



SURVEY
EX-SERVICEMEN'S
ASSOCIATION
SOUTH AUSTRALIA



NEWSLETTER No. 17
DECEMBER 1996

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Jim Dunn retires from the team

After 16 editions and 5 years of helping to produce our newsletter as the chief typist, Jim is going into semi-retirement. New work commitments make it impossible for him to meet the deadlines of the newsletter, but he will still help out whenever he can.

I'm sure all members will join me in thanking Jim for his efforts over the years, a job well done.

In the meantime, I'm grateful to Bob Mills for producing this edition at fairly short notice. Our thanks to you Bob.

1ST TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY SQUADRON, RAE ANNUAL DINNER BY STEVO HINIC

On the 28 September 1996 I had the pleasure of attending the 1st Topographical Survey Squadron, RAE Annual Dinner held at the Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera.

This function which is usually held on the 1 July of each year was not possible this time due to the ceremonial requirements associated with the integration of RASvy with RAE which, sadly I feel, took place on the 1 July 1996.

Pre-dinner drinks were served at "1 Topo" with all the diners then walking a short distance to the Dining Mess. The official guests were Col Comdt RAE QLD and NT Region, Major General J N Stein, AO and Mrs Stein along with the President, RASvy Association Queensland, Lt Col P Bates-Brownsword RL and Mrs Bates-Brownsword. The Dining President was OC 1st Topographical Survey Squadron, Major G Oaten. The function was a mixed all ranks function with approximately 140 people attending.

I must comment that it was initially rather peculiar to see Ex-Survey Corps members with whom you had served, trained and mixed socially to now be wearing different Corp badges. However, in today's work environment where downsizing and re-engineering regimes are in vogue, I guess this change is a reflection of the times.

On a more cheerful note it provided me with the opportunity to catch up and chat with some of the serving members and a lot of the 'old and bolds'. The following list of "where are they now" I believe will be of interest to readers of this newsletter.

- Peter Bates-Brownsword - Ex Survey Association President Queensland;
Also teaching Surveying and GPS at Mount Gravatt TAFE.
- Kevin Walsh - Working somewhere on the Sunshine Coast doing charity work.
- Barry Lutwyche - Still serving at 1 Topo Squadron and considering his options for the future.
- Peter Tangey 'Twig' - Living at Michelton and still has his gardening round. I also believe that a couple of his 'lads' are doing some sort of army service.

- Wally Chilcott - Working in a store somewhere in the Acacia Ridge area. It was a smooth and well-attired Wally with partner - a definite image change.
- George Timmins 'GT' - SSM 1 Topo Squadron also countenancing his future options.
- Bruce 'Stretch' Gordon - Still employed with Brisbane City Council driving buses - 'On the bus Bruce and enjoying it'.
- Tony Gee - Working for Telstra in some managerial position re-organising depots.
- Paul Hopes 'Hopesy' - *Digitising for Brisbane City Council. At \$30 an hour enjoying life. Bought a house in Michelton, just a few houses from Pete Tangey.*
- Jamie McRae 'Fish' - On Long Service Leave pending discharge, soon to accompany his wife to Hawaii due to her 3 month secondment there by her employer. Currently looking at large fishing rods and 200kg 'trace'.
- Adrian Creedy 'Charlie' - Is a house husband and part-time helper in his brother's newsagency in Ipswich.
- Steve Winner - Still serving at 1 Topo Squadron.
- Kerry Gallagher 'Gags' - Living somewhere in Brisbane, couldn't get much reportable information from him due to his 'cheerful' state at that time of the evening - why am I not surprised.
- Perry Langeberg - Still serving at 1 Topo Squadron and I believe contemplating a posting to Darwin.
- Derek Stanmore - Working for the Redcliffe Council and is the OIC of their computing section. I believe Sandy is still working with the ANZ Bank.
- John Smith 'Toad' - Is contract digitising at the Brisbane City Council with Paul Hopes. Has not changed, still wants to dance with everyone after two drinks.

- Andy Mellon - Property developing somewhere on the Gold Coast.
- Stan Campbell - Retired, relaxing and still looks the same. Resides at Lawnton which is approximately 20-30 kilometres north of Brisbane.
- John Foxwell - Area Sales Manager for Tradelink Plumbing Supplies Centre at Geebung (suburb of Brisbane).
- Kim Weston - Retired in Brisbane, relaxing and not requiring to work according to him but does some consulting work for the Tasmanian Forestry.
- Alan Glanville - According to him setting up businesses for other people. Also running part-time a canine service called "Pooch-care".
- Derek Chambers - Still selling insurance in the north of Brisbane Albany area.
- Steve Wainwright - Medically discharged with full entitlement from army in 1995. As advised he had unsuccessful back operation as a result of a service accident.
- Peter Cross - Was not in attendance however I was informed that he is still managing Abacus Digitising.
- William Baker 'Bill' - I am advised is running a Bed and Breakfast establishment at Longford, somewhere south of Launceston, Tasmania.

