



SURVEY
EX-SERVICEMEN'S
ASSOCIATION
SOUTH AUSTRALIA



NEWSLETTER No. 16
AUGUST 1996

VALE

Paul Richards

Died in Melbourne in early May '96, of a heart attack, a lingering problem he had suffered from for some years. Paul was the typesetter at Fortuna many years ago and took over about the time Artie Lane retired from that job. Info from Kevin Boehm.

Syd Jenkins

Died in Perth about May '96. Syd was a draftsman at Fortuna from 1950 to 1956, and in later years was a foundation member of the W.A. Association. (Info Westlink)

Dallas Walker

Died in Kempsey Hospital in late 1995. Dallas was considered something of a character during his many years at Fortuna, and will be remembered by many.

Bill Shapcott

Died in Bendigo in March '96, aged 84 years. Bill served most of his time at Fortuna as a draftsman and was a first class penman, best known perhaps for his hill shading on the JOG series. He was also a very good artist, producing many fine pen sketches of Bendigo pubs. (Info Magna Carto).

Jack Waller

Died in Bendigo in May '96. The news was something of a shock, as I understood Jack's health was reasonable even in late April. He was an admin clerk during his many years at Fortuna, going bush with the field survey parties during the years that the Regiment was engaged in the 1st Order Traverse network across Queensland and the Northern Territory. Jack spent the last few years of his life in a rest home at North Bendigo.

Beth Jeffery

Loved wife of Ken, she died at home in early May this year, succumbing finally to cancer, after suffering for some years. The esteem that Beth was held in by their friends was shown by mourners coming from far and wide to overflow the chapel for the service held at Centennial Park Cemetery. The condolences of all members of our Association are extended to Ken, Leah and Amber.

MILITARY HISTORY - BOOKS AVAILABLE NOW

“The Colonial Garrison 1817 - 1824”, by Lt Col. Clem Sargent. Dealing with the service in NSW of the 48th Foot Northamptonshire Regiment, it should be authoritative reading, as Clem researches his material very thoroughly. Containing 210 pages with colour and black/white illustrations.

- Price Soft Cover - \$34.95 plus \$7.50 delivery charge
- Hard Cover - \$49.50 plus \$7.50 delivery charge.

Available from Clem Sargent -

ISACCS A.C.T. 2607

“Soldier Surveyors-A History of 3 Australian Field Survey Company (A.I.F.) 1940 - 1945”

Based on a thesis by Heather McRae, submitted to Monash University for a degree of Master of Arts in Public History, and edited by a committee of 3 Company Association members, including Brigadier Don Macdonald. As a matter of interest it was printed by the Army Topographic Support Establishment earlier this year.

- Price \$22.00 plus \$3.00 delivery charge

Cheques made payable to 3 Aust Fd Svy Coy Association

Available from the secretary -

Ray Smith

THE LAST DAYS OF THE ARMY SURVEY REGIMENT 1942-1996

This report covers the period Friday 26 April to Sunday 28 April, and the various activities held to mark the disbandment of the Army Survey Regiment after 54 years at Fortuna, before the take over by the Army Topographic Support Establishment on Monday 28 April, 1996.

The weather throughout was sunny and mild, which would have made the organisers sigh with relief, considering the wintry conditions during the previous few days.

Former members responded well, coming from all over Australia including some able to go back the entire 54 years, mingling with those of more recent years. An estimated 400 of them attended the various events at some time during the weekend.

The activities began on Friday night with a casual dinner/reunion at the Goldmines Hotel, attended by about seventy or so, including wives, and I'm told it became a bit rowdy at times. On the same night at Fortuna, a Formal Dinner was held, attended by former Directors, CO's and RSM's of the Regiment and School of Survey, accompanied by their wives, all better behaved probably than the Goldmines crowd.

On Saturday morning the Regiment and former members paraded through Bendigo, to return the keys to the City, extended during previous parades when right of entry was granted.

At the form up point before the parade, there was a tremendously friendly atmosphere, as old friends were encountered, often for the first time in many years. The Regiment led off accompanied by the pipes and drums of a Scottish Band, and following in the rear were about 150 former members at a guess, headed by banner bearers Bill Forrest, John Hillier and Chris Parkinson, and led by WO1 Graham Ragless on leave from Darwin. There was a ripple of mirth at one stage as Chris' banner collapsed, requiring a hasty re-assemble on the march. At the saluting base in front of the RSL hall in Pall Mall were Brig. Frank Buckland, Brig. Don Macdonald and Col. Don Swiney.

The march ended with the Regiment formed up and facing the Town Hall, with the old boys a few paces to the rear, and official guests and spectators looking on.

Mayor Megan Weston inspected the troops, before addressing the assembly, followed by the C.O. LtCol. Duncan Burns giving a brief history of the Survey Corps within Bendigo, finishing with a presentation to the council of a framed certificate of thanks.

The ceremony finished with the Regiment saluting the citizens of the City of Bendigo, a sad occasion, marking their final parade. Of the approximately 80 soldiers on parade, about half were to be discharged at midnight the following day, with the remainder helping during the transition period before being posted out or discharged.

Later in the morning at Fortuna, a commemorative cairn erected as a tribute to all who had served at Fortuna, was unveiled by Col. Simon Lemon and dedicated by Chaplain Garry Kenny, that well known former O.C. Litho.

A sausage sizzle followed the unveiling ceremony, giving another opportunity to catch up with old mates and down a couple of tinnies at the same time, amongst the very large crowd there.

Saturday night was a formal drinks and supper occasion, attended by wall-to-wall people all contributing to a low roar of conversation. Imagine the OR's Tavern and the former Sergeants' and Officers' Mess areas, filled with people shoulder to shoulder plus a crowd upstairs in the old Carto area swinging away to a local dance band pouring out music at maximum volume, would give some idea. A marvellous atmosphere, but not recommended for an in-depth conversation. When Joan and I left about 1.30 am, the whole show was still going strong, finishing I'm told about 4 am.

