

SURVEY EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Committee for 1991/92

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EDITORIAL

The Survey Ex-Servicemen's Association Committee wish you a happy and safe motoring Easter. We hope to see you all at the Anzac Day re-union at Keswick Barracks after the Anzac Parade.

The Sergeants Mess will be open as usual, and as most members would know, the barbeque will once again be held at 4 Field Survey Squadron.

Don't forget to bring along any stories or news items that could be used for the magazine, and failing that we would like your comments and ideas to improve our magazine.

See you all on the day.

SICK LIST

ROBIN WILSON

Robin is going into hospital on Wednesday 15th April for a hernia operation, so will certainly remain there during the Easter break. His condition must be fairly bad and really needs operating on, otherwise Robin would never leave his beloved pigeons although his grandchildren do a pretty good job at looking after them, so he tells me. Best of luck from all of us Rob, and hope everything goes well towards a speedy recovery.

FRANK BRYANT

We reported that Frank had a knee replacement in our last issue. Since then recovery has been slow but steady and he is still on crutches, due to the kneecap not aligning properly after the operation. He is scheduled to go into hospital about two weeks after Easter for further surgery to re-align the kneecap and hopefully to fix the knee once and for all to be almost 100% again. We all hope so Frank and the best of luck to a full recovery.

A GOLDFIELDS CONNECTION

George Ricketts related this story to me after visiting Stuart Hall last week. During the course of conversation, Jessie Hall remarked on how many people had noticed the resemblance between Stuart and Sir George Lansell, the former "Quartz King" of Bendigo.

George had not known George Lansell, naturally enough, but did know that he had a balding pate and a beard, the same as Stuart, so he supposed there were reasonable grounds for resemblance.

Then Jessie spilled the beans that Stuart's maternal grandfather and Sir George were brothers.

Stuart had kept the relationship pretty much to himself during his days at Fortuna, hence few of his Army friends knew about it. Jessie thought the statue of George Lansell in Pall Mall near the Bendigo Post Office showed the best likeness.

I knew that Stuart was an old Bendigo boy from way back, but I'm sure this will be news to a lot still living there.

ALEX MUNRO.

VALE

DON COCKER

Died suddenly of a heart attack at his home in Perth last January.

Don retired as SSM of 5 Fd Svy Sqn in Perth, just a few years ago, after a long career in the Survey Corps. He was then still young enough to join the Army Reserve, which he did and was promoted to Captain shortly after, holding that position until his 'second' retirement at the age of 55 years in the latter part of 1991.

Don will be sadly missed by his family and many friends.

50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS, 1942-1992

Fifty years in the one place is a long time, but that's how long the surveyors, cartographers and lithographers of the Survey Corps have been associated with Bendigo in Victoria.

They were posted there at some time since 1942, from every State in Australia, and large numbers remained and settled permanently in the district, which indicates the place must have something going for it.

To mark the 50th year of the association between the City of Bendigo and the Survey Corps, the Army Survey Regiment paraded on the Queen Elizabeth oval on 13th March, 1992, reviewed by the Mayor of Bendigo, Councillor James Douglass.

The weather turned kind for the occasion and a steady breeze throughout the morning kept conditions reasonably pleasant, during an otherwise very warm day. Music was provided by the Australian Army Band, and the parade took the form of a march past in slow and quick time followed by an Advance in Review Order, in salute to the citizens of Bendigo.

Both Colonel John Hillier and the Mayor addressed the parade and the Regimental Chaplain offered prayers. The Regiment then marched down View St and along Pall Mall, saluting the Mayor at a dais outside Memorial Hall.

The overall presentation of the parade was first class and I was impressed with the standard of drill and turn-out of all those taking part.

A well produced brochure, commemorating the occasion was available as a souvenir, but I was sorry to see it did not make a more specific mention of RSM Graham Ragless. I'll bring a copy to our Annual re-union next Anzac Day for those interested.

An Open Day was organised for the afternoon to allow visitors the opportunity to inspect the various work areas and equipment, but being a normal work day, far fewer than normal attended.

That night the celebrations ended with a public concert provided by the Australian Army Band on the lawns around the lake at Fortuna.

ALEX MUNRO

A SNIPPET OF HISTORY - FORTUNA 1942

According to the souvenir brochure provided at the 50th Anniversary parade, Land Headquarters Cartographic Company moved into Bendigo from Melbourne on 11th June 1942, to take up quarters at Fortuna Villa, the one time mansion of George Lansell who was known as the "Quartz King" in the early days on the local goldfields.

The photographic camera and printing presses with all ancillary equipment were set up in the old quartz stamping battery, while the cartographic sections occupied the old mansion. Throughout WW11, members of the Cartographic Company produced 834 maps and printed around 20 million maps and charts, a remarkable effort.