I hope this article gives you some idea where fellow Ex-Svy Corps members are now. I believe it is always of interest to know because it may be someone you would like to look up. However it would be prudent of me to put in a small disclaimer because some of the information may be "wine" and "lager" effect as the night was a fair innings before the bails were removed.

Stevo

PEOPLE NEWS

SEA CRUISE

Ted and Beryl Bear are looking forward to a holiday on a cruise ship, departing from Fremantle next February to sail the Indian Ocean. A list of the richest men in Australia appeared recently in *The Advertiser*, but somehow I missed Ted's name. Hopefully the trip will yield a line or two in a future newsletter.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Arthur and Barbara Henson have left the hectic life in Canberra town for a more relaxed rural setting, now residing in the River Murray township of Echuca.

THE MILLA MILLA KID

Ian Thomson rang recently to enquire about and pass on his regards to old friends from his time at Keswick Barracks, and to bring me up to date on his activities. Ian has turned 65, and now takes life at a much easier pace than formerly. He was operated on for cancer about 4½ years ago, but has beaten the problem and been given the all clear. He used to be a well nourished 13 stone or so, but is now down to a trim 10 stone and feels fit and well. He has given up drinking (grog, that is) and smoking, and doesn't miss either, and plays cards regularly at the local senior citizens club. Ian and his wife separated on friendly terms some time ago now, although she only moved to the property next door, so they still see each other fairly often. It was great hearing from you Ian, and thanks for the call.

BILL MITCHELL

Ian passed on news of Bill Mitchell also, that he was managing a kiosk or similar at Kakadu in the NT, but was unsure whether he still is or not. Bill at one time lived in Townsville and about two years ago spent some time in a Brisbane hospital being treated for his asthma complaint. He has two sons living in Cairns and a daughter in Darwin, so Bill would be up that way somewhere.

IAN CAMPBELL

Ian has attended most unit close-down functions complete with his trusty camera, taking numerous photos, particularly at the weekend bash in Bendigo for the closure of the Survey Regiment. Ian charges about \$2.50 a print, with any profit after costs going to a couple of ex-service charities that he fund raises for. Ian's phone number in Brisbane is (07) 3392 0354, should you be interested in what he has.

BOB'S DAUGHTER

Who can remember Bob Garritty's daughter Amanda, when Bob was posted here with his family several years ago. Now 21, a photo of Amanda was published in the Herald Sun newspaper last September. Amanda was last year's Miss Calendar Girl and has also won the Australian Bodyshaping Championship, and features in a calendar now on sale throughout Australia.

BILL GRIGGS

Bill has left his job with ATSE and now works at Defence Centre Adelaide. He and Jan are moving from Bendigo fairly soon, so should have more news early in the new year.

IAN and BETTY LEVER

Ian and Betty called in to say hello on their way through through Adelaide to Alice Springs for the tourist bit. The car was loaded onto the 'Ghan' for the leg to Alice Springs. Both were looking forward to a leisurely trip back by car, through Ayers Rock etc, taking a couple of weeks before returning home to Wodonga.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Since the inception of our Association there has never been the need to accumulate funds, except for a small amount of working capital, and with donations often added to subscriptions given, we have always remained solvent.

If you remember, it was about five years ago that our annual subscription was only \$2.50. The support received from 4 Fd Svy Sqn and other sources in the past, had enabled us to pay our way without actively chasing subscriptions. This was a fairly happy situation, but has now changed.

The financial year for our Association is January to December, and not for the 12 months following each AGM on 25th April, meaning that a subscription received in a particular year is for that year only and does not flow on to the following year.

Letters will be sent to all members in January/February 1997, advising their situation.



1st Topographical Survey Squadron - The New Role

1 Topo Svy Sqn was the only unit within the Royal Australian Survey Corps to remain active after the Corps disbanded.

The new role and composition of the squadron is set out in the article below, written by Captain Steve Hledik as the 2IC, and was published in the Royal Australian Engineers newsletter "Sapper News".

The recent integration of the Royal Australian Survey Corps into the Corps of Royal Australian Engineers (RAE) has resulted in the transfer of 1st Topographical Survey Squadron (1 Topo Svy Sqn) to RAE.

1 Topo Svy Sqn is a direct descendant of 2nd/1st Field Survey Company which was an RAE unit raised in 1940 for active service during World War Two. The Squadron is thus considered to be truly returning to its original Corps.

The Squadron is commanded directly by the Commander Land Command Engineers and is located at Enoggera. It also has two map stores located in Townsville and Darwin. The Squadron's role is to provide topographic support in an area of operations. It achieves this task by collecting information from a variety of sources and presents it to commanders for planning and conducting operations.