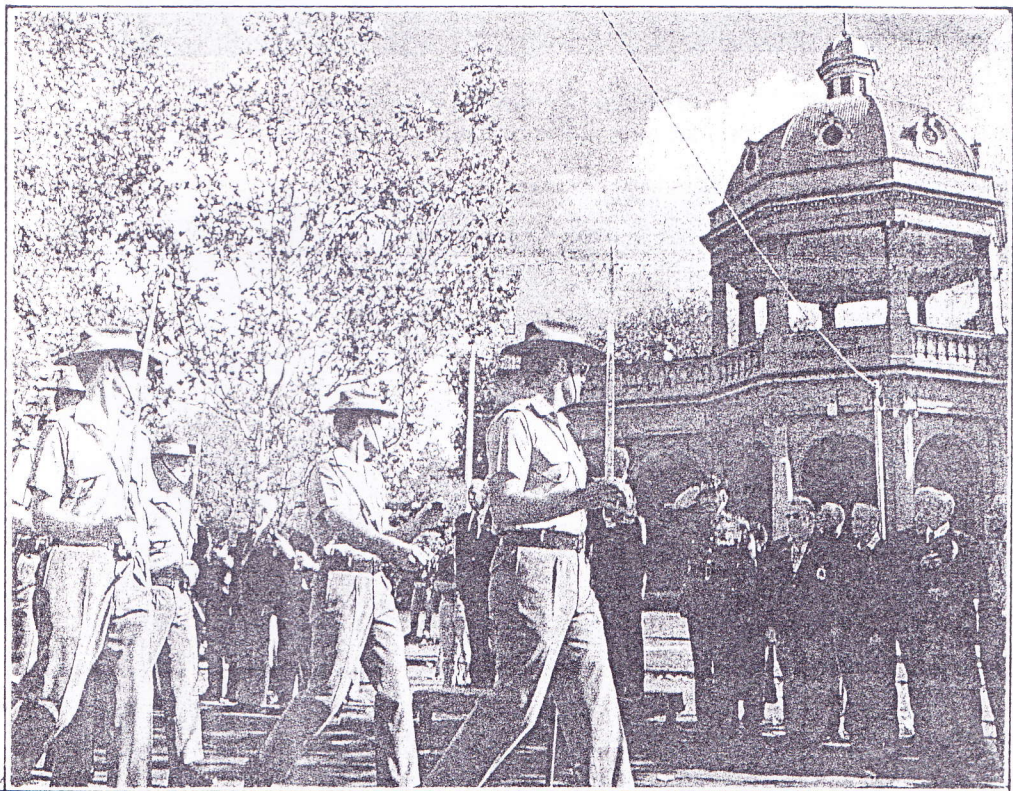
The Sunday morning was again bright and sunny, for the last two functions. A charity golf event around the lake and other areas drew a good response, and I understand that close to two thousand dollars was raised and donated to Legacy. The late morning BBQ was attended by a very large crowd, and held on the lawns at the back of Fortuna, by the entrance to the former Sergeants' Mess. A lot of people went to the usual

BBQ spot over by the lake, but this was just a trick to see how well you knew the place.

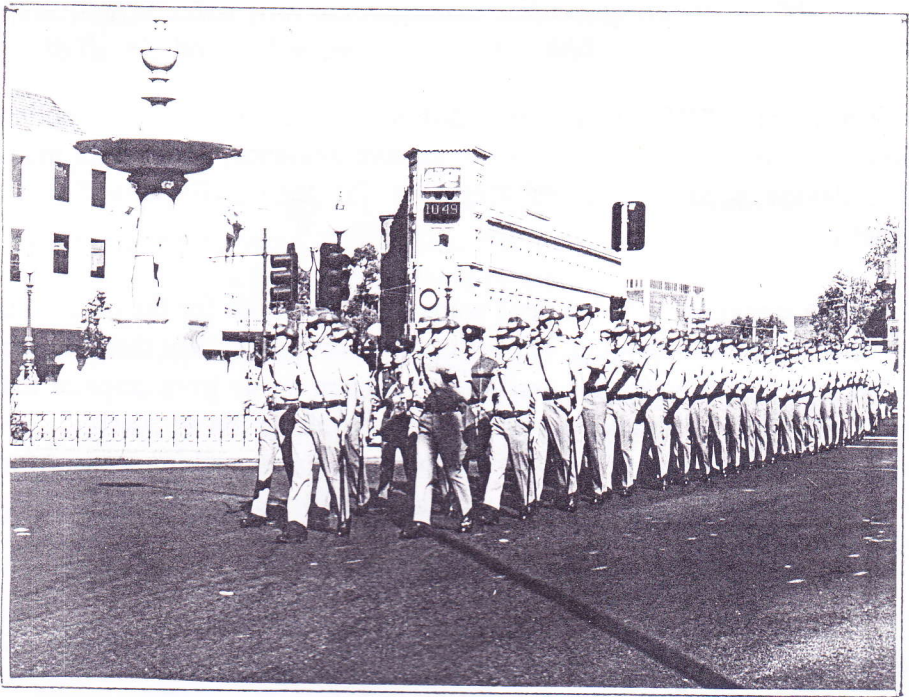
There was plenty of BBQ tucker provided and of course excellent supplies of the other refreshments. With such a captive audience, Tony Ellis must have collected a fortune in subscriptions for the Ex-Fortuna Survey Association.

To mark the weekend, wooden pens were specially made for the occasion, and distributed to all attending, being turned from timber from the old pine or cedar(or whatever) tree that used to be adjacent to the front steps of the villa. Commemorative booklets were also produced for the occasion.

By about 4 pm most people had drifted away, in many cases to prepare for a long haul home, finishing what was a very pleasant day and a very successful weekend.



LtCol Duncan Burns leads the parade past the saluting Base, outside the Bendigo RSL Hall



