



SURVEY
EX-SERVICEMEN'S
ASSOCIATION

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



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APRIL 1995

NEWSLETTER No. 12
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EDITORIAL

Time marches on - Summer is over and Easter and Anzac Day are almost here.

Nearly all my colleagues who were in the Army with me have retired(except for Billy Griggs), but life goes on.

But it's good to attend the Anzac Day re-union at Keswick Barracks to keep in touch with all the "oldies".

Each year I go, I see faces of new recruits as well as the old familiar faces.

Now and again, someone I have'nt seen for many years drops in to the reunion to catch up on friendships and news.

So come along on Anzac Day and give us some "material" to include in our newsletter.

The committee wishes all a happy Easter (drive carefully) and look forward to your company on Anzac Day.

JIM DUNN

ANZAC DAY REUNION

To be held as usual at Keswick Barracks on Tuesday, 25th April, 1995, starting around 11.30 a.m./noon. Association members have been invited by the OC, 4 Field Survey Squadron, Major Peter Demaine, to join them for drinks and a BBQ lunch in the social club.

After lunch, the AGM will be held in the unit conference room, lasting about the usual 35 minutes, then back to the social club, or crown and anchor, etc, in the Sergeants' Mess.

The cost of the BBQ has previously been \$2.50 for some time, but with the recent introduction of a different rationing system into the Army, the cost now will probably be a little more.

I'll have to give attendance numbers for catering by Friday 21st April, so please let me know soon by 'phone message or mail.

ALEX MUNRO - HOME:
- WORK:

HOME ADDRESS - COLONEL LIGHT GARDENS,
S.A. 5041.

ANZAC DAY MARCH

Our form-up point is at the start of Grote Street in Victoria Square, as in previous years, at 9.15 a.m. The march starts at 9.30 a.m. Those wishing to park their cars at Keswick Barracks can do so, and unit transport has been arranged into the city for the march leaving at 9.00 a.m.

There will be a return trip to Keswick at about 10.30 a.m. and again after the memorial service at about 12.15 p.m., leaving from near the cathedral on the corner of Pennington Tce.

Because our numbers are fairly small at the best of times, I urge as many as possible to turn up on the morning to represent the Survey Corps in the parade. All Association members are eligible to march, so I hope for a good roll-up.

SICK LIST

No reports of any recent serious illness have been received, and I sincerely hope that this is true.

Although not an Association member, Bill Bates-Brownsword recently underwent very serious surgery for cancer removal, and as far as we know at the moment, the situation is not good. Bill is the brother of Corps identity Peter Bates-Brownsword. Bill is an executive member at RSL HQ in Adelaide, and is the organiser for this year's Anzac Day Parade, as well as past parades.

GOOD TIMING?

A booklet titled "Health Care for Veterans and War Widows", was sent to all who are entitled to Repatriation health care, so you probably know about it.

The booklet was sent out in early March, about the same time as the main hospitals hit headline news over strikes. Cleaners refused to work, patients were turned away and some hospitals became almost not available.

It seems to me that the Veterans' Affairs department could not have timed it "better" for the veterans to use public hospitals.

Whether its good or bad we have yet to see, but I hope all those veterans entitled to health care are looked after.

JIM DUNN

TWENTY FIVE YEARS

Twenty five years - a quarter of a century - and I let it slip by without celebrating. I didn't realize until several days later that the day had come and gone.

What am I talking about?-on the 10th February, 1995, it was 25 years since I joined the Army.

And it seems like yesterday. I remember my first meeting with George Ricketts and Robin Wilson. Rob gave me a stereo eye test on a pair of aerial photos-I didn't realize before that, that I could even see stereo.

And I still remember that I had 3 haircuts in 3 days. One the day before I joined, one the day I joined, and one the next day at Kapooka.

That day 25 years ago changed my life. Even though I have been out of the Army for 20 years, I consider that the Army and the Survey Corps were the foundation stone that moulded my life today.

So I followed my destiny and now look back at my time with the Survey Corps and realize that I took the right path. - By the way, Happy Anniversary to Mick Sarson and Tony Balkauskas who joined on the same day.

