, as he was known throughout the Corps, was one of the old school who became quite a legend not only Western Australia but throughout the Corp. He was involved in many outback mapping projects during two periods in Western Command during the periods 1956 to 1964 and 1969 to 1974. Spike enlisted in 1954 in the Infantry and saw service with them in Korea, he also served in South Vietnam with the RA Svy. Following retirement from the Army Spike spent many years with the Lands & Surveys Department.

Spike was a very keen and passionate member of the Swan Yacht Club. I (Barry) can remember many a "Wednesday Sports Afternoon" fronting the bar with him and others. He was a Commodore and Life Member of the Club and was renown as the oracle on their Constitution. Spike was also a devotee of the poems of A B (Banjo) Paterson and livened many a bush night with his recitations.

Although we had not seen him for some years his name always seemed to be mentioned at our reunions and he will be remembered in the years to come.

Several Association members attended services for Spike and his casket was covered with the Corps flag.

Farewell Mate

**ALLAN BROOK - 4th Field Survey Company**  
**1912 - 16 JULY 1999**

Allan joined the 4th Field Survey Company in 1940 and was included in the first intake of the Army Survey training school at the Claremont Show Grounds. He has just completed his articles under Surveyor George Medcalf of Albany and soon gained a promotion to Sergeant. Some of his time at Claremont was spent in fixing standard horizontal and vertical stations for use by the school.

When later the 4th Field Survey Company was shifted to Karrakatta and divided into sections, Allan, now a Warrant Officer, was again seconded to special survey duties as required for projects such as the gun emplacements at Rottnest Island, the tunnels at the Round House in Fremantle and the Buckland Hill anti-aircraft battery, also engineering surveys for the Northam and Melville military camps. This became the pattern of his service with the Royal Australian Survey Corps even after he, with many other members, transferred to Burwood in Victoria.

It was whilst in Victoria that Allan met and married Marjorie Shaw of Bunbury.

On discharge Allan took up a position with the Perth City Council. Although he was the first in their survey section he later turned his interests to local government engineering. This new vocation lured Allan and Marjorie back to Victoria where he took up a number of engineering positions, eventually retiring from the Woollahra City Council back to Albany in 1977.

Allan lived a quiet lifestyle in retirement and died on the 16th July 1999 only five weeks after Marjorie. He is survived by a daughter Helen and a son, Harvey.

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

**MEMBERSHIP 1999**

BARRELL	Lance	10 Welch Way	WARNBRO	6169	9593 2661
BOULTER	Bob	223 Scott Street	CLOVERDALE	6105	9277 1036
BOWEN	Peter	8 Rosea Close	MAIDA VALE	6057	9454 6219
BOWLER	Stephen	3 Seacrest Drive	SORRENTO	6020	9447 3796
BRAY	Philip	33 Nalpa Way	DUNCRAIG	6023	9447 9699
BREWER	Bob	14 Arthur Road	LESMURDIE	6076	9291 6203
BRUCE	Bob	34 Gregory Street	WEMBLEY	6014	9381 2103
BROOK	Eric	6 Binns Court	NORTH FREMANTLE	6159	9336 4324
BROWN	Fred	9A Bocaccio Court	SORRENTO	6020	9246 4804
BULLOCK	Fred	P.O. Box 117	INNALOO	6018	9248 2475
CHERRY	Nevis	8 Abrolhos Close	SHELLEY	6148	9457 0612
CLIFFORD	Leo	41B Kittyhawk Grove	BUSSELTON	6280	9754 3748
CLUTTERBUCK	Cedric	18 Glennon Way	ROSSMOYNE	6148	9457 4651
CLUTTERBUCK	Eric	4 Carob Place	GREENWOOD	6024	9342 2181
CLUTTERBUCK	Noel	357 Hardey Road	CLOVERDALE	6105	9277 7072
COHEN	Frank	121 North Street	SWANBOURNE	6010	9384 7094
CRADDON	Clive	212 Corinthian Road	RIVERTON	6148	9354 1312
DELANEY	Shane	7/119 South Terrace	FREMANTLE	6160	9336 3636
DIXON	Chris	15 Orchid Drive	ROLEYSTONE	6111	9397 5380
EDDY	Peter	6 Cullen Street	SHENTON PARK	6008	9381 2616
EDWARDS	Frank	4 Batavia Way	SALTER POINT	6152	9450 3945
FIRNS	Brian	59 Thompson Road	NORTH FREMANTLE	6159	9335 6825
GAY	Doug	16 Waratah Court	MADDINGTON	6109	9452 2298
GOBLE-GARRATT	Mike	16 Redwood Lane	WILLETTON	6155	9457 3048
GRIFFITHS	Leon	33 Engler Street	BOORAGOON	6154	9364 8019
HALL	Warren	PO Box 298	TOODYAY	6566	9574 4484
HANCOCK	Archie	Sun City C'van Park - Swan Drive	GERALDTON	6530	9938 2239
HELYAR OAM	Geoff	51 Wedgewood Drive	EDGEWATER	6027	9306 1509
LAWLER	Marlene	20B Admiral Grove.	HEATHRIDGE	6027	9307 7652
LOCKE	Cec	35 Amos Way	GIRRAWHEEN	6064	9342 6098
MACDONALD	Don	8/17 Heydon Street	MOSMAN N.S.W.	2088	
MAZZAROL BEM	Jo	52 Cleveland Street	DIANELLA	6062	9276 6170
MEAD	Brian	8 Barridale Drive	KINGSLEY	6026	9409 8292
MUSGRAVE	Don	27 Marjorie Parade	ROCKINGHAM	6168	9527 3473
PARKER	Barry	41B Jefferson Drive	MARANGAROO	6064	9342 7245
REYNOLDS	Kim	39 Churchill Drive	BUNBURY	6230	9721 6169
ROBERTS	Jim	1 Chidley Place	ROCKINGHAM	6168	9527 5180
ROSSOW	Alan	25 Wolsely Road	EAST FREMANTLE	6158	93192789
SARGEANT	Ray	29 Bouvardia Way	GREENWOOD	6024	9448 5787
SAWYER	Tom	5 Mandoon Close	DARLINGTON	6070	9299 7039
TAYLOR	Don	22 Callistemon Avenue	GREENWOOD	6024	9447 0465
TILL	Alf	21 Cromarty Road	FLOREAT	6014	9387 5113
UWINS	Bev	12 Kexby Street	BALCATT	6021	9344 1968
VENN	Mick	29 Waitara Crescent	GREENWOOD	6024	9448 0407
WEBB	Cliff	8 Nalpa Way	DUNCRAIG	6023	9448 3176
WILLIS	John	35A Newborough Street	SCARBOROUGH	6019	9341 3956
WILKINSON	Darren	10 Winjana Road	LESMURDIE	6076	9291 8426
WILSON	Bryan	69A William Road	NEDLANDS	6009	9386 4729

