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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS  
ASSOCIATION  
Queensland Branch



**BULLETIN**

**MID-YEAR & REUNION EDITION**

**JULY 2002**

**COMING EVENTS**

**Tony & Loretta Gee's BBQ**

Remember the highly success and very enjoyable barbecue at Tony and Loretta Gee's Bribie Island retreat (now their permanent home) last year? Well – it is on again this year at midday on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2002. Their address is 50 Bibinulya Street Bellara (that is, on Bribie Island). Tony is the world's best barbecue chef so be in it. Bring your own refreshments and please advise secretary Mary-Ann Thiselton (Ph 3353 1026) of your attendance before 28 July for catering purposes.



Yes –**Reunion time** is rapidly approaching; the first Saturday in September for our traditional Annual Reunion, this year the **7<sup>th</sup> September at 12.00 midday**. The **venue** is the Lighthouse Room of the Gaythorne RSL and the **cost** remains at \$25.00 per head for a 3 course meal and wine. The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held in conjunction with the Reunion.

**RSVP Alex Cairney** on 3397 7583 (Mobile 0418 1965666) before 23 August 2002 or send in the slip at the bottom of the detailed notice on Page 12. Especially we want to see our WW2 veterans. Transport can

be arranged for those who may need it. Simply tell Alex of your need.

**Mapmaker's Dinner 2002**

As advised in our last Bulletin, the highly successful Mapmaker's Dinner is to be held again this year at Enoggera on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2002**. All past RASvy members are invited (membership of the Association is not a requirement). **Timing:** 1900 for 1930; Dress for men is lounge suit (or at least coat & tie) and for ladies 'after 5.00pm dress'. **Cost:** likely to be \$30.00 per head.

**Derek Chambers Award Presentation**

We expect this to take place at I Topo Svy Sqn at a midday barbecue in late November or early December 2002. This will also be an opportunity to inspect the technical functions of the Squadron. Details to be advised.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Mention has been made in previous Bulletins of a Papua New Guinea medal issued and authorized by the Government of Papua New Guinea for Australian soldiers who served in and contributed to that country over the years. The medal is minted in Australia and is available from Christies Pty Ltd in Sydney at cost. Proof of authorisation from the PNG Government is required before Christies can release the medal. We understand that the Australian Government has authorized its wearing with Australian service medals and decorations. The process involved in obtaining the medal has seemed a little daunting and as far as we are aware there has been no submission made to the PNG Government on behalf of Survey personnel or those who participated in survey operations in Papua New Guinea. At least not until very recently!

Continued Page 2.....

The redoubtable Brian Murray (whose occasional articles have appeared in this Bulletin) has done so on behalf of the surviving members of the WW2 New Guinea Survey Section (8<sup>th</sup> Field Survey Section AIF). He has received formal advice from Colonel Joseph M Kewa OBE in PNG that the surviving members of his unit are all eligible to wear the medal – with the words:

*“On behalf of the Commander and men of the PNG Defence Force, I congratulate you all”*

It appears that the medal is called the ‘50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Medal’.

Is this a precedent for peacetime survey operations in PNG? Perhaps it is. Our Association (Queensland Branch) is prepared to request authorisation from the PNG Government on behalf of its members (and all past RA SVY personnel) who have served in PNG both during and since WW2. It is unclear whether the PNG Government would give a blanket authorization or whether specific operations would need to be stated or whether a nominal roll of individuals would be required for individual authorization. We will find out.

**In the meantime recipients of this Bulletin who believe they might be eligible for the medal (and wish to receive it) are requested to send in to secretary Mary-Ann Thistleton their full service details and period of service in PNG including name and nature of the operation or appointment. It is assumed that those who served with the PIR are automatically authorised.**

#### **PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

The cooler evenings and cold mornings seemed to come a little earlier this year towards the end of May; and the souwesterly has been around a while drying everything up, but the days are just fine.

South east Queensland is a wonderful place to live in and as residents we only have to endure a month or two of chilly but not totally unpleasant conditions, and then the sun radiates its warmth once more.

Somebody asked me why I live in this part of paradise when all my family connections are elsewhere? After 35 years of various postings in different places we decided to come and live here in SE QLD.

I suspect that many of our former comrades made the same decision after having a posting to a survey unit once or twice in the Brisbane area. Some of us keep in touch with each through the various activities of the Association. Some of us choose not to for other reasons.