JIM DUNN

VALE

LLOYD HARVEY

It is with sorrow that we pass on the news of the death of Lloyd Harvey in Bendigo on Friday, 3rd March, 1995. He had not been in the best of health for some time, and was diagnosed as suffering from leukaemia only a few months ago, which weakened him to the extent that he succumbed to a bout of pneumonia.

Lloyd was cremated after a service in the chapel at Eaglehawk Lawn Cemetery.

Most of Lloyd's long military career was at the Survey Regiment, and although trained as a surveyor initially, was involved mainly in the cartographic aspects of map-making, developing considerable expertise over the years.

Although not from Bendigo originally, he remained in the town after his retirement a few years ago. As best as is known, Lloyd had no local relatives and was supported near the end by Kath Bates and Pat Lumsden. He will be remembered and missed by his many friends in Bendigo.

DAPHNE BUNN

Wife to Alan Bunn, Daphne died in Bendigo during February this year. She remained at home to the end, being nursed by Alan throughout. Our condolences are extended to Alan and family.

BILL CHILD

Again with sadness, we report the death of Bill Child late last year in Canberra, after a serious illness. Unfortunately, no other details are available.

He will be remembered by many Association members, who passed through the School of Survey at Balcombe in the mid-fifties, where Bill was the adjutant at the time.

REUNION AT BENDIGO

Held over the (Labour Day, VIC) holiday week-end on 11th and 12th March, '95.

The reunion began on the Saturday night with a dinner held in the outdoor courtyard of Eddy Esposito's old pub - the Goldmines, with twenty or so sitting down to a first class meal, in very mild and pleasant conditions. The dinner was underway at 7.30 p.m. and began to break-up around 11 p.m., ending a very enjoyable evening.

New owners took over not long ago, and a lot of money has been spent on doing the old place up, so worth a look the next time over.

Sunday was the main event, with a BBQ lunch at Fortuna, starting at mid-day. A fine cool day with about fifty turning up from all over, and it seems the Bendigo reunions are more popular with those living outside the town, than with the locals.

Anyway, it was a great afternoon with plenty of refreshments and a very good lunch, going until late afternoon.

I cannot remember everyone I chatted to over the week-end but mentioning a few, I saw Frank Thorogood, Bill Forrest, and 'Vonne, Gordon Haswell, John Hogan, Dave King, Tony Ellis, Jack Gore, Peter Gale, Don Swiney, Merv Marks, Ian Lever, Evan Giri, Harry Wright, Ken Shaw and Nance, Fred Smalley and Steve McConachie.

The next reunion will be in November, generally the week-end before the Melbourne Cup.

ALEX MUNRO

CORPS BIRTHDAY DINNER

No news yet of when the dinner at Keswick Barracks will be held. 4 Field Survey Squadron are soon leaving on a mapping operation to the N.T., and not returning until close to 1st July, so a dinner on or near the birthday would be difficult to organise.

I understand it will be held, but later on by a few weeks, so I suppose invitations will go out in due course. As to the dinner held each year at Bonegilla, I've heard it might not go ahead this time, although this has not been confirmed. Assuming it does go ahead in late June or early July, please let me know before June if you would be interested in going over.

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

Received a letter from secretary Ray Smith detailing their intentions for the "Australia Remembers" activities for 1995. The Field Survey Training Depot located at East Burwood from 1941 to 1943 will be remembered with a memorial cairn placed near the old weatherboard hall which was camp headquarters at the time.

The hall is still intact, surrounded by tremendous changes since the '40's. A full afternoon of various activities has been planned for Sunday, 21st May, '95. The letter detailing the proposed programme and contact names and addresses is enclosed separately to the newsletter.

BONES AIN'T JUST BONES

The recent discovery of some aboriginal bones north from Adelaide, with the usual attempt to declare the area a sacred site, reminded me of a little escapade by the late Jim Bownds.

It was around 1959/60, and we were doing a First Order Traverse at the time along the coast of Arnhem Land, supported by HMAS Gascoyne, and positioned somewhere near Elcho Island, from memory.

