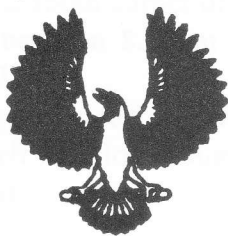




**SURVEY
EX-SERVICEMEN'S
ASSOCIATION
SOUTH AUSTRALIA**



**NEWSLETTER No. 24
APRIL 1999**



APOLOGY

Our April newsletter is normally delivered about ten days before Anzac Day, for obvious reasons, but it was not possible to do so this time.

As a consequence the presentation has suffered also.

As you know, letters were sent out to all local members advising Anzac Day details, to overcome the situation. Hopefully this problem will not happen again.

ASSOCIATION

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



1991-1992

ANZAC DAY PARADE----SUNDAY 25th APRIL 1999

The route of the march has been changed from this year on to allow the parade to pass and pay respects at the State War Memorial on North Tce.

The head of the parade will start in North Tce just east of the Memorial with the various groups forming up back and into Pulteney St ,with the tail end in Hindmarsh Square.

The parade will march along North Tce, turning right into King William St along the normal route crossing the Torrens, etc.

Our group will miss Pulteney St as our new form up point is on the south side of North Tce just west of Pulteney St, near Scots Church.

All former members of the Survey Corps are entitled to march, so please make the effort to take part, the more the merrier, remembering our numbers are not large at the best of times.

The form-up time is 9.00 am with the march starting by 9.30 am hope to see you there.

FREE CAR PARKING is available upon display of medals and-or an RSL badge at the following venues:

Harris Scarfe Car Park between 8.00am and 6.00pm, with entry from Grenfell St adjacent to their store.

Hungry Jacks Car Park between 8.00am and 6.00pm, with no entry or exit during the march 9 to 11.00am. Entry is from Rundle St with the location at the south corner of Pulteney St and Rundle St.

Union St Car Park between 8.00am and 6.00pm,with entry from Union St off Grenfell St.

John Martins Car Park between 5.15am and 6.00pm, with no exit or entry during the march 9.00 to 11.00am. Entry is from North Tce west from Pulteney St.

ANZAC DAY REUNION - SUNDAY, 25 APRIL 1999

As usual, we are meeting after the march at about mid-day at the Old Queens Arms Hotel, Wright St, City. Lunch is available at reasonable prices and the quality provided in previous years has always been good.

The back room of the pub has been made available to our group for the AGM. The meeting will start around 2pm and will last about thirty minutes. After the meeting has concluded members can return to the bar area. For those inclined the TAB and pokies are available. So with all comforts provided, a good roll-up is warranted to make the reunion a pleasant day out.

A HIGHLY RATED EXPLORER

An interesting article about famous explorer Edward John Eyre recently appeared in The Advertiser. Eyre explored much of South Australia in the middle of last century, allowing settlement to follow soon after.

About 150 years ago Eyre purchased a block of land in Port Lincoln, very likely sight unseen, as there happens to be a large granite boulder in the centre of the block. Very difficult to build around or remove. He perhaps selected the block from town plans produced in Adelaide following the area being gazetted and surveyed.

Despite Eyres death in 1901, the block still remains in his name and is still being taxed by the Port Lincoln Council. The bill for back taxes now stands at about \$30,000 and the Council is desirous of selling the block to recoup the tax bill.....Any bidders?

DEDICATION PLAQUE FOUND

The bronze plaque unveiled by Lt. Gen. Brogan in 1971 at the dedication ceremony to mark the opening of the former 4 Fd Svy building, remained on the front wall until well after the squadron was disbanded, when it was removed by the builders renovating the building and given to one of the remaining survey bods, namely Steve McGuinness, who is holding it until required. So now we know.

SERVICE IN VIETNAM

I recently uncovered an old list of those who served in 1 Topo Tp, which I believe is complete although not positive. If anyone would like a copy, please contact me on Ph [redacted]

ADDRESS LIST

I am attempting to gather address lists from other Associations under a single cover. Providing I receive enough information, I hope to distribute the list separately with our next newsletter.