However, we all have something in common and we do care. So please keep in touch, tell us where you are and what you are doing, because we do lose contact.

Make the effort, catch up, Keep in touch before it is too late.

**Peter Bates-Brownsword**

#### **COMMITTEE**

**Patron** *Lieutenant Colonel EU Anderson MBE* (Ph 3408 9179)

**President** Peter Bates-Brownsword (Ph 3289 7001)

**Past President** Jim Houston (Ph 3351 4952)

**Vice President** Bob Skitch (Ph 3265 1370)

**Secretary & Asst Treasurer** Mary-Ann Thiselton (Ph 3353 1026)

**Treasurer** Stan Campbell (Ph 3285 3970)

**Functions Member** Alex Cairney (Anzac Day, Reunion) (Ph 3397 7583)

**Bulletin Editor** Bob Skitch (Ph 3265 1370)

**Membership Records** Kim Weston (Ph 5445 6927; mob 0427 377 226)

**WW2 Veteran Member** Hal Jones (Ph 3395 1404)

**Squadron Liaison & Welfare** Jim Gill (Ph 3264 1597)

**Member (unallocated)** Michael Knight (Ph 3278 8331)

**Squadron SSM** WO1 Barrie Craymer (Ph 3332 7564)

**Note:** Refer Veteran’s Affairs matters to Peter Bates-Brownsword and Stan Campbell  
Association address: **PO Box 5784; Stafford Heights 4053**

## NOTICES

### **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2001 – 2002 & 2002 - 2003** **Keep in touch with you Survey Corps mates by being a paid-up member of your Association.**

Our financial year runs from September to September. Subscription is but \$10.00 per year. We encourage you to pay three years in advance (or more if you wish). Some have already done this.

We consider all past members of the Corps to be members of our Association, however, our Bulletin can only be posted to those members who are fully paid up or not more than 12 months in arrears. New rules apply to our veterans 75 and over that in effect waive the payment of annual subscriptions.

Annual subscriptions are traditionally collected at our Reunion but don't wait till then – **pay now if you are in arrears.**

### **LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH DRINKS**

This regular informal event continues at the Gaythorne RSL and Rock advises that numbers attending are on the increase. There is ample parking at the Club. When is it? The last Friday of the month of course. Check with Rock Thiselton (Ph 3353 1026) to be sure.

### **ASSOCIATION BADGE**

The Association Badge is still available from Mary-Ann Thistleton – Price \$10.00. It is very well crafted and is suitable for wearing on a lapel or as a tie-tack.

### **ANZAC DAY – 2002**

For reasons I don't fully understand, Anzac Day seems to become bigger by the year. Was it just the beautiful weather we experienced; or increased public awareness of military matters as a result of our overseas engagements in Timor, Afghanistan and Bougainville? Or the tragic events of 11 September 2001?

### **FORTUNA HISTORY**

Don Swiney advises that the Fortuna Survey Association has been successful in its application to the Victorian Government for a grant under the Local History Grants Program. Late advice from Bendigo is that the launch will take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in March 2003 with an evening reception in the Town Hall followed by a dinner at the Havelah St RSL and BBQ on the Saturday. The next issue of Magna Carto will contain full details. The Queensland Association has offered to pre-purchase ten copies at \$50.00 each to assist in the project.

### **RAE HOSPITALITY**

The Sapper's Association continues to be generous in their offers of support and hospitality to our own Association. This is reflected in the Anzac order-of-march, the Dawn Service and our participation in their post-march BBQ at the Jubilee Hotel. Their President Bob Bannon recently invited our Association to join the Sappers in a tilt train trip to a state-wide reunion at Rockhampton. It was thought this might take place in September but it has now been deferred till March 2003. More detailed information will be provided in our Christmas Bulletin

### **INCORPORATION**

Our application for incorporation remains with the responsible government office, however, we are given to believe that our certificate will be issued shortly. Legal advice to hand on the issue of liability insurance is that since we own no property and our principal functions are conducted in premises that are well covered, and in the case of functions held in private homes where there is no entrance charge, there is no liability incurred by the Association.

Something deeper I suspect. Whatever – the crowd fronting the streets of Brisbane was huge and enthusiastic, an enthusiasm sustained throughout the whole two hours of the march.