Jim used to collect unusual souvenirs in much the same way that a bower bird collects bright objects in that it does so naturally and can't help itself.

I can remember Jim arriving back on Gascoyne just after dark one day, carrying a long and thin parcel wrapped in yellow bunting and twine, which he stowed by his bunk without a word, but I was curious about the contents at the time. Sometime later back in Darwin, Frank Buckland, who was our OC at the time, received a message that a soldier boy in khaki had pinched the remains of some long departed grandparent, from a tribal burial site in the sandhills near the sea at our last stop. By this time the skeletal remains were neatly wrapped in tin foil (or similar) and tar paper, ready for the trip south and Jim's trophy cabinet.

Anyway, the remains were duly returned the following day in a light aircraft. The OC sat alongside the pilot in relative comfort, while I sat in a tiny rear seat in relative discomfort nursing the "parcel", because that was the only way it would fit in. On landing at our destination, we were met by a member of the local mission station, who relieved us of our special package, to be returned for re-burial.

Just imagine if it all happened now, there would be articles in every newspaper, the matter raised in Parliament, enquiries held, compensation sought, the bone pointed, etc, which just highlights the changes that have happened in Australia over the last few years.

ALEX MUNRO

NEW COVER FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

We are slowly but surely improving the quality of our newsletter, and if you don't believe me, just check back on our first number of three years ago.

Our particular thanks go to Laurie Sutton and also the help provided by Spr. Fran Calvert and Cpl. Denise Ball, at Keswick Barracks.

Without their willing help, our latest up-grade would not have been possible (at the prices our executive committee are willing to pay), so thank you all.

2/1 SURVEY ASSOCIATION

Received the March '95 edition of the 'Survey Sentinel' not long ago. Attached was another "Australia Remembers 1945-1995" activity of a week-long celebration on the Atherton Tablelands of Queensland, based in Atherton. The programme is enclosed separately to the newsletter.

Included also was an article by Joe Lines, of an incident when the Company was stationed in Egypt during early WW2. With Anzac Day coming up, I reckon it rates publication, a liberty I might add without permission of the author. Our thanks to Joe, anyway.

DESERT SKINHEADS

With some of us getting pretty thin on top, and now only really requiring a 5 cent haircut, some recently recalled when we had plenty of hair, and some decided to get rid of it.

This happened when the Company was moved to what went by the name of a transit camp at Amiriya, to the west of Alexandria, from where we were to be shipped to Greece and fortunately for us as it happened, the decision to evacuate Greece cancelled our onward movement.

In this camp, there were no decent ablution blocks, and the washing facilities were very reminiscent of the old horse troughs. There was no cover, just sand everywhere, high temperatures, and strong winds swirling up plenty of dust most of the time. Added to this, the ever present millions of Egyptian flies during daylight hours, and the shortage of water, it was little wonder that some of the Company decided to shave their heads.

One unforeseen after-effect was the taste of the flies for the newly shaven sweaty pates, and as they tramped over the bald heads, it seemed as though they had on the fly equivalent of No. 9 size army boots. To counteract this, those affected were obliged to wear their hats at all times during the day, and even inside the tents when they were finally erected. If the hat did not provide sufficient protection, some were seen to be wearing their woolen balaclava helmets, and in the hot conditions, this was something that could be done without.

The forerunners of Yul Brynner and Kojak were mostly looking for accelerated hair restorer after a day or two, and mostly this fashion died there and then. Another side effect was the ready identification of some who participated in a bit of a "dust-up" when siding with some R.N. sailors in a cafe, against some British "Red Caps" - military police, on a very brief leave we had in Alexandria.

PEOPLE NEWS

DAVE OWEN

Dave was visiting Bill Bates-Brownsword recently, when George Ricketts rang Bill by sheer coincidence. Dave is still connected with the oil and gas industry, as a draftsman with Santos. With luck, we might see Dave at our Anzac Day reunion.

MARJ KNIGHT

Marj reports that she is fit and living the good life in a fairly active way.

