



SURVEY
EX-SERVICEMEN'S
ASSOCIATION
SOUTH AUSTRALIA



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NEWSLETTER N. 15
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SICK LIST

Except for the two Pats there are no other reports. This might indicate that everyone is healthy, but I doubt it!

PAT WOOD - Heard from the West, that Pat is presently undergoing treatment for cancer. No other details are available. We all hope for the best, Pat.

PAT DROVER - At the present time, Pat's left leg and foot is in plaster. He tore his Achilles tendon playing squash at Roxby Downs where he now lives. He spent two days in hospital in Adelaide, where the tear was patched up by a specialist surgeon. Pat's wife has a very good job at Roxby, leaving Pat as operations manager on the home front, which he enjoys. Regardless of the plaster cast, Pat loves the Roxby lifestyle, and doesn't miss the city one bit

THE FINAL DAY OR LAST ONE OUT SLAM THE DOOR

About 40 visitors attended the final day of 4th Field Survey Squadron at Keswick Barracks on Wednesday 3rd April 1996. The visitors included former members, representatives from various units, senior staff from HQ 4MD and from Canberra were Lt. Col. Bob Coote and Col. Simon Lemon.

At 9.45am the final parade was held on the roadway outside the Orderly Room, taking less than 5 minutes. With only eight or so parading, there were just a few simple orders given, and the squadron flag lowered for the last time.

O.C. Major Peter Demaine then addressed the assembly briefly, thanking all for attending and the support given by various units over many years.

The entire short ceremony was filmed by a TV camera crew, and with luck the whole thing might rate about 10 seconds as a news item. Unfortunate, but generally the way. Following this, a very pleasant and up-market morning tea was served in what was the Q store, now totally empty. A sad day.

LEN BEADELL MEMORIAL

Anne Beadell is to unveil an inscribed plaque and a 1.8 metre high stainless steel replica theodolite, set up over a ground mark at Mount Beadell near the Giles weather station in W.A., in honour of her late husband. The unveiling will take place on May 12th, '96. A mixed group of supporters will leave Adelaide in a convoy of 4 wheel drive vehicles on 8th May, '96, joining up with others along the way, to reach Giles on the 11th May, before proceeding out to the ceremony.

The whole project has been funded by private subscription and limited sponsorship, such as a \$300 donation from Dick Smith. John Harrison is going along and I assume Pam is also. Thanks for the news John.

SCHOOL OF MILITARY SURVEY MOVE

The present school and the Corps Museum will continue to operate at Bonegilla until at least early 1997, when suitable accommodation becomes available at the School of Military Engineering.

LETTER FROM JOHN HILLIER

Received a long and vastly informative letter from John, early this year. The years might have added a wrinkle or two and dimmed the eyes a bit, but his memory box remains as good as ever. The detail and anecdotes described in the letter read as if it only happened last week.

Thanks for the reminder that Colin van Senden might have some photos of the early days at Woomera, and your suggestion of including in our newsletter, photos of early days in the bush, with anecdotes, etc., started last year but very slowly. Hope to see something in our July edition. Thanks for the letter John, which is now the first addition to our history research file, and we will be calling on you and Don Ridge when our research begins in earnest.

UNIT HISTORY DONATION

As reported previously a brief meeting between Maj Peter Demaine, George Ricketts, Alex Munro and Bob Love was held late last year, where it was decided in principle to write a history of 4th Field Survey Squadron.

To this end, \$500 has been received from regimental funds toward the cost of writing a history.

Just how much cash will eventually be needed is anyone's guess. A co-ordinating committee of three or four will be formed on Anzac Day at our AGM, but the help of just about every former member will be required.

'MAGNA CARTO' NEWS

Planning for the history of the Army Survey Regiment is progressing, and so far about \$15,000 has been raised toward the cost. It is intended to be written by an Arts graduate appointed through the Bendigo Campus of the La Trobe University, over a two year full time period with an annual stipend of about \$15,000. The whole affair is going to be far more grand than what we attempt with our local history.

