

Army Museum of South Australia (AMOSA) - RASvy Corps display

I would like to commence by informing you that a 2m x 1m x 1.5m glass display cabinet dedicated to Royal Australian Survey Corps is now complete and is in situ at the Army Museum of South Australia (AMOSA) located at Keswick Barracks.

Firstly, on behalf of the Ex-Survey personnel in SA, I would like to thank the Army Museum of South Australia (AMOSA's) administration for allowing us to set up our permanent display in the museum. Furthermore, for their support, input, technical guidance and expertise without which John Wicker (TJ) and I would not have been able to accomplish this task.

The catalyst for this display was that sometime after the passing of Alex Munro his widow Joan (now deceased) informed us that he had a collection of old army survey memorabilia that the family no longer wished to keep. Once in possession of this memorabilia it was inappropriate for it then to reside in my garage. It was felt that somehow it must be publically preserved for all to see and hence began the journey that has culminated in the creating and incorporating of a Royal Australia Survey Corps (RASvy) display in the military museum.

In amongst this collection was also the large brass RASvy Corps badge that many of you would remember was located above the main entrance of the two storey, purpose built facility between 1973-1996. The old survey building then became our Q and Map Store and remained so till 1996.

On reflection it seems very befitting that our display is now housed in the same old building that between 1957 and 1996 was occupied by Central Command Survey Unit, then 4 Fd Svy Sqn and is now home to the Army Museum. The big RASvy Corps badge is now positioned on the Northern external wall next to the entrance of the museum with a descriptive sign next to it. This is on the outside wall of the former survey units Officer Commanding (OC's) office. It was the same office many, including myself, visited prior to enlisting in the Survey Corps.

By way of background the large brass badge could not be restored and remains as it is. We consulted Artlab Australia (State Govt Conservators) for an assessment on how they could restore and conserve it. After it was X-ray Fluorescence tested (XRF) and determined that it was brass (alloy of copper and zinc) we were informed they could do nothing further. Artlab also consulted with Melbourne University and the National Motor Museum, Birdwood for guidance on working with fine metal objects but to no avail. To touch the badge now, would have resulted in the removal of the fine grid lines which were acid etched on the globe and hence damage the integrity of the badge in the process.

May I just add that the last OC to occupy that office was Major George Ricketts. Why do I mention him? For historical purposes! In 1945 on Morotai Island in the Pacific the 1st Mobile Lithographic Section had the honour of preparing the unconditional Instrument of Surrender to be signed by the Commander Second Japanese Army and counter signed by General Blamey Commander in Chief Australian Military Forces and Commander Allied Land Forces on 9 September 1945. On that same island twelve

surrender documents were prepared and printed on a rotary press and three were signed. Those three signed documents were then safe-handed to the unit where the then Sergeant George Ricketts hand lettered the date and place and in keeping identically with the machine type. A handwriting skill, I suggest, not many would possess today!!

It is proper at this point to acknowledge and thank all those who contributed to complete this display. These are the Munro family, John Harrison BEM, Bill Griggs, Anthony Stephens, John Whitburn, John Wicker, Bob Dikkenberg, Peter Presser and Tony Balkauskas. The Gilt Edge brass collar badge and hat badge along with the WW11 trade proficiency badge "S" (Survey) over wreath were acquired via a militaria dealer in Ballarat, Victoria.

I thank John Harrison for making the time and allowing me at short notice on numerous occasions to call upon him at his residence in Willunga, SA to seek nomenclature and technical clarification on various matters. I make mention of Anthony Stephens (Mapshop, Adelaide) for his donation of the 1:63,360 (1inch to 1mile) Standard Topographic Map of Adelaide. This map surveyed by the RASvy Corps in 1937 one of the first maps produced in Australia with the assistance of aerial photography.

I would like to give special thanks to the following AMOSA personnel Geoff Lawrie (Member), Wayne Birch (Foundation Curator), Brenton Williams (Curator) and Henry Jolly (Assistant Curator). In particular to Brenton Williams for his guidance in producing the exhibit signage (corflutes) and arranging the final display in the glass cabinet to accord with the unique protocols of the museum. As the museum is only open two days a week I am indebted to him for allowing me into his home on many an occasion (weekends) to seek further direction on the display procedures and technicalities. Also to Henry Jolly for his computer design skills, rapid turnaround time for tasks and having that particular empathy with the requirements of the job.

I would like to once again thank AMOSA and congratulate it on its accomplishments and in maintaining this museum. Our display is now proudly part of that museum. By doing this it facilitates us the means to highlight the significant military mapping contribution that our state of South Australia has made to our great nation.