The Squadron has a Regular Army strength of six officers and 103 other ranks. Ninety-four of the other rank's positions consist of cartographers, photographers and printers. However, these three trades will shortly be integrated into one trade, geomatic technician, in 1997. 1 Topo Svy Sqn is a fully integrated unit and has a General Reserve strength of two officers and 25 other ranks; however, only eleven of these positions are currently manned.

The Squadron is comprised of an administration troop; a field troop with four field topographic sections; a support troop with three support sections and an imagery section; a military geographic information (topographic) (MGI(Topo)) troop with three MGI(Topo) sections and a system support section; a product distribution troop with a distribution support section and four mobile distribution points; and a reprographic section that has a field reprographic cell and a reprographic support cell.

The Squadron is structured to support:

- a formation headquarters and three manoeuvre formations concurrently in the combat zone with a field troop of four sections, mobile product distribution points and a field reprographic section;

- force headquarters and units not in the combat zone and the carriage of tasks too large for deployed topographic elements from the support troop and reprographic troop; and
- all Land Command units with the supply of military mapping and topographic information products from the product distribution troop.

Functions performed by 1 Topo Svy Sqn include aerial image acquisition, precision position determination, construction of special topographic products, bulk product distribution, and bulk reproduction of products.

Developments in digital mapping techniques continues to influence how 1 Topo Svy Sqn achieves its mission and to expanding its range of products. Project TOPOSS has been established to investigate the application of new technology for the Squadron's various levels of support. The Squadron's Military Geographic Information (Topographic) Troop is also developing the provision of military topographic information (MTI) to support specific requirements of engineer battlefield assessment (EBA) and intelligence preparation of the battlefield (IPB).

This year, 1 Topo Svy Sqn has provided support to Exercise Ready Soldier, Exercise Silicon Safari, Exercise Thunder Bay, Exercise Diamond Blue, Operation Shepherd, Operation Beachcomber, Exercise Taipan Watch and Exercise Northern Predator, and is currently preparing for Exercise Swift Eagle. 1 Topo Svy Sqn also accepts tasking that is not related to specific exercises but is needed to assist other Land Command units with their training.

Other activities conducted this year include participation in the Australian Army Skill at Marksmanship Competition, initial employment training, troop level military and adventurous training, and adventurous training with the Royal Australian Air Force's search and rescue crews. Almost all former Royal Australian Survey Corps soldiers from the Squadron also participated in the Corps Integration Parade on 1 July 1996.

At this year's Brisbane Waterloo Dinner, hosted by 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment in June, the RAE Association presented 1 Topo Svy Sqn with an RAE corps badge which has now been mounted at the unit's entrance. A large black and white triangulation station beacon still stands firm on the hill adjacent the Squadron to remind all who pass where our immediate ancestry resides. However, nobody in the Squadron denies our future within RAE and we proudly include the topographic support function in the Corps' enhanced capabilities.

MEMORIAL CAIRN AT BONEGILLA

BY ALEX MUNRO

“The Surveyor’s Mark” - a memorial cairn in tribute to those who served or trained at SMS, was dedicated on Sunday 25 August 1996, at the former School of Military Survey, now the Geomatic Engineering Wing of the School of Military Engineering.

Proceedings commenced at 9.30am in pleasant and mild weather, with an open day of the school and museum and a demonstration of a deployed field topographic survey section, complete with the equipment used these days (a bit different) all hidden under camouflage netting. Times have changed.

At 11am the ceremony to dedicate the cairn began, with an opening address by the OC Major Terry Lord, followed by a reply from Colonel Simon Lemon, now the Director of Military Geographic Information.

The Cairn was unveiled by Colonel Don Swiney as Colonel Commandant of the Royal Australian Survey Corps, followed by the dedication service conducted by Chaplain Gary Kenney.

Just after mid-day a BBQ lunch was ready for all staff and visitors. The lunch was well prepared and presented, and gave everyone the chance to mingle and catch up with old acquaintances. I can remember seeing Clem Sargent, John Hillier, Rocky Camps, Ross McMillan, Ian Lever, Bob Mason, Gary Warnest and Peter Imeson, but not all names spring to mind.

I thought the roll-up for the occasion on the part of former serving members was very disappointing, considering Bendigo is only a three hour drive away and Wodonga a lot less, so perhaps it was just one of those days.

Probably the largest contingent of visitors came from a country sub-branch of the RSL, with which the school had developed an affiliation over the years.

Most visitors had drifted away by 3pm, ending a very enjoyable day, although tinged with regret in many ways.

I finished the day with Ian Lever in the Sergeants’ Mess, for a quiet ale, before he drove me into Albury for the Adelaide bus.

The esteem held by the Albury/Wodonga community for the school was shown by the “Border Mail” newspaper printing articles of the event on two occasions.

