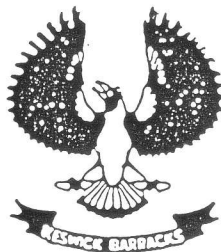


SURVEY EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Committee 1993/1994

President	George Ricketts	Ph.
Secretary/Treasurer	Alex Munro	Ph.
Bulletin Editor	Jim Dunn	Ph.



NEWSLETTER No. 9
APRIL 1994

EDITORIAL

The Association is looking at improving the front page of our bulletin. We want to maintain the same type of format, but are thinking of including the older version of the Corps badge as well as the new.

With our modern technology, we can do different types of fonts and sizing with our text as well as different types of borders etc.

We are interested in your opinion and suggestions, so have a think about any ideas you might have between now and Anzac Day. Please tell us your views at the AGM. Hope to see you all on the 25th April.

JIM DUNN

SICK LIST

WALLY GILLARD

Not a local lad, but well known to many in Adelaide, Wally underwent a serious operation for cancer removal a few months ago. This was briefly mentioned in a 3rd Field Survey Coy. newsletter received recently, and no other information is available. Wally still lives in Tasmania, where he moved to after retirement.

FOLLOW-UP REPORTS

HARRY DUNN

Harry had a right knee reconstruction last December, reported in newsletter No. 8. He reckons the knee will never be as good as it once was naturally enough, but overall is fairly happy with the outcome.

BILL LOVE

By all accounts Bill has recovered pretty well from his heart operation of last November, and has returned as secretary to George Ricketts beloved bowls club.

GEORGE GRUSZKA

George was mentioned in our last newsletter when he was undergoing treatment for leukaemia at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. How successful was the treatment is not known as George and Eva are presently touring in Victoria, but understand that further check-ups are required.

VALE

WAYNE GILLIE

It came with a great sense of sadness to hear that Wayne died in Hobart in late February this year, after a long illness.

His illness was first reported in our December '92 issue, after Wayne had undergone surgery for bowel cancer, the previous November. Subsequent operations last year failed to eradicate the cancer, so it was a continuous battle from the start. Wayne was posted to the old Central Command Survey Unit in the early sixties, and remained for a few years before being posted to the Survey Regiment. During his stay at Keswick Barracks, Wayne was a popular member of the unit and a trusted field surveyor. I'm sure that all who served with Wayne would agree that he was a gentleman, and his passing will be mourned by many.

The condolences of all Association members are extended to Lesley and family.

MEMORIAL DEDICATION

Alex Laing received a letter from the "Sunraysia Vietnam, Korean and South-East Asian Veterans Inc. Memorial Committee" seeking expressions of interest from former soldiers who might care to attend the dedication ceremony of a memorial to those who served in the Asian region.

The committee is based in Mildura, where the memorial will be unveiled in August, 1995. The group was formed in 1993 and I suppose have been involved since then in fund raising and planning activities, but are now at a stage where they are preparing the final details.

Alex has taken on the task to co-ordinate any interest from the various Royal Australian Survey Corps Associations around Australia.

It could be a good enough excuse to spend a pleasant day or two, in and around Mildura, so for further information contact Alex Munro.

3RD FIELD SURVEY COY.(A.I.F.) ASSOCIATION

Received a copy of the Association's last newsletter, from secretary Ray Smith. Thanks Ray. A copy will be sent out to those of our members who might be interested in the latest news.

DISTRIBUTION LIST

As promised in our last issue, a copy of our mailing list is included as an insert. This is in response to members enquiring after addresses.

ANZAC DAY RE-UNION - MONDAY 25th APRIL, 1994

Our re-union is fast approaching, so we can look forward hopefully to a good roll-up on the day. For Association members who may not be sure about eligibility for the parade, all ex-Corps members are entitled to march, and as our numbers are not huge overall, a good turn-out would be appreciated. As in past years we have been promised a bearer for the Corps Banner from 4 Field Survey Squadron. Details for the day are:-

9 a.m. Gather at the Survey vehicle compound in Keswick Barracks for those requiring a lift to the march and wish to park their cars in the Barracks area.

