

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS
ASSOCIATION
Queensland Branch



BULLETIN

PO Box 5784 Stafford Heights 4053

ANZAC EDITION – No 18

APRIL 2004

ANZAC DAY

March with your Association mates on Sunday 25th April 2004. Anzac Day 2004 promises to be another memorable occasion starting with the dawn service at the 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment (2 CER) 7 Sqn Cenotaph at Enoggera Barracks adjacent to Samford Road. This year the Squadron will have our Association banner at the dawn service as a meeting point for those wishing to meet up with their Association mates. Again this year members and their families and friends are invited to 1 Topo Svy Sqn RAE for a barbecue breakfast after the dawn service.. A thirty seater bus will depart the Squadron at 0930 hours and passengers will be dropped as close as possible to the Assembly point.

At the time of writing full details of the march have not been advised, however, we can assume that the route will be the same as last year and we will form up somewhere in the vicinity of the Treasury Casino in Elizabeth Street. If in doubt inquire at the information booth in Queens Park. The Squadron is providing banner bearers and this year we will be led by Les Wellins, Vietnam veteran and Association member. Our icon theodolite will precede the banner three paces behind our leader and we seek a volunteer to carry it at the near vertical slope.

After the March: Again we are invited to join the Sappers Association for drinks and BBQ at the Jubilee Hotel in St Pauls Terrace, Spring Hill. Cost is \$15.00 per head and your Association will subsidise the cost of all those who marched. Members will need to make their own way to the Jubilee Hotel and the bus will be available at the Jubilee departing at 1400 hours for those who wish to return to Enoggera.

ASSOCIATION FUNCTIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

We seem to be an increasingly active body of ex-digs in this Association of ours. The following is a listing of those events we either put on ourselves, or members put on, or we otherwise support.

Anzac Day – we attend the RAE dawn service at Enoggera followed by breakfast at 1st Topographical Survey Squadron followed by the City March followed by BBQ lunch and drinks with engineer sappers at the Jubilee Hotel.

Waterloo Dinner – Regimental dinner conducted by RAE units to which past officers, warrant officers and senior NCOs of the Association are invited.

Corps Birthday – the *Colonel Alex Laing Memorial Dinner* at the United Service Club in July.

Tony and Loretta Gee's cordon-bleu BBQ – at their Bribie Island home in August.

Our traditional Reunion – on the first Saturday in September at the Gaythorne RSL.

Mapmaker's Dinner – organised by the 1st Topographical Survey Squadron in October – open to all Association members.

Derek Chambers Award Presentation – the Association's annual award to the 1st Topographical Survey Squadron young soldier who has contributed significantly to the Squadron's esprit de corps during the past 12 months. The presentation is made at a luncheon BBQ at the Squadron in late November.

The last Friday of the month happy hour – drinks at the Gaythorne RSL – an informal gathering each month.

COMMITTEE

Patron	<i>Lieutenant Colonel EU Anderson MBE (Ph 3408 9179)</i>
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	Ross Smithwick (Ph 3356 5786)
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	Jim Houston (Ph 3351 4952)
Squadron Liaison & Welfare	Jim Gill (Ph 3264 1597)
Member (unallocated)	Stan Campbell (Ph 3285 3970)
Squadron OC	Major Adrian Harding
Squadron SSM	WO1 BL (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

COLOUR – COLOUR - COLOUR

No doubt on picking up your mail from your mail box you were greatly impressed by our greatly improved wrap, Thanks to Ian Fitzgerald we can now include a few colour photos – not in the text of the Bulletin but in a colour photo gallery appended to the Bulletin. Thanks Ian, a great improvement!

PNG MEDAL

We haven't given up on it yet! Further advice from a knowledgeable source is that there is no reason why many of our members cannot be considered eligible for the medal. A further letter has been sent to the Commander of the PNG Defence Force, Brigadier General Peter Ilace, stating our case and asking for his approval in principle. We have not yet had a response. Christies are prepared to release the medal on the cognisance of the Association and if the Commander PNG Defence Force is prepared to accept this we may proceed on that basis. The Medal should not be mounted with Australian medals but worn separately.

VIETNAM – A TECHNICAL TOUR by Bob McMillan-Kay. Your Association has one copy left for purchase at \$36.00 including postage. To obtain a copy please make cheques payable to the RA Svy Association. Further copies can be obtained from Bob McMillan-Kay. Bob's book of his Vietnam experience continues to attract praise from all quarters.

LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH DRINKS

This regular informal event continues at the Gaythorne RSL and Rock Thiselton advises that numbers attending continue to increase. Away to a good start this year. Those attending the Gaythorne RSL on Friday 27 February were:

Ian Fitzgerald
Bob Dickenburg
Brian Cosgrove
Peter and Del Osterhage
Ian and Mary-Ann Thiselton
John Hook
John Smith
Derek and Sandra Stanmore
Brian Johnson
Barrie Craymer
Col Hargreaves
Peter Tangey
Steve Dee
Tony Elham

1st Topo Survey Squadron Friday drinks:

Squadron OC Major Adrian Harding and SSM WO1 Barrie Craymer invite Association members to join them for drinks in the Squadron's Murray Club any Friday afternoon at 4.00 pm. We may consider moving our 'Last Friday' drinks to the Squadron perhaps. To trial this Last Friday drinks will take place in May at the Murray Club– 28 May.

ASSOCIATION BADGE

Magna Carto advises that the Ex Fortuna Association has had a further 100 badges produced in antique gold. The cost is \$10.00 each Place your order with Mary-Ann and we will order a few from Bendigo.

*******MAPMAKERS OF FORTUNA*******

Copies may be purchased from the Ex-Fortuna Survey Association (PO Box 865 Bendigo 3552) at \$60.00 plus postage of \$11.50 including cost of a padded postal bag. If a substantial number request copies, bulk delivery from Bendigo can be arranged.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2002 – 2003 & 2003 - 2004

This notice has to be a permanent fixture of our Bulletin, so here it is again:- 'Don't go to sleep on your membership!'

Keep in touch with you Survey Corps mates by being a paid-up member of your Association.



Our financial year runs from 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. Subscription is waived for veterans 75 and over who have been standing paid-up members of our Association.