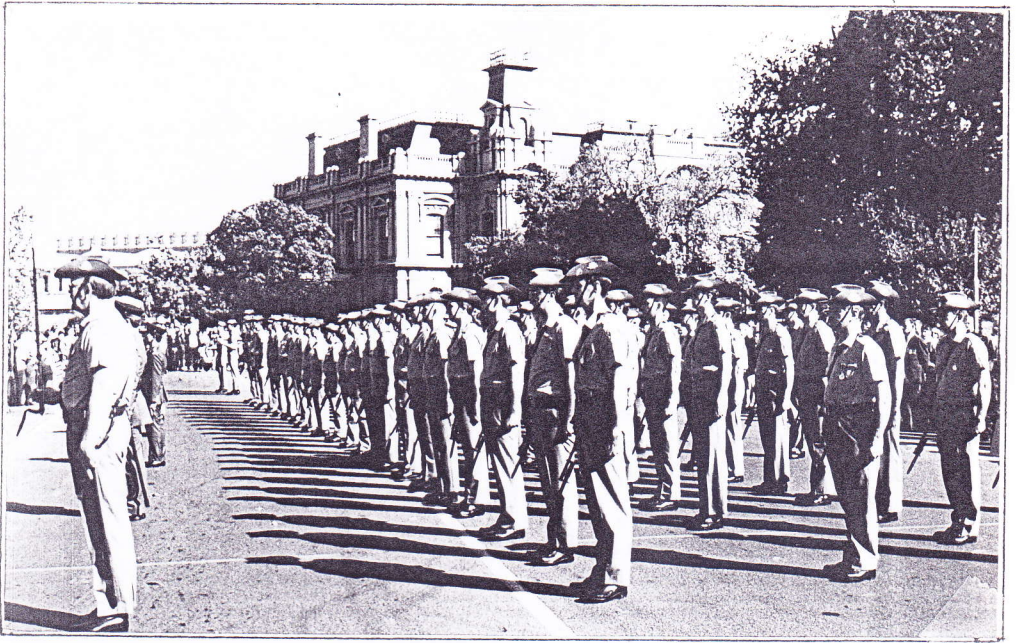
The parade passing the Fountain



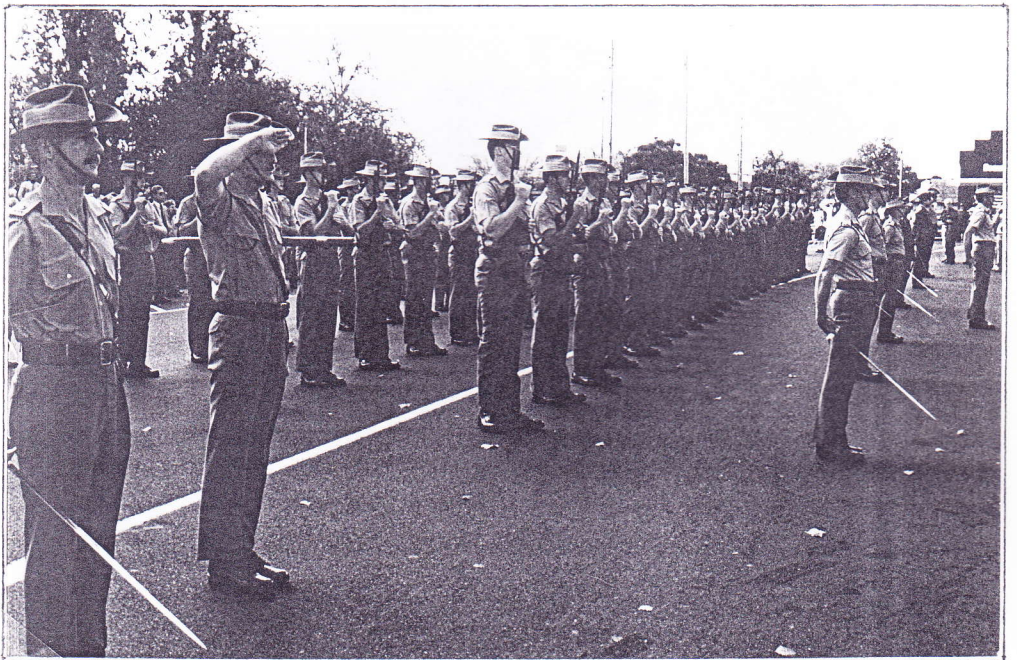


The Old Boys Brigade led by WO1 Graham Ragless.
LtCol John Hillier is carrying the Corps banner.





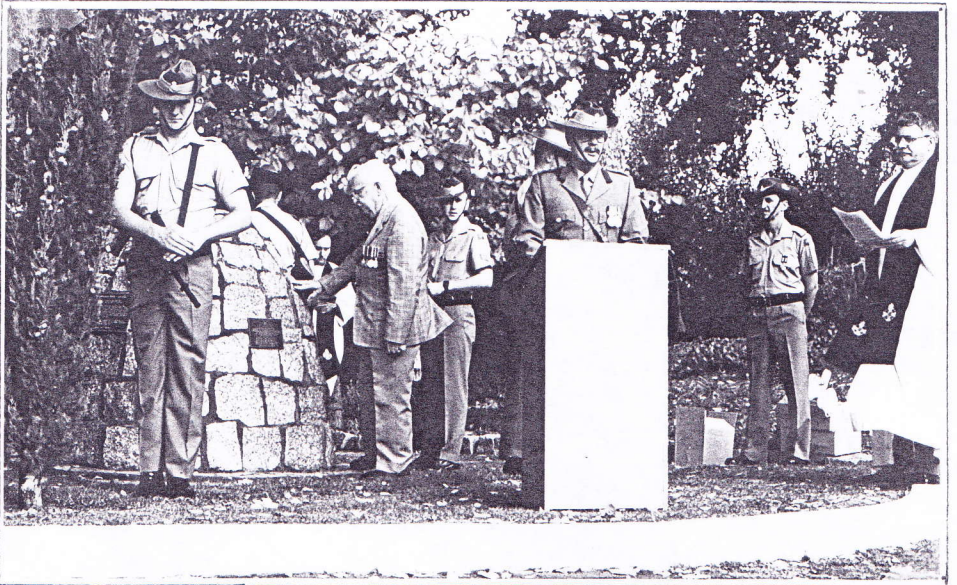
The parade at the Bendigo Town Hall.



Saluting the Citizens of Bendigo



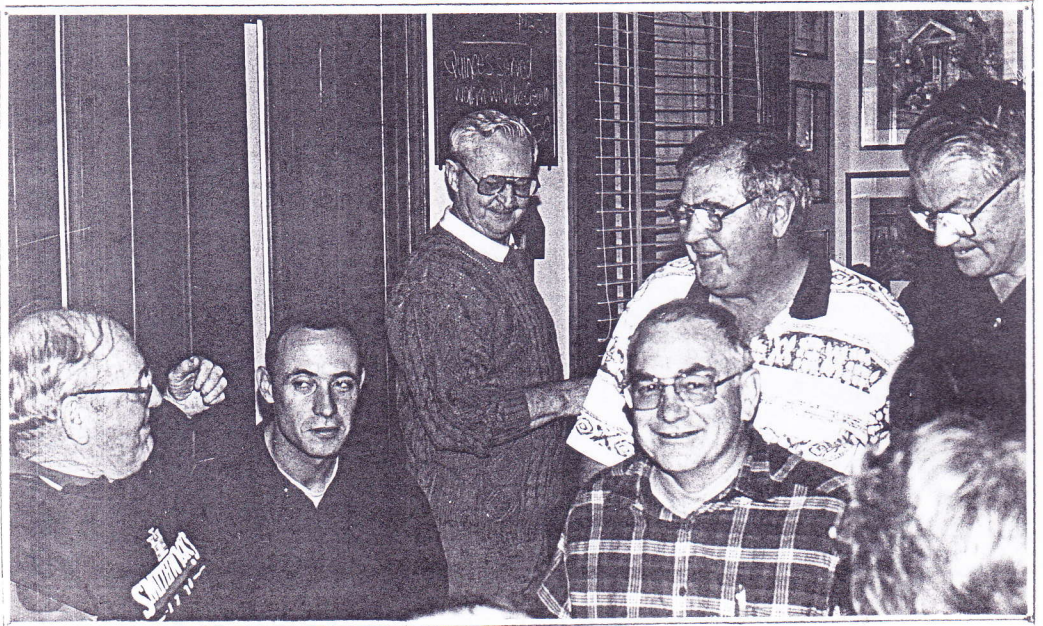
Old Boys at the Town Hall ..
Ian Lever, Robin Wilson, Frank Bryant, George Ricketts



Dedication of the memorial cairn at Fortuna.
Col. Simon Lemon is addressing the assembly
with Chaplain Garry Kennv to the right .



Friday night at the Goldmines Hotel - Guess who?





Friday night at the Goldmines Hotel - Guess who?