She thinks she has beaten the cancer operation of a couple of years ago, but still requires the odd check-up now and then. Marj, thanks for the 'phone call about Lloyd Harvey.

DESI ASARIS

Spoke to Desi in Grote Street during a chance meeting about 3 months ago. She has had an operation to repair some problems with a knee (can't remember which one), so hopefully there is a full recovery by now. Otherwise she seemed pretty cheerful.

ALEX LAING

Alex is presently working in Papua New Guinea (between visits home) on a two year contract with the Australian Defence Aid Bureau, advising on a defence/PNG mapping project.

STEVO HINIC

Stevo recently landed the job he has pushed for during the last year or so, while working the Adelaide law courts. He has been appointed to the position of tipstaff to Justice Lander in the Supreme Court. Well done Stevo.

VISIT BY DUTCHY

WO1 Brett van Leeuwin visited Keswick Barracks from Bonegilla in middle March, to deliver safe-hand an aerial camera required for the forthcoming field trip to the NT. Brett sends his regards to old friends around Adelaide.

JACK WALLER

Jack is still living in serviced accommodation at the Psychiatric Centre, North Bendigo, since his unfortunate fall several years ago. I have heard from a fairly reliable source that Jack's memory is better than most thought, and he would appreciate a visit from any old friends passing by.

FRED SMALLEY

Fred has been busy since leaving the service very recently in Bendigo, researching the possibilities of setting up business in computer graphics or similar. He is positive there is a niche in the industry for his talent, and intends to give it a go.

FRANK THOROGOOD

Frank is in his final year of a law degree with the intention of later specialising in international law.

Between leaving the Victorian Branch of the Red Cross and his law studies, Frank did a short stint with a United Nations agency in Europe, and with his new credentials, hopes to find a full time position with U.N.O., sometime in the future.

EDDY SCHULZE

Soon to be leaving Adelaide, perhaps forever. Eddy will be leaving for Brisbane in about the last week in April, to take up the position of project manager replacing the entire computer operations of the University of Queensland.

The position became available suddenly, requiring some quick decisions by Eddy, but as he said, the position was "too good to miss." He only purchased a house and moved in less than two months ago, after selling his former home at McLaren Vale, so anyone looking to buy a house in the Belair area, contact Eddy.

Changing the university computer network is estimated to take about seven years or longer. Eddy recently purchased a Pajero four-wheel drive(money-bags) and intends to travel extensively throughout Queensland.

Best of luck in the future Eddy.

ROGER REES

Roger was discharged at Bonegilla on 14th March, 1995 as a Warrant Officer Class 11, after 24 years service in the Corps. He hopes to maintain his association with the Army by joining the Emergency Reserve at the School of Military Survey.

Always a top operator in the bush, Roger spent a good deal of his time on field survey operations, including some years at Keswick Barracks, working on mapping in the N.T. and other places.

As to the future, Roger already has a job with the C.P.S. and starts soon at Bandiana, near to his last posting with the now defunct Map Depot.

Roger sends his regards to all old friends in Adelaide. Thanks for the letter Roger, and your subscription arrived OK too.

To Roger and Effie and family, we hope the retirement years ahead are prosperous and happy.

THE LAST OF A KIND

Gordon Santo retired from the Survey Corps at Keswick Barracks in February, '95, after about 32 years service - the whole time as a sapper.

He was offered the opportunity for promotion on numerous occasions, but always remained adamant in his desire to remain a sapper, something he was very comfortable with.

Gordon could be relied upon to start and finish a job properly, and over the years held the respect of all ranks, wherever he worked, including numerous field trips on mapping operations.

Professional corporals are seen throughout the Army, but professional sappers are rare indeed, and with the changes to manpower now happening in the services generally, it is unlikely that Gordon's record will ever be matched.

He is taking in the Adelaide scene at the moment and leading a pretty easy life style, while deciding on his future and what he is going to do.

Best of luck Gordon, and we hope all goes well for you in retirement.

SURVEY EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF N.S.W.

Received Bulletin 81 of January, 1995. This is a special edition dealing with the life and times of Lt. Col. H.P.G. Clews, better known as "The Major" or "Clewsie" to those in the Survey Corps and others who worked alongside him.

He was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1890, migrated to Western Australia in 1911, joined the Army in 1912 in the survey section of the Royal Australian Engineers and saw continuous service in the Survey Corps including both World Wars until retirement in 1949. He joined the Snowy Mountains Authority in 1950 until his second retirement in 1958.

"The Major" died in 1980 - a legend is his own lifetime. If anyone would like a copy of this edition, a photocopy can be sent out on request.

The following short history of the contribution by the Survey Corps in the initial mapping for the Snowy Mountain Scheme, is not widely known. Written by Clem Sargent some years ago, and previously published, it is now presented with Clem's kind permission.

Survey of the Snowy

In 1946 when the Federal Government offered assistance to the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria to determine the feasibility of diverting the headwaters of the Snowy River into the Murray River, it found that the Army was the only Federal body with the manpower, equipment and organisation capable of undertaking the preliminary investigations to assess the feasibility of the scheme.

Consequently in July of that year the Australian Survey Corps was asked to undertake two initial surveys. The first at Khancoban, which could be started immediately, was to survey a proposed tunnel outlet into the Swampy Plains River; the second was to establish levels on the Snowy watershed on the eastern side of the range to determine the possibility of diverting the waters of the Snowy by channels and dams, and providing water power for a subsidiary hydro-electric scheme at the higher level. The second survey could not be started until the thaw in the high country.

Carto Coy was ordered to commence compilation of the Kosciusko 1 mile sheet from aerial photography using the best available existing control; 3 Coy in Melbourne under Captain Barney Herbert were directed to establish levels and gradients between Yarrowonga on the Murray and Urana in NSW, and 5 Coy, commanded by Major Bert Eggeling, at Chatswood in NSW, were committed to the surveys at Khancoban and Jindabyne.

In August 1946 the first 5 Coy team under WO1 Dick Connors established itself in the old slab school-house at Khancoban and started work. Tache traverses were run along ridges surrounding the tunnel portal and tied into control by resections. Using the resections as control the drainage and ridge patterns were plotted from air photos and enlarged onto a plane table sheet on which

about 4 square miles of 10 feet contours at 1:10,000 around the proposed tunnel portal were plotted by Sgt Ted Laker. At the same time Dick Connors with another party located the tunnel crossing of the Geehi Gorge and ran levels up and down the stream for about 2 miles. This party worked in the river, and were supported by a team from the base camp at Khancoban which man-packed rations in every three or four days. Sprs George Harvey (Aumuller) and Mathers were among the team.

The second team, under WO2 Spencer Snow arrived in Jindabyne in October 1946 and set up camp by the bridge over the Crackenback, or Thredbo River, near the "Creel". Its first task was to level from a bench mark on the road above the camp to the top of Kosciusko. Apart from Spencer Snow this party consisted entirely of Interim Army recruits, Sprs Bert Howlett, Vic Wilson, Brownie Jordan, Frank Nolan and Clem Sargent. The levelling stopped at Charlotte Pass because snow covered the remaining high ground, and it was not completed until 1947. Some re-inforcements were sent down from Chatswood and the team continued working to strengthen control of the base compilation until returning to Sydney just before Christmas. Members of the party would well remember the resection at Rennex Gap carried out in a snow-storm on the 12th December.

Spencer Snow, now WO1, returned to the same camp site at the end of January 1947 and work continued on topo control and heighting for investigation purposes throughout the main range area, with an enlarged party now including Sgts Tut Turrell, John Hutchinson, Ted Laker and Sprs Herb Wilson, Frank James, Bill Levings and Dave Rees.

In March pack and saddle horses were hired in Adaminaby and accompanied by Vince Russell and Harold Mansfield of Adaminaby, a party of Spencer Snow, Bert Howlett, Clem Sargent and Dave Rees rode into the Grey Mare Range and the Rolling Grounds for six weeks to establish control and carry out further investigational surveys, joining up on occasions with parties who came north across the Snowy to Whites River Hut. These parties were involved in determining heights of possible pondage areas and particularly, bottom heights in the Geehi River.