RA SVY CORPS WESTERN AUSTRALIA - NOMINAL ROLLS 1978 - 19795TH FIELD SURVEY SQUADRON1978

63366	MAJ	J R	CATTELL
56095	CAPT	JW	WINZAR
18246	LT	D R	HOCKINOSS
43784	LT	ER	SCHULZE
46641	LT	PH	CATES
53236	W01	D	COCKER
37696	W02	DC	DUQUEMIN
63723	W02	JL	ROBERTS
54467	SSGT	SW	FIRNS
6410780	SSGT	A	DAVIES
56042	SSGT	VD	FERMANER
23839	SGT	JR	COOMBER
1202113	SGT	KJ	KENNEDY
2205890	SGT	J D	MOBBS
54378	SGT	B E	PARKER
313412	SGT	C J	DIXON
65978	SGT	D P	MUSGRAVE
220241	SGT	PG	BANNISTER
55193	SGT	AG	COOK
3107631	SGT	PJ	PRESSER
314070	CPL	GL	CLARK
220548	CPL	R	SHIPLEY
167611	CPL	AS	VAN LEEUWEN
314878	CPL	B	COSFORD
219053	CPL	SF	CARSON
1736676	CPL	PD	TWYDALE
2784126	CPL	FJ	BURLS
314602	CPL	CK	YANDELL
315612	CPL	JL	KERNAGHAN
316287	CPL	DI	LEARMONTH
450010	CPL	MJ	BODMAN
66748	CPL	SN	THAXTER
630412	CPL	DT	CARR
51014	TCPL	O W	EVANS
56311	TCPL	SJ	ROGERS
316097	SPR	PA	CHEATER
211838	SPR	DL	HOME
317225	SPR	RD	MICHAJLOW
282117	SPR	R M	GREEN
212047	SPR	PT	COLLINS
57762	PTE	M R	GILLHAM
636184	PTE	SJ	KYRWOOD
58452	PTE	BS	CARR
552405	PTE	GA	MAIR
F318307	PTE	AK	STRONG

IN

6708966	CPL	B J	LUTWYCHE	12 January
320098	SPR	S L	HRABE	3 January
320096	SPR	G R	JOHNSTON	12 January
7965	SPR	H R	BOATH	19 January
49392	SPR	R	TALBOT-SMITH	3 January
47834	SPR	M R	PATERSON	18 January
59970	CPL	R C	MILLAR	20 March
552657	SPR	P L	JONES	?
56483	CPL	J W	JONES	10 July
56876	CPL	M J	MINCHIN	26 July
6708649	SSGT	W B	BAKER	29 August
316274	CPL	K R	GOLDBURG	30 September
53004	WO2	I J	HASTINGS	3 October
315657	CPL	N F	KELLY	16 October
317723	CPL	G C	MASKELL	10 October
57495	SPR	R G	BREWER	10 October
226435	SPR	K M	GEORGE	3 November
47315	SPR	T P	REHMANN	3 November
59580	LT	B A	KEELEY	4 December
1204544	LT	C	GEHRMANN	4 December
320785	SPR	M H	FERRIS	5 December
49654	SPR	P D	Longbottom	5 December
38741	MAJ	G J	CORLESS	21 November
38251	CAPT	C J	MITCHELL	16 December

OUT

SGT	J R	COOMBER	3 Feb - Discharge
SGT	C J	DIXON	17 March
CPL	B F	CARSON	24 February
SPR	D L	HOME	27 Feb - AHO Svy Regt
CAPT	D R	HOCKINGSS	18 Apr - DSVY(A)
CPL	G L	CLARK	12 Apr - AHQ Svy Regt
SPR	P A	CHEATER	17 Apr - 8 Fd Svy Sqn
CPL	D W	EVANS	19 Jul - HQ 6 MD
CPL	P D	TWYDALE	22 Jul - RAAOC Centre
PTE	A K	STRONG	6 Jun - DSU Perth
CPL	A B	VAN LEEUWEN	11 Aug - I Fd Svy Sqn
CAPT	J W	WINZAR	3 Oct - HQ 42 Engr Regt UK
SSGT	A	DAVIES	20 Oct - Discharge
SSGT	V D	FERMANER	11 Nov - DSU 3 MD
CPL	B	COSFORD	7 Oct - School of Mil Svy
SPR	R M	GREEN	30 October
MAJ	J R	CATTELL	20 Dec - Discharge
SGT	P G	BANNISTER	?-DSU 2 MD
SPR	P T	COLLINS	Deceased 18 Feb
SGT	D P	MUSGRAVE	?
PTE	B B	CARR	?