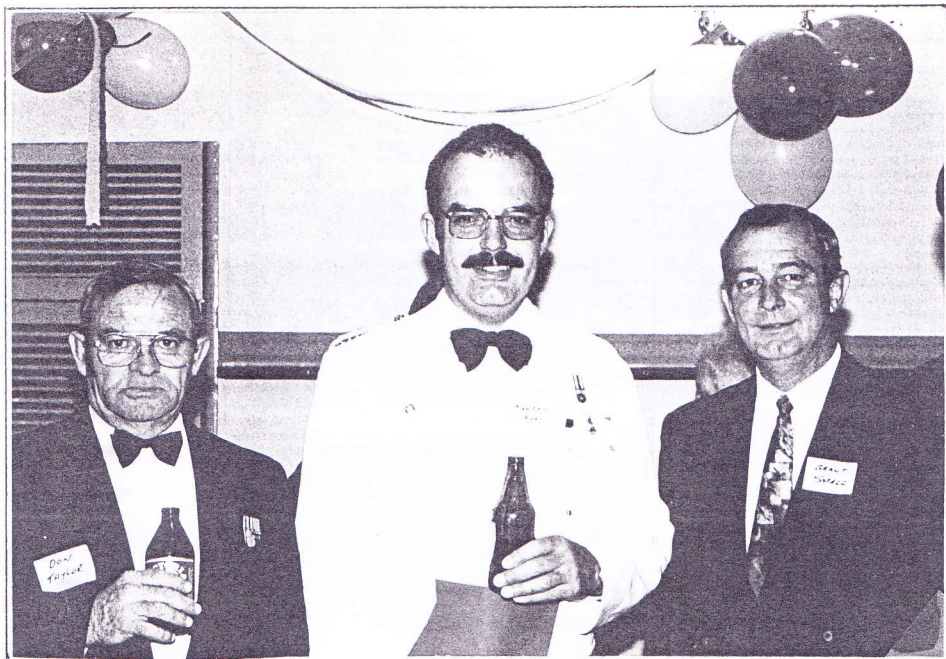
Saturday night at Fortuna - Duncan Burns, Don Swiney, George Ricketts, & Peter Bates-Brownsword



Joan and Alex Munro, Barbara and Arthur Henson
with Barry Hogan



Kathy Register and Desi Asaris



Don Taylor, Duncan Burns and Grant Small



Don Swiney, Jack Cullen(at 103) and Duncan Burns at the Sunday BBQ



C.O. of the Army Survey Regiment, Lt. Col Duncan Burns, chats with Brian McLachlan, General Manager of the Army Topographical Support Establishment, in the grounds of Fortuna on hand-over day Monday 29 April, 1996. Photo from the Bendigo Advertiser

BRIAN McLACHLAN - A BRIEF HISTORY

Brian joined the Survey Corps as a National Serviceman from Adelaide in 1971, so would have been in one of the very last intakes before the scheme finished, and served his time at Fortuna until discharge in 1972. In those days Brian was considered a fairly serious and conservative young sapper, when compared with the many scallywags who frequented the old O.R.'s Tavern.

After National Service he returned to Adelaide, joining the Mapping Branch of S.A. Lands Dept. and working there until 1981, when he won a scholarship to study cartography full time at the International Institute of Aerospace Survey and Earth Sciences in Holland.

He remained in Europe with his wife and family for about 18 months, before returning to Adelaide and his old job with S.A, Lands. The next nine years were particularly busy, as he not only held his normal full time job, but lectured at the TAFE College at O'Halloran Hill and also lectured with the University of South Australia at The Levels campus.

In 1991, he left S.A.Lands and joined Geosurveys, working in Saudi Arabia until 1995, accompanied by his family. While in Saudi Arabia, he applied for the position as General Manager with ATSE, and subsequently was successful in securing the position. I'm sure Brian's friends within our Association will join with me in congratulating him on his appointment, and wishing him every success in the future.

FORTUNA AND BENDIGO

In the 50 odd years since the Corps occupied Fortuna, numerous soldiers posted there have married locally and remained in Bendigo after discharge, to the extent that with their children, grand-children, relatives and friends scattered throughout Bendigo, it is not difficult to understand why so many families have some connection with the Army Survey Regiment. Even last century, the gold batteries at Fortuna were an important part of the early development of the social and economic life of the city.

The following article was published in the Bendigo Advertiser on Monday 29 April, 1996, the hand-over day to the Army Topographical Support Establishment, and gives some idea of the concern held locally about the future of Fortuna.

The Army Survey Regiment bade farewell to Bendigo at the weekend amid fears Fortuna villa's mapping facilities could be axed in five years.

Soldiers marched through the city streets for the last time on Saturday as a special tribute to the place the regiment had called home since 1941.

Today, their famous Army base at historic Fortuna villa will be handed over to a group of public servants who will continue with much of the regiment's mapping work.

But yesterday former mayor John Balsillie warned Bendigo could lose its Army mapping facilities for good when the work is put out to tender again in five years.

Mr. Balsillie had fought long and hard to keep the regiment in Bendigo, often lobbying Federal ministers in a bid to achieve his goal.

"We're right for the 'next five years because the public service unit has given a commitment to remain in Bendigo," Mr. Balsillie said.

"However, that commitment runs out early next century when the mapping work goes out to tender again. If private enterprise puts in a winning bid you can bet your bottom dollar it will be at Bendigo's expense. The private sector wouldn't be able to make profits here and it would move all the work to Melbourne or another capital city."

Mr. Balsillie also said Bendigo's former commissioners could have done a lot more to stop the regiment from leaving. He said elected councillors would have had a much better understanding of the important role the regiment played in Bendigo.

Mr. Balsillie said he hoped Greater Bendigo's elected council spent more time and effort campaigning to keep the mapping work when the "crunch time" comes in five years.

He wasn't the only one sad to see the regiment go. Late last week Bendigo RSL president Cliff Clohesy described the departure as disgraceful-"a terrible state of affairs." Saturday's march was the highlight of a week of celebrations for the regiment's soldiers.

Other events included a Commander's Dinner for former commanding officers and a charity golf day held on the grounds of the mansion. Fortuna will be officially handed over at 10am today.

The new organisation, the Army Topographic Support Establishment, will comprise 150 public servants.

About 45 soldiers will remain at Fortuna, mainly in administration, until later in the year.

A workforce of 150 had been maintained at Fortuna since the Army requisitioned the property in 1942.

At its peak during the 1970s that number increased to 400.

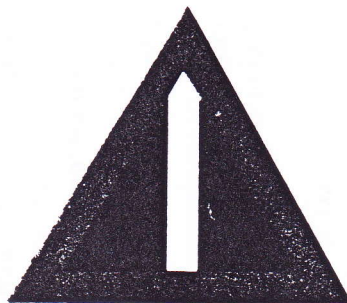
Figures released this week show the Army expects to save \$10 million a year by turning the mapping service over to public servants.

RETURN TO COWELL - 50 YEARS ON

Received a letter recently from Colin van Senden, giving details of a return trip to Cowell on the upper Spencer Gulf coast, by six of the seven surviving members of a detachment from 5 Aust Fd Svy Coy, AIF, as part of the "Australia Remembers-50 years On" celebrations. They were accompanied by their wives and stayed in Cowell over a long week-end in late March this year.

There were a total of eleven members in the detachment, sent to Cowell to assist with a hydrographic survey of the gulf, back in 1946. They had just returned from Moratai, and most were awaiting discharge.