9.10 a.m. Depart for the march using a vehicle and driver provided by the squadron.

9.30 a.m. Gather for the Anzac Day Parade at our usual place in front of the SGIC building at the corner of Gouger St. and Victoria Square. For those attending direct from home, it is best to be at the form-up point by 9.40 a.m.

About 10.45 a.m. Our vehicle will return to Keswick leaving from Pennington Terrace by St. Peters Cathedral, for those not attending the after-march service. The vehicle will return to the same spot at about 12.15 p.m., to pick up those attending the service.

About 12.00 Midday Gather for our re-union at the survey canteen. As usual we have been invited to attend the squadron BBQ lunch at a cost of \$2.50 per head (pay after the AGM)

2.00 p.m. Annual General Meeting in the squadron lecture room.

About 2.30 p.m. Return to the canteen for drinks and nibbles etc. or to the Sergeants' Mess and so on:-

N.B. I would appreciate an indication of the numbers attending the re-union for catering purposes, and also those for the march. If you wish to advise by letter, address to me at

COLONEL LIGHT GARDENS, S.A. 5041

If advising by 'phone, my home number is 277 7074. If I cannot be contacted there, leave a message on my answering machine at work telephone number 2040 266 at any time.

Regards,

ALEX MUNRO

SURVEY CORPS BIRTHDAY DINNER

The formal dinner celebrating the Corps Birthday of 1st July, will be held at Keswick Barracks Sergeants' Mess on Saturday 25th June, '94. The SSM of the squadron - WO1 Peter Hammer - has told me that invitations to the dinner are being sent out to all Association members.

The School of Military Survey will hold their dinner on the actual day of Friday, 1st July, but I have no other information as yet. In past years a vehicle has been provided from Keswick to take a few representatives from the squadron, to Bonegilla for the dinner. Generally there has been room enough for one or two of our members.

No decision regarding this has been made at this time, because of the proximity of this year's mapping operation and the numbers going bush from Keswick.

Anyone interested can check with Alex Munro, as it might be possible to organise a private vehicle as an alternative.

ROBIN WILSON

A photograph of Robin appeared in the Advertiser recently, taken at his home near Gawler. Most will remember his passion for pigeon racing, but perhaps are unaware that he is now one of the foremost pigeon fanciers in Australia. The pair of pigeons held by Robin in the photo are worth \$8000 as breeding birds and offspring from them return about \$600 each. I'm not certain if Robin has appeared on television, but is heard regularly on radio during the racing season, plus articles in the newspaper.