Military Mapmaker's Dinner

Early notice. WO1 Barrie Craymer advises that the dinner is now planned for the end of the Geomatic Conference on Friday 15 October 2004. Put that in your diary!

Colonel Alex Laing Memorial Dinner –

RA Svy Corps Birthday: This year the actual day of the Corps Birthday falls on our preferred Thursday – 1st July 2004. That will be the day of our dinner at the United Service Club. Our booking has been confirmed. Mark that in your diary also.

ERRATA

That handsome looking gentleman on page 15 of our November 03 Bulletin to the right of Mary-Ann was not Peter Tangey. It was Jim Cook. Sorry Jim!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – commemorating the Corps

At the January meeting of our Association Committee we discussed ways we could leave behind some evidence – a permanent mark – of the service rendered to the nation

by the Royal Australian Survey Corps during its eighty-one years of operational service. When the achievements of our Corps and all of its Units are listed, even in outline, they are impressive. And yet it is apparent that knowledge of them and of the very fact that the Royal Australian Survey Corps existed at all is rapidly disappearing from the collective memory of those involved in what is now being called *spatial science*. (Bob Skitch has a little more to say about this in Personalia and other Jottings on page 7.)

So what has your Committee decided? There are two opportunities presenting themselves at this moment. Lloyd Twine of Atherton, a member of our Association for more years than we would care to remember, has brought to our attention the Memorial Park at Rocky Creek just out of Atherton. It was the location of a Military Hospital during WW2. The Park contains memorials in the form of bronze plaques mounted on granite plinths identifying the military units that served or were encamped on the Atherton Tableland during WW2. Lloyd looked around for a Survey memorial but none was to be found. Of course a number of our WW2 units spent time on the Atherton, often before leaving for or returning from New Guinea. While they were there they continued with surveys and mapping in the surrounding areas, along the Queensland coast and into the Gulf hinterland. The Corps history records the 2/1st Coy, 3 Coy and 5 Coy as having spent time on the Atherton.

The second opportunity where a more generalised Corps memorial might be placed is adjacent to the Memorial Walkway at Caloundra. This is a unique concept supported by the Caloundra City Council and the Caloundra RSL, a walkway from Kings Beach north to Shelley Beach passing the Centaur Memorial and the ANZAC Memorial on the seaward side of the pathway. Small oblong plaques measuring 15 x11 cms and circular plaques 15 cms in diameter, placed by families memorialising the passing of a veteran, are set into the edge of the path at one metre intervals. As well as these individual memorials, larger unit memorials occur from time to time; larger plaques set in concrete or granite plinths.

There are only two memorial plaques that we are aware of commemorating or noting the

WW2 units of the Corps, one in the old Hamilton Town Hall in Brisbane which was occupied by units of the Corps for the greater part of WW2 and the other, relatively recent, is the commemorative plaque to the Australian Survey Corps placed by the Institution of Surveyors at the Darwin Cenotaph Bi-Centennial Park in 2002 and reported in our Bulletins of December 2002 and April 2003. On the memorial walk to the Melbourne Cenotaph a memorial tree is dedicated to survey units that served overseas notably the 2/1st and 3 Coy.

You may well ask why we want to do this. Perhaps the reason can best be expressed in the following way... *'We in the Queensland Branch of the Royal Australian Survey Corps Association wish to leave some visible evidence of the contribution of our Corps in locations where the public might stop and ponder. In this age of satellite technology that, for many exponents of the science, supersedes the work carried out by the Corps over its 81 years of continuous operational service in both war and peace, the contribution of the Royal Australian Survey Corps to the defence and development of Australia is rapidly fading from memory.'*

DFRDB – Important to those who draw a DFRDB pension from ComSuper

A statement from the Australian Armourers Association concerning the indexation principles of the Defence Forces Retirement and Death Benefits pensions has been widely circulated to defence associations of all three services. The statement points out that DFRDB pensions are indexed to CPI as opposed to male total average weekly earnings (MTAWE). The statement claims that in 1997 the government legislated to index social security pensions to MTAWE or CPI, whichever was the greater. Service pensions, however, remain indexed to CPI. Had MTAWE indexing been applied to defence pensions since 1997 we (those entitled to a DFRDB pension) would be 14% better off. The statement points out that parliamentary pensions are indexed to MTAWE (surprise, surprise!). The statement enclosed a draft letter for sending to members of parliament to, in effect, lobby for a change.

The Minister for Employment Services and Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, Mr Mal Brough, has replied to the Australian Armourers Association representation. His reply and the AAA submission can be found on the AAA website (www.gunnies.pac.com.au). Essentially the Minister states that to extend MTAWE indexation to defence pensions would require such indexation to apply to all state and

commonwealth superannuation schemes at huge cost to the national and state budgets. Therefore it can not and will not happen. He justifies the use of MTAWE indexation to parliamentary pensions because parliamentarians do not enjoy the privileges enjoyed by public servants and defence personnel like long service leave. End of story...would you believe?

PERSONALIA AND OTHER JOTTINGS

Lloyd Twine from Atherton phoned in November 03. Lloyd enjoys receiving the Bulletin and especially enjoyed WW2 veteran Frank Miller's letter in the November bulletin. Frank and Lloyd served together in 5 Coy. Lloyd is going to pen a few lines on his war service with Survey – how he got there and what he did. Lloyd is 83 and remains moderately active attending his survey practice in Atherton 2 or 3 days a week. Lloyd referred to the Rocky Creek War Memorial Park where military units that camped on the Tableland during the war are recognised with appropriate monuments – bronze plaques set in granite plinths; but there is nothing there to recognise survey units. Rocky Creek was the location of a major military base hospital where many wounded soldiers were hospitalised after being medevaced from New Guinea.

Lloyd's observation has motivated us to address this deficiency leading to an initiative outlined in the President's Message.

LVJ (Les) Smith couldn't help but phone after seeing mention of Jock Campbell in our last Bulletin. He recalls Jock as a fresh-faced young Scott working with him at a homestead called Mount Marina just out of Geelong. It was at the height of the rabbit plague in the early '50s and the property was a 'heaving mass of rabbits'. Coming from UK where rabbits are almost a protected species, Jock couldn't believe his eyes. LVJ believes that Mount Marina is the property where rabbits were first introduced to Australia – thumbs down on that one!