Framed presentations giving details of the reasons they were in Cowell in 1946 and 1996, were presented to their hosts of the local District Council and RSL Sub Branch, in appreciation of hospitality shown to them on both occasions. I have included a copy of the presentation, which tells the whole story. Thanks for the letter Colin.



5 Australian Field Survey Coy. A.I.F. Royal Australian Survey Corps

On August 15th 1945, the Headquarters Section of the above Company was stationed on the Island of Morotai with detachments operating at various locations throughout the operational areas of the South West Pacific.

Some time elapsed before all the detachments returned to their headquarters on Morotai. It was then announced that the Company would return to Australia where those who were due for discharge would be discharged, and the balance of Company members would be allocated to various national reconstruction projects to initiate planning for same.

Some went to the Snowy Mountains, some to Woomera, some to Queensland British Food Corporation project in Central Queensland and others elsewhere.

A small detachment of eleven, under the command of Captain Jack Fryer, M.B.E., Legion of Merit, was transferred to South Australia to work with the Royal Australian Navy, H.M.A.S. Lachlan, in carrying out a hydrographic survey of Spencer Gulf. The purpose of this survey was to provide the necessary hydrographic information to enable the planning

of a project to enable larger ships to service Whyalla and other ports.

The members of that detachment were as listed below —

Sergeant Milton Blain (Qld)
Corporal Allan Jenner (Vic)
Corporal Danny McCormack (Vic)
Sapper Colin Van Senden (S.A.)
Sapper John Pike (Qld)
Sapper Bob Love (S.A.)
Sapper Frank Prowse (Vic)
Sapper Frank McMillan (S.A.)
Sapper Nev Stoddart (Qld)
Sapper Jack Llewellyn (S.A.)

Base camps were located at Port Pirie, Whyalla and Cowell. The camp at Cowell, occupied longer than the others, was at Story's old stone building now occupied by Telecom. The people of Cowell, generously opened their homes to members of the detachment, and fifty years later the surviving members have returned to Cowell to offer their thanks to this small community who made their stay here so memorable.

THANK YOU COWELL

Presented to the Cowell Sub branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia on March 24th 1996 in appreciation of the tremendous hospitality and friendship offered to us fifty years ago by the residents of this town.

Milton Blain *McMillan* *Bob Love* *Nev Stoddart*
Colin Van Senden *Jenner*

ANZAC DAY MARCH

The weather was not the best, probably the worst for an Anzac Day for some years. The rain settled in about 6am, spoiling many dawn services, and remained intermittent until well after 10am

Air Force Units had pride of place at the head of the parade to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the RAAF, which changed our form-up point from the usual place in Victoria Square to Waymouth Street. We had our best roll-up ever with 22 turning up to march including six reserve soldiers marching in uniform with HQ permission.

We were able to shelter against the buildings from the patchy drizzle while waiting for the step-off signal, but as luck would have it, very steady rain began just as we moved off, not easing until about half way through the march. Sharing an umbrella was a dubious exercise, as the run-off was sometimes worse than the rain.

Sgt. Bob Dikkenberg was our banner bearer wearing the Corps badge for the very last time as a serving soldier on Anzac Day.

Considering the weather, the crowd lining the route was as big as ever and just as appreciative. Dame Roma Mitchell took the salute for the last time, as she retires as Governor very soon.

At the end of the march at Pennington Gardens before moving on to the reunion, there was the usual chin-wag and photographs taken, fortunately by this time in fine weather. Our thanks go to Bernie Watson and his daughter, as she photographed our progress in the parade from start to finish. Anyone wanting copies can contact your friendly secretary. The TV coverage of our group was a bit less than usual, covering about a five second time span only, although the radio broadcast had a few words to say about the disbandment of the Corps.



Before the march

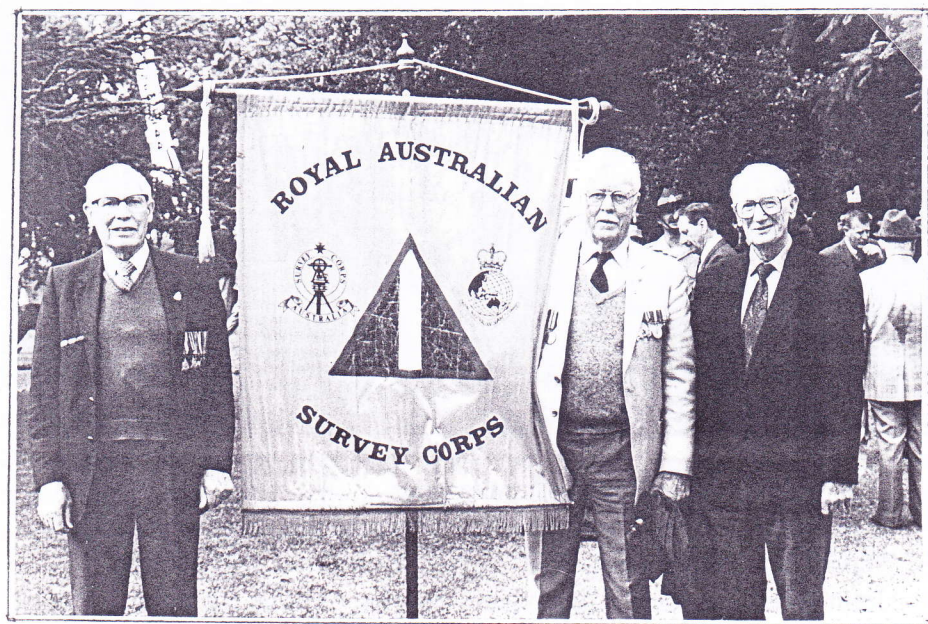


After the march in Pennington Gardens

L to R•Bernie Watson, Luke Mills, Stevo Hinic, Bob Mills, Peter Davis, Bob Dikkenberg, Alex Munro, Bob Love, Dave Irving, John Whitburn, Greg Higgs, Noel Sproles, George Ricketts, Lincoln Smith, Eddie Jacobs, Frank McMillan, Jack Elverd, David Bowyer, Stan Stevens, Dave Pounsett, Allan Adsett, John Wicker.



L to R•Luke Mills, Bob Mills, Greg Higgs,
Bob Dikkenberg, Dave Irving, Lincoln Smith



Bernie Watson, Bob Love and Frank McMillan

ANZAC DAY REUNION

Our best roll-up for some years with 26 attending at mid-day in the Old Queens Arms Hotel in Wright Street. The old front bar was considered a bit of a blood-bath many years ago, but in more recent times, and particularly since the introduction of the pokies, the whole interior has been upgraded into a very reasonable watering hole.

Being an inner city pub and relying on local businesses for trade, it gets a bit quiet on public holidays and Sundays, which was good for us. With no regular venue available at Keswick Barracks since 4 Fd Svy closed, the old pub proved very satisfactory for our re-union.

The staff placed the small dining tables together, making two long tables big enough for our group to sit together for lunch. The menu was not all that extensive but sufficient, and the meals served were very good.