For Survey, the day started with the Dawn Service at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Combat Engineer Regiment at Enoggera. The setting was perfect as always. A crisp clear morning with the promise of a warmer day and the

crowd quietly assembling in front of the HQ building; still quite dark at 4.30am, the sky in the east starting to lighten as the service commenced at 5.00am. Rear projected onto a screen in an upper window of the HQ building behind the memorial were continuing scenes from WW1 film footage, remarkable scenes of trenches, light horse, diggers of old, surprisingly clear and perhaps no small distraction as the ceremony progressed. Side by side with the RAE banner behind the memorial was our Survey Association banner. The Guard comprised four soldiers in period uniform with corresponding period rifles all resting on arms reversed – WW1, WW2, Vietnam and present day. The Catafalque Party slow marched into position and the service commenced with prayers read by the Chaplain and hymns from a contingent of the Brisbane Women's Choir. Colonel DP Cowper, RAE Colonel Commandant, gave the address and wreath laying took place with our Association wreath being lain by our President, Peter Bates-Brownsword. The Last Post sounded and the service concluded with a lusty singing of the National Anthem and as day was breaking we withdrew to the RAE Sportsman's Club for a traditional army breakfast of bacon, sausages, baked beans, eggs scrambled or fried and curry stew. Several Association members were present, but in the half light it was difficult to identify all those attending. Perhaps next year we should nominate an RV so we might all have breakfast together.

And then the March in the City and what a march it was! A record number of Association members marched, supplemented by some of the younger members of the Squadron apart from the banner bearers, and proudly wearing their recently acquired peace keeping campaign medals. In all, we had 27 marchers. Again Mrs Lorraine Chambers wearing Derek's medals marched with us, accompanied this year by our Association Secretary, Mary-Ann Thistleton. As in the past our order of march was behind the Sappers Association. Brian Cosford led our marchers and John Hook carried our *Icon Theodolite* in front of our Survey

banner. This year the Sappers, in recognition of the centenary of the formation of the RAE, led the Corps Associations. 1st Topographical Survey Squadron Sergeant Major WO1 Barrie Craymer, who marched with us, had arranged courtesy transport to take us weary marchers to the Jubilee Hotel for post march drinks and barbecue. Our theodolite became our table centre piece and the Sapper Association compere remarked when directing a raffle prize (a bottle of Scotch) to Rowan Shipley –'over there to the Survey Encampment'. So we were recognized and so the afternoon progressed, some twenty or more mates of the Association and some wives enjoying the jugs of cold amber ale that kept appearing on the table.

So ended Anzac Day 2002.

*It should be noted the Peter and Barbara Bates-Brownsword played drums with the National Service Band, not in Brisbane this year but at Cooroy and Tewantin. They had a very busy day. A large contingent of the National Service Band did take part in the City march, resplendent in their red tunics, kilts and khaki pith helmets – Khyber Pass helmets as Peter calls them.*

**Nominal Roll of Marchers** (in no particular order)

Ian Fitzgerald	Rowan Shipley
LVJ (Les) Smith	John Hook
Peter Osterhage	Percy Long
Brian Cosford	Bob Skitch
Derek Stanmore	WO1 Barrie Craymer
Les Wellins	WO2 Brendan
Brian Partridge	McKinless
Lorraine	Sgt Steve Jones
Chambers	Cpl Tony Purton
Mary-Ann	Cpl Doug Whiteside
Thistleton	Spr Jim Petrellis
Tony Gee	(banner bearer)
Jim Gill	Spr Col Nicholson
Barry Lutwyche	(banner bearer)
Brian Johnston	Spr Scott Owens
Troy Douglas	Spr Matt Ciszewski

**COLONEL ALEX LAING MEMORIAL DINNER**

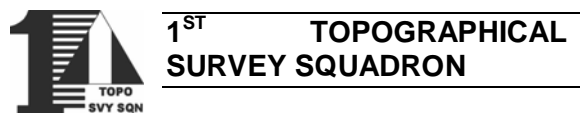
And what an enjoyable night it was. Twenty three attended including wives and as in past years the evening proved to be a special event. We managed to keep the

cost to \$50.00 although it may be necessary to lift that a little next year. There is certainly enthusiasm to continue with the dinner, in effect our Corps Birthday celebration, into the future despite other events crowding into the second half of the year. It seems that we continue to appreciate a few of the formalities associated with military dining. Our *'ikon theodolite'* served as the table centre-piece.