'Walkabout': does anyone remember the Australian 'Walkabout' magazine? I suppose it can be seen as something of a precursor to Dick Smith's 'Australian Geographic'. 'Walkabout' was a black and white periodical pictorial featuring Australian locations and discussion. It disappeared sometime in the '50s or '60s. LVJ Smith was thumbing through some early copies recently

and found an article on the Survey Corps by no less an authority than Brigadier Lawrence Fitzgerald, Corps Director from 1942 to 1960. He is going to send me a copy.

Bill Kitson, curator of the Mapping and Surveying Museum at the Landcentre, Woolloongabba was appointed an Honorary Fellow of the Institution of Surveyors, Australia at an awards ceremony on 5 December 2003. Bill is an honorary member of our Association and has devoted much of his time and resources to the history of military surveying in Queensland. His knowledge and records including photographs of the survey units based and operating in Queensland during WW2 are extensive, especially Queensland's own 5 Field Survey Company. *The Association extends its congratulations to Bill for this well deserved honour.*

Bob Skitch became a Fellow of the Institution of Surveyors, Australia at the same ceremony.

Tom Bryce was a 5 Coy member who passed away a few years ago. Being a sign writer at his time of enlistment as a 33 year old in 1941 Tom was allocated to Survey with the rank of Sapper. As an older enlistee Tom rose rapidly through the ranks and on demobilisation at the end of the war Tom had achieved the rank of WO2. So – why are we thinking of Tom at this moment? Tom was the father of Michael Bryce, the husband of our new State Governor, Quentin Bryce and a few years ago Tom's grandson marched with us. We expect Tom's second grandson Rupert to be marching with us on this forthcoming ANZAC Day and this was the principal reason that Michael Bryce had contacted us. Last year Michael had passed on to I Topo a little of Tom's memorabilia, in particular a map of Balikpapan, the work of the 2/1st Topo in Borneo and it was that name that caused Michael to look in the phone directory under 'Army' and find our serving unit, 1 Topo. Serendipity perhaps! Michael spent his early years on the Atherton Tableland, starting school at Gordonvale in 1944. He qualified as an architect and at some point joined the RAAF reserve unit, 39 Squadron. From time to time Michael marches with that unit on ANZAC Day, however, this year Michael will be accompanying the Governor on the saluting

dais. Michael comments that his father held Survey in high regard and the association he had with professionally qualified colleagues during the war motivated him to improve his own education and led him into a successful post war career. Tom was a cartoonist and artist and became the senior art lecturer at the School of Arts. Tom was a Rotarian and gave a lot to community service. The Fortitude Valley Senior Citizen's Centre Hall is named 'The Tom Bryce Memorial Hall'.

Bob McMillan-Kay has completed his move to Maryborough having given up his landscaping business at Maleny. In a note to the editor Bob states that he has moved also the great love of his life, his Light Horse Museum to Maryborough where he has three times the floor space he had in Maleny. Bob's health has been somewhat precarious and last November he had an extended stay in the Maleny hospital. The photograph of Bob in our Photo Gallery (at the rear of the Bulletin) is taken in front of the 25 pounder artillery piece recently refurbished and relocated to the front of the Maleny Light Horse Museum. The occasion was the dedication of the gun by Lt Colonel Rick Vickers (Ret), one time CO of the 8/12 Medium Regiment RAA. Bob reports that the acquisition of the gun and its refurbishment involved a great deal of voluntary effort from many supporters, no doubt organised and coordinated by Bob. In the photograph Bob is wearing the uniform of the Light Horse with his own service medals and the ribbons of his father who served with the Australian Light Horse in the early part of WW2. This explains Bob's own fascination for Light Horse memorabilia.

On another note Bob regrets the passing of Jim Mulqueen with whom he served in Vietnam and also that of Ian Wark. Bob comments "many of the blokes of my age are dying unfortunately, but I'm going to hang in there for a while yet. I've got too many unfinished projects."

Ed: I am still holding one copy of Bob's book 'Vietnam, a Technical Tour'. More are available from Bob. His new phone number is (07) 4123 3774.

MN (Blue) Talbot

I have had a call from a Lex McCawley of Maryborough, a retired WO who had three tours of Vietnam, one with 1 RAR in '65-'66 and the

other two with Intelligence. He is anxious to contact **MN (Blue) Talbot** with whom he served in Vietnam in 1 RAR. Lex McCawley had chanced across Bob MacMillan-Kay's book (bought a copy – he collects everything on Vietnam) and found Blue's name in the nominal roll of Survey Vietnam vets and contacted Bob for further information. Bob had then referred him to me. The official Nominal Roll of Vietnam Veterans tells me that Blue Talbot also did a tour with the AATTV and later with 8 RAR. It seems he came to Survey after that and I see he is listed in the Regiment's nominal roll. McCawley tells me Blue is a Brit – soldier of fortune it seems. I put the question to Gary Warnest who remembers him well but has no idea where he finished up. Gary concurred with my description of him as a soldier of fortune. Gary will pose the question in the next issue of Magna Carto, but does any of our readership know where Blue Talbot has gone?

Incidentally, Lex McCawley was full of praise for Bob MacMillan-Kay's book – best soldier's account he had read – and I gathered he had read just about everything!

Daryl Hockings has written to Mary-Ann. He got our address from the back of a Sapper magazine and seeks to join our Association. Mary-Ann has sent him an invitation and subscription details. Daryl reports that he retired from the Army in 1996 and he and Heather purchased a home decorating retail business which they had for three years. They both then retired until August 02 when the superannuation investments started to look sick and Daryl was fortunate enough to get a job as a 'Tipstaff' (Judge's offsider) at the Supreme Court of Victoria. Great job he says and thoroughly enjoying it. Heather thinks it is good not having Daryl hanging around at home annoying her.

Great to hear from you Daryl!

Stuart Parkinson of the 2/1st Aust Army Topo Survey Coy dropped a line to express his pleasure at receiving our Bulletin. He enclosed a substantial donation to 'help us along'. Many thanks Stuart. Stuart served with Survey from his enlistment in December 1940 at the age of 19 till his discharge in October 1946 with the substantive rank of Corporal. Stuart became a licensed surveyor after the war and set up a practice in Toowoomba, now *Parkinson and Parkinson P/L* and run by his son.