To conclude, I would just like to add that I would never make the grade as a museum curator however this journey was nevertheless interesting, challenging and a large learning curve. In cricket parlance the wicket condition was always changing with many rain interruptions. It gave on the job training a whole new meaning!! I thank John Wicker for his assistance and support during the process. It is now done!

Thank you

Stevo Hinic
14 April 2024

Note: The Museum is open to the public on Sundays 12.00-4.00pm; Mondays 11.00-2.00pm (except Public Holidays) and Wednesdays 11.00-2.00pm. Admission Fees apply. Access is Gate 4, Bus Stop 2 on Anzac Highway, Keswick. Website: www.amosa.org.au

Items donated to AMOSA by Survey Ex-Servicemen's Association of South Australia .

<u>Item No</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Remarks</u>	<u>Donated By</u>
1	<u>Dumpy Level</u> including; Wooden Carry Case, Plumbob, Removeable Bubble Reflector, Magnetic Compass.	ODR & GAF raised.	Joan Munro widow of A.Munro
2	<u>Vernier Transit & Reversible Theodolite</u> including; Wooden Carry Case, Brass Plumbob, Solar Observation Filters, Spare Gradicule.	ODR & GAF raised.	Joan Munro
3	<u>Surveyors Steel Tape 33' (Feet)</u>	ODR & GAF raised.	Joan Munro
4	<u>Linen Tape 100' (Feet)</u> RADBONE No 400 - Imperial/Metric	ODR & GAF raised.	Joan Munro
5	<u>Simplex Series Pocket Drafting Set</u>	ODR & GAF raised.	Joan Munro
6	<u>Prismatic Compass</u> including; Metal Case, Vertical Observation Wire, Graduate 360 deg Scale, Leather Carry Case with Shoulder Strap.	ODR & GAF raised.	Joan Munro
7	<u>Plate Level - Brass</u> including; Two fixed Levelling Bubbles.	ODR & GAF raised.	Joan Munro
8	<u>Trough Magnetic Compass</u> (Imperial & Metric)	ODR & GAF raised.	Joan Munro
9	<u>Abney Level</u> including; Leather Carry Case (damaged)	ODR & GAF raised.	Joan Munro
10	<u>Precision Protractor - Brass</u> Graduated 360 Deg.	ODR & GAF raised.	Joan Munro
11	<u>Steel Folding Ruler 12" (inch)</u> including; leather carry case (damaged)	ODR & GAF raised.	Joan Munro
12	<u>Steel Calipers</u>	ODR & GAF raised.	Joan Munro
13	<u>Wooden Imperial Scale Ruler</u> 1:5,000 Feet & 1:25,000 Feet.	ODR & GAF raised.	Joan Munro
14	<u>NOTICE Damaging Survey Marks (Linen)</u> Australian Military Forces - AA Form 0 16	ODR & GAF raised.	A.Balkauskas
15	<u>Survey Ground Mark (Brass)</u> Royal Australian Survey Corps standard three & half inch brass ground mark.	ODR & GAF raised.	J.D.A.Harrison
16	<u>A Selection of Uniform Insignia</u> worn by those who served in the Royal Australian Survey Corps circa 1915 - 1996.	ODR & GAF raised.	(See expanded list below)

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|----|--|-------------------|--|
| 17 | <u>Brass/Bronze Royal Australian Survey Corps Badge</u>
Dimensions 995mm x 680mm, Wt 20kgs. | ODR & GAF raised. | Joan Munro |
| 18 | <u>Stainless Steel Plaque</u>
Dimensions 297mm x 210mm x2mm (2kgs)
Black Laser Etched engraving. | ODR & GAF raised. | Svy Ex-Svcs Ass of SA |
| 19 | <u>Authority to Enter Upon and Survey Lands</u>
Piece of Cardboard, Dimensions 150mm x 110mm ,
folded in the middle. | ODR & GAF raised. | TJ Wicker? |
| 20 | <u>Royal Australian Survey Corps "Lapel Pin"</u>
Dimensions 30mm x 20mm x 8mm.
Showing Australian Survey Corps badge,
WW2 Triangular Badge, RASvy Corps Badge. | ODR & GAF raised. | Svy Ex-Svcs Ass of SA |
| 21 | <u>Map of Adelaide</u>
1:63,360(1inch to 1mile) Standard Topographic Map | No ODR/GAF raised | Anthony Stephens
(Mapshop - Adelaide) |

Note:

* **ODR** (Object Data Record)

***GAF** (Gift Acknowledgement Form)

Expanded List of Donors:

Shoulder Flashes -white border (JDAH)(RASvy)
 Shoulder Flashes - new (Bob Dikkenberg)(RASvy)
 Buttons - large (P.Presser)(RASvy)
 Buttons - Small (P.Presser)(RASvy)
 Shoulder Insignia - (J.Wicker)(RASvy)
 Collar Badges - (S.Hinic)(RASvy)
 Hat Badges - (Bill Griggs)(RASvy)
 Collar Badges - (Aust Svy Corps)(Svy Ex-Svcs Ass of SA)
 Trade Badge'S'/Wreath - (Aust Svy Corps)(Svy Ex-Svcs Ass of SA)



Royal Australian Survey Corps Badge
Motto: *"To See is to Prepare"*
A brief history of 4 Field Survey Squadron
Established in 1952 and located at Largs Bay
Moved to the Keswick Barracks in 1954
Stationed in this building from 1957 until 1973
Moved to a purpose-built facility on the barracks until 1996
The old Survey building later became the site of this Museum

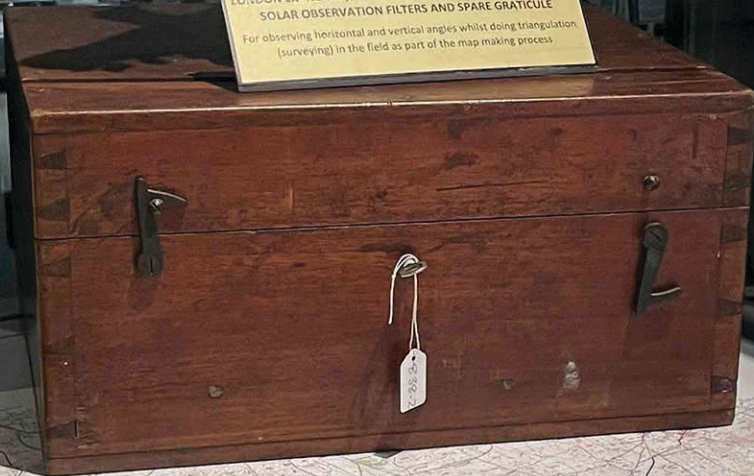
The Australian team needs more players.



VERNIER TRANSIT AND REVERSIBLE THEODOLITE (BADIE-LONDON LR#ME 842), WITH WOODEN CARRY CASE, PLUMBBOB, SOLAR OBSERVATION FILTERS AND SPARE GRATICULE
 For observing horizontal and vertical angles whilst doing triangulation (surveying) in the field as part of the map making process



COLOURS AND UNIT COLOUR PATCH
 Coloured badge of the Australian Survey Corps 1915-1948.
 Colour patch of Survey Corps units in the 2nd AIF. It is based on the colour patch of the First World War Australian Corps Topographical Sections: the triangle (purple); the colour purple is the Engineer colour and the grey stripe completed the Survey patch; the grey triangle at the top of the 2nd AIF - this patch (minus the AIF grey triangle) is the basis of Survey unit colour patches when the Army produced unit colour patches in 1987.
 Coloured badge of the Royal Australian Survey Corps 1952-1996.



SIMPLEX-SERIES POCKET DRAFTING SET
 For cartographic drafting, map and engineering drawing



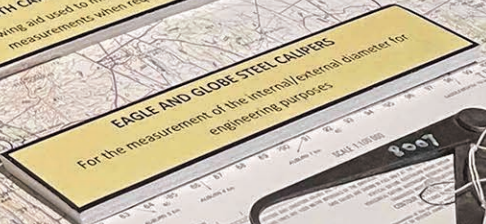
CHESTERMAN FOLDING DRAWING AID WITH CARRYING POUCH
 A drawing aid used to make precise grid measurements, when required



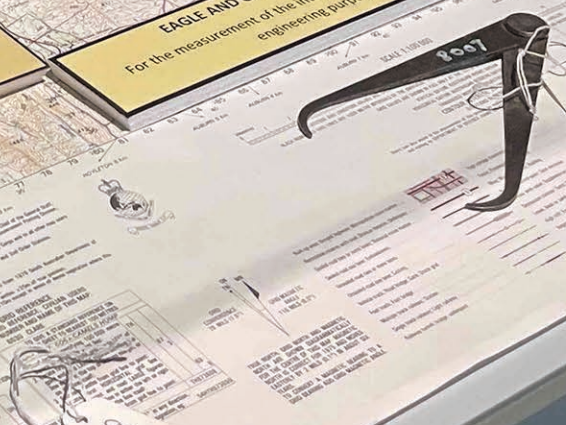