The Port was passed and Brian Cosford proposed the Loyal Toast. Stan Campbell proposed the toast to honour the Memory of the late Colonel in Chief of the Royal Australian Survey Corps, Diana, the Princess of Wales and our Patron, Ed Anderson, proposed the toast to the Association with Percy Long responding. Grant Small read the list of departed comrades calling for a minutes silence and then followed with the toast to departed comrades and absent friends. Much conviviality followed and some reluctance to leave at the bewitching hour of 2300.

**Attendance**

Ed Anderson	Dell Long
Peter Bates-Brownsword	Brian Cosford
Barbara Bates-Brownsword	Peter Osterhage
Dawn Laing	Dell Osterhage
Bob Skitch	Rowan Shipley
Wendy Skitch	Joanne Shipley
Stan Campbell	Alex Cairney
Helen Campbell	Grant Small
Michael Knight	Beth Small
Val Knight	Kym Weston
Percy Long	Faye Weston
	Ken Lyons



The recognition of the importance of employment of geomatic technicians in support to Defence has created an unprecedented demand on trade manning. Geomatic engineering is undergoing rapid growth, not only in manning but the equipment and capabilities to provide geospatial support to the commander. A viable outcome of this growth is a proposal for the Squadron to grow to a Regiment by 2008. The importance of ensuring our

procedures and products match this growth was tested through a Squadron deployment during the latter half of June. Deployment was initially to west of Oakey, then to Wondail State Forest and finally to the Wide Bay Training Area. All capabilities were tested within a realistic scenario.

An Air Camera course has just been conducted in 1Topo Svy Sqn and the RC10 camera, though just about on it's last legs, provided our aerial imagery. In the near future this will be replaced by a digital imagery airborne acquisition system. Field survey skills were practiced to densify control and produce accurate 'town' plans. Data acquisition and management ensured all data was suitable for geomatic product construction by Military Geographic Information sections using the deployable TOPOSS equipment. The deployment concluded with a combat fitness assessment and a well deserved barbeque.

1 Jul 02 marked the centennial birthday of the RAE Corps. 1 Topo Svy Sqn celebrated the occasion with a church service conducted at the All Saints Chapel by Chaplain Brown. Unfortunately neither 2 CER nor 21 Construction Sqn were available to join the celebration due to operational commitments. 136 Signals Squadron was invited to participate in the birthday activities in recognition of their corps heritage as Engineers. Signallers have a further historical link through LT Watson, a Signals Officer during WW1 who was the principal instigator in constructing what was to become known as Watson's Pier on ANZAC cove.

A formal morning tea followed the church service and centennial medallions were presented to all members of the unit. A webcast through the Defence intranet of centennial activities conducted at the School of Military Engineering followed the morning tea. This included the invitation by the Commander Land Command Engineers for all Engineers to muster at the School of Military Engineering in November. Activities will include a

Freedom of the City of Liverpool parade, sporting fixtures and a Corps Ball.

July through to September are a busy period for the Squadron, with support to a number of exercises as well as unit training in combat engineering skills and infantry minor tactics. October through to December will allow consolidation of the year's activities within each troop, and provide time for adventurous training and some social activities.

12 Oct 02 is the Mixed Formal Dining-out night and Military Mapmakers dinner. We will farewell WO1 Alan Virtue and WO2 Mark Donnelly and also two of our support staff; SGT Michelle Gall and WO2 Kym Barnes. The dinner promises to be well attended and due to numbers expected will be held in the ANZAC Sergeants Mess opposite 6 RAR. Invitations will be sent out from August, attendance costs will include food and wine, and payments will be required to be made prior to the dinner.  
**Regards Barrie Craymer**

**For those older members of the Association – what is/are Geomatics? Think of mapping in all of its aspects from field to finished product. Ed**

#### THE WAY IT WAS.....

Our WW2 veterans may recall a small red covered book issued to all Australian soldiers proceeding overseas called 'The Australian Soldiers' Pocket Book'. It was edited by William Keays (later Sir William) and was published by the Australian Comforts Fund in 1940. The fly sheet states 'containing useful information for Australian Soldiers'. I was loaned a copy by my old Survey Corps contemporary, Kev Moody who found it amongst some family papers. The book had belonged to a Sapper R Crane of the '1<sup>st</sup> Australian Boring Section RAE, AIF Abroad'. Its pearls of wisdom include the Laws and Customs of War; Things a Soldier should Know; Bugle Calls and their Meanings.....and many more. For instance: Article XXXVIII of Laws and Customs states that *The pillage of a town or place even when taken by assault, is*