Jeff Senior a 5 Coy man, sent us a nice Christmas card with best wishes to Jim

Houston and surviving members of 5 Coy. Jeff enjoys our Bulletin. Thanks Jeff for the thought.

Peter (Emu) Osterhage has confirmed his membership of the Association with a five year subscription. We see Peter reported in the press quite often now and even on telly in his role as executive officer of the Master Builders Association. Well done Peter.

Frank Miller at Gravelly Beach in Tassie has responded to my (tongue-in-cheek) musing in response to Frank's letter published in our November 03 *Bulletin* – 'what was the impact of survey in Tasmania on WW2? Frank replies:

"Well I think the impact on WW2 was pretty close to nil. There were fears that Tasmania was likely to be a soft target for Nippon and a good base for invasion of the 'big island'. There seems to have been Jap air recce going on – good circumstantial evidence. But nothing happened.

We were better used in 1942 – those called up were trained using broom sticks as there were no rifles available.

In August 1943 most of us moved on, eventually a few became the beginning of the Mapping Branch of the Lands Department and in time produced a 1:100,000 cover of Tasmania".

Frank finishes off saying that it's OK to print any of this but he doubts if it is of much interest now.

It is of interest Frank. A lot of things happened in WW2 that seem pretty pointless now, but probably not then. My father-in-law in a VDC battalion was involved in building tank traps on the Queensland-NSW border – part of the so-called 'Brisbane Line'. Apparently they are of tourist interest now – an example of some of the absurdities of war. **Ed**

TJ Wicker has advised our secretary Mary-Ann that he has moved into his new home on the York Peninsula and anyone traveling to their area would be most welcome to visit. There are plenty of beds and drinks are on tap! Please give TJ a call on 08 8852 5061.

News from the Gosford crew.

Bill Boyd and Anne have been blessed with another grandchild. Bill, incidentally, welcomes visits from old colleagues. He attended the Mapmakers Dinner last year and thinks we are a pretty good lot up here. His phone number is 02 4328 2032.

Ken Shaw has a few medical problems and Nance reports that Ken has to sleep connected to

an oxygen bottle. Nance has a few respiratory problems also and has to stick her nose into Ken's apparatus from time to time. Apart from that – both well!

Dave Thomson continues with his security job in North Sydney. Tommo a security officer? What a frightening prospect! Dave also has a new granddaughter.

The 3rd Aust Field Survey Coy (AIF) Association Newsletter reports that 19 members marched on ANZAC Day 03, marshaled by Fred Edwards and led by Col Middleton. After a brief ceremony at the Corps Tree conducted by Col Middleton they adjourned to the 'Bull and Bear' for lunch and the reunion. Numbers were down mainly due to the disbandment of the 2/1st Association.

3 Coy continues with their award of \$200 and a copy of their unit history '*Soldier Surveyors*' to a top graduation student of the Department of Geospatial Science at RMIT.

On a sad but inevitable note, the newsletter reports the death of six of their members – Alan Jenner, Andy Blackburn, Norm Barton, Don MacDonald, Jack Easterby and Jack Murphy.

RA Svy Association – WA Branch: Items from the WA Associations newsletter 'Westlink' include:

Peter Eddy: Peter and Ann have moved into their new home in trendy Shenton Park. Ann still has her antique business whilst Peter has settled into retirement. Reliable sources have stated that Peter now attends "gut busters" at a local gym and has been observed "walking the dog". Peter still surfs the net, reads avidly, practices wood turning and enjoys evaluating red wine. On a serious note, Peter has maintained his long-term commitment to Legacy and Veteran Affairs.

Barry Parker: Barry has in the last month, fully recovered from surgery to remove his gall bladder. The way the story goes, Barry drove himself to hospital, under duress, for treatment in the early hours of the morning – "macho man".

Alex Cook: Alex and Lori have produced their first vintage – Chenin Blanc, from Chenin grapes harvested at their Millendon Vineyard. One of Alex's local friends helped organize the bottling run, with a further vintage planned for next year. Lori is busy with the rest of the family designing their own wine label !!

Graham Birrell: Graham and Pauline have found their way to Perth via the "top end". Pauline has a brother living in Perth so they took the opportunity to spend Christmas with his family. Their mode of transport is to be envied - a "top of the range" Toyota Landcruiser towing a purpose-built caravan. The caravan is better described as

"mobile motel accommodation". The highlight of their tour so far has been a helicopter ride over the Bungle Bungle terrain as they visited the Kimberley. The next part of their journey is to sightsee through the Great Southern of WA and then across to Esperance.

Brian Mead: Brian and Annette have now retired as of Friday 5 December 2003. After 8 ½ years employment with a local mapping consultancy firm, Brian decided that the time was right to move on and leave everything to the "younger blokes". Annette is very much the doting grandmother and really enjoys her craft interests, together with her circle of friends. Immediate plans are for home renovations, prior to relocating to a smaller home and then "time for travel".

Spatial Sciences Institute Perhaps this might be seen as an unusual, even out of place item to be found in an ex-servicemen's bulletin such as ours, however, it may be of some interest to some members. In June of 2003 the Spatial Sciences Institute, Australia, came into being. It is an amalgamation of a number of existing professional bodies representing the expanding panoply of mapping, surveying in all its applications, remote sensing which includes aerial photography, and all applications of spatial information technology including geographic information systems. The professional institutes forming the new Spatial Sciences Institute are: the Institution of Surveyors, Australia; the Institute of Engineering and Mining Surveyors; the Australian Institute of Mapping Sciences (previously Cartographers); The Institute of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing; the Australian Urban and Regional Information Sciences Association (better known as AURISA). Whether or not we finish up with one institute or one more institute remains to be seen. Although a plebiscite of the combined membership showed a majority in favour of amalgamation, there remain pockets of substantial reluctance. Time will tell.

RA SVY forgotten?