PROMOTIONS

LT	DR	HOCKINGS	CAPT - 20 Feb
LT	ER	SCHULZE	CAPT - 20 Feb
LT	pH	CATES	CAPT - 20 Feb
SGT	JD	MOBBS	SSOT
SPR	M R	PATERSON	CPL



**5TH FIELD SURVEY SQUADRON****1979**

38741	MAJ	G J	CORLESS
38251	CAPT	C J	MITCHELL
43784	CAPT	E R	SCHULZE
45541	CAPT	P H	CATES
59680	LT	B A	KEELEY
1204544	LT	C	GEHRMANN
53236	W01	D	COCKER
37696	W02	D C	DUQUEMIN
53723	W02	J L	ROBERTS
53004	W02	I J	HASTINGS
54467	SSGT	B W	FIRNS
2205890	SSGT	J D	MOBBS
6708549	SSGT	W S	BAKER
1202113	SGT	K J	KENNEDY
64378	SGT	B E	PARKER
55193	SGT	A G	COOK
3107631	SGT	P J	PRESSER
450010	CPL	M J	BOOMAN
2784126	CPL	F J	BURLS
630412	CPL	D T	CARR
316274	CPL	K R	GOLDBURG
55483	CPL	J W	JONES
315657	CPL	N F	KELLY
316612	CPL	J L	KERNAGHAN
316287	CPL	D I	LEARMONTH
6708956	CPL	B J	LUTWYCHE
317723	CPL	G C	MASKELL
59970	CPL	R C	MILLAR
56876	CPL	M J	MINCHIN
47834	CPL	M R	PATERSON
56311	TCPL	S J	ROGERS
220548	CPL	R	SHIPLEY
66748	CPL	S N	THAXTER
314602	CPL	C K	YANDELL
57965	SPR	H R	BOATH
57496	SPR	R G	BREWER
320785	SPR	M H	FERRIS
226435	SPR	K M	GEORGE
57762	PTE	M R	GILLHAM
320098	SPR	S L	HRABE
320096	SPR	G R	JOHNSTON
552557	SPR	P L	JONES
635184	PTE	S J	KYRWOOD
49654	SPR	P D	LONGBOTTOM
317225	SPR	R D	MICHAJLOW
552405	PTE	G A	MAIR
49392	SPR	R	TALBOT-SMITH
47316	SPR	T P	REHMANN

IN

65376	SSGT	L S	PATTERSON	22 January
1411262	SGT	D G	GRANFELT	6 February
56815	SGT	W K	LEWIS	7 February
57111	CPL	G E	MENTIPLAY	30 March
1736675	CPL	P D	TWYDALE	23 April
552642	SPR	M D	JAMES	3 May
3109614	SSGT	D A	GAY	12 June
315292	SGT	P W	HAMMER	6 June
2412082	SGT	D R	SHAW	6 June
1203731	SGT	R J	LARSEN	6 June
220364	SSGT	D P	GALBRAITH	27 November
2205890	SSGT	J D	MOBBS	29 November
2190893	2LT	D H O	BURNS	10 December
1202474	SGT	P A	JENSEN	15 December
59929	SPR	J S	REID	11 December
1201147	W02	J T A	HOOK	2 October
319354	SPR	P A	JOHNSON	26 March

OUT

CPL	D I	LEARMONTH	22 Jan - AHO Svy Regt
PTE	S J	KYRWOOD	15 Jan - DSU Enoggera
CAPT	E R	SCHULZE	5 March
SSGT	J D	MOBBS	27 Mar - LTS
SGT	B E	PARKER	23 Mar - Discharge
CPL	D T	CARR	18 Mar - Discharge
CPL	R C	MILLAR	22 Feb - Discharge
SPR	R G	BREWER	17 Feb - Discharge
CPL	S J	ROGERS	20 Apr - Discharge
W02	D C	DUQUEMIN	4 Jul - 2 Fd Svy Sqn
SSGT	D G	GRANFELT	1 Aug - 6Fd Sup Coy
CPL	J L	KERNAGHAN	30 Jul - Discharge
CPL	S N	THAXTER	8 Jul - AHO Svy Regt
PTE	M R	GILLHAM	21 Nov - AHO Svy Regt

PROMOTIONS

SSGT	L A	PATTERSON	W02 -1 Feb
SGT	D G	GRANFELT	SSGT - 27 Mar
SPR	R S	MICHAJLOW	CPL - 1 May
CPL	R	SHIPLEY	SGT - 10 Jul
SPR	A R	BOATH	CPL - 18 Jul
SPR	G R	JOHNSTON	CPL - 7 Aug

SOME MEMORIES FROM ROD (LOFTY) KEENEROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS  
1955-1967

The time period I mention is not just the period in which I served but I believe when surveying, predominately topographic surveying underwent its most dramatic advancements since the advent of the tape measure. The advancements being firstly the electronic distance measuring equipment (EDM), the computer, and finally the satellite positioning systems.

We had arrived. The 'eye, ear and nostril' method of surveying and the rope and whistle had long since gone. Most things had advanced tremendously by the time I joined, or had they.

Below is a survey stores list made out by one Sergeant Cohen prior to a field trip, about 1950 during the making of a one mile map up near Quobba WA.

Hooks, sinkers, swivels, burley bobs, 5, 10 and 20 pound lines. Rods & reels, knives, sharpening stone,  
Shot gun and cartridges.

Frying pan, camp oven, cups, bowls etc

Boats gravy for troops one for the use of

Food, bedding, camping equip and oh yeh! I nearly forgot, Surveying gear.

The casual approach to 'strict military discipline' continued during my time, in fact I believe it was begrudgingly undertaken both by officers and men as a means to an end. The end being to get our job done as efficiently and quickly with the minimum amount of military bullshit as possible.