To conclude this report the bronze inscription on the cairn is as follows -

THE SURVEYOR'S MARK

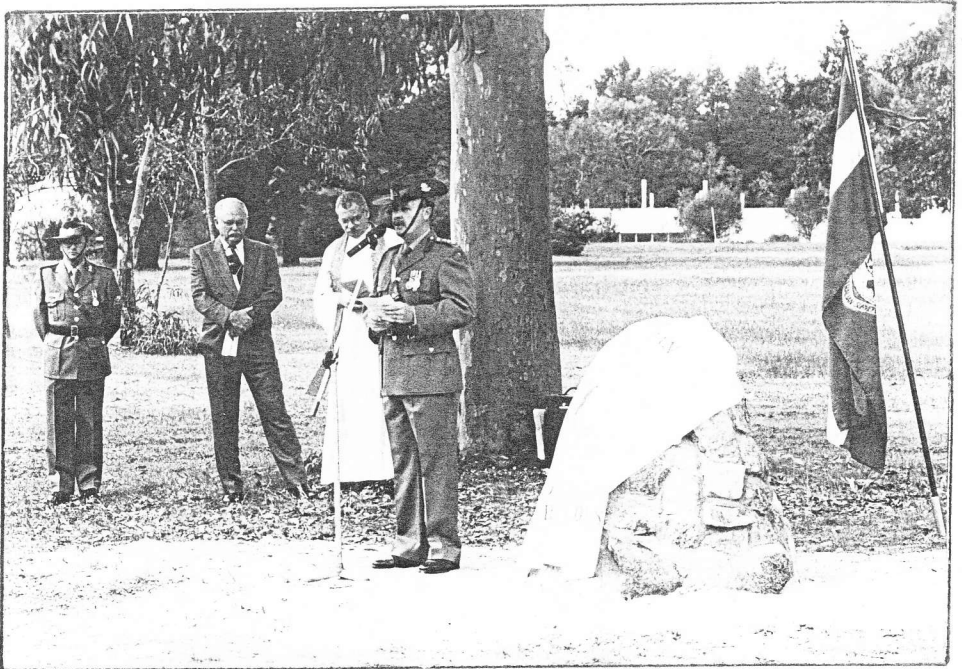
This Cairn and mark was unveiled on 25th August 1996 by Colonel D.G. Swiney, MBE, Colonel Commandant of the Royal Australian Survey Corps, to pay tribute to the service men and women of the Corps who served or undertook training at the School of Military Survey, Bonegilla, from 1965 until the School's closure in July 1996

It also serves as a memorial to Army's surveying heritage, and the Survey Corps' legacy to Australia's national development and international cooperation.

World Geodetic System 1984 36° 07' 55.842" South

146° 59' 53.537" East

Australian Height Datum 199.52 m m.s.l.



WO1 A. Staley, Colonel D. Swiney,
Chaplain G. Kenney and Colonel S. Lemon



● Colonel Swiney and WO Alan Staley unveil the cairn that will mark the School of Military Survey's presence at Bonegilla.

Cairn marks survey school's last post

A CAIRN was laid at the Latchford Army Barracks yesterday to mark the end of the School of Military Survey and the Army's survey historical collection.

A small crowd of survey members, former personnel, Army officials and local government representatives attended the ceremony which follows more than 31 years of work by the school at Bonegilla.

The school has been disbanded and incorporated into the Royal Australian Engineers after 81 years of service.

Personnel are being moved to Moorebank in Sydney where they will operate from December.

Senior instructor Major Terry Lord said it was sad that the school was leaving Bonegilla where it had trained hundreds of important service members from the Australian and overseas armies.

Major Lord said the move to Moorebank and the school's integration with engineers was a tough decision but in the long term would benefit the Army

and also the career prospects of staff.

But the cairn would be a continuing reminder to the people of Albury-Wodonga, and to the soldiers who came through Bonegilla, of the work done by the survey school.

"This will be an important point for maintaining the memory of the need and work of the Geographical Survey Corp," he said.