*prohibited. Things a soldier should know include; Shave first thing every morning; Trim fingernails round and toenails square; Give your seniors credit for knowing more than you do; All the brains are not under your hat, so go easy in your criticism of others. Did you know that the bugle call for "Officers' Mess" (which I have never heard) means Officers'wives get puddings and pies, and sergeants' wives get skilly, the dirty old cook fell into the soup, and made it look awfully pretty. The dirty old cook, the dirty old cook; she made it look awfully pretty.* There is also a remarkable chapter on 'How to Behave Abroad'. Example: *if you behave like a cad, you will rue your folly and, what is worse, your mates will soon have cause to rue it too. Cad???* Jokes aside; much of the advice would stand well today.

#### PASSING PARADE

**Ed Note:** *The passing parade section that follows seems to take up much of this issue of our Bulletin. So...that's the way it is. Nevertheless, there is history in their stories.*

#### Bill Hook

The following *vale* was provided by Clem Sargent for publication in this Bulletin. Bill Hook was well known to many of us, especially those who served in the Directorate, but also to many at the Survey Regiment and in the Squadrons, if only through telephone contact on all matters aerial photography. Bill was never less than helpful and his detailed knowledge of aerial photography, past, current and future was invaluable. It was always a pleasure to deal with Bill.

Graham Keith Hook, known to us all as 'Bill' died in Canberra on 3 April 2002.

Bill served in one of the battalions in the Occupation Force in Japan post WW2 and then resumed his trade as a signwriter with the Victorian Railways before joining the Corps in 1959. After his Basic Course he marched in to the Survey Regiment as a Cartographic Draughtsman in May 1960. He was promoted Cpl in April 1961 and Sgt in 1964, then on the staff of D Mil Svy in Canberra where he was responsible for supervising the Photo Library at a time when the Corps was heavily involved in

mapping programs throughout Australia and PNG.

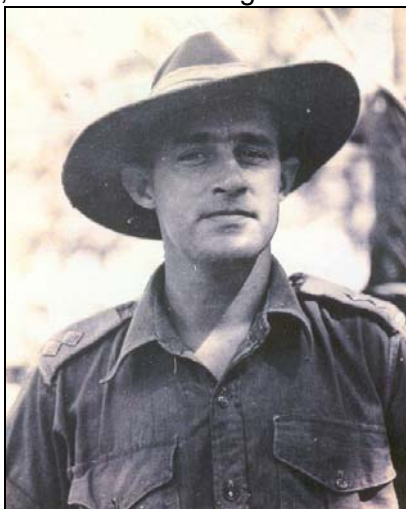
Settled with his family and home in Canberra, Bill decided to forego future promotion and in 1965 left the Army to join National Mapping. He returned to D Mil Svy in 1972 as a civilian officer in charge of the air photographic program, this time with responsibility not only for Australia and PNG but also Indonesia. On one occasion he even managed to visit 2 Sqn in the field at Biak to check the standard of the air photography he had organised.

Following retirement Bill maintained his interest in RA Svy activities through membership of the Canberra Survey Corps Association and could always be relied upon to produce some entertaining reminiscence, as often as not bringing other raconteurs down to earth with a pithy and dry comment.

Jeff Chait, Ken Lyon and Clem Sargent attended Bill's memorial service and passed on the sympathy of all ex-RA Svy to June and their family, Robert, Richard, Stuart and Susan.

### **George Hann**

George Hann died of a heart attack in the Redcliffe Hospital on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2002, aged 84 years. There would be few in the Corps who served before 1970 who would not have known George. He was one of the Survey Corps' great characters and to many, 'Gentleman George'.



**George Hann – 'somewhere' in WW2**

Unfortunately at time of publication we have only limited knowledge of George's WW2 service other than the fact that he served for a considerable time in New Guinea. After demobilization George had a number of small business ventures but rejoined the Survey Corps in the early '50s. My first contact with him was at the AHQ Survey Regiment in 1956 where George was OIC photogrammetry and map compilation. He was incredibly innovative and who could forget the 20 model Multiplex bridges across New Ireland plotted with the platen on a long plate glass bench configured to allow for earth curvature or the wax modeling technique to provide relief on the 1:250,000 R502 series. George's subsequent postings took him to the School in the mid '60s (both at Balcombe and then Bonegilla) and then to 1 Field Survey Squadron as Officer Commanding in the late '60s from which unit he retired.