Which brings me to Captain Anthony G. Bomford, Royal Engineers exchange officer, and eventually Director of Australian National Mapping. Obviously a problem was envisaged even before we met him. In anticipation of his arrival we were paraded, marched up and down practising our drill to welcome him into our fold. There we were, on parade, all brass and boots sparkling like Jim Skates teeth. We needn't have bothered. Tony strides into the quadrangle, cap on a jaunty angle, battle dress unpressed, open neck shirt, no tie and wearing desert boots. We could see straight away we would all get along fine. Later on we were to discover Tony had two favourite expressions. They were "Quaite so, quaite so, but we'll do it my way," and "shit or bust." An expression he used as in "We'll finish this job today, shit or bust." This expression inevitably got him into a spot of bother.

Before coming to Australia Tony had just completed a job mapping the small English possession of South Georgia, a small island off the south east coast of South America. Their drafting department were adding the final touches when Tony noticed the small flag on the top of the centre mast of the square rigged sailing ship, the emblem for South Georgia. As with our survey corps badge this emblem appeared on every printed map. Tony in his infinite wisdom decided to include a piece of personalised Spanish literature this tiny flag. That being "el creppo crappo" or something like that, meaning, you guessed it, "Shit or bust." He would have got away with it but for this little old lady with nothing better to do, while studying the map noticed this minute piece of writing on the flag. Out came the magnifying glass.

The end result being thousands of maps recalled and dear Tony hauled over the coals. For his indiscretion he was deported to Aussie for two years as an exchange officer. Please don't let the absolute truth interfere with a good story.

He and his father, an Oxford lecturer and author of the bible in Geodesy entitled "Big Bomfords blue book" were both full bottle on geodesy. Tony, during his time in Australia made the development of the Australian National Spheroid one of his pet projects. My story involves just a small section of the mapping (over 1 00 000 sq. miles in total) of the Kimberleys from 1956 -1960. A viewpoint I might add from one of the lower ranks. What we were doing in the Kimberleys was more than adequately covered by Major Pat Wood BEM in West Link edition No 4 1992.

Just to recap it involved a first order angle and measurement traverse, combined with La Place astronomical observations for Latitude and Longitude, sigma octants obs for azimuth, plus mapping control and field annotation of aerial photographs.

Most of the first order geodetic traverse surrounding and networking Australia was undertaken during that period. Our (ie Western Command Field Survey Section) allotted portion of the traverse was from Broome around the coast to Wyndham, down to Halls Creek via Turkey Creek then to Nookanbah and back to Broome. Another loop from Halls Ck to Nicholson up across the NT border to Ivanhoe and back to Wyndham namely Mt. Bastian, conveniently situated just above the Wyndham town pub.

Which naturally brings me to Tony and Morse code. Radios were still too bulky and unreliable. We had learnt the code using helios or lucas lights, and was handling it quite well until Tony arrived. He had never bothered to learn Morse, this was "stuff and nonsense. As in Daddys big blue book the signals used in India are still good enough."

At the time we were reading angles at Pivot (Tony and Bob McKenna (Mac)), between Shedroof and Bastian (yours truly) who was keeping a light to Pivot.

Instead of using the conventional Morse for raise light(RL) or(LL), FINI for finish for the night but will continue tomorrow night, or GB meaning goodbye to this station we'll now move on etc. Tony insisted "quaite so, quaite so but

we'll do it my way. That is six dashes followed by six dots means lower light and seven dots followed by sixteen dashes means rhubarb rhubarb etc."

To put it nicely a lot of cods wallop and more difficult than the real thing. When we finished that night about 7pm. Mac sent me a heap of dots and dashes at a rapid pace meaning absolutely nothing. I responded with a similar amount of crap leaving Tony standing there with his mouth agape. "fat was all that about?" he inquired to Mac, "Oh, I just said to Lofty we will see him down at the town pub in a couple of hours, and he said he'll be there long before that." Tony couldn't wait to collar me as soon as they arrived, sidling up to me and casually asked what Mac and myself were signalling after the obs. had finished. I gave him a beer and nonchalantly replied, "I think something about seeing you in the pub in about two hours." Tony moved away mumbling unaware Mac and I had pre-arranged this charade. All in all Tony loved Australia especially the Kimberleys.

The crisp brilliant clear night skies made astronomy a pleasure. It was a factor that resulted in Tony returning to the UK, resigning from the Royal Engineers and making a life for himself and family out here in the colonies.

He joined National Mapping and carried on with his pet project the ANS 66 spheroid.

One particular project stands out in my memory in 1958 was a sortie we undertook travelling north from Halls Creek about thirty miles then west to Spring Vale station. From what I recall there was a GMC truck, a Dodge wagon and a couple of American LHD jeeps. WO's 'Snow Simpson, Bremner and Frank Cohen, Sgt Jo Mazzarol., Sprs Johnson (Johnno) R.B.Jones (Spike) Bob Mac. myself and maybe others I can't remember. We had our right of entry passes so we bowled into the property, passed the homestead and continued down to the windmill about a mile away to set up camp. Very shortly after we noticed this cloud of dust leaving the homestead and bearing down on us at a great rate of knots. This big single spinner customline brogged to halt in a cloud of dust and out steps this huge man looking quite choofed. 'what the bloody hell are you blokes doing here?' he yells.

This was the legendary Tom Quilty. "you can't squat here," oh! oh! we thought, now were in for it, 'cget your arses up to the homestead, no one camps here while I'm the boss," and he sent us up to the house where he made us all welcome with beds and a meal.

His hospitality also included a few very welcome drinks (Captain Kettle Rum if you don't mind) and a small selection from his just published book of verse entitled "The Drovers Cook."

Slim Dusty, at a later date put the title poem to music and bought it out on a record. From there we carried on to Bedford Downs. By this time it was pouring down rain and we just made it after being bogged several times.

Mine host at this establishment was Basil Underwood a son of Tom Quilty and his good lady of long standing a charming Ms Underwood.