John Hogan was over from Bendigo for a family wedding and graced our company with his anecdotes of past field trips. In contrast, four of our reunion regulars had left that morning for Bendigo to attend the final parade for the Survey Regiment.

After lunch a private room was made available for our AGM, lasting just under an hour, and the main items of interest have been included separately. It was back to the bar area afterwards for further refreshments and yarning before drifting away later in the afternoon.

Our resident photographer Bernie Watson was able to get a very reasonable photo of the whole group, considering the light available and prints can be had if anyone wishes. A very enjoyable day.

John Hogan was the last to leave about 5pm, when he was reliably observed pushing the last of his small change into a poker machine.

MAIN POINTS FROM THE AGM

1. The Committee elected for 1996/97 is as follows:-

President	George Ricketts
Vice President	Noel Sproles
Secretary	Alex Munro
Treasurer	Bob Dikkenberg
Member	Jim Dunn
Member	Bob Mills
2. Signatories for the History Trust Fund Account
(\$500.00 donated by 4 Fd Svy Sqn on disbanding)

George Ricketts
Alex Munro
Allen Adsett
3. The annual subscription rate to remain at \$5.00 for this year, but will be reviewed when the loss of support from Keswick Barracks is better known.
4. Serving members of RA SVY(regular and reserve soldiers) integrated into the RAE, will remain eligible to join our Association.
5. To hold a function to celebrate the birthday of the Corps on 1 July each year, was accepted in principle, with the committee to organise and notify members.
6. The president spoke at length on the disbandment of the Corps and emphasised that although it will cease to exist on 1 July, 1996, our Association participation in the Anzac Day Parade will continue. He also spoke of the need to write the history of 4 Fd Svy Sqn and hoped that all former members will put pen to paper and write about their time with the unit, when called upon to do so. He urged that there be more social functions held during this year and that the Association remain active and keep the group together.



AGM 1996

Front Row:(sitting) Mick Hansen, Harry Brune, Alex Munro, George Ricketts, John Whitburn, Bob Love, Bernie Watson

Middle Row:(Standing) Lincoln Smith, Jason Phillips, Stevo Hinic, Eddie Jacobs, Allan Adsett, Noel Sproles, John Murray, Dave Irving, John Hogan, Greg Higgs, Jim Dunn, Stan Stevens.

Back Row: John Zuringer, Jack Elverd, Bob Dikkenberg, Bob Mills, Luke Mills.

Present but not in photo: Frank McMillan, John Wicker.

Apologies: John Harrison, John Nathan, Harry Dunn, Colin van Senden, Ken Jeffrey, Ken Talbot-Smith, Mick Dempster.

REPORT ON THE INTEGRATION PARADE

The parade was held on Monday, 1 July, 1996 at the Engineer Centre, Moorebank, NSW. For those not familiar with Moorebank, it is situated about an hours drive south from Sydney, near the Hume Highway.

It was a fine sunny day, luckily, and a very large crowd attended, consisting of serving soldiers, their families and visitors, all seated on three sides of the parade ground under tented cover.

Just after 9.30 am, the parading troops and military band marched onto the parade ground, led by LtCol. Duncan Burns and not LtCol. Coote as intended, who became ill with influenza before the big day.

There was a delay before the Director of Survey Col. S. Lemon and the Director of Engineers Col. G.N. Pearce arrived together, and a longer delay before the Chief of the General Staff, Lt Gen. J.M. Sanderson finally mounted the saluting dais. I'm sure the troops were glad of the fine weather.

The parade included a march past, in slow time and later in quick time, as well as an advance in review order, and also included a symbolic manoeuvre where the separate Survey and Engineer divisions came together and reformed into 'integrated' divisions, before the final march off.

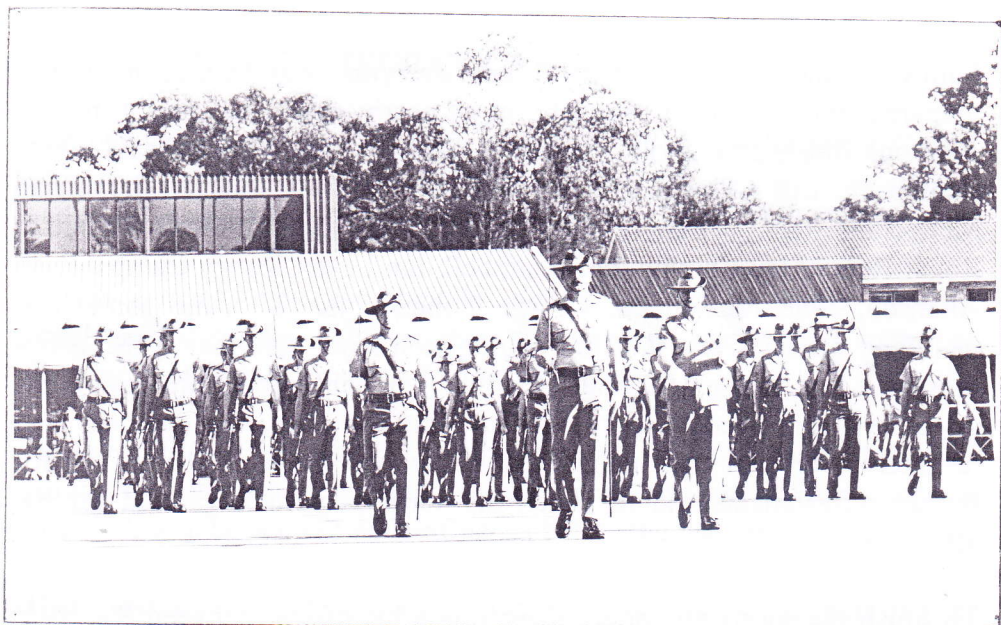
Lt. Gen. Sanderson addressed the assembly during the parade and a copy of his speech is included in this newsletter. I thought the parade overall was impressive and worth attending. A souvenir copy of the printed booklet covering the parade and prepared specifically for that day, is included with the newsletter.

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Following the parade at about 11am, everyone was invited to a well prepared and presented 'brunch' in a nearby building, and I reckon everyone did attend. From memory I saw Brig. Don Macdonald, Dave Thompson, Bill Choy, Clem Sargent, Don Swiney, John Hillier, Brian McLachlan, Ken Shaw, Peter Jensen, Ken Lyons, Mark Heinrich, Roger Rees, Alex Cairney, Ian Campbell, Ian Lever, Rocky Camps, Evan Allanson, John McCulloch, George Timmins just to name some, and including many wives with my apologies for not mentioning the ladies present. Most visitors departed after the 'brunch' about mid-day, but a select few adjourned to the Sergeants' Mess to enjoy the company and hospitality for over two hours, before moving on to the OR's Club for further refreshments and to watch the various sports organised for the afternoon.

To finish the sports afternoon, there was a tug-of-war between RA SVY and RAE soldiers, best out of three, and won by Survey, definitely the last sporting event won under the Corps banner.