Jack Cullin is still going strong in Bendigo at the age of 103, and was the focal point in an article printed in the Bendigo Advertiser recently, about his life and times producing maps in Victoria during the 1920's and 30's.

Frank Thorogood has completed his Law Degree, passing with honours, at the University of Melbourne. Well done Frank.

Noel Sproles has been awarded a scholarship to study for a Ph.D, after obtaining a degree in Arts at Adelaide University in his chosen field of Information Management, with first class honours as well. Congratulations Noel.

LETTER FROM BRIAN TRUEMAN

Brian wrote from his hacienda in Edithburgh to say Ian Thompson rang him on Christmas Day last to wish Merry Christmas, etc. For those who have lost track of Ian, his address is:-

MOURILYAN

QLD. 4858

His phone number is and at his Milla Milla farm

Thanks for the news Brian.

OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

Newsletters and other correspondence received from 3 Aust. Field Survey Coy(AIF) Association, Survey Ex-Servicemen's Association of NSW and the 2/1 Survey Association will be tabled at our AGM on Anzac Day.

W.A. SURVEY ASSOCIATION NEWS

Received a copy of the W.A. newsletter, of last November, and was impressed by the professional presentation, with photographs of their Corps Birthday Dinner produced in full glossy colour. Well done president Ray and committee, but I doubt if our local resources(and cash) will ever stretch that far.

JOE MAZZAROL - Former South Australian lad from Colonel Light Gardens, Joe was awarded four prizes in different categories for his skill as a blacksmith, at the 1995 Perth Royal Show. Joe was always good with any problem of a mechanical nature when mapping out bush.

CEDRIC CLUTTERBUCK - Cedric won 6 prizes at the same show, with his entries of honey and beeswax displays, as an amateur apiarist. Before his retirement more years ago than I care to remember, Cedric's last posting was at Survey Directorate in Canberra.

ARMY MUSEUM IN FREEMANTLE, W.A.

Who can remember the old Artillery Barracks in Burt Street, Fremantle, at one time home to the now disbanded 5 Fd Svy Sqn. You might remember that once Clem Sargent occupied the Senior Officers Quarter - Gun House - overlooking the barracks.

Anyway, the former Officers/Sergeants' Mess is now an Army Museum, open on Sundays I believe, with an ex-Survey bod as caretaker, should you happen to be in the area.

SURVEY - ENGINEERS INTEGRATION

Received very recently from Col. G.N. Pearce, Director of Engineers, a well presented booklet in full colour entitled "An overview of the integration of the Royal Australian Survey Corps into the Royal Australian Engineers." I assume all other associations received a copy as well as every serving soldier left in the Corps. It deals with the various aspects of integration that can be expected, an example being the section on career management setting out what engineer courses must be attended by the various ranks within the Corps, soon after the change-over, such as Sappers who enlisted into the Survey Corps after 1 July, 1993, are to attend a 14 week ARA Field Engineer Grade 1 course. Corporals and Sergeants are also to attend RAE courses of shorter duration, finishing with Warrant Officers having to attend a 3 week RAE Sergeant Major course.

The booklet also covers a brief history of the Engineers since being founded in Melbourne in 1860 until the present day. The booklet will be available for perusal at our Anzac Day Re-union.

Also included in this newsletter, from the booklet, are addresses by the Deputy Chief of the General Staff and Director of Engineers.

JERZY GRUSZKA - A BRIEF HISTORY

The late George Gruszka was widely known and respected throughout his 30 years as a member of the Corps, but even so I doubt if many knew in detail just how remarkable his life had been from arriving in Australia as a migrant until his passing in early 1995.

George was born in Suwalki, Northern Poland, in 1930, and no doubt grew up like any normal boy within his family, until the outbreak of war in 1939. In February 1940, his family was deported to a forced labour camp in Siberia, USSR, until late 1942 when George was sent to a refugee camp in Iran, near to Teheran. Whether he was still with his family at the time is unclear. In 1945 he was sent to a refugee camp in what was then Tanganyika in East Africa, where he spent the next five years living in various refugee camps. I assume this would have been a U.N. displaced person's scheme.