Basil had heard we were coming on the pedal radio so was prepared and made us just as welcome. Two weeks we stayed there, unable to move because of the rain.

As we ate at the house we supplemented the station rations with food items from the truck and kept ourselves busy with chores around the property. Jo did maintenance on the station vehicles and machinery, Spike an ex station hand did saddle and general leather repairs, Mac, an ex carpenter and builder and I re-upholstered the household lounge suite, and all combined to build a large storage shed.

The trouble with eating at the house was they had breakfast about four o' bloody clock in the morning. Grilled dinosaur bones and black tea then back to bed for us, but not the station liands.

Our next stop was Tablelands Station and Mrs Delower, but not before doing a bit of remodeling of the figure of the earth ourselves.

Mrs Delower, now there's a working woman for you.

Once again she was prepared for our imminent arrival. She must have been doing a Kathy Watts impersonation on the pedal radio.

The hospitality of these people and in particular Mrs Delower was also legendary.

Our beds were all made up in the men's quarters, clean white sheets, and the table set in the fly wired dining area outside under the canopy of this huge tree.

She was a nightmare for the MMA pilots of the old DC3's that took in the milk run once a fortnight between Perth and Wyndham.

When the plane landed she would hustle aboard, eject all the passengers for morning tea she had prepared. Trestles and a large table, white tablecloth, pots of tea, fresh scones home made jam and cream for all.

Time was about as important to her as it was to the West Australian Government Railways. She believed they had been on that hot plane long enough and deserved a break. It was about a fourteen hour trip in those days.

Despite being a non-drinker she had stocked her kitchen kerosene fridge with a carton of big bottles of Swan for us blokes as the station generator had taken a turn for the worst and consequently the stations freezer was out of action. Enter Jo Mazz. Next day out of his truck steps Jo, tool box in hand and before you can say 'colostomy bag' had the engine stripped and running again before lunch. The station power supply was now back in business.

Ned, her husband and endearingly branded by the locals as a bit of a lad, was away at the time taking a mob of cattle to the meatworks in Wyndham. A bit of a lad? I think not. Mrs Delower told us the last time he was away a gin in the final stages of childbirth demanded fi7om where she was lying in the creek bed that the flying doctor should be summoned post

haste, as problems were envisaged. Mrs D could see it was too late for that so stayed to assist, but to no avail, the child was stillborn. The gin believed that Mrs D was at fault for not getting the flying doc. so she grabbed a spear and plunged it through her leg. That was bad enough but when Mrs D returned from hospital she found that another local indigenous lady had been occupying her marital bed while she was away and now wearing her best coat.

Just before we left she herded a steer under a tree and shot it with a twenty two rifle. The block and tackle was already in place so she hauled up the beast and commenced to skin and butcher it.

We left the station with fresh meat, loaves of fresh bread and bottles of her speciality, chilli wine. That's right, chilli bloody wine, home-made, smooth going down but don't ever over indulge.

Our next stop and the last of this trip I can remember was Lansdowne. Mine host was Rod Quilty, another son of Tom and a tyrant for his fathers shipmate, Captain Kettle. He had bottles of it planted all over the place. He hooked one out of the woodheap for us because his wife used to destroy any she found left lying around.

I can't recall how much work we must have completed but you can see why our field trips took from April to October.

One can't go on without mentioning some of the 'characters' we encountered during these trips. A few come to mind the first being 'the mad ringer'. The reason for this title hasn't escaped me but will become apparent in due course.

He apparently won third prize of a thousand quid in the WA charities one day up in Wyndham. "I'm off to Perth. Never been to Perth." he said. So he packed his few belongings and headed out to the airport, which unfortunately was very close to the six mile pub. The publican being one 'Bushy' Woodland.

"Must buy my mates a farewell drink, I've got a few minutes." Naturally that was the end of that. By the time he left the pub about a month later he was skint.

He once showed me a nasty scar on his calf muscle he said he got while jacking up his truck with a kangaroo jack when bogged in some mud. The truck slipped off the jack whereby the handle sprung up catching him on the leg- severing the calf muscle and causing it to retract up to behind his knee joint. He tried to pull it back into place with his fingers but the blood caused his fingers to slip.

Not to be outdone he then used some pliers to pull it back into place while he bound it up with some black insulation tape until he got himself to hospital. Not a pretty sight. He also enjoyed bullfighting, a local sporting custom requiring one (when full of sherbet) to go down on ones hands and knees and from one end of the barroom floor, charge his opponent, equally primed at the other end, and meet in the middle with their heads. I rest my case

Old Fred Russ a long time citizen of the Gibb river area, once shot himself through the shoulder with a 303 rifle while climbing through a fence. He simply blew some scotch whisky into the hole and blocked it off with an old singlet. Unfortunately, but not surprisingly the wound became so badly infected that it was suggested he go to Perth. "Not bloody likely" he responded, "went down there in 1915, the traffic was so bad I swore I'd never return." Needless to say he did go and became quite a celebrity with the hospital staff and made news in the local newspaper.

Slightly digressing to a different place and a different time out to Warburton mission about 1961. We noticed an old aboriginal chap walking around on a huge pile of bandages fashioned into a cone shaped stump in place of a foot. Pretty old and grotty stump by this time. The nursing sister at the mission clinic told us that this old chap developed gangrene from a spear wound. He solved the problem by putting his foot into a fire and burning it off. There was some tough buggers around in those days.

And of course there was 'Mooka. " Corporal Bev. bloody Uwins. Always bought to my mind an extract from one of Banjo Paterson's poems, so reverently recited by 'Spike' on many an occasion, before he fell asleep. Soundly asleep.

"The precincts of Wargeilah town An English new chum did infest: He used to wander up and down In baggy English breeches drest; His mental aspect seemed to be Just stolid self-sufficiency."