CORPS BIRTHDAY DINNER

To be held as close as possible to the 1st of July 1999, at a venue to be advised, but possibly the Rob Roy Hotel if available. Expect a letter about four weeks before the date with final details.

This function in the past has provided a great opportunity for members to get together with wives and friends, so please keep the last Saturday in June or first Saturday in July available.

PEOPLE NEWS

John Ratcliffe

John now works as a movements clerk at 4 Trg Gp, Hampstead Barracks, according to Steve McGuinness.

Peter Coles

Peter is now serving as a W.O.2 at 4 Trg Gp, where he went after Fortuna changed hands.

Ian Campbell

Ian was hospitalised in Brisbane during the Christmas week , last December. Not the best time to be in hospital ,but not of Ian's choosing, so we hope all went well.

Ian Thomson

Ian rang early in January from his Queensland retreat for a chat.

Ian and his partner left on a tour last year, travelling by 4WD across the Top End and then down the west coast into W.A. They travelled fairly light, sightseeing along the way between selected destinations, and staying overnight at motels or caravan parks.

At Adelaide River south of Darwin, Army tanks on exercise had rendered the highway bridge unsafe, so there was a wait until the tide went out, allowing them to use the old causeway ,to cross the river.

Moving on to Geraldton, they were able to spend time visiting Archie Hancock and Meryl, before pushing on.

Further south they decided to give Perth a miss and turned east across the Nullabor into S.A., where Ian tried to phone Gus Trueman and Bill Love without success.

At Pt. Augusta with time running out, they decided against visiting Adelaide, so pushed on to Broken Hill and into northern Victoria, to visit friends, before returning home.

Ian reported above average rainfall along the entire route, but at least everything looked green.

Ian sends his regards to all his friends in Adelaide.

Archie Hancock.

Archie rang early this year, our first conversation in about thirty years.

He is not doing too well right now, suffering from lung cancer as well as emphysema and other problems such as the occasional need for oxygen, which restricts his movements a bit, but he is hanging in as best he can against the odds.

Archie's partner for many years now is Meryl Davis, who must have a great sense of humour, as Archie ain't the best patient in the world. Archie assisted the late Jim Stokes in the Q Store of 4 Fd Svy Unit at Keswick in the early to mid sixties, and was responsible for stores and equipment during survey operations. He was a pretty good hand in the bush.

It was great to yarn with Archie after so long and he was able to remember incidents I had almost forgotten about. He would be extra pleased to have a yarn with any of his old friends from any where, so if anyone has a spare moment, give Archie a ring.

His contact details are -----Sun City Caravan Park

Bosley St, Geraldton, W.A. 6530

Ph.

Best of luck Archie.

Rod Keene.

Rod and Angela have lived in Port Douglas, QLD, for about six years now, but before that travelled there for holidays from Perth over many years.

Rod reckons it's a beautiful climate, just the place if you don't like cold weather.

During the tourist season for three or four months; they let holiday accommodation of self contained units, with breakfast supplied if required, which gives sufficient income to survive the rest of the year. John Farnham and Steve Vizard live up there also, but not actually neighbours to Rod, both living in millionaire style houses out of his range, or so he claims.

It has been years since I last spoke to Rod and talking of characters we both knew brought out names like Harvey Hall, Spike Jones and Archie Hancock, etc, bringing back memories.

Rod had a reputation as a bush poet in 5 Squin, so I hope to publish something in our newsletter soon. Thanks for the call Rod.

Alan Glanville

Bob Cooper ran into Alan and Michelle Glanville recently in Cleveland, QLD. and both are extremely well and enjoying civvy life. Alan has set up his own business, as a mobile dog wash and grooming service, and has plenty of work with a select clientele in the new estate of Raby Bay Marina.

Alan would be happy to see anyone passing through and can be contacted on Ph.

Jeff Turner

Jeff is thought to be living in Cairns, but no other information is available.

Danny Galbraith

Danny rated a mention in the Advertiser recently as the surveyor at the federal Department of Industry Science and Resources who calculated the sun rise of the century.

According to Danny, on the 1st of January 2000, the first Australian town to see the sun rise will be Port Arthur in Tasmania at 5.32am AEST, and the second will be Mallacoota in Victoria at 5.42am. Well done Danny.