George qualified in architecture although he never practiced professionally as an architect. Nevertheless he produced some interesting house designs. George told me on one occasion, that during the war he and a colleague as a hobby produced floor plans and sketches of numerous houses. After the war these were published as *100 House Designs*, the publication hitting the market at a time when everyone wanted to build a house. It sold well although in the event George did not make much out of it.

Then there was the Rolls Royce, 1923 edition. George acquired the Rolls in about 1959 in decrepit state. It became his passion to fully restore it and with the technical assistance of Harry Wright and volunteer sappers and corporals from the Regiment, over successive evenings throughout the winter of 1959 the car was dissembled down to the last nut and bolt and then rebuilt. Perhaps the attraction for we young sappers and corporals on those cold winter's nights might have been the

hot chocolate and bickies supplied by Mrs Hann! George was not a licensed driver and after its registration he actually learned to drive it and went for his licence in it – crash-gate gears and all with the gear stick sandwiched between the seat and the door on the drivers right-hand side.



**The 'Hann' 1923 Rolls Royce Silver Cloud on picnic in 1960**

There are many stories that can be told of George's many and varied interests – an epic trip to Sydney with the Hann family in the Rolls, finally getting there after six blow-outs; opal mining at Lightning Ridge and, no doubt, many others. George left the Army but never retired, at least not from life. Living for many years in a beach front home on Prince Edward Parade at Redcliffe George had converted his lounge room into a terrain modeling workshop where he developed some remarkable techniques of relief modeling and imposing on the model cartographic detail in precise position and registration.

George was not a computer person and perhaps had he been so his innovation might have taken him into a whole new field of modeling in virtual space.

After a service at St Stephens Bellview Hill George was laid to rest in the family grave

at Waverly Cemetery in Sydney. George is survived by his wife Bette, sons Chris and Paul and daughter Kim. **Bob Skitch**

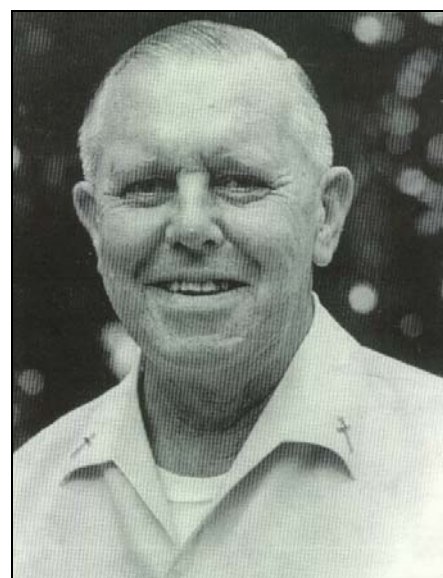
### **Philip Armstrong**

Our April Bulletin briefly reported the passing of our Association Padre, Father Philip Armstrong, on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March this year. Philip's wife Ann has now provided a typescript with the heading 'Dad's Story' of the addresses given by members of his family at Philip's funeral and a précis of these is presented here. Clearly Philip was a much loved Dad to all his children.

Philip Halford, second son of the Revd Clifford and Mrs Amelia Armstrong was born on 19th June 1924

He attended Eagle Junction State School and after his father's death, the family moved to East Brisbane and Philip commenced Year 8 at the Church of England Grammar School.

After completing Year 12 at the age of 18, in 1942 he joined the AIF in the 5<sup>th</sup> Field Survey Company. Philip served with 5 Coy on mapping operations on the Queensland coast then moving with that unit to Labuan in March 1945 (Two of Philip's close mates and comrades were Gordon Dutney and John Pike)



**Fr Philip Armstrong**



After discharge in 1945, he went to University for 18 months and then to St Francis Theological College, Milton. After ordination and serving 2 years as Curate in the Sherwood Parish, he joined the Bush Brotherhood of St Paul and worked in the Miles/Wondoan and Taroom areas from 1953-1955. It was during this period that he first met his wife Ann, a nursing sister at Miles Hospital.

In 1956 Philip joined the Chaplain's Department and served at Wacol in the National Service Battalion until 1959. Philip and Ann were married at Christ Church Yeronga on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 1957 and lived in married quarters at Wacol where their first child, a daughter, Elizabeth was born.

On leaving the Army in 1958 the family moved to Palmwoods where their first son Peter was born. Philip drove a VW Bug and to go on holidays to Coolangatta, the back seat was removed and their luggage with their two dogs, a German shepherd and a little fox terrier as well as their two babies were all packed in for the journey.