Everybody enjoyed the company of the ex English bank Johnny. Very difficult to visualise this unshaven, bare chested gent, khaki shorts two sizes to big, sitting on the edge of his bunk, six o'clock in the morning, cigarette in one hand and an old chipped enamel pint pannikin of rum in the other, ever working in a London bank.

He felt right at home in Aussie did 'Mooka'. Shortish in stature, wandering around on his bandy legs with a warm bottle of beer in his hands. "Brings out the flavor: he'd say. However he was well respected as a surveyor and mate by all ranks, and still a member of past players.

Lofty

**FROM OTHER ASSOCIATIONS****Survey EX-Servicemen's Association South Australia  
Newsletter NO. 25 August 1999**

**Bob Love** Just before last Anzac Day, Bob appeared on a T.V. news feature placing a small Australian Flag on the grave of Tom Derrick V.C. in Centennial War Cemetery. Each year students from Scotch College place about 6000 flags in the cemetery prior to Anzac Day, and as an old scholar of the college, Bob was giving a helping hand while representing the RSL.

**John Scharber** Leads a quiet life these days, and keeps out of mischief by doing gardening and lawn cutting around his home district.

**Trevor Hann.** Trevor was in town for a few days recently, to attend a farewell party for his daughter, prior to her departure to the U.K. Trevor has been based in Thailand for about fifteen years, mainly working on survey projects in the oil industry around S.E. Asia, including China, Vietnam, Indonesia and Laos.

**Mario Zappula** Heard from somewhere that Mario is now managing a private hotel in Castlemaine VIC, but have no other information.

**Rhys Delaine** Retired from the Service about mid-August ex 1 Topo Sqn to join his wife in managing a tourist resort on Magnetic Island, QLD.

**Wolfgang Thund** Recently took his discharge from 1 Topo Sqn, to work for a Brisbane firm engaged in mapping projects. Bill Jones wanted Wolfgang to work in his organization, but was too late in making a bid.

**Peter Presser.** Peter is off to Spain with a team of Riverland rowers to participate in the World Masters Games, presently being held. I believe a strong contingent of Australian rowers is attending.

**Bill Jones.** Bill is now the QLD manager for ERSIS, and no, I do not know what it means, But it's a Brisbane based firm producing specialized geographic software for earth sciences research.

**Garry Warnest.** Garry no longer works for ATSE at Fortuna, but is now employed with Intergraph Mapping Services operating from Bendigo, and managed locally by Graham Wastell. Colin Cuskelly and Stewart Midgley are also on staff. Garry told me that they have plenty of work at the moment and that the staff has increased from five in February this year to twenty-three as of now.

**Bob McHenry** Bob has apparently landed a plum job, as overall Australian manager for Intergraph (Aust), operating from Canberra. The company is a subsidiary of the American parent Intergraph. As national manager, Bob would probably oversee the Bendigo operation.

**Merv Marks** While visiting Adelaide recently, Merv found time to visit George Ricketts in hospital.

**Jason Wells.** Jason now resides in Torquay Vic. He completed a degree in computing some years ago and now works part time as a programmer at Deakin University. The remainder of his time is spent as a consultant, but hasn't been consulted all that much lately.

**Jim Aller.** Jim resides in Adelaide, and is employed as the No1 storeman at Konica (Aust) Pty Ltd. He looks fitter than when he worked in the Orderly Room at Keswick, but his hair has changed colour though.

**VALE - IAN CAMBELL****Ian Cambell**

Ian died on 16th February 1999. Although he had been in ill-health for many years, in and out of hospital fairly regularly, his death was sudden and unexpected.

Ian trained as a surveyor, serving at Fortuna and in Vietnam during 1970-71. After discharge he was a regular visitor at 1 Topo Sqn functions, and ex-servicemen's functions, both in Brisbane and interstate, often turning up in Bonegilla and Bendigo.

Ian worked for many years on a volunteer basis with various Vietnam Veterans organizations, trying to improve their lot, and will be remembered by them and his many friends.

3 Aust. Field Survey Coy. (A.I.F.) Association  
Newsletter October 1999

**ITEMS OF INTEREST**

**Val Green**, now 84, from Sydney has written to say he will join us this year. Welcome back Val!  
Spoke to **Geoff Echberg**, also 84 and not in the best of health at the moment. Hopes to also join us.  
**Bill Greenshields** still working (surveying) a little for even less. Now more on the flat country. Don't blame him.  
**Dick Dickson** still busy with Hispanic Society,  
**Wally Johns** trying to get a "2nd hole-in-one before 2000".  
**Bruce Scott** improving after having a toe amputated.  
**Bob Bogie** suffering with emphysema.  
**Ian Townsend** retired from medical practice.  
**Brian Murray** "mentally good but physically something of a wreck" Brian does a wonderful job keeping the 8th Section members together. Keep going old son!  
**Bob Roche** having a hard trot. Spends 2 or 3 half days a week as outpatient at hospital. Little they can do for a wobbly spine  
**Murray Weston** would love to see anyone traveling to the Gold Coast. Tel. 5530 6642.  
**Ivan Miller** - golf and travel. What a life!  
**Kev. Noonan** very busy with family history. "Warts and All".  
**Ron Simpson** can only last 3 sets of tennis.  
**Frank Mercovitch** - President Extremely Disabled War Veterans Assoc. of Victoria.  
**Keith Ward** - still traveling around the world. Madagascar and cruising the North Sea.  
Hope you enjoyed the musical "The Boy from Oz". **Jack Gannons' son Ben**, is the producer.  
**Three golden weddings** April this year (that we know of). **Howard and Melva Cook, Lyn and Dorothy Willesdorf, Ray and Betty Smith.**  
**Jack Murphy** recovering from 5 weeks of Bronchitis.  
"Blue" **Cunning** has had a rough year -medically. Hopefully now improving, so keep the chin up Blue!