In January 1950, he migrated to Australia as an assisted migrant under the two year contracted labour scheme with the Australian Government. Arriving in Perth, he worked out his two year contract with the W.A. Railways, taking on other employment for the following three years.

In February 1955, he joined the Australian Regular Army, in Perth, joining Survey after basic training at Kapooka. George went bush on mapping operations for the next few years, as was usual in those days, and after the normal promotion courses, reached the rank of Sergeant. During this period, he was persuaded by John Bullen to send away (wherever to) for verification of his educational qualifications and then apply for a commission. This he did and was commissioned in the rank of Lieutenant in 1962 in W.A.

The following year he was posted to the Survey Regiment where he remained until 1968, when he was posted to HQ PNG Command as a staff officer with the rank of Captain.

Two years later in 1970, he was posted back to Australia as DAD-SVY at HQ Southern Command in Melbourne, with the rank of Major.

In 1973, George was posted to Canberra for the following two years, before being sent in 1975 to Adelaide as O.C. 4th Field Survey Squadron. For the next five years he was engaged in mapping operations in the Northern Territory. In 1980, George was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and posted to the Australian Embassy in Indonesia as a technical adviser on military mapping for two years. Returning to Australia in 1982, he was appointed as C.O. of the Army Survey Regiment, which position he remained in until his retirement in 1985, at the age of 55 years. After discharge, George and his family decided to settle in Adelaide.

Over many years he had been active in the community affairs of the Polish Community throughout Australia, and now in retirement he was able to devote most of his time to that end. In particular, as the executive manager of the Polish Folklore Ensemble of about 100 performers, he organised and conducted several concert tours through the Eastern States. In addition he held senior positions on the executive committees of several Polish community organisations, and his death was a great loss to them.

In about 1993, he was awarded not only the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) but also made a Commander of the Order of Merit of The Republic of Poland. This was not meant to be a rags-to-riches story, but I think all will agree that George Gruszka certainly had a distinguished career.

ALEX MUNRO

From the Director of Engineers - Army



Welcome to the Royal Australian Engineers. Firstly, let me say that we in the RAE are very pleased to inherit RASvy with its long and proud history of service to Australia and its Army. You can rest assured that former survey officers and soldiers will not be seen as outsiders or an unnecessary appendage. The tactical mapping function is of prime importance to RAE and the other elements of the Army we support. As we move into the 21st Century it will become more important to ensure the mobility and lethality of ground forces. The technology providing tactical terrain data and its interpretation will be vital to the information age Army.

I suppose the main questions you wish answered are: will I have a career in RAE and what opportunities are available for me? To summarise, I generally see increased variety in appointments and broader career structures. Former Survey officers and soldiers will be treated the same as any RAE officer or soldier. Basically everyone will be trained in field engineer skills to enable them to serve in Combat Engineer Regiments. Those with additional skills can also serve in construction units, design units, facilities branches, bomb disposal or NBCD appointments. Those with survey skills will also be able to serve in 1 Topographic Survey Squadron or other survey related appointments. However, in the near future the main field of employment for survey soldiers will continue to be in 1 Topographic Survey Squadron unless you choose to enter the construction or some other trade related field.

I have directed a rigorous program of conversion training to ensure the integration runs smoothly yet quickly. I encourage you to learn the various facets of employment of the RAE as it can only enhance your career.

In the lead up to the integration my staff, Land Command Engineers and School of Military Engineering are working closely with DSvy and the School of Military Survey to ensure that all aspects of the RASvy operations, training and history are properly transferred and that your careers are well managed. I encourage everyone in RASvy and RAE to approach the integration positively. Finally, I promote the view of always trying to think outside 'the box', so should you have any good suggestions to improve the integration process please approach me or my staff. Ubique.

Colonel G.N. Pearce
Director of Engineers - Army

From the Deputy Chief of the General Staff



It was not an easy decision for the CGS to direct the disbandment of the Royal Australian Survey Corps after 81 years of valuable service to the Australian Army. However, the decision was eventually made to improve the Army's operational capability and enhance your career prospects.