In 1961 the Armstrong family moved to Mareeba for 2 years where Clifford their second son was born. It was in Mareeba that a life long friendship was forged between the Armstrongs and an Aboriginal family, the Gordons. Grandpa Gordon assumed the position of Grandfather and sometimes babysitter to the Armstrong children.

After Mareeba the family was transferred to St George in 1963 for eight years. The St George Parish covered a huge area and involved Philip in a lot of traveling. In St George their second daughter Patricia was born.

Philip's next move was to East Brisbane in 1971 where he suffered severe bouts of illness. After 1974 he continued to 'help out' in various parishes until 1980. He worked as Hospital Chaplain from 1980-1992, first in the Terrace Hospitals and

assisted at All Saints in Ann St, the City, then to Princess Alexandra Hospital.

After undergoing heart surgery in 1991, Philip took over St Philips church where he celebrated his 40th anniversary of ordination. He remained at Annerley until retiring in 1993.

In retirement the family moved to Wellington Point where Philip assisted in the Parish of Cleveland. He celebrated his 50th Anniversary of ordination in December 2001.

Philip's son once asked his Dad – 'what was it that he most hoped to achieve in life'. After a pause Philip replied '*he would like to achieve a perfect peace*'.

**Postscript:** We do not know a great deal of Philip's WW2 service other than he served with 5 Coy and no doubt went where they did, Ann has provided several photos of Philip's early years and three of these are reproduced here.

**A personal note:** I first met Philip at St George in 1964 where the then N Comd Fd Svy Unit was camped on the showground. We had an Army Sioux helicopter in support for a while and it created a good deal of interest in the town. (helicopters were rare beasts in those days.) One morning Philip appeared at the showground and introduced himself and subsequently I had the privilege of dining with Philip and Ann at their rectory. I especially remember the four rambunctious children – quite a handful it seemed. Ann co-opted me into folding circulars for postage. The household was certainly a hive of activity.....Bob Skitch



**5 Coy at Wongabel**



**Mount Blackwood – Winter 1943  
Sgt 'Mac', Ron Hefford, Philip**



**Jap Barges at Morotai**

### **VALE – Sid Prouse**

Sid was a 5 Coy member and a staunch supporter of the Association since its early formation and many of us can recall Sid's craggy presence at annual reunions in the State Service Club. The following eulogy has been submitted by his family.



**Sydney (Sid) George Prouse**

Sid was born in England in 1906 and came out to Australia with his parents and brothers on the ship 'OPHIS' in 1910, a trip that took 6 weeks. It berthed in Perth and then the Prowse family headed for Tweed Heads, where they made a permanent home.

Sid left school at an early age and had various jobs such as timber cutting, banana growing and eventually finished up with his own bullock team, hauling cedar, oak, kairi and other pines from the scrub.

He had names for every bullock and around the seventies he made a replica of his team out of plastic cows, which came out of breakfast cereal packs and he reshaped them with heads bent down and other different positions to represent his original team. He also hitched up logs behind the team to make it look authentic. It was a masterpiece and is now housed in the 'Timber' Museum in Gympie.

The war years saw him as a Surveyor in the Army. On discharge from the services, having a second class Internal Combustion Steam Ticket, he spent many years in the Tully and Burdekin areas driving steam locos for the sugar mills. His last place of employment was at the Copper Refineries as a boiler attendant, from which he retired.

This reminds me of a tale he told me when applying for the job. He was asked where he was born, and he replied England. His interviewer asked him how come he was born in England and he replied that he wanted to be near his mother. Sid had a great sense of humour.

After retirement he bred pedigree Corgi's for many years. As he got older his hips and body started playing up, so he sold his house and property, then, moved into a boarding house four years ago where he was well looked after.

Last Sunday he complained about having breathing problems so was taken to the TGH by Ambulance at 7.30am. but unfortunately nothing could be done for him and he passed away around 9am. I

might add that Sid was also an accomplished musician, tennis player and horseman.

## SICK PARADE

### Hans Kramer

Hans is not at all well having been recently treated for cancer. He is residing at 24 Landsborough Avenue Albany Creek where he is being looked after by Leonie. He may appreciate a visit from old comrades but phone first – 3264 5195.

### Simon Lemon

Simon, the last Director of RA SVY has suffered a heart attack but has made a good recovery. Simon lives at Clare in SA.