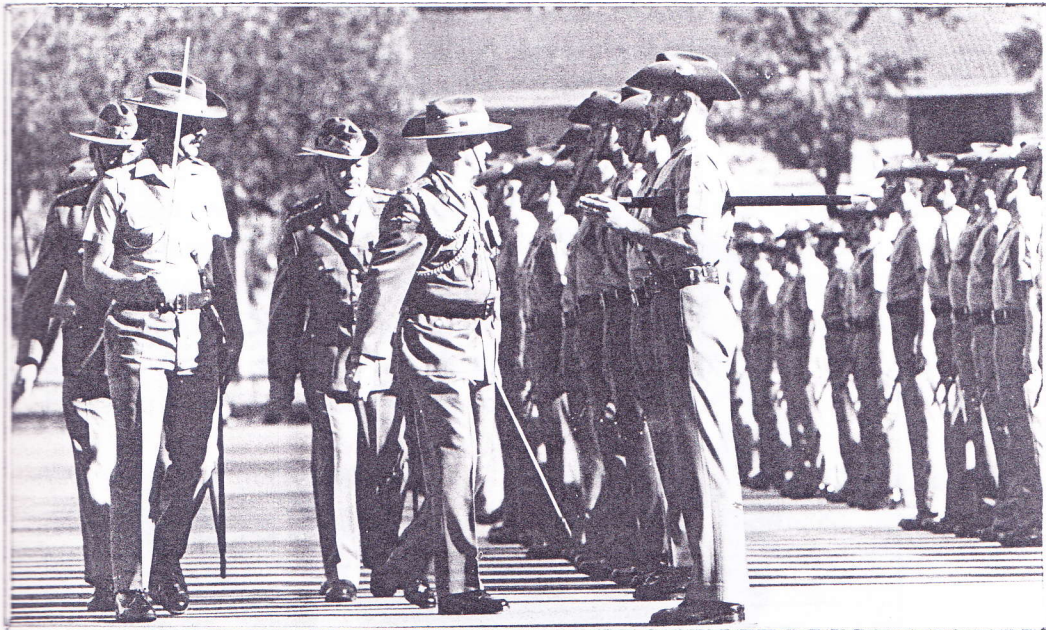
To finish the day, a BBQ was held, complete with a specially prepared cake to mark the occasion. John Hillier assisted in cutting the cake, following which the celebrations continued on. The day could be likened to an Irish wake, where everyone knows there is a body to put away, but accept the inevitability of the situation, and get on with life and have a good time. I certainly did and thoroughly enjoyed the day.



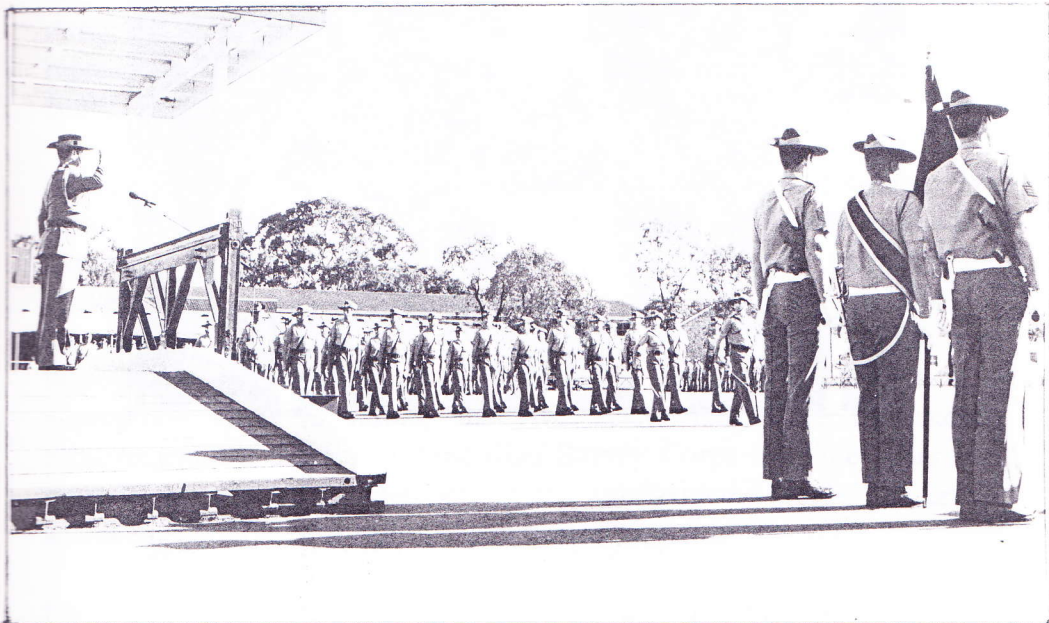
The Integration Parade advancing on the parade ground,
led by LtCol Duncan Burns.



The last O.C. of 4 Fd Svy Sqn, Maj. Peter Demaine,
leading a parade division.



LtGen J.M. Sanderson inspecting the troops.
The RSM at centre is Michael Hogan.



LtGen J.M. Sanderson on the saluting base
at the Integration Parade.



**ADDRESS TO THE PARADE BY LTGEN J.M. SANDERSON, AC
to mark the amalgamation of the Royal Australian Survey Corps and
the Royal Australian Engineers at the Engineer Centre, Moorebank
on Monday, 1 July, 1996**

Mrs. Danna Vale,(Federal Member for Hughes); Major General Hickling, Land Commander; Brigadier Molan, Commander 1st Brigade; Colonel Geoff Pearce and Colonel Simon Lemon, Corps Directors; Colonels Commandant; Distinguished Guests; Members of the Royal Australian Survey Corps and Royal Australian Engineers; Cartographers and Engineers all; Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are here today to mark the amalgamation of two Corps of the Australian Army, each with an individual and interlinked history of outstanding service to our nation: the Royal Australian Survey Corps and the Royal Australian Engineers.

It is a great pleasure for me to be the reviewing officer at this historic event. I have direct association with both Corps and deep respect and admiration for their achievements over this near century of the Australian Army's history. May I welcome you all to this Parade, in particular those representatives of the civilian surveying organisations, who I hope will continue their association with Army surveying in its new form.

In amalgamations of units or corps, there is always a note of sadness. We anticipate the possibility that one title is carried on and another passes into history, although I note that this has not always been so with respect to the Survey Corps. Importantly one Corps absorbs the history and traditions of the other, and in doing so undertakes the sacred obligation to preserve those traditions and the memory of the achievements of the other. It is appropriate today therefore, that we acknowledge the outstanding achievements of the Royal Australian Survey Corps over the years and make clear to you, the members of the amalgamated Corps, the proud achievements of the surveyors of the Australian Army.

Eighty-one years ago today-in 1915-the "Australian Survey Corps" was raised from the surveyors serving with the Royal Australian Engineers.

Since that time the Survey Corps has not just been a major contributor to the tactical success of the Australian Army in two World Wars and other conflicts, it has played an outstanding role in the building of this nation—the Commonwealth of Australia—and the building of other nations such as Papua New Guinea. Without the impetus of military survey, much of this continent would have remained unmapped, and hence much of our civil infrastructure, which we take for granted today, would have been retarded in its development.