ACTIVITIES OF DETACHMENT OF 7 FIELD SURVEY SECTION
SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER 1943
IN NORTHERN TERRITORY - by Geoff A. Thompson.

By way of background, I had been one of a group of twenty five reinforcements for 2/1 Topo Survey Coy, then located in the Middle East, which had been assembled at H.Q. of 3 Field Survey Coy. In Woodend, Victoria, by transfers from 2 Company in N.S.W. (myself and Mark Stannard), and from 3 and 4 Companies, plus some Litho Printing men. Japan's entry into the war changed our destination, and for a time we were "homeless", being sent for a month to E.T.D. at Echuca, followed by a stint for the field men with part of 3 company at Foster, Victoria under Lt. John Cullen.

Most of the group were then reassembled at Caulfield Racecourse L.T.D. and after a few weeks of being not particularly busy, we were put on the 'Overland' for Adelaide, thence to Alice Springs. A three day journey in Army Convoy over six hundred miles of badly corrugated dirt road brought us to the railhead at Larrimah, thence in luxurious cattle trucks, covered by tarpaulin, by train for the L.T.D. at Adelaide River.

Trucks from 7 M.D. Survey Section picked us up there and took us to the unit's H.Q. in the bush on the western side of the gravel paved Stuart Highway at eighteen miles south of Darwin, then under fairly constant Japanese air attack. Our first task was to build slit trenches for ourselves, which helped take our minds off the humid heat at the tail end of the wet - early April, 1942.

It was here that we learned that the furthest south that the Japanese had attacked was Katherine, and the Federal Government had determined that all service personnel, located in the Northern Territory, north of Katherine, which appeared in Atlases as being on the 14 ½ degree parallel of the Latitude, would be regarded as being on active service. We were therefore A.I.F. reinforcements to a Militia Unit on active service in Australia. Some of us began to refer to ourselves as the 'Synthetic 2/1st'.

Be that as it may, we were completely integrated with 7 M.D. Survey under Captain Lindsay Lockwood over the next thirteen months, and the record of this unit has, no doubt, been recorded elsewhere. The Unit's services in the N.T. ended on 13th April, 1943 when it entrained for the south at Adelaide River Railway Station.

Following leave, the unit was reassembled at Wallgrove, N.S.W. and after reorganisation most of us went by train to Tolga on the Atherton Tableland, Queensland, where we were engaged on control surveys locally under Ian Foxall, by then Captain.

On about the 29th August, 1943, several others, and I, were selected to become part of a detachment, under Lt. Tom Dalton, to go to the Northern Territory to undertake Astro-Fixes and other control of air photography of the Roper River easterly from the Stuart Highway, as it was now called, to the Gulf of Carpentaria. Also at about that time 7 Field Survey Section was integrated with the main body of 2/1st Topo Survey Company, also in Tolga under Major Wal Relf. Hence, our detachment was referred to that unit - at last we 1941 reo's had made it.

On the 15th September, 1943 as part of an advance party-I left Tolga by goods train with our new short wheel base blitz trucks on railway flat tops. Apart from delays caused by the train breaking in two a couple of times near Hughenden, we arrived at Mt. Isa on the 21st September and met up with the other members of the detachment who had travelled by passenger rail.

That night coincidentally, there was a free show for the troops put on by visiting artists from Sydney's Tivoli theatre. This involved, among other things, quite a lot of dancing by very shapely girls. We were impressed, but not nearly to the extent as was our O.C. whose hard bitten exterior had been melted by a gorgeous chorus girl named Norma. He went into 'smoke' for several hours that evening. We all heartily approved of his taste.

However, duty called, and next day 22nd September, bright and early found him very much with us on our way overnight to Camooweal. Two days later, including an overnight stay at Elliot, we arrived at Katherine where we set up H.Q. for the detachment in the L. of C. camp on the west side of the Stuart Highway.

Two survey parties were set up, the first under Sergeant Tom Hamilton with a Tavistock jigger and chronometer and were sent to the eastern end of the Roper River where they experienced all sorts of difficulties due to poor communications and lack of water transport.