ANDY COVINGTON

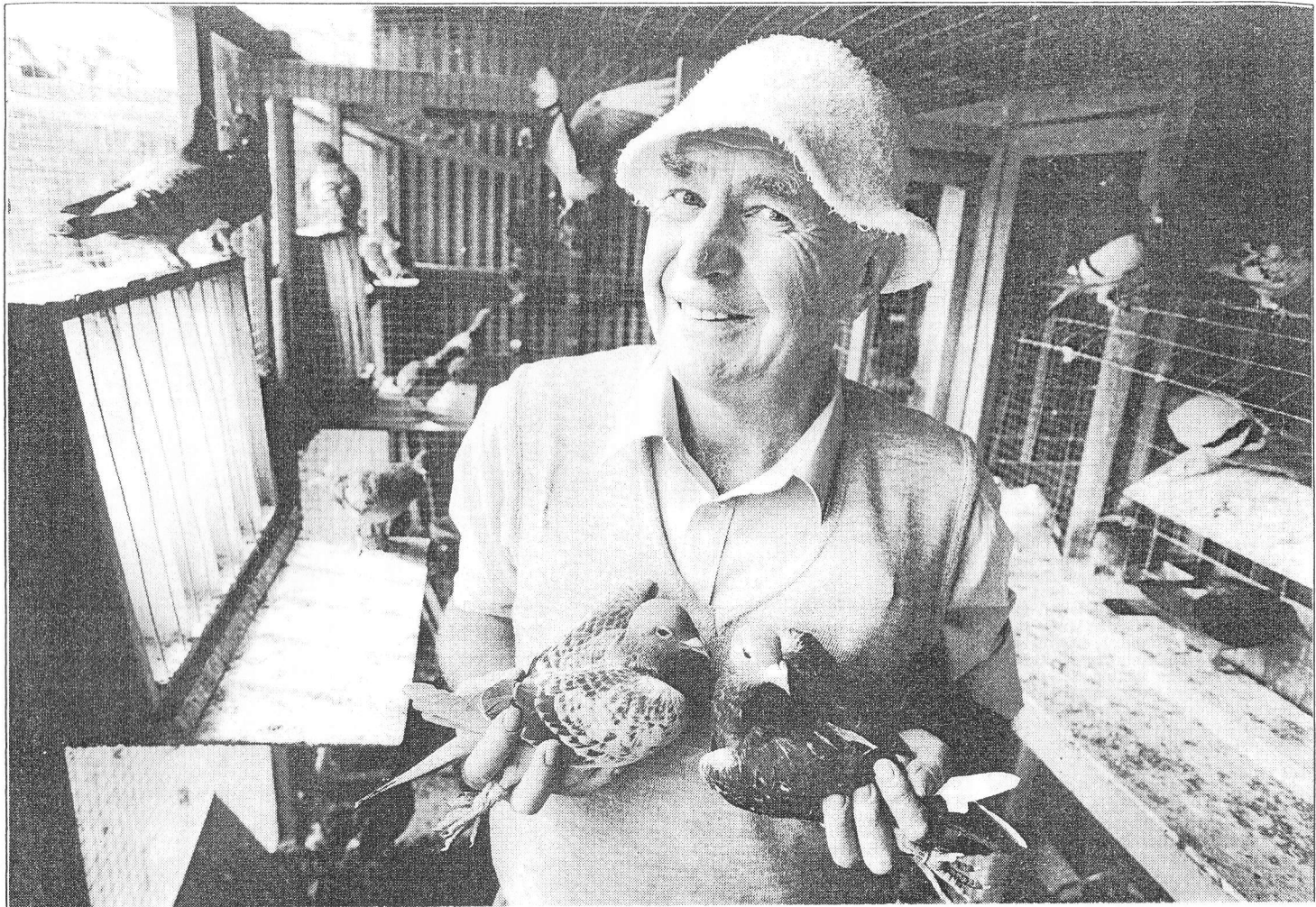
Former RSM of the School of Military Survey turned anglican priest, Andy has been posted from his Parish at Elmore(Vic) to Kalgoorlie(W.A.), and can be contacted through the Anglican Church Kalgoorlie, for any one passing through.

SAM CHAMBERS

We reported about 18 months ago that Sam and Cam Chapman had a fishing venture going in the Solomon Islands. Rumour has it that the partnership has ended. Cam is still in the Solomon Islands but Sam is somewhere in Australia.

KEITH TODD

I knew Keith had returned to Queensland about twenty years ago, but more or less disappeared, so I was never sure that he was still with us, until I read in the Bendigo newsletter that Keith and his wife have retired in Caloundra and are loving it.



DAN McLUSKY

Also mentioned in the Bendigo newsletter is Dangerous Dan, now living in Mackay, QLD., and lecturing part time at the local TAFE and at the University of Central Queensland, in between running his own consultancy business.

BUTCH WINTERFLOOD

Still working in Queensland and apparently doing very well, as part of a group called Whitsunday surveys.

RALPH CHANT

Was speaking to Ralph by telephone very recently. Ralph is now out of the Service and living in Bendigo. He is working with the Coliban Waters Waterboard as their assets Manager - I suppose a reservoir or two must be worth something. Ralph has hit the big time.