The starting point of serious military survey in this country was the establishment in 1910 of the “Survey Section, RAE”. General McNicoll, in his history of the Royal Australian Engineers, speculates that only five years later in 1915 the Director of Engineers was none too happy and perhaps a bit surprised that these surveyors, with a strength of three officers and 16 other ranks become independent. The peculiarities of our federal Defence legislation of the time created a situation where the Survey function had to be separated from the endeavours of the AIF.

Between 1920 and 1932, in the normality of peace, the surveyors again returned to RAE, so the historical links between the two Corps are close.

The Survey Corps gave distinguished service in World War 1, during which two Distinguished Conduct Medals were won. In terms of valour, it is one thing to perform an heroic act in the heat of battle; however, it requires a particular mix of calmness, courage and professional skill to continue mapping with plane table, notebook and instruments for prolonged periods in no-man’s land under enemy fire. This is the story of Sergeant Stafford during the Battle of Amiens in 1918, and Warrant Officer Murray at Gaza-Beersheba.

During the Second World War, the Survey Corps grew from a strength of 50 to about 1,700. Members of the Corps served in Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. But perhaps the Corps’ finest achievement was the mapping of the operational areas of Papua and New Guinea. Imagine the situation in early 1942: the most inhospitable jungle terrain in the world, extreme cloud and weather conditions, a determined enemy, and no maps. Commanders and soldiers cannot fight successfully without accurate

mapping and terrain information. Starved of funds before the War, no mapping of military use had occurred in the then Australian territories. Under the most adverse circumstances, and often in front of the forward troops, together with US Army Air Force Photo Recce aircraft, the Survey Corps produced enough maps of high quality to allow the other arms and services to fight and win on the Kokoda Trail and in the remainder of the New Guinea campaign.

As the island hopping campaign began, commanders demanded further accurate terrain information and maps. It was provided by the Australian Survey Corps. And when the time came for Sir Thomas Blamey to accept the surrender of the Japanese in 1945 at Morotai, a survey corps unit on that island produced the Instrument of Surrender document that ended hostilities in the Dutch East Indies. In post war conflicts, members of the Survey Corps again performed distinguished service in Vietnam from 1966 to 1971.

The truly outstanding work of the Survey Corps has been performed outside the battlefield. In the early days of triangulation and trigonometric survey in this country, men like Warrant Officer (later Major) Jack Lynch served with great energy to solve the problems of triangulation and control, and the inconsistency between maps inherited from the former colonies. We take it for granted today that one map sheet joins another in a consistent frame of reference, but as late as 1930, the Survey map of Albury-Wodonga demonstrated that the New South Wales and Victorian triangulation systems would not join. Survey took the lead in nominating the Sydney Observatory as the origin for geographical coordinates in eastern Australia, and reobserved and recalculated the triangulation systems of the eastern States.

The Survey Corps has been a pioneer of many technologies in Australia, air photography with the RAAF in the 1930s, the use of ground and airborne electro-magnetic distance measurement, the use of optical and electronic geodetic and navigation earth satellites, and computer assisted cartography.

The Corps has been fortunate to attract long serving NCOs and officers of high quality, willing to dedicate themselves to the craft of military survey. To give an example from an earlier era, the Corps Director from 1942 to 1960, Brigadier Lawrence Fitzgerald, first joined the Corps as a corporal in 1924. But right up to the present, the professionalism of the Corps has been evident in the service of its members in remote areas of northern Australia, on long deployments in Papua New Guinea, and on defence cooperation tasks in Irian Jaya, Kalimantan, Sumatra, and in the islands of the South Pacific. These were demanding and risky deployments that added to the professional reputation of the Survey Corps. It is also important today that we remember those who died during their service with the Survey Corps. Their memory is now part of the ongoing obligation of the Royal Australian Engineers.

We must acknowledge that because of the way in which technology is developing, the task of mapping and nation building, carried out by the Survey Corps for over eighty years is now best suited to other agencies. That aside, the military roles of our surveyors will continue in other ways. On behalf of the Australian Army and the community, may I say "well done" Royal Australian Survey.

Now we must face the future and the Army must restructure itself in many ways to meet the demands and the realities of the future. There will be many changes. But the future of Survey within the Royal Australian Engineers is a most exciting one. Military Geographic Information Systems will form the bed of all operational endeavour in the future. The battlefield will be digitised one way or the other. We must be quick to recognise and bring this reality to fruition. Engineers shape the battlefield for us, but surveyors describe it in a way which allows all Services and Branches of the ADF to act in concert. This is a dynamic process and relationship. Vital and evolutionary. What challenges you face in the expanded Royal Australian Engineers! Don't stand back from those challenges. Engineers never have. The Corps has been like a Cornucopia bringing forth new ideas, new uses of technology, new approaches to the military problems of the day. There are great rewards in this - not simply in career prospects, but in a creative and rewarding partnership.

Congratulations on this fine parade today. I wish you all - the members of the new amalgamated Royal Australian Engineers - good luck and good soldiering. Thank you ladies and gentlemen.

FUTURE SOCIAL PROPOSALS

The main proposal is to have a function or gathering of some kind on the first Friday in each month, no matter how small, starting from October onwards. The intention is that most will be informal and casual, with the Corps Birthday celebration in July, being the possible exception organised in a reasonably formal way.

It could be that a Saturday night is preferred at times, however, it is hoped that a format will evolve over a period of months, enabling some sort of social activity to happen each time and definitely including wives, etc.

To start the ball rolling, a casual gathering for drinks after 5 pm will be held at the Duke of York hotel, situated in Currie Street on the north side, about half way to Light Square, and almost opposite the Commonwealth Centre. Counter meals are available if required. Bob Dikkenberg chose the pub, so its probably pretty rough.

If you happen to be free that afternoon, drop in for a while and have an ale and a chat. Maybe a few ideas regarding social activities will come to light.

So remember Friday 4 October after 5pm at the Duke of York.

For November, the yearly mixed dining out night will be held at a restaurant/cafe/pub yet to be selected. This function was not held last year because of the close down party at 4 Fd Svy Sqn. Details will be advised by post in time to organise everything, so once more remember the first Friday or Saturday in November.

YOUNG BERNIE

Bernie Watson celebrated his 80th birthday on 30 June this year. Congratulations and well done.

The day started quietly enough until late morning, when he answered the front door bell, to be confronted by a chauffeur with a limousine at the front gate, to be "taken out."

A bit uncertain, he went along, and was driven to Mt. Lofty House at the summit, ushered inside and through a closed door to be confronted by a room full of family and relatives, for a surprise party. Bernie thought it was a great day.

Ian Belmont

Ian rang me a few weeks back to say he had accepted a job with ATSE, and was returning with his family to live in Bendigo. Good luck Ian.

World travellers

George and Pat Graham toured Turkey sometime earlier this year. I rang ATSE recently, to find that Pat still works at Fortuna, when she answered the 'phone. She told me that she and George have now toured most of the Middle East 'safe' countries, and that George is looking to Vietnam for their next trip whenever.

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