How long does it take for 81 years of military mapping by the Royal Australian Survey Corps to fade from the collective memory of those who should know better? Not long it seems. The Australian Map Circle is an organisation of people with an interest in maps – map curators, map librarians, map historians and those who simply love maps – map buffs. I was moved to write the following

letter to that body (of which I have been a member for some 25 years) to set the record straight. The report referred to was in the Map Circle's latest newsletter:

'I read through the report by Mr Damien Cole, Acting Senior Map Librarian, National Library of Australia of the launch of the new Geoscience Australia 250K Map Series. I noted with disappointment the statement in the second paragraph: *The last time it could be said that the entire country was mapped like this was in 1968 with the completion of the R502 series by the Division of National Mapping. The program started during the Second World War and was generated through aerial photography. The present series by the new National Mapping Division.....* The major contributor to that program was the Royal Australian Survey Corps, producing at least half of those sheets and nearly all of those based on precise survey data, that is, other than astronomical observation, showing contours and not simply hill shading by whatever technique. Further, the program did not start during the Second World War; I doubt whether anyone would ascribe the lineage of the WW2 Emergency Map Series at 4 miles and 8 miles to the inch to the R 502 Series, splendid effort though they were in the prevailing circumstances. In my recollection the R502 series commenced in about 1956 with the introduction of metric scales, albeit, converted in some instances from occasionally compiled 1:253,440 sheets. Is there a 'new' National Mapping Division? I thought it was Geoscience Australia and previously AUSLIG although I appreciate that some people may still refer to natmaps just as some refer to all topographic maps as 'ordinance maps'.

The Royal Australian Survey Corps came to an end in 1996 after 81 years of mapping Australia, PNG (total coverage at 1:100,000) and the South West Pacific nations as well as supporting the Australian Army in all of its surveying and mapping needs in all theatres of war. It is sad and for its past members painful to observe how quickly its remarkable achievements are forgotten.

I suggest that Mr Damien Cole acquaint himself with the various histories of Australian mapping including that of the Royal Australian Survey Corps by Dr Chris Coulthard Clarke and the recently published history of the Army Survey Regiment by Valerie Lovejoy.'

Postscript: I have since learnt that the component of Geoscience Australia that is responsible for topographic data has resurrected the old name – 'Division of National Mapping'. Good to see – at least some traditions don't die!

Bob Skitch

VALE

Desmond Milne Husband: Des Husband as we knew him died on 4 September 2003. Des in WW2 served in 5 Fd Svy Coy and one assumes that he followed the fortunes of that unit through all of its theatres. Des pursued a surveying career after the war and record shows that he had an extraordinary ability in mathematics. Des worked as a surveyor in Brisbane and then Maryborough and again in Brisbane before moving to New Guinea in 1958 where he continued until 1974 when with his family he returned to Brisbane to settle at Lawnton. His 16 years in New Guinea comprised two years in Minj in the Western Highlands, three years in Wau, three years in Lae and finally eight years in Rabaul on New Britain. In retirement Des played golf and loved bridge which appealed to his analytical mind. With five children, all boys and eleven grand children living in many and varied parts of Australia Des and his wife did a good deal of traveling criss-crossing the country visiting them all. During the 1970s and 80s Des was a frequent attendee at our reunions. Des did not enjoy good health in his latter years but rarely complained. In the last few months his health deteriorated rapidly and he passed away peacefully with many of his family around him. (extracted from a family obituary by Pete Husband published in *Spatial Science (Queensland)*, the journal of the Spatial Science Institute)

THE NOT SO WELL

Frank Thorogood has had not one but two total hip replacements during January; both together that is! Well – it might be said that Frank doesn't do things by half! Since the operation Frank has had more than his share of setbacks with the hip on one side dislocating no less than six times and the one on the other side dislocating once. Some of these have occurred in hospital but others at home requiring him to be re-admitted twice – with great difficulty and intense pain. This on top of Frank's medical dramas of last year causing him an extended period of intensive care; more than enough for anyone. The Association extends to Frank its very best wishes for a trouble free recovery and a rapid return to good health.

Kev Walsh has had one or two setbacks of late but soldiers on regardless. His new Caloundra home has been completed and Kevin has moved in. Granddaughter Julie is

visiting in 2004 (from UK that is) and Kevin hopes to be well settled by then. Over the past year Kevin has been staying with niece, Sandra and partner Keven at Geebung with Kevin doing his bit preparing most of the meals and generally making himself useful around the house.

Charlie Kovacs has 'done his back in' he tells me – such that he will not be able to march on ANZAC Day. Charlie says it is not permanent and he will recover – in time he hopes to undertake a trip back to his beloved Hungary to re-visit family in June. Good luck, Charlie.

IT TAKES A PhD.... **Noel Sproles**

If lawyers are disbarred, and clergymen defrocked, does a podiatrist become **defeated**, does a coward become **defunct**, a novelist **detailed**, a sailor **deported**, an airman **deflated**, flat beer **distilled**, a beer tankard **dispute(r)d**, a banker **dispersed**, a celebrity **demobbed**, a politician **devoted**, Helen **destroyed**, Samson **distresse(s)d**, or Saddam **debunke(r)d**?

Does a cricketer become **detested** (Steve Waugh, of course, excepted), a baseball player **debased**, love birds **despaired**, a farmer **distracted**, or a horse **decante(r)d**? Does a magician become **disillusioned**, a witch **disenchanted**, school kids **determined**, gunners discharged, or puritans **demoralised**? While some lawyers are **disbarred**, others are **distorted** (a very civil punishment for their wrong doing!)

But what happened to us all when the Corps (that happy band) was **disbanded**? Did the old GD draughtsmen become **type-cast** or even **delineated**? No doubt cartographic draughtsmen became **described**, and lithographers became **depressed**. However, there is no doubt that the surveyors just **pegged out**.
Ed – Hmmm!



SNAKES ALIVE! So wrote Noel in our November 03 Bulletin. The accompanying drawing by **Michael Pope** (known only to me as a provider of sympathetic drawings) failed to make the publication deadline. Here it is!



1st TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY SQUADRON –

The year is nearly three months old and numbers are dwindling already as we see members deploy on operations overseas, attend promotion courses and prepare for a number of exercises to be conducted throughout the year.