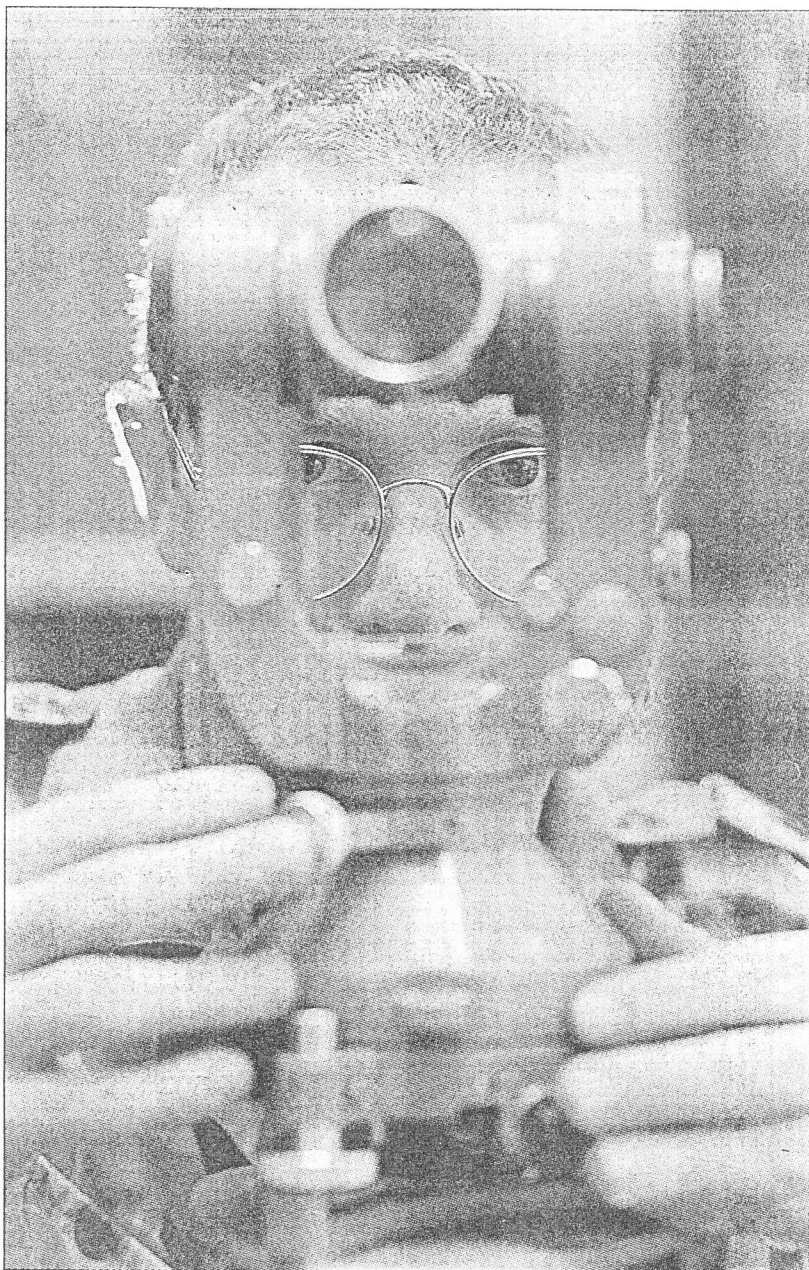
The commandant of the Australian Survey Corps, Colonel Don Swiney, said the cairn

would be a memorial to all those who had trained at Bonegilla, and those who had died while carrying out their duties.

Over its 31 years at Bonegilla the school collected a large amount of memorabilia.

It will be moved to a new, larger museum which will remain open to the public.

Personnel going through Bonegilla used the local landscape for training, especially the hill and mountains through the Snowy Mountains and the floodplains west of Albury-Wodonga.



Captain Peter Crabbe demonstrating a theodolite to the Border Mail reporter. Can you name the theodolite? It should be easy, so no prizes if you can.

The South Australia - Victoria Border

The fact that the border between South Australia and Victoria had not been positioned as well as possible, is fairly widely known about, however, I always thought that the problem had been resolved last century between both governments, by a gentleman's agreement and a shrug of the shoulder.

Perhaps this is not the true situation. The following article came into Jim Dunn's hands through a friend, and is of some interest. Prepared and delivered by John Kean in May 1996 for a lecture address, I have taken the liberty to publish it without first obtaining his permission, anyway, our thanks to John. -

In November 1913 a Privy Council verdict in favour of Victoria put paid to South Australian efforts over the previous 40 - 50 years to have its border with Victoria moved eastwards from its existing position to the 141st meridian of longitude.

The border was surveyed between 1847 and 1850 supposedly on the 141st meridian, however, inaccuracies in fixing the meridian on the southern coast caused the line to be commenced some 3½km west of the correct position.

Although there were doubts concerning the meridional accuracy they did not come to a head until 1866 when the SA government began production of the border northwards across the River Murray. The NSW government called a halt wanting precise observations to be taken at the river to re-establish the 141st meridian in its correct position prior to continuing the border northwards. The Government Astronomers of the two colonies came up to Chowilla in 1868 and fixed the meridian with the latest methods of observation and confirmed that the boundary between SA and Victoria gave Victoria a strip of land some 3½km wide from the coast to the Murray.

Victoria refused to depart from the position created in 1847 and the matter remained in dispute until 1910 when the establishment of the High Court made it possible to try the issue in an action for recovery of the strip in dispute. The High Court found in favour of Victoria and on being taken to the Privy Council that judgement was upheld.

The border survey was undertaken in two stages. In 1847 Mr Wade began the survey from the coast and penetrated 123 miles (198km) to about 7.9km north of the present day Dukes Highway. His line was through, for the most part, well watered and heavily timbered country with heavy soils predominating. These were the areas of earliest settlement - Serviceton, Frances, Hynam and points further south - and being the earlier settlements the settlers were waiting to fence along the border before, through rain, wind and white ants, the border marks were eroded away. For this reason we have found the border in Wade's sector to be fairly accurately fenced.