**VALE**

*We regret the passing of our following comrades:-*

**Don Simpson. John Terrill. Alan "Blonde" Nelson. Lyn Furze. Larry Randall.**

**LEST WE FORGET**

**GENERAL ITEMS**

**The Survey Corps History**

The history has now been completed by Chris Coultard Clark and is in the hands of the Army Historian. Arrangements are in hand with Oxford Press for its printing with a publication date of Anzac Day 2000

**The Army Survey Regiment History**

This history is now well advanced - and as at October 99 was being processed through the read and edit stage. (It is suggested that anyone interested in obtaining this publication should contact the Secretary Ex-Fortuna Association Inc, Gary Warnest (03) 5444 1834 or Fax (03) 5444 1835 or AH (03) 5446 3171, Email garyw@tpgi.com.au

**The Australian Service Medal for Overseas Survey Operations**

The Australian Service Medal in both forms (pre 1975 and post 1975) was established to recognize nonwarlike operations where service on these operations was 'clearly more arduous' than normal peacetime service. The Report of the Committee of Inquiry into Defence and Defence Related Awards reported in March 1994. Peter Cates made a submission to that Committee but the findings of the Committee were to the effect that proposals to recognize Defence Cooperation Programs did not meet the standards that the committee set.

A further submission driven primarily by Clem Sargent to then Minister of Defence Science and Personnel, Bronwyn Bishop was dismissed rather offhandedly. Notwithstanding the previous review, there was still considerable disquiet about

eligibility as evidenced by the letters to the Army Newspaper and a further review was established. This was 'an independent review into veterans entitlements to repatriation benefits and medals for Australian Defence Force Service..... and the hearings took place recently. The committee was addressed; in Brisbane by Bob Skitch and Peter Brownsword, in Melbourne by Don Swiney, in Sydney by Peter Rau and in Canberra by Clem Sargent. All those submitting felt that a sympathetic and understanding hearing was given and so .... we will see.  
(From "Magna Carta" October 3 1999.)

## WHY WE WEAR POPPIES FOR REMEMBRANCE

On and around 11 November the R.S.L. sells millions of red poppies for Australians to pin on their lapels. Proceeds go to League welfare work.                      Why a Red Poppy?

Poppies are the perfect symbol for Remembrance Day which, as always is November 11. From time immemorial, they have been regarded traditionally as flowers of slumber and forgetfulness, but now they have become a national emblem of remembrance.

Many thousands of years ago, the ancient Greeks forged a legend regarding poppies and sleep. In this legend, they likened the heads of dying warriors to the drooping poppies of the field. They even made crowns of poppies to be placed on the heads of those who had died - a symbol of perfect sleep.

However, it was the publication of three simple verses which have been called "the greatest poem of Britain occasioned by the First World War" which firmly established the poppy as the international flower of respect and pride to be worn each year on Armistice Day.

The poem was called "in Flanders Fields" and was written by a doctor who was also a soldier and poet. He witnessed much of the trench warfare of the time, and wrote his immortal poem on a page torn from the dispatch book which lay near him.

Dr John McCrae was born of Scottish parents who emigrated to Canada. He had attended medical school at Toronto and afterward held various posts in Montreal hospitals before being appointed lecturer at McGill University.

But his medical career was interrupted when he enlisted as a doctor with the Canadian troops, so that by September, 1914, he had been posted to France to care for wounded soldiers.

After writing his poem, he sent his verses to Punch magazine where they appeared inconspicuously on December 8, 1915. However, the poem was not to remain unknown for long, as it was recognised that it had been born in the heat of battle, and that it had an enduring quality.

Dr John McCrae was not to see the end of the war, he was suffering from pneumonia, so became a patient in his own hospital. His condition gradually grew worse, and just before he died, he asked to be wheeled in a chair to a vantage point where he was facing the cliffs of Dover. Here he was heard repeating to himself the unforgettable words of his poppy poem.

Indeed, it is not strange at all that these poppy flowers which abound in disturbed soil and which thrived amid the shell craters, trenches and newly dug graves of the First World War should be truly known as "The Flowers Of Forgetfulness".

He was medical officer in charge of Boulogne Army Hospital. In the trenches of France, John McCrae had attempted to forget the horrors of war by writing poetry, which had been a favourite hobby.

In his dressing station at Ypres, he could see wild poppies growing on the banks of a nearby canal, and in later days, he noted that they grew in the middle of the ploughed-up fields of battle amongst the muddy shell craters of no-man's land.



He was at a complete loss to understand how these beautiful flowers were to grow so profusely amongst the dead of France and amongst the ruins of war, and he would often muse upon their beauty as he attended to the wounded who were brought to him on stretchers for urgent medical treatment.

He remembered the Greek legend that the poppy was created by the god of sleep and, to the young doctor, the flower symbolized the everlasting rest of the fallen in war. He then turned his image into the poem "In Flanders' Fields".

John McCrae penned the lines of his poem after he had buried his great friend and colleague, Alex Helmer. He noted poppies growing nearby.

To John McCrae, the poppy was a symbol of the sleep of the dead, and the dead wanted to sleep in peace but were prevented from doing so by the savagery of battle, and whilst the war raged, then the dead could never sleep in complete repose.

#### THE RED POPPY

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow  
 Between the crosses, row on row,  
 That mark our place; and in the sky  
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
 Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
 We are the dead. Short days ago  
 We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
 Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
 In Flanders' fields.  
 Take up our quarrel with the foe;  
 To you from failing hands we throw  
 The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
 If ye break faith with us who die  
 We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
 In Flanders' fields.

#### East Timor

Is history repeating itself, the importance of good mapping intelligence and mapping support is only realised when there is an immediate problem to be dealt with. Spatial Business News of 27 September 1999 gave us this update.