Work on the eastern side was completed before Easter 1947 and after a short break in Sydney the team returned to the old school at Khancoban and on horseback, once again supplied from Adaminaby by Harold Mansfield, started work on trig on the western side of the Kosciusko sheet to strengthen mapping control. WO2 Harry Butler joined the party there along with Sprs Bedford and Gilbert.

This party was forced to pull out at the onset of winter snow and was the last major team to work in the area. However, with so much of the 1 mile map sheets in an advanced state it was decided to complete the Berridale map and in early 1948 Captain Alan Roberts, Sgts Ted Laker, Jim Long and John Hutchinson went to Berridale to provide additional control for this sheet. It was during this

field trip that Ted Laker built an oversize plane table to take a full compilation sheet, to aid heighting by clino. It became affectionately known as "The Banner" and was carried over many square miles of the Berridale sheet. After this trip most of the senior NCO's marched out of the unit and the rest of the sheet was heighted in two field trips by Cap Alan Roberts, Cpl Clem Sargent and Spr Ken Lyon, and later Capt Roberts, Cpl Sargent and Spr Jim Williams.

During the 1948 field trips an attempt was made to obtain heights on Hannels Spur, leading from Kosciusko north west down to Swampy Plains. The plan involved Major Clews walking down the spur with barometers and Cpl Sargent and Spr Williams taking horses, hired from the Chalet, down through Dead Horse Gap and Tom Groggin to rendezvous with the Major at the bottom of Hannels Spur. The night before the team was to set off was spent at Perisher Hut and in the morning they rose to find that a heavy fall of snow had taken place, completely covering the ground. The task had to be cancelled but not before the "Major" had to be strongly dissuaded by Alan Roberts and Major Lindsay Lockwood from attempting the walk without a supporting party. This is believed to be the last field work undertaken in the Corps by Major Clews.

It was not until many years later that the Kosciusko and Berridale sheets were published, soon to be superseded by maps produced by the Snowy Mountains Authority, an organisation which was helped into existence by the work of RA Svy. However it is ironical to record that at the inaugural ceremony to open the Snowy Mountains Scheme at Adaminaby in 1949 no invitation was extended to a Survey Corps representative to attend until the GOC E Comd, Lt Gen Berryman took up the matter with the NSW Government and as a result Major Lindsay Lockwood was present at the ceremony. Again, however, no official recognition was ever given of the contribution by the Survey Corps to the development of the scheme.

The Corps did not completely sever its connections with the Snowy Scheme in 1948. Following his resignation from the post of first Chief Instructor of the School of Survey in 1950, Major Bert Eggeling took up the post of Chief Surveyor of the Snowy Scheme, and he was joined by WO Harry Butler and S Sgt Ernie Baseden, both members of the School staff, and after a short, premature retirement at Bell, the "Major" commenced another career of surveying on the Snowy Scheme to become as great a legend there as he had been in the Survey Corps. As reported elsewhere in this Bulletin, his ashes are scattered close by his final home in the Snowy country.

The work on the Snowy River was a major contribution by the Corps to Australian post-war development. It was carried out by a handful of experienced field men supported by inexperienced Interim Army personnel. It is believed that the story has not been told before so it is fitting it should be recorded in this Bulletin, 30 years later.

VALE

FRANK WHITE

I regret to report the death of Frank White, in Canberra about middle March '95.

He died from a brain tumor, after being ill for some time, and very probably his long term health would not have been helped during the years he was a P.O.W.

While in charge of records at Survey Directorate, Frank's dedication to the task was well known and very much respected. His meticulous presentation of every aspect of survey records was rarely surpassed by others. Frank will always be remembered by his many friends.

COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

GEORGE RICKETTS

GLEN OSMOND S.A. 5064

Ph (08)

SECRETARY/TREASURER ALEX MUNRO

COLONEL LIGHT GARDENS S.A. 5041

Ph (08)

EDITOR

JIM DUNN

MARION S.A. 5043

Ph (08) 2852728