George Ricketts was in the first group of twelve draftsmen to leave Melbourne by train from Spencer Street Station and travel to Bendigo, in June 1942. He cannot remember the actual date, nor how they got to Fortuna from the railway station, but a safe bet would have been in the back of a truck.

George can also remember Warrant Officer Harold Trist, who moved to Bendigo several weeks before June. Harold had some previous knowledge of architecture or engineering and was appointed survey liaison officer with the engineers who prepared Fortuna for occupation by Cartographic Company.

One of the facilities was a block of latrines and showers built on what is now the lawn area behind the Officers and Sergeants' Messes. I suppose a few like Neil Rankine and Jack Gore can still remember.

ALEX MUNRO

THE ADELAIDE CONTINGENT

Eight travelled over to Bendigo for the anniversary functions. George Ricketts and Alex Munro travelled over in George's car while Robin and Margaret Wilson, George and Eva Gruszka and Wally and Ilene Mooney drove over in their own cars, all leaving on the Thursday before the events.

Robin has always been early to rise, so naturally he left around 5 a.m., which wasn't a bad idea when considering how hot the weather was. George and Alex left at a more civilized hour, at about 9.30 a.m. and arrived in Bendigo about 4.30 p.m.

Wally Mooney was on the sick list for a few days before departure, so was in doubt about going right until the day before departure, but luckily came good in time to make the trip. Keep it up Wally.

For the very first time ever, every one had to adjust their watches back a half hour on entering Victoria, which is the opposite to normal because South Australia was the only mainland state still on daylight saving at that time.

Have'nt heard anything to the contrary, so assume everyone returned home safely.

ANNIVERSARY BARBEQUE AT FORTUNA

The 50th Anniversary celebrations continued on the Saturday after the parade, with a barbeque at Fortuna organized by the Bendigo committee of Don Swiney, Tom Royle and Tony Ellis.

The day was warm and overcast and except for about a dozen drops of rain, remained fine throughout the day. A short meeting was held as the barbeque got under way about 12.30 p.m., to decide on a name change for the local association, but the consensus of opinion of the crowd there was to retain the present name of the Ex-Fortuna Survey Association.

Besides the Adelaide contingent, amongst the crowd were Harry Raisbeck, Tom Chisholm, Neil Rankine, Jack Gore, Gordon Haswell, John Hogan, Ross Hyde, Bill Jeffery, Ian Lever, Roy Morgan, Fred Panknin, Ken Shaw, Harry Wright and Bill Forrest just to name a few of those present. Several ex Carto Coy members were able to attend, which was what the 50th Anniversary was all about, making a pretty good turnout with over eighty attending from as far away as NSW, ACT, SA, and many parts of Victoria.

One afternoon is not much time to catch up with so many old friends, but I think most people tried their best. A great afternoon, and a note of thanks to the organizers for a job well done.

ALEX MUNRO

AN ANZAC TRIBUTE

Geoff Briggs selected the following brief extracts from the diary of an English intelligence officer with a survey background, a Captain L.B. Weldon, who operated in the Middle East area during WW 1. The particular interest in the diary is much closer to home, as the Bertie Buck mentioned in the extracts came from Kangaroo Island, and is Moyna Briggs great uncle.

After the war, Bertie returned to Adelaide, taking a position with the Adelaide Steamship Company and finally retiring as its Senior Master of Ships.

The Buck family have been mariners over many generations and a Robert Buck served at one time on HMS TRAFALGAR, later coming to South Australia on the RAPID in 1836, a few months before the official colonization of South Australia.

Selected extracts from a diary kept from 1914 to 1919 by Captain L.B. Weldon M.C. later to be Surveyor-General of Egypt 1920-1923.

"Jan-March 1915 Someone was wanted to distribute spies or agents behind the Turkish lines; this little job fell to my lot.

The 'Aenne Rickmers' was a German cargo ship of 7000 tons, steel, single screw, and a captured prize-of-war. The Captain was Lt. R. Gaskell R.N.R., said to be previously a Syrian smuggler, of height over 6 foot, and weight of 23 stone, but he was very active, a soccer goalie, and a highly respected Naval Officer.

The French Sea-plane Squadron commanded by Lt. de Vaisseau de l'Escaille, a foremost aviator, with French pilots and British observers, was suddenly connected for launching off the 'Aenne R' using hoists into/out of the Mediteranean Sea.

11th March - 11.00 p.m. 'Anne' torpedoed, near Smyrna. My codes and letter box I gave to the cook, as I had to take charge of the ship, the Captain having been taken off injured. The Admiral later inspected our 'hole.'

6th April - We had learnt that a landing on Gallipoli was to be attempted; we were at Murdros for repairs.