COLOUR PATCHES - OLD AND NEW

Colour patches were worn by members of the Australian Army from 1915 until phased out in 1949, to identify the various units. Probably not known to many ex-servicemen, they were re-introduced in 1987, but not as an obligatory dress regulation for all Corps, as I understand it.

After 1987 units wishing to wear a colour patch listed in the Army Colour Patch Register 1915-49, had to seek approval as a matter of heritage, in that they had to show a direct lineage back to the particular unit that wore the colour patch previously, and to be still performing a similar role.

I'm uncertain as to how stringent the conditions were, but of 410 units on the current order of battle, only 76 have been able to obtain permission.

To provide colour patches for the remaining units a new co-ordinated series has been developed complementary to the old, but without the shortcomings and inconsistencies of shape and corps colour display that existed before. Apparently, a large number of colour patches raised during the hectic periods of national emergency in W.W.1 and the early years of W.W.2, were done without co-ordinated guidelines.

There is presently a proposal to adopt colour patches for units within the Royal Australian Survey Corps.

Survey Directorate and the School of Military Survey would qualify for versions of the old colour patches, but all other units would have to use the new series. This will probably take the form of purple-white-purple vertical stripes as used in 1917 for 1st ANZAC Topo Section, in the shape of a square with a superimposed smaller patch of colour and shape that will distinctly identify the unit. Are there any military history buffs out there interested in knowing more about the subject, because Canberra is interested in obtaining ideas from former members.

Don't quote me on any of the above, as all the information was gleaned from letters etc., including relevant pages from the Army Colour Patch Register, sent to George Ricketts for comment.

Should anyone wish to peruse the letters, please let me know, but I will have them at the AGM on Anzac Day.

ALEX MUNRO

A WEEKEND VISIT

Kevin Boehm sent me a letter recently to say that Pat and George Graham drove over from Bendigo last February, to spend a weekend with him. Arriving late on a Friday, they had barely settled in before Kevin hustled them off to the home of mutual friends for a poolside party into the night.

Saturday saw a visit to Carrick Hill, which reminded Pat and George of Fortuna in some ways, and a tour of the STA Bus Depot at Mile End, where Kevin works from as a bus driver. The day finished with dinner at a Indian Restaurant where the effects of curried tucker repeated well into the night.

Sunday morning was spent poolside recovering from the night before, and Pat donned a bikini for a dip, looking quite stunning according to Kevin. Watch it lad.

A drive along the beaches, lunch at the Largs Pier Hotel and a visit to the Port Adelaide tourist sites and the Brickworks Market, finally rounding off Sunday with a BBQ.

Pat and George returned to Bendigo on the Monday. Thanks for the letter Kevin, I wouldn't mind if you organised a weekend for me sometime.

On the Sunday night George received a 'phone call from his son advising that the family home had just been burgled. Fortunately, there was little harm done, as the son had arrived home in the nick of time, forcing the thieves to exit early.

ALEX MUNRO

PRIVATISATION - FOLLOW UP REPORT

In our last issue of the newsletter I reported on the possible privatisation of map production at the Army Survey Regiment, Bendigo. The possibility of this happening is very real, as part of a scheme called the Commercial Support Programme.

The idea behind the scheme is to reduce the Defence Budget by replacing servicemen with civilian staff on tasks that can be carried out by private interests just as efficiently while being more cost effective.

Five bids to take over military mapping at Fortuna were tendered to the review team, set up to evaluate each bid. Four were from private organisations and the fifth from the regiment. The successful bidder was to have been announced in February last, but this has been delayed until the end of April, but rumour has it that the military bid seems likely to be the one preferred. But even if the bid is successful, I have heard that the present military organisation at Fortuna will be completely restructured to something very different from the present Army Survey Regiment, taking place early in the new financial year.

To predict what finally happens would need some pretty wild guessing, so it's still a matter of wait and see.

ALEX MUNRO