In November last year we enjoyed the company of the RASvy Association Queensland Branch in the presentation of the Derek Chambers Award. It was especially memorable with Loraine Chambers presenting the award to CPL Neil Padgham. Neil is a Q store member and a deserving recipient of the award. I thank all those association members who attended. (refer photo in 'photo gallery')

We have had a number of new arrivals in 2004 including SGTs Mark and Sue Bourne from Kapooka, WO2 Andrew Morrison-Evans and SGT Geoff Ingram from the School, SGT Pat Austine from 1st Combat Engineer Regiment and SGT Tony Jackson from Long Term Schooling. SGT Doug Whiteside has posted to 1st Combat Engineer Regiment and WO2 Einam on promotion to 3rd Combat Engineer Regiment.

3 CER has moved the Geospatial Advisor position from HQ 3 Bde to the CER to ensure the Engineer Commander can provide the ground appreciation or terrain analysis and visualisation to the supported commander through both Combat and Geomatic Engineering perspectives. 3 CER has an MGI section of a WO2, CPL and two Sappers.

WO2 Peter Ball was promoted late last year having been in the WO2 position in Specialist Troop for nearly 18 months.

For those of you who remember him, WO2 Peter Cole is now in the Engineer Troop in Puckapunyal with WO2 Steve Ellis, CAPT Alex de Grauw and CAPT Damien Cole. They look after the Geomatic Trade within Training Command

ANZAC day this year will be commemorated with a dawn service at 2 CER. Breakfast will be held at the Squadron following the service. All ex-serving members and their families are welcome to attend. Following the breakfast a troop from the unit will depart for Kilcoy to participate in the march through the town as our predecessors

did in 1941 during their military and technical training held in the Kilcoy Showground.

A bus will depart the Squadron at 0930 h for the city near the Treasury Casino, which should be ample time to find our spot and chat with mates before the march. Following the march all RAE and RASvy serving and ex-serving members are welcome to attend a function at the Jubilee Hotel. The bus will depart the Jubilee Hotel for Enoggera Barracks at 1400 h.

Ed: Your Association Committee is completely supportive of the award going to a non-tech recipient. In our experience the non-tech personnel were often the unit's staunchest supporters, remaining with the unit for many years. Some of those who come to mind include Garney Cook, Harry Wright, Ray Sergeant, Frank Mazerol and many others.

OBITUARY – Ray John Sargeant

Ray passed away in Perth on Monday 20 October 2003 after a comparatively short illness. He suffered a stroke late in 2002, greatly affecting his physical capabilities, but with time and a strong will to improve, Ray gradually returned to something like his old self. Medical opinion was vague as to the reason for his stroke so further tests were conducted earlier this year. An inoperable brain tumor was discovered rapidly getting worse each week to an inevitable end.

Ray was born in Manchester, England in 1936. Following the death of his father in 1946, Ray's mother decided to migrate to Australia. So in 1950 both boarded the SS *Moreton Bay* for Melbourne to join his brother Tom who had arrived in 1948. Ray was able to find employment as a junior mechanic, until in 1953 the family moved to Perth.

In 1955, Ray was called up for National Service Training, probably the only "lottery" he ever won but it shaped his future life and career. After several years in the CMF, Ray joined the Australian Regular Army as a full time duty member of the CMF. He served with Western Command Field Survey Section as a driver. After two years full time service he was transferred from the CMF into RASvy in 1967 in Perth. Ray trained in Q Store duties, developing an affinity for his new job to such an extent that he became very expert in the management of survey stores and specialised equipment, particularly in the movement and control of those stores on mapping operations throughout Australia

and overseas. I considered Ray one of the best "Q Wallahs" that it was my pleasure to have served with, an opinion also held by senior officers within RASvy and all who knew him.

Ray served mainly with 5 Fd Svy Sqn but also had postings with 1 Fd Svy Sqn in Brisbane and 4 Fd Svy Sqn in Adelaide, in addition to many lengthy mapping operations in Indonesia and the Australian Mainland earning the nickname "Noddy". He retired from the Service in 1986, but it was not long before he rejoined again as a civilian storeman at the Midland Stores Depot, eventually rising to a senior position. Ray finally retired for good in 2001 to enjoy his life in full with house renovations, a new 4WD, his bowls club and planning trips with wife Dora etc until his sudden cruel stroke.



Ray

Acknowledgement: The Obituary for Ray was written by Alex (Darby) Munro, in collaboration with Barry Parker. Darby has granted permission for the Obituary to be included in this issue of WESTLINK. Darby resides in Adelaide and currently fills the position of both President and Newsletter Editor for the Survey Ex-Serviceman's Association of South Australia.

RAY SERGEANT – A PERSONAL TRIBUTE – Peter Bates-Brownsword

It is with sadness that I write about John Raymond Sargeant, known to most who served with him as Ray or 'Noddy', a nickname he earned during the third field trip to Sumatra with 5 Field Survey Squadron in 1975. Tributes to Ray have been published in both the RA Survey Association (WA) newsletter 'Westlink' and the Survey Ex-servicemen's Association (SA) newsletter.. I will talk about a person who really loved the Corps for what it was and what it did for him,

although the major part of his ARA career was spent with RAAOC.

I first met Ray at Perth in early 1970 when he was the transport sergeant with the then W Comd Field Survey Unit. By that time he already had a background in field survey operations in the north west and the remotest parts of Western Australia. He had progressed to that position through A & Q with his early days in the field spent as a driver, tech storeman and survey assistant.

In the early 1970s Ray was encouraged to go back into the Q store as QMS by the Clem Sargent, then OC of the newly formed 5 Field Survey Squadron. So began an exemplary career in logistic support to units in the field, not only survey units but also some combat supply units of RAAOC. 5 Squadron was involved with overseas operations in Sumatra during the mid 70s. Ray managed the logistic support 'in-country' which was no mean feat for a unit on joint operations with the Indonesians that included attachments from the RAAF and other corps of the army. He built a rapport with the Indonesian civilian personnel giving them typically Australian nicknames when he could not pronounce their Indonesian names. He also had to coordinate our support from ANZUK Singapore and later on from RAAF Butterworth in Malaysia. This included air transport and movements.

It was around this time that Army underwent a rationalisation of trades and corps where smaller corps lost their A and Q people to RAAOC and transport people to RACT. In Ray's case it was very hard for him to change his hat badge to RAAOC, however, the change was meant to provide a greater career opportunity with better chances of promotion. Ray was always the happy family man in his beloved Perth, with a Queensland Blue Couch lawn in the background and East Perth on top of the ladder. He was also very involved with junior football development, with unit member's sons including my own son coming under his guidance. (He passed on a pair of his son's football boots to my son with the quip "these boots have kicked more goals for the Subiaco under 10s than anybody else ever!")