24th April - We moved into the open roadstead of Tenedos. HMS Queen Elizabeth arrived, after passing within 25 yards of a floating mine, which they discharged by firing upon it. 900 men of the 1st Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers, came on board. During the night we sailed for Gallipoli.

25th April - We arrived off its coast at the very most southern end at 3.30 a.m. We and the 'Euryalus' were opposite its west beach. Captain Weldon described details of the Gallipoli landing over the next 17 pages.

Back on the 'Anne' in May, the new 2nd Officer, Lt. Bertie Buck RNR, took post. He originally came from Kangaroo Island.

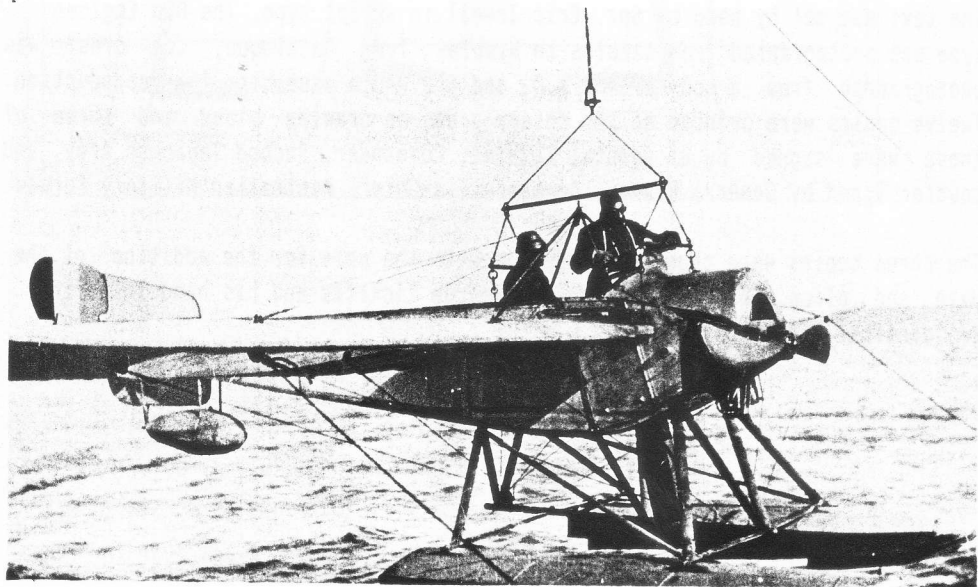
May 1916 - During the period that HMS Anne (as renamed) acted as a carrier to the French Sea-plane Squadron, 118 flights were made from her. The actual hoisting overboard and inboard was carried out without a single one being damaged which reflect great credit on Captains Gaskell and Kerr, and also upon the 1st Officer Lt. Bertie Buck. Only 2 planes were captured by the enemy, and only 1 life was lost, a very fine record considering the very low horse-power of the planes and the long flights accomplished from the ship into places such as Beersheba, Kossauna, Ludd, Adana, Tarsus, Samaria, Nazareth, Osmania and many others.

Jan 1919 - I closed down my intelligence office at Port Said, visited G.H.Q. and took clearance. I was the 1371st on the waiting list for a passage home. I left in January and took little luggage, but I did take the memory of a splendid comradeship."



Lt. Bertie Buck RNR

French Sea-plane



CEASE FIRE AND SURRENDER

This article is appropriate to Anzac Day this year, but even more so as it mentions George Ricketts and Eric Jewell, both of whom were present at our last Anzac Day Re-union. Eric was visiting Adelaide from Melbourne at the time.

The article was extracted from an original text, with thanks to the author.

"On 15th August, 1945 all offensive action against Japan ceased. It was VJ-Day. It remained to get the message from the Japanese Government through to the forward fighting formations, units and field patrols, and after that came the formal surrender.

Lieut.-General Teshima, commander of the Japanese 2nd Army, surrendered to Blamey. The ceremony took place at Morotai at 1100 hours on 9th September, 1945, the culmination of six years of war."

1 Mobile Lithographic Section was privileged to be given the task of preparing the **Instrument of Surrender** from the text submitted to it. It required a very special effort in presentation and the type faces normally used by the unit for mapping were not quite appropriate. Some improvisation was needed.

The text was set by hand by **Spr. Eric Jewell** in script type. The Old English type was photographed from samples in Wimbles Type Catalogue, the crest was photographed from a copy of AMR & O, and the whole assembled for reproduction. Twelve copies were printed on the rotary press on drawing paper and three of those were signed by Lt.General Teshima, Commander, Second Japanese Army, and countersigned by General Blamey, Commander-in-Chief, Australian Military Forces.

The three copies were then safed handed back to the unit for the addition of the date and place. That was done by **Sgt George Ricketts** and his hand lettering is identical with the type."