#### *"TIMOR: MAPS IN DEMAND*

One of the supreme, if unreported ironies of the engagement in East Timor is that when Australian troops went in harm's way last week, the best mapping they had available was 1: 10,000 Indonesian Army maps of Dilli and its surroundings. Coarser-scale maps, required -for long-range route planning, logistics and the discussion of general strategic issues, were in much shorter supply.

However, that will change quickly. The Army's 1st Topographical Survey Squadron moved to Dilli and Darwin during the week taking with it the capability to do anything required. The soldiers travelled with Theodolites to carry out basic land surveys, printers capable of printing hundreds of maps as required and the computers and software required to link the two.

The survey teams will operate out of air-conditioned containers mounted on the backs of trucks in Dilli, and provide direct support for the units on the ground.

Of naval units in the area only HMAS Jervis Bay is equipped with Electronic Charting Systems. Commander Mark Hudson, at the Australian Hydro-graphic Office, says the 45-knot troop carrier simply cannot be operated without electronic

guidance. "Things happen too fast for you to be able to put pencil to paper," he said last week. The other ships in the area will be using charts sourced from either the Admiralty in London, or Indonesia's own Hydrographic Service.

Whatever the rights or wrongs of the INTERFET engagement in Timor, it seems that one result will be the increased budgetary allocation for Defence. Addressing parliament last week, John Moore, 77th Defence Minister, said Australia's contribution to INTERFET will place a heavy demand on the ADF in the long term. "But in the longer term I want to acknowledge that one result of the East Timor Crisis is that we will need to review our strategic outlook and Defence spending requirements. "

"A Defence White Paper that will address our changing strategic environment will be released next year.

Most commentators seem to believe that this will advocate a sharp rise in military expenditure, with the general consensus that the Topo Squadron will probably blow its budget this year, but the normally cash strapped soldiers seemed unconcerned "

**With 1 Topo soldiers in both Dilli and Darwin with its capacity extremely stretched, little in-uniform survey capacity remains available for a phased redeployment program. Some Ex Survey Corps Emergency reserve members (AEIF) have already been approached to see if they are willing to complete some full time service. Cpl Dave White from ATSE has already left for East Timor as part of his 15 Tpt Sqn ARES support duties.**

Our thoughts and support go to all those deployed, now putting into practice what they have been trained to do.

With outdated mapping in the area of operations, can we again ponder that nagging question "Was the timing of the decision to disband the Survey Corps and to significantly cut military survey staff numbers opportune?.' Maybe a little of the "Videre Parare Est" (To see is to prepare) would have been helpful.

### Ist Topographic Survey Squadron

Since our last Sitrep Ist Topographic Survey Squadron has completed what is hoped to be the last of the production style tasks and is now looking forward to embedding into its agreed role. Exercises since May 1998 have been in support of 6th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (6RAR) at Quilpie, in Shoalwater Bay Training Area, Townsville, the Deployable Joint Force Headquarters and in Darwin. The Squadron has exercised the full range of geometric skills: everything from differential Global Positioning System (GPS) positioning for Artillery batteries to assistance to a hydrographic survey in the Bradshaw Field Training Area. At the same time the Squadron has been preparing data sets for Australian Army Command Support System, building the fictitious nation of Capricornia and printing reams of products (forms and psychological material) for Bougainville.

Support to contingencies including Operation Austindon Jaya in Indonesia, Operation Bel Isi in Bougainville and Operation Brancard has tended to keep the unit on its toes. Support to Operation BTancard involved the rapid creation and printing of 15 different city graphics, many of which required geo-referencing for use with GPS, and the delivery to four different headquarters and a joint task force on a six hourly basis. The entire task took a hectic four days of round the clock effort.

Building the Military Geographic Information (MGI) database for the 'Nation' of Capricornia and printing all of its maps has been a major undertaking in the lead up to Exercise Rainbow Serpent in November. The Capricornia island has been built using a major chunk of Queensland and covers 17 1:250 000 map sheets. To get an idea of the size of this Island, it covers 76 1:1 000 000 map sheets which works out to be 304 1:50 000 map sheets - an area bigger than Tasmania!

The MGI database for this area will serve as a blueprint for future databases that are to be constructed in the future for brigade (Bde) and task force Area of Operations.

At Force level the MGI Section hasn't quite left Enoggera yet, with contingency and exercise support centered on the Joint Force headquarters building. Never-the-less this has allowed the Section to work up their 3rd dimensional visualization capability and to streamline their equipment holdings. Exercise Tendi Run highlighted the environmental aspects of deployment to a headquarters building - "If it won't fit in the elevator, then it doesn't come on the exercise"

The Squadron will deploy a mobile training team to Cairns in early September to train 51st Battalion Far North Queensland Regiment (51 FNQR) in the use of ArcView. This training is designed to get 51 FNQR working with MGI software and started on the huge task of preparing an MGI database of the Cape region for Operation Prowler and subsequently for Exercise Crocodile 99, a major series of exercises replacing the Kangaroo series.

Exercise Phoenix in September will see five detachments in the field supporting HQ I Bde, 6 RAR and 1st Aviation Regiment. This will include field topographic sections, an air camera section, field reprographic section (psychological operations), DGPS Team and MGI Section (terrain visualization). This exercise is a major deployment for the Sqn and will provide a good test of the units ability to support a variety of independent elements spread over a large geographical area.

Officer and senior non-commissioned officers (SNCO) training this year has seen the Bde topographic advisers gather for the first time. This provided a great opportunity for a technical 'talk fest', as well as some further Arc View training. The next bout of high level training will be the officer and SNCO training week in October that will cover more of the military aspects of topographic support. The unit will also conduct a junior leadership training weekend and a variety of technical training activities as a lead up to induction training in 1999.

Adventure training will be conducted in October. White water rafting, survival, scuba diving, canyoning and rock climbing will be conducted.