The second party, mine (then a Corporal) moved to "Elsley" homestead on the south bank of the Roper River, and on the 27th September crossed the river to locate an Astro-fix "Cave Creek" previously established by 6 Field Survey Company in advance of the air photography which was to the 'TRI METROGON' system.

When examined, it was found that the Astro-fix fell on the obliques. Hence it was necessary to run a traverse about fifteen miles northerly to an identifiable point on the adjoining vertical photographs. It was on this job that I found that my jigger (Wild T2) somehow had lost it's dark glass for sun observations and I was happy to make use of advice from H.G. Foxall during a lecture at Sydney Technical College that a piece of glass, blackened over a smoky flame would do the trick. It did.

Still on the north side of the Roper River, we then headed across very rough 'crabhole' country to Mt. Caroline, an isolated low hill on which had been established a trigonometrical station in the 1870's by surveyors from the Overland Telegraph Line as part of a chain straddling the Roper River, and connected to the O.T. survey by a traverse, about fifteen miles in length, at the western end. Mt. Caroline was identified on the vertical photos and I did some star observations for latitude only. (I did not have a chronometer)

For my party, the remaining tasks were to find (not easy, the only clues were dead stumps of ironwood saplings cut down by the O.T. surveyors) and to identify, on the photos, Black Jack Trig. Which was on the south side of the river, and to undertake several miles of north-south traverse for scale control of the photos. During this last task, the first storm of the wet season broke on us on the 18th October but we were able to continue for a few more weeks. However, it was obvious that little time was left for field work, so we returned to H.Q. in Katherine where I was equipped with a chronometer and a battery operated short wave radio to receive the B.B.C. time signals, and with this undertook an Astro-fix near 'Beswick' homestead south east of Katherine.

Back at H.Q. , the camp commandant, Lt. Col. Nunn, had ordered Lt. Dalton to mark out the 14 ½ degree of parallel of latitude. By Ron Stone's account (he was one of the chain men) this was done by traverse southerly from an old Lands Department Astro-fix near Katherine Aerodrome to a calculated position for the parallel, then by straight line, due west.

Ron reported to me the consternation which erupted when it was noted that this little (quite important) line cut diagonally through the L. of C. Camp north of the Officer's Lines, leading to their sudden relocation to a more northerly position.

As the wet was now getting serious, only minor surveys were accessible from Katherine and it was not long before the whole detachment was transferred to a camp in the vicinity of Bagot Hospital in Darwin in time, it so happened, for the sizeable Japanese Air Raid on the 13th November, 1943. Shortly afterwards we were all transferred to Larrakeyah Barracks in Darwin from where we undertook minor surveys which were accessible, ie. Not far, on foot from a trafficable road.

My dad died in Sydney on the 18th November but due to normal delays, imposed by the army on civilian messages to forward areas, I did not hear of this and only then by a nearby signals unit, until the 27th November. The army was then most helpful in granting me compassionate leave; flew me to Brisbane, then on to Sydney by train.

Unfortunately therefore the dates etc. of the move, of the detachment back to Tolga are not known to me. I did however, make it to Tolga on the 23rd December, 1943 only to be informed by the R.T.O. (gleefully, he noticed that it was my birthday) that the whole of the 2/1st Topo Survey Company had departed for Brisbane (for Grovelly) the day before.

The article above appeared in issue No86 of the Bulletin from the NSW. Association.

As many of our members served in the N.T. for several years, on survey operations, I thought it might be of interest. My thanks to the author Geoff Thompson.

- ◊ Geoff Thompson (Bowral, NSW)
These are the recollections of - Geoff A. Thompson (NX 50111)

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

With the Corps disbanding about two years ago, many members elected to discharge because of changes in circumstances. A few have settled in Adelaide, and include:

Steve McGuinness

Still a sergeant at Keswick Barracks, Steve intends to take his discharge on 5 December 1999, thus completing almost twenty one years of service. His position at the moment is that of a Computer Network Administrator, the same job he hopes to retain as a civilian.

Brian Collings

Brian arrived in Adelaide after his discharge about 18 months ago. Since then he has maintained a fairly low profile. His aim is to make life as pleasurable as possible and go on as many fishing trips as he can. He works regularly on a casual basis for a few hours a week, relieving staff at a near by service station, which leaves plenty of time for the more congenial aspects of life.