## RECIPE CORNER

### Barbara BB's Cream Cheese/chilli Dip

1x250gm Philly cream cheese  
1x250gm Avocado dip

1. Blend these two ingredients together
2. Place in centre of serving plate, shaped as a circle, approx. 3-4cm thick.
3. Sprinkle on top of cheese mixture finely chopped:
  - red capsicum,
  - Lebanese cucumber,
  - onion, celery and avocado.
4. Pour sweet chilli sauce on top of salad vegetables.
5. Serve with plain dry biscuits.

## BOILS & THAT OTHER COMPLAINT

### Bob Skitch

As a young bloke serving with Northern Command Field Survey Section in 1956 in the Charters Towers/Ravenswood region of North Queensland, experiences tend to come thick and fast. The old and wise (or would-be) included Chris Lancaster (many a story from Lanc), Col Pugh (stories not for print but wide-eyed listening), Jeff Lambert (Jeff was almost one of us) Geoff Helsham (regaled us with the most amazing exploits – how could one fit so much into such a short life?). Of course we recent arrivals from the 7/55 Basic Course were fair game for all the tall stories and the older and really wiser might sit back

with just a wry smile on their face and let us take it.

One such story concerned a certain medic in town; a greying and somewhat acerbic doctor whose name I have fortunately forgotten. Many of his patients so it seemed, young fellows from the surrounding properties and fossickers perhaps, would come to him with a certain unmentionable medical condition caught during moments of ardour from ladies of the night of which Charters Towers had its fair share. Not wishing to advise their condition in too loud a voice in case they were overheard by those in the adjoining waiting room, the young bloods would slide their chair forward until they were whispering distance from the medic. Wishing to discourage this practice he had roped the chair on a metre long lead to the plumbing under the basin so that it couldn't be moved closer than two metres or so from his desk. Our medic, having a somewhat black sense of humour, delighted in telling the facts of the matter to anyone who should ask why the chair was tied by a piece of rope to the basin plumbing. As a result he gained some notoriety in Charters Towers. Of course he became known as something of a specialist in treating this unpleasant complaint and clearly was adept at wielding that syringe full of penicillin. In fact the complaint became locked to his name – he was 'the ###' doctor.

I guess at the time of telling I consigned the story to the bin of tall stories I didn't really believe until:.....Whether it was the unaccustomed diet of bush cooking I was enduring or the spear grass seeds I was forever tweezing from my legs, I had an outbreak of boils on my upper leg and nether regions. Very painful too, and often at a certain stage resulting in a mild fever. The unsolicited comments endured from my 'older and wiser' didn't help either. I was a fairly sensitive young bloke. Finally it was agreed I had better visit the MO and it's not hard to guess to which one I was sent. There he was, exactly as in the story; chair tied the basin plumbing and all. And the treatment? Just the same as he gave all his 'other' patients – a syringe full of penicillin into the buttock – left or right, did it matter?..... It worked.

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS ASSOCIATION  
(QUEENSLAND BRANCH) INCORPORATED**

**ANNUAL LUNCHEON & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2002**

Dear Member

You are invited to attend the Reunion Luncheon of the Royal Australian Survey Corps Association and the Annual General Meeting. This is our traditional function held as always on the first Saturday in September, nearly unbroken since the end of WW2. So come along and catch up with old friends.

**WHEN:** 12 PM SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2002

**WHERE:** LIGHTHORSE ROOM, GAYTHORNE RSL

**COST:** \$25 per head (3 course meal and wine)

**CONTACT:** Alex Cairney  
Functions Member  
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Stafford Heights Qld 4053

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Mobile: 0418 196566  
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The Annual General Meeting, which will commence at 1300 hours, will be followed by lunch at 1330 hours. *Especially we want to see our WW2 veterans and transport can be organised for those who may need it. Simply advise Alex Cairney of your requirements.*

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS:** \$10 - can be paid by post to the Treasurer at the postal address listed above or at the door on the day of the luncheon.

RSVP: We need to know numbers for catering purposes so please advise Alex Cairney by mid August at the address listed above or phone him on the numbers listed. All apologies are recorded and read out at the AGM.

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Please cross out as applicable:

I will/will not be attending the Reunion Luncheon

I have/have not enclosed \$25 for the cost of the Luncheon

I have/have not enclosed \$10 for my annual subscription

Printed Name:..... Signature:.....

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