The shift in the core function of RASvy from strategic mapping to focus on tactical mapping support has led to commercialisation of much of the Corps. RASvy soldiers and officers will now provide support to the land army through 1 Topographic Survey Squadron and to other commands through a small number of illustrators and photographers. Unfortunately the small number of remaining establishment positions make the Corps unsustainable.

These events combined with the current rationalisation of mapping trades and military geographic information development have also made it an ideal time to integrate RASvy into a larger sustainable Corps with greater career opportunities. The Royal Australian Engineer Corps was a logical choice given common links to the engineering discipline and the overlapping functions of providing terrain advice to commanders. Overall it makes sense that the Corps that manipulates terrain information also provides advice on terrain.

Finally, I leave you with two thoughts. Firstly, you should be proud that the survey function of the last 81 years has developed an outstanding professional reputation in both peace and the hardship of war. Secondly, you should have no doubt that it will become even more valuable to the Army of the 21st Century.

Major General J.C. Hartley
Deputy Chief of the General Staff

ROB BRIDGE IN THAILAND

A far cry from his carto days at Fortuna, Rob Bridge has been working in Thailand for about two years now. It was fairly common knowledge that he had some kind of trade job with the Australian Government, but few would have known exactly what was involved. However, we do know now, because of an article appearing in the Advertiser a few months ago, written by a Canberra journalist.

There are three Defence Trade Commissioners pushing the sale of Australian manufactured military hardware, one each to Indonesia, Malaya and Thailand on a three year posting. The article was a shade critical of progress being made because the only definite sale has been 5000 heavy duty horseshoes at \$6.00 each to the Royal Thai Cavalry, when compared against the annual bill for each commissioner at around \$300,000 for salaries, living expenses and other project costs. For almost two years to now, the Australian produced Steyr rifle used by our defence forces, has been demonstrated to and used by Thai officers, so far without any sign of a sale, although competition between international manufacturers is very fierce.

There are eleven other contenders trying to sell their rifles, including the Americans with a new model M16. It was expected that the project might take a few years before any significant sales are made, so stick to it Rob and good luck.

JAMES BOND 007

JOHN HARRISON

John rang to tender his apologies for not being able to attend our next Anzac Day re-union. He and Pam are leaving soon by road for W.A. to attend two survey/engineering conferences and to do some sightseeing, before returning around 29th April, '96.

DINNER AT SMS

A formal dinner was held at the School of Military Survey Sergeants' Mess, Bonegilla, on Saturday 23rd March '96. Dining President was WO1 Mick Hogan, and chief guests were Col. Simon Lemon and Col. Don Swiney.

The dinner was arranged as the last held under the survey banner. Similarly, a dinner was held in the Officers' Mess on the previous night. Guests included locals Ian Lever and Rocky Camps, Bill Boyd(NSW) Hank Opdam (QLD), about six from Bendigo including Brian Johnson, Ian Campbell and Alex Cairney(both QLD), a large contingent from 1 Div Topo in Brisbane led by Barry Lutwyche and George Timmins plus from Adelaide were Stevo Hinic, Dave Irving, Bob Mills, Bob Dikkenberg and myself. Harry Mai and Gordon Lowrie are the last I can remember as the old memory box had taken something of a beating by midnight. Poor old Dikko was unwell during the Saturday and was unable to attend the dinner, but had recovered for the trip back on Sunday. As is usual, the Corps song was rendered with great glee, with everyone in tune for the first time ever, but sadly maybe the last.

Alex Cairney's anecdotes were as good as ever and as always stretched the imagination a bit at times, but entertained everyone just the same. About 75 guests sat down at the dinner with most still going strong well after midnight, but I saw only one front up to breakfast next morning, after going all night. A long week-end but worth it.

ALEX MUNRO

PARADE AT SCHOOL OF MILITARY ENGINEERING ON 1 JULY, 1996

Reported as happening in our last newsletter, but still no definite details. I understand that the RSM of the Army has now entered into the planning of the parade, of what was originally intended as a home-produced show. If anyone is interested in travelling to NSW for the special day, please let me know soon so that I can let you know final details the moment that I'm advised, probably within the next month.