After ten years in the west Ray was posted to 6 Brigade Field Supply Company at Gaythorne as QMS. Moving a family from one side of the country to the other has its drawbacks but there was a married quarter at St Johns Wood with plenty of blue couch.

Soldiering in a Field Force unit of the Army was a new and valuable experience for Ray with much of time spent away from home at Schoalwater Bay and Tin Can Bay training areas. Nevertheless, Ray kept in touch with all his survey contacts. I had been posted to PNG for three years but somehow Ray found out and on our return to Australia and 1 Field Survey Squadron he was at the airport with our car newly registered which he had taken delivery of at the docks the week before. It was really great having Ray (in a RAAOC unit) only a couple of sheds away at the old Damascus Barracks in Gaythorne.

Even with his family now grown up he still kept active in junior football. We both shared coaching duties with an under 12 team at Enoggera between our trips away from our units. In the late 70s we were able to 'arrange' for Ray to be posted back to the Corps as QMS of the then 1st Topographical Survey Troop where his contacts and experience with other divisional units proved invaluable in preparing the Troop for its military role with HQ 1st Division. A senior officer at Survey Directorate commented at the time that he wished he had access to same contacts to assist him with his job. Ray continued on for a few more years doing what he liked best out in the bush on survey and mapping operations.

In the early 80s Ray moved on to 4 Field Survey Squadron as QMS at Keswick Barracks; another challenge in a different part of Australia, but in a familiar role. Ray commented to me years later that one of the best things about Adelaide besides the life style was that they still played football and he had the opportunity to go to adult education classes to pursue an interest in woodworking.

At that time 4 Field Survey Squadron was involved in one of the last big field survey operations covering the remote centre of the Northern Territory. The geoceiver was being used to establish horizontal control for mapping and at the same time trialling the method of translocation that would have application to future GPS operation. The base camp and centre of the operation was Tennant Creek I had occasion to visit for a few days from Canberra to oversee the GPS trial aspects of the project. It was one of the most comfortable and well organised (Tent City) mapping operations I have ever seen. While there catching up with Ray and other Corps identities the OLWO and EMEWO had arrived from Adelaide in a Falcon ute. They

had been sent up by the Commander 4MD mainly to observe the organisation and operation of 4 Squadron in the field.

Later on Ray and family moved back to his beloved west with a final ARA posting to 5 Field Survey Squadron. I was posted to 5 Squadron in 1985 as OC and Ray was there to help me settle in and clean our car after its trip across the Nullarbor at the end of the train. The unit at that time was completing control acquisition in the Kimberley and commencing field completion of the first 1:50,000 tactical mapping series in the Pilbarra. The Commander 5 MD was always keen to visit us in the field knowing Ray's organisational reputation but he was also impressed with Ray's ability to guide the younger soldiers and officers on how to operate efficiently in harsh and remote environments.

When Pat Wood retired as OC, Ray became the oldest soldier in the unit but still nearly the fittest. In 1986 he decided to call it a day to let me become the oldest soldier in the unit (he quipped).

Ray served in the ARES troop of the unit with his much loved Survey Corps badge back on his beret. Ray gained a position at Curtin University where he managed the equipment store of the Survey Department and organised their annual survey camp in the bush. He was also able to pass on his years of field and organisational experience to future survey graduates. I moved on to an overseas posting and that was the last time we were together in uniform.

I caught up with Ray again in Adelaide when 4 Field Survey Squadron at Keswick Barracks was disbanded and taken from the order of battle. Ray was then the President of the WA Branch of the RA Survey Association and brought over a group of people including Frank Cohen from the west who had served in the Adelaide survey units. We had quite a time discussing old times together, our families, football, woodworking and the merits of Queensland Blue Couch.

That was the last time we were together enjoying a beer in the transport compound under a 20 x 30 tent. We kept in touch by phone occasionally, mainly discussing the ins and outs of running a Corps Association and maintaining the memory of the Corps he so loved.

Farewell mate – you were the best.

Peter Bates-Brownsword

FUNERAL SERVICE FOR RAY SARGEANT

A funeral service for Ray Sargeant was held at the Pinnaroo Cemetery on Monday 27th of October 2003. The Chapel was completely filled with many mourners standing – in excess of 200 friends and acquaintances. A guard of honour was provided by the members of the Greenwood Bowling Club for the funeral cortege.

The service was conducted by an Army Chaplain who spoke about Ray's life, his long and happy marriage to Dora and their children Lorraine and Ross. The Chaplains message, for all those assembled, was to give thanks for Ray's life and to remember the times you shared with Ray. During the service the Chaplain offered the mourners the opportunity to speak.

Barry Parker presented the Eulogy to Ray – in the form of a letter to a friend. "Noddy mate you have gone a' wandering the King's Highway again, but this time the road was just too steep and too rough". Barry talked of Ray's life in the RA Survey Corps and how their personal friendship had continued long after their time together in the Army. Barry thanked the Greenwood Bowling Club for providing the honour guard and reflected on the enjoyment Ray had received from his involvement with the Club – both as a bowler and as a member of the Committee.

Doug Bath spoke of the great sadness that he felt on being informed of Ray's death. He reflected on Ray's kindness and hospitality to him whenever he travelled from Bunbury to attend an Association function. Doug reflected on how he had been respected as a former member of the WW2 – 4 Fd Svy Coy and the honour that he had been given by Ray in leading the Association Members on the ANZAC DAY March, the previous year.

Lance Barrell spoke of Ray as a life-long friend and a mentor. As a young soldier Lance had raised the ire of the much older Ray and was promptly put in his place. Time passed and as they spent years of service together, Ray became a father figure to Lance and was referred to as "Uncle Ray". Ray was conscious of his lack of education but had a strong logical approach to his work. Lance quoted one of Ray's favourite sayings – *The 3 P's Principle. "Prior, Preparation and Planning prevents Piss, Poor, Performance"*. Lance also referred to Ray's belief in generational legacy – not only in relation to genetics but also in the influence that one has in guiding the next generation.