Stewart Adrian

Stewart has taken a position with the Royal Automobile Association as a cartographic technician with their mapping section. Since discharge he has studied for and completed an Associate Diploma in Land Information Management at the O'Halloran Hill TAFE.

Peter Hardy

Peter remained at Keswick Barracks after 4 Fd Svy closed and reckons he wore his old badges for at least 3 months after the Corps disbanded before receiving RAE badges.

On discharge, Peter scored a surveying contract with Western Mining which lasted sixteen months. Peter now works for ETSA from his home plotting all the low voltage powerlines within the metro area. Pretty boring said Peter but helps pay the bills.

Peter Hammer

It appears Peter has become something of a computer boffin. He works full time in a managerial role with a company called Binary Logic at Prospect, servicing the computer requirements of their clients from programming, repairs, upgrading, etc. In his spare time at home he uses a computer for relaxation plus orienteering with Andy Capp every few weeks.

Andy Capp

Andy and family left Darwin in December 1997, with Andy taking his discharge in February 1998 at Keswick Barracks.

After some short term work, he took time to visit his family in the U.K. for a few weeks, before taking up what he hopes is a long term contract with the Dept of Primary Industries. His job is to provide computer assistance with the Geographical Information Systems programme for a ground water location project.

Andy is still mad keen on orienteering, and at present is doing a bit while on holidays in Tasmania.

Dave Longbottom

Dave worked in Keswick for about a year after disbandment, to complete his time before taking his discharge. He is now in the earth-moving business with his father

Dave has bought a large bobcat and a tiptruck, and is engaged full time levelling building blocks, etc. The only job he has knocked back is when once asked to bury dead horse. Best of luck Dave.

Daryl Miller

Daryl and his wife bought a franchised hair-dressing business called Just Cuts, presently employing nine staff.

Daryl looks after the business side of the operation and his wife supervises the cut and perm side

He does have some spare time, and keeps his hand in as a carto tech whenever possible, working with Stewart Adrain at the RAA mapping section.

The letter below was received in response to the 500 dollars raised last year toward placing an Association plaque in the LEGACY-RSL Anzac Highway project.

Dear Mr Wicker,

ANZAC Highway Project

We regret to advise that the plaque relating to the Survey Ex-Servicemen's Association (SA) has now been manufactured but an error in the lettering was discovered upon delivery. The plaque has been returned to the manufacturer for correction and re-casting and we hope will be returned within the next two weeks. The plaque will be installed on the median strip of ANZAC Highway upon delivery to us. The exact location is somewhat difficult to explain but it is suffice to say that the plaque will be placed in the median strip adjacent to a tree (not a palm) in the vicinity of an area opposite Grosvenor Street, Glandore, west of the South Road intersection. The base plinth is in fact in place at present awaiting the return of the bronze plaque.

There are now some 37 plaques in place on the median strip. A short dedication ceremony was undertaken last year following the placement of the initial 12 plaques. It is now intended to hold a similar dedication ceremony for the units represented by the additional 25 plaques that have now been placed. The date of this ceremony will be Sunday 18th April 1999 and it will be conducted in the forecourt area of the Ashford Childcare Centre, 62 Anzac Highway, Everard Park overlooking ANZAC Highway east of the South Road intersection at 2.30 p.m. An invitation is extended for two representatives of your organisation to attend this ceremony.

Our official receipt No. 85099 is enclosed for your records.

ARCHIE

Archie was one of those chaps you'd always find hard to forget,
smallish in stature, but big in heart, would never take a backward step.
A timber cutter at Pemberton before he joined the Corps,
good with an axe but disturbingly lax,
wears his thong now 'tween toes three and four.

His manner of dress on parade, bought gasps from our inspecting O.C.
an immaculate turned out soldier, was something he never could be.
So 'Shockin' became his nickname, his standard form of address,
the Queens language he used, so profanely abused
would bring groans throughout the whole mess.