It is important to remember that save for a few rock piles at the coast and by the river the only marks emplaced were wooden mile posts mounded to prevent bushfires burning them and cattle scratching themselves and pushing

them over. However, mounding allowed the white ants to destroy the post far more quickly than if it were standing by itself. Thus in a very few years, if left undisturbed, wind, rain and white ants would cause the survey marks to vanish leaving the cut line as the only indication as to where the line had been. Regrowth would eventually obliterate this evidence.

Wade's assistant White concluded the survey over the remaining 156 miles (251km) in 1850. He traversed through country far less attractive than that to the south with mile after mile of sand ridges and endless dull green mallee scrub.

In White's sector there were no settlers waiting to fence his border line, so that once completed the survey marks were not only left to the mercy of the elements and the white ants but were swallowed-up by regrowth. In 20 years nothing less than another survey would be needed to re-establish White's border line, but it was about 35 years before anything was done, and then in the most uncoordinated way. Therein lay the seeds of the confusion that followed.

In 1884 Victorian surveyor Tom H. Turner began a huge outer boundary survey encompassing vast acreages of north western Victoria that the government intended subdividing. The western side of the outer boundary survey was a line beginning from just north of the present Dukes Highway due north for 250km to within 13km of the River Murray where he would intersect with an east-west base line which he had already laid down.

Turner's starting point for his long line northwards was some 8km due south of Wade's termination point, 123 miles from the coast. How Turner came to begin at this point is a little story on its own which I won't go into here save to say that Turner, in my opinion, was unaware of the significance of his starting point. Wade built a large mound at his termination point and this was found by SA surveyor Cornish in 1874. It is through using some of Cornish's data that we can deduce where Turner commenced his line and that he would pass through Wade's mound. By the time Turner was on the scene Wade's mound had been blown away, big as it was.

Unlike Wade and White's survey Turner maintained a very accurate true north azimuth and marked his line on the ground with substantial iron posts every so often. It is important to keep in mind that Turner was not re-establishing the border but was laying down an accurate true north traverse line to ensure the accuracy of subsequent internal subdivisions. Field notes record his observing from time to time mounds from White's survey on ridge tops a few hundred metres to the west of his own line.

On intersecting with his east-west base line, 13km south of the Murray, Turner established a line between the two stone mounds, within 4km of the river and the only lasting marks left by White on the whole survey. He produced this line southwards where it was found to cut his east-west base line about 100 metres east of the intersection between the base line and his 250km line from the south.

Although Turner was not re-establishing the border I feel that the sheer magnitude of the work he accomplished would have been enough to cause the locals to think he MUST be establishing the border. It would be hard to imagine this line, so long and so well marked, being anything else but the border in their eyes.

In early 1887, within a year of the completion of Turner's line, SA surveyor Herbert was sent to the Tatiara area by Surveyor General Goyder to sort out the border confusion caused by the Wade and White line not being as straight as it was supposed to be. Subdivisional surveyors were finding the fenced line off due north by, in some cases, half a degree; far too great an error even for as far back as the 1880s. Herbert would appear to be the first surveyor to appreciate the extent of the deviations from north in the Wade and White line, and this helped him immensely in re-establishing White's line to its intersection with the Buckingham county boundary, some 59km north of the present Dukes Highway.

Establishing Wade's termination point he, instead of going due north as Turner had done, produced a line northwards on the bearing of Wade's line over its last few miles south of the termination point. This line was off due north by nearly half a degree but by producing it northwards he was rewarded with the finding of numerous mounds and part mounds left by White.

One has to assume that Herbert had no information regarding Turner's line, a not uncommon situation having in mind the ill feeling that existed between the two governments over the border dispute at that time. But, it is bizarre that Herbert should be traversing his way northwards completely unaware that he is running within half a degree of parallel to Turner's line, a stone's throw or so to the east.

In late 1887 the Victorian government asked for tenders for the construction of vermin proof fencing between Serviceton and the river. The successful tenderer was Anthony Kelly, a local contractor, and by 1889 he had completed the fence to the river.

There is evidence to suggest that the government thought Turner's line to be the border not least because Turner's final plan of his work shows his western line to be the 'South Australian Border'. White's line, where he fixed it, is described simply as an 'old line' and therefore, one would assume, of no importance. Being the government contractor I would have to assume that Kelly thought Turner's line to be the border too.

All Kelly had to do was to identify Turner's cut line, which was still fresh being only a year old, and begin fencing. But Kelly could not have known about Herbert's line re-establishing the border. It was even fresher, and as luck would have it he locked onto Herbert's line instead.