Darby Munro was asked to read – "THE ODE – *For the Fallen*", prior to the sounding of the Last Post. The service was concluded by the Chaplain after prayers were offered for the memory of Ray Sargeant and those present. An invitation was extended on behalf of Dora and her family for those present to attend a Wake at – 29 Bouvardia Street, Greenwood.

I imagine that there are still many among us who remember the plane table. Although it had long been replaced by photogrammetry for map production, the Corps still taught it on Basic Courses into the early 1960s. At that time, photogrammetric adjustment by digital means was in its infancy and the analogue slotted-template assembly still held sway. One of the difficulties with this process was its very empirical and subjective nature, making it as much a task for an artisan as for a technician. The thinking was, therefore, that the training given by learning to plane table would still be useful in planning the layout of survey control and resolving problems in the slotted-template process. And, on reflection, the powers-that-be may have had a point there.

I was one of the multitudes introduced to the wonders of plane tabling on the Basic Course and I must admit that it was all a mystery to me when I started. But learning to plane table is like learning to swim – one minute you cannot, the next minute you are away and wondering what was the difficulty. Unfortunately for me, this revelation did not come until close to the end of that module so my marks did not reflect my level of expertise. That is my story anyway. I do have pleasant memories of tramping around the Dromana Valley and along the surrounding ridges for days on end. There was one spot where you could do a six ray resection.



Plane tabling the Dromana Valley in winter watched by an inquisitive cow – drawing by Michael Pope

Our course instructor, 'Father' Jim Booten, seemed very keen that we all visit this spot and complete a resection there. We soon discovered why as we each found our way to the designated spot. Right on the very spot was the most humongous but very dead and

stinky ram. Needless to say, we did not linger to wonder at the rarity of a six ray resection!

But it was in Nui Dat in South Vietnam in 1968 that I was able to bring my formidable plane table skills to the fore. Luscombe Field, the fixed wing airstrip, had been extended and the road running along the Western boundary of the base had been re-aligned around the extension. There was a requirement to re-print the large scale map of the base to reflect this change. John Bullen called a meeting to discuss the best way of doing this and it elicited all types of suggestions, many involving aerial photography. During a pause, I suggested doing it by plane table as we had a full set of plane tabling kit. This was greeted initially with stunned silence. I then had to push my case against a quite vocal opposition. One of the biggest opposers was the late Ray Lawson who considered this an antique method not fit for the modern surveyor – this despite its having been taught at the School only a few years before. However, JB decided to give it a go when I said that I would have it done and finished in an hour. After all, there was nothing to lose. I said that I would need an off-sider and Spr Lawson, to his disgust, would do just fine!

We drew our gear and set off to Luscombe Field. The existence of the previous large scale map meant that there was plenty of control in the form of fence lines and buildings and revetments. I showed Ray how we set up the plane table and oriented it. I started to cut in a few features and very soon the picture of the new road started to appear on the sheet. From disdain, Ray's attitude slowly changed to one of curiosity, then to incredulity, and finally to sheer wonder. He became an instant convert and there are no more ardent followers than converts. When we came back, within the promised hour, he could not contain himself telling his mates about the wondrous thing that he had just witnessed. He did not even blink an eyelid when I told him that he could ink it all up ready for the overlay.

We often learn things along the way and wonder if they will ever be of use. When they are, we feel gratified. Some times, as in this incident, a little gem of knowledge can make us avoid cracking a nut with a sledge hammer. But that aside, I have often wondered if this was the last time that the

plane table was used in anger by the Corps. Or will that stir up another hornet's nest?

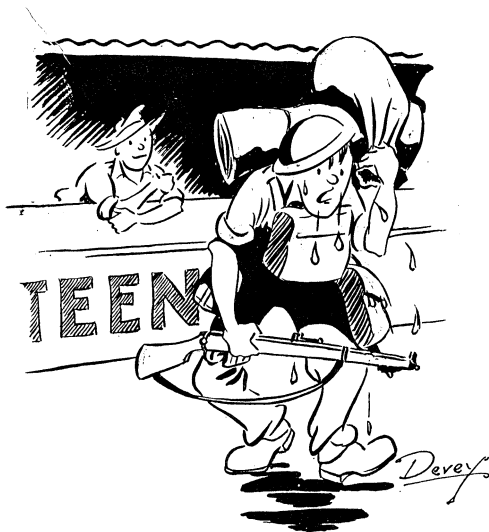
Ed Comment: Not a hornet's nest Noel, but I too cut my surveying (and cartographic) teeth plane-tabling the Dromana Valley on the 7/55 under the expert tutelage of 'Puddles' Pond. (a treasured memory) I don't recall a stinking ram but there was a certain Foxy's Hangout where the huntsmen of the Valley hung their quarry out to dry on a tree overhanging the Balnarring Road and of course that significant feature was an essential for any submitted plane-table sheet.

The large-scale cantonment map of Nui Dat was in fact carried out by plane table and tacheometry – quite a powerful combination – by Snow Ralston and others in 1966. The same technique was used to provide a similar large scale map of the Vung Tau LSG. In both instances some air photos were used but at the time most of Nui Dat was under the dense canopy

of the rubber plantation (it hadn't then been accidentally defoliated) and the reflection from the sand dunes at Vungers tended to obliterate all detail. At an earlier time (1956) on inch to the mile mapping out of Ravenswood, plane table resections were used to pull in heights from surrounding trigs for vertical control. It saved a lot of calculating. But Noel may well be right – perhaps his use that remarkable mapping technique may well have been the last time it was used in 'anger'. Nevertheless, in 1973 a week of large scale plane tabling of a nearby paddock was introduced into the IET course at Bonegilla. The object was to teach young aspirant surveyors to see contours when they looked at land and draffees to see land when they looked at contours. A combination of those concepts applied in photogrammetric plotting. The idea was to overcome some of the stupidities occurring both in the plotting stage and the scribing stage. Did it work? Hard to say. Perhaps for some.

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LAUGH WITH DEVEY

Lionel Devencorn was one of our many WW2 cartoonists who kept the survey troops laughing during those uncertain years. Here are a few:



"HEY! HAVEN'T YOU FORGOT SOMETHING?"
"YES, HOP ON MY BACK AND MAKE A LOAD..."



HE SAID. HE WANTED A LIGHT TRIM.