One year we were camped up near Wyndham, out by the six mile hotel,
a parcel arrived from his wife who looked after him pretty well.
She'd made him up these PTU'S, no frills, no buttons or lace,
but he wore only those, and being partly exposed,
is what kept the flies off his face.

Now these became his uniform, his daily standard attire,
his hat jocks and boots, were something you'd pause to admire.
Except of course the R.S.M. who said, while still crook from a bender,
"Archie, around this camp, you'd make a tramp
look a picture of sartorial splendour."

His duties were rather varied, handyman storeman and driver,
a companion for you at the pub, providing you'd lend him a fiver.
He'd operate the radio, to call Perth and blokes in the bush,
he could cook up a stew or put on a brew,
and would stitch up a wound at a push.

A message arrived from Perth, for Archie to pick up some freight,
"have a jeep and trailer at the airport and for Gods sake don't be late."
"be there when I'm good and ready," he mumbled as he put down the pen,
"dammed office clerk telling me when to work,
besides the pub doesn't open 'til ten."

Well, the plane arrived at half past one, Archie arrived there at two, a trifle under the weather, but well enough to pick up what's due. So out of the jeep stepped this vision, unshaven, with boots jocks and hat, and standing right there to his utter despair was the Major, and one other chap.

All that Archie recalled was the brass, red brocade and polished regalia, for waiting beside the Major was the Commander of Western Australia. "General, this is our driver, who's been dragged away from his work." quipped the Major dejected, while the General suspected he'd seen better dressed men at Dunkirk.

Archie never really lived this down, was never allowed to forget, the Major reminded him often enough whenever he goy out of step. But Archie remained undaunted, less tardy, but spirit unbroken. He could still raise a smile from his friends all the while, the fly on his jocks remained open.

The poem above was written by Rod Keene about an incident in the Kimberley region several years ago, involving Archie Hancock. The O.C. referred to is probably the late Maj. Bill Sprenger. The poem appeared in the December issue of the W.A. newsletter Westlink, and I also received a copy from Meryl Davis.

VALE

Ray Lawson

Ray died on Australia Day, 26th January 1999, at the Hopewell Hospice, south of Brisbane.

He was suffering from terminal cancer, with not much time left, when Barry Lutwin's e oboned with the sad news. Thanks also to Alex Cairney for similarly assisting Wicker and others, so the news could be passed to our members.

T.J. was able to speak with Ray by phone, at the hospice, and he mentioned that before his condition was finally diagnosed, he was looking forward to full retirement and the activities he had planned. He also hoped to be buried wearing his favourite attire of thongs and stubbie shorts, complete with a six pack.

Ray joined the Corps about 1972 and trained as a surveyor, retiring after about twenty years service in several postings, with the rank of W.O.2. After discharge he lived in Rockhampton until about a year ago.

Besides Barry and Alex, I understand Jim Gill and Wally Chilcott amongst others visited Ray before the end.

His funeral was held at the Newhaven Crematorium in Stapylton, on 28th January 1999.

Condolences were sent to Ray's family on behalf of our Association.

Keith Todd

Keith died late on Monday 5th April 1999, after a long illness.

He had been receiving treatment for lung cancer, when also diagnosed with a brain tumour last December.

Keith retired with the rank of major many years ago, having served over twenty years in the Corps in numerous postings, such as O.C. of 4 Fd Svy Sqn at Keswick Barracks in the early sixties.

During that time he was responsible for mapping surveys in the Woomera-Emu area of S.A. and also in the N.T.

On retirement Keith moved back to his home state of QLD. to live with his family in Caloundra.

A funeral service was held there on Thursday 8th April 1999.

Condolences have been sent to Mrs Gloria Todd and family, and for those wishing to correspond her address is ---

2 Samuel Cr

Thanks to Garry Warnest and Colin van Senden for letting me know.

Artie Lane

Artie died in Bendigo about the middle of March this year suffering with cancer.

The funeral was a private affair it seems, and was not known about until a notice appeared in the Bendigo Advertiser, so details are sparse.

Artie was a sergeant typesetter of the old school, working for many years at his photosetter machine in the Carto area at Fortuna, with complete reliability.

I can remember his flutter on the races each Saturday afternoon and always found Artie to be a gentleman, both at work and socially.

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