Like Herbert, Kelly would have come across White's border mounds as he fenced northwards, and this could only serve to reassure him - if reassurance was ever needed - that he was indeed on the border line. Thus it must have

come as a painful shock to find the line, supposedly cut all the way to the river, suddenly terminated. One can sympathise with the man for it was a drastic way to learn that the border and Turner's line were not one and the same. Certainly the border continued northwards from Herbert's termination, but the trail was cold. White's line was nearly 40 years old and long since swallowed-up by regrowth. So there was Kelly 48.5km along White's border and nowhere to go.

How Kelly learnt of the near proximity of Turner's line I know not, but learn of it he must have, and having done so it remained only a matter of how to get on to it. He could step across at right angles, but that would entail the erection of 388 metres of extra fencing, not an attractive idea for besides the extra cost involved it would look decidedly odd, not something a reputable fencing contractor would care to be associated with. The alternative, which he adopted, was to resume fencing on a line slightly east of north, in this case with an azimuth of $1^{\circ} 22' 50''$, and gradually edge over until he struck Turner's line, which he did after 15.84km, the extra length of fencing being a mere 5 metres.

Kelly continued fencing northwards for 173km which brought him to Turner's base line, 13km south of the river. He fenced the 100 metre step eastwards - the step is there to this day - and then the final leg through the two stone mounds to the river. Once on this final straight Kelly was back on the border line.

By switching over to Turner's line Kelly fenced in 6,700 ha (16,500 acres) of Victoria with South Australia. However, there is no point in shifting back to White's line because for 140km north from the Buckingham county boundary we have only the roughest of ideas as to where it is. From a surveyor's point of view you could say that in the sector mentioned the border is lost.

The reasonable thing would be to have the vermin proof fence accepted by both states as the new border, but to carry it out would appear to require action by the commonwealth and both states under section 123 of the Constitution. This would guarantee it being put in the too hard basket, and provided we don't discover oil, gold or diamonds under the area, there it is likely to stay.

John Kean 30th May 1996.

CORPS HISTORY NEWS

To start the history of 4th Field Survey Squadron, a circular is to be distributed about February 1997 to all former members of the squadron, and those civilians who had a close affiliation. The circular will be very detailed and also self explanatory, so no need for further details at this stage.

Federal funding pretty well expected to finance a history of the Corps has been refused, and whether the decision is temporary or permanent is anyone's guess at this time, depending on future government fiscal policies combined with the political climate at the time. My humble opinion is that funds will become available, although later than wished.

A Canberra based historian has been approached and has agreed to research and write the history, at a price of course. He has several published histories to his credit, of military units and also senior officers.

Funding for the history of the Survey Regiment has similarly been stopped, although the Fortuna Association has about \$19,000 in the kitty, mainly received from the three messes when they closed and a Bendigo City Council grant. This will be sufficient to fund the first year of research, allowing time to push for the funds required to complete a second year and the history.

Clem Sargent rang recently with the news that the Department of Veteran Affairs has announced a scheme making funds available for a series of veteran related activities. One of the proposed activities that funding could be available for was the writing of unit histories. At this point Veteran Affairs are only receiving proposals of interest from ex-service organisations, no doubt wanting to see what they are up against before declaring what grants will be made. Clem has applied for a bite of this new cherry, to the tune of around \$75,000, which is considered about the going rate for a top researcher to compile a history over a period of probably two years.

The Canberra Association want to push on with planning proposals, and so require some idea of how many copies would be sold at an estimated \$50.00 per copy, if and when a Corps history was printed. This information would be appreciated by mid January 1997. Please let me or George Ricketts know as soon as possible, of your interest in acquiring a copy, which will not be binding in any way as the project will be long term. It is essential that all Associations are seen to be in support of the project, by all members declaring their interest.

Alex Munro

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

Friday 4 October '96: Drinks after 5pm at the Duke of York hotel in Currie St. 7 turned up for a pleasant 2 hour session. A good pub, but with the Friday night crowd and a couple of juke boxes thrown in, it was a wee bit noisy. Street parking wasn't the best, although a commercial car park is nearby.

Saturday 2 November '96: A mixed dinner at the Saracen's Head Hotel in Carrington St. A total of 29 attended at 7pm, to what proved a very convivial evening before breaking up about 11pm, and a good indicator (I hope) for future occasions.

Friday 6 December '96: Drinks after 5pm: at the Saracen's Head Hotel in Carrington St. 9 attended (with 2 apologies) for a session of chin-wag in reasonable surroundings, but again the Friday night crowd plus a juke box made conversation a bit of a chore at times. Street parking was good though.

The search is still on to find a city pub with good street parking and public transport nearby, suitable as a regular venue for 'Drinks after 5' on the first Friday of each month.

Early 1997

January '97: Nothing planned because of the Xmas/New Year holidays.

Friday 7 February '97: Drinks after 5 at the Prince Albert Hotel in Wright St, situated about 300 metres in from West Tce or about 10 minutes from King William St. I've been told it's a bit old fashioned and like a country pub, but honest, so there's only one way to find out.

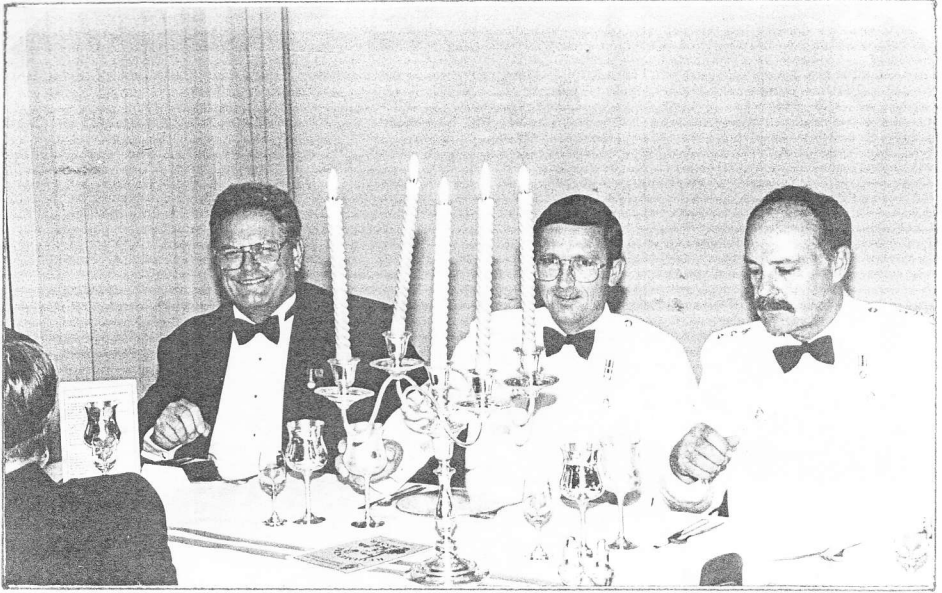
Saturday 8 March '97: Mixed dinner at a hotel/cafe/restaurant. The venue has yet to be selected, but if you are interested in attending please advise George Ricketts on 8379 2122 or myself on 8277 7074 (h) or 8204 0266 (w) so that you can be advised of the venue when known.

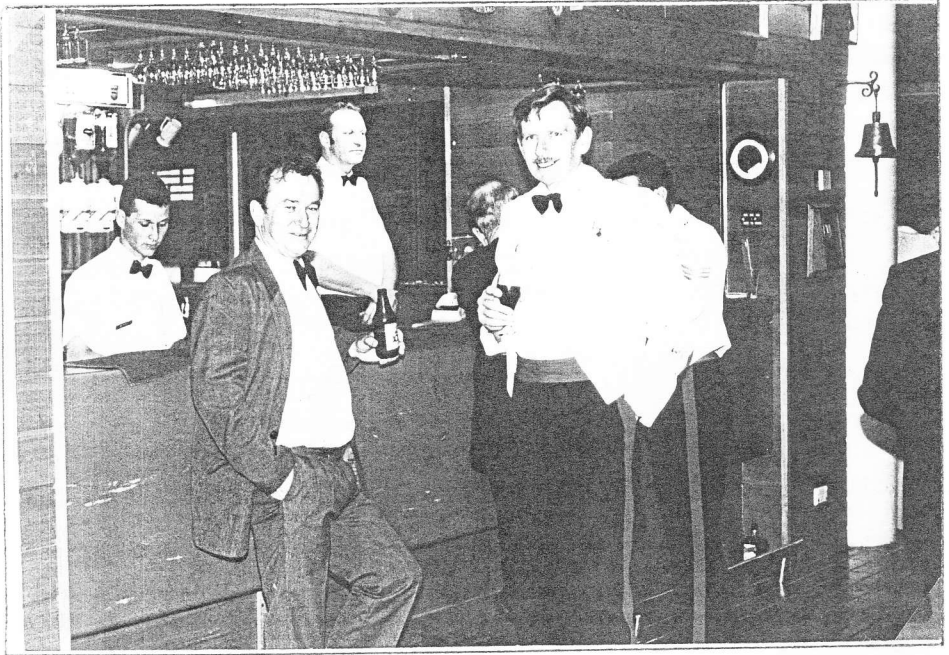
Friday 4 April '97: Drinks after 5 at the Old Queens Arms in Wright St. With the Central Market nearby, parking could be difficult but Sturt St should be OK. The pub is about 300 Metres in from King William St.

The April Newsletter will list events after Friday 4th and also Anzac Day arrangements.

Alex Munro

The final dinner at SMS, last March.
Photos by Ian Campbell.
Guess who? Any glazed looks indicate
the time is well past midnight.





C H R I S T M A S



G R E E T I N G S

With every good wish
for Christmas
and the
New Year