ALEX MUNRO

ANZAC DAY PARADE-THURSDAY 25 APRIL

Our form-up point this year is in Waymouth St near the intersection of Bentham St and the entrance to the Topham Car Park, facing East toward King William St. This is because the RAAF contingent has been brought forward to lead the parade, in honour of their 75th year since being formed.

All Association members are entitled to march. As a gesture to the Survey Corps being disbanded this year, everyone is urged to make the effort and roll up. Unfortunately, our traditional transport from Keswick Barracks to the city provided by 4 Fd Svy Sqn, is no longer available, so a ring-around might help for those requiring transport. Form up time is no later than 9.15 am, and the parade begins at 9.30 am.

ANZAC DAY REUNION

This year to be held at the Queen's Arms in Wright St, from mid-day onwards. The interior of the hotel has recently been renovated, and is very presentable. The pub is located on the North side of Wright St., at the corner of Compton St., about 250 metres from King William St. We have booked a room at the back of the bar for our AGM and drinks in private, at no cost to us, providing we patronise their services, naturally enough.

Lunch is available, the cheapest at about \$6 ranging up to around \$10, which is not as good as Keswick Barracks prices, but a lot more congenial.

Parking should be fairly reasonable on the day, and most will park within 200 metres of the pub. Hope to see you there.

FINAL PARADE AT BENDIGO

On Saturday, 27th April, '96, the last full parade of the Army Survey Regiment will take place as a "Freedom of the City" march through Bendigo.

Former members are invited to march at the rear of the Regiment, wearing service medals. After the march, a sausage sizzle lunch has been organised.

To finish the day, a formal mixed function is being held in the evening at Fortuna. This will probably be as a buffet depending on the number of acceptances received. Any costs involved has not been mentioned, so could be a freebie. Have to wait to see.

A programme of events has been included as the centre page in this newsletter and although the RSVP is 22nd March, '96, I'm sure the odd late application will be accepted.

A copy of the programme was sent out only to those known to have served at Fortuna or with some form of association with the Regiment. I know a few of our members have responded and will be going over.

ENGINEER SUPPORT TO OUR ASSOCIATION

Letters and phone calls from several RAE Officers have been received by George Ricketts offering assistance for storage of records, a venue for any meetings we might hold, invitations to various Engineer functions and generally offering to assist us with the support previously provided by 4th Field Survey Squadron.

Just how much "integration" we can utilise or need is yet to be decided, but the offers have been made very kindly and are certainly appreciated.

ASSOCIATION FIRST FUNCTION FOR 1996

PROGRAMME

Friday 26 Apr 96 : For early arrivers
Dinner at the "Gold Mines" Hotel (Eddies)
A-la-Carte' about 7.30 pm. Pay as you go.

Saturday 27 Apr 96 : AM "Freedom of the City" March.
Anyone who served at Fortuna is invited to march through the City in
rear of the Regiment.
Medals requested.
Transport is available for disabled members to take their place.

PM Sausage sizzle - Fortuna

EVENING Formal Mixed function at Fortuna
Mess Dress / Suit / After 5 Evening attire
Type of function not known at this time depending on numbers.
Cost to be determined

Sunday 28 Apr 96 : Association family and friends BBQ at Fortuna.
12-12.30pm start - Cost \$5.00 per head.
Bar facilities available - pay as you go.

Fortuna Charity Golf Day
Play is around the grounds of Fortuna
Cost \$10.00 per head
Bar facilities are available
supply attendance details to SGT Mick Hannon - phone 054 420 222

RSVP 22nd March 1996

For late returns contact Tony Ellis

The Secretary
Ex-Fortuna Survey Assoc.
BENDIGO VIC 3550

RETURN

Name

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| FRI 26 APR 96 Dinner "Gold Mines" | <input type="checkbox"/> | Number attending |
| SAT 27 APR 96 Will march | <input type="checkbox"/> | Number marching |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Disabled transport req'd |
| Sausage sizzle | <input type="checkbox"/> | Number attending |
| Formal function | <input type="checkbox"/> | Number attending |
| SUN 28 APR 96 Assoc BBQ | <input type="checkbox"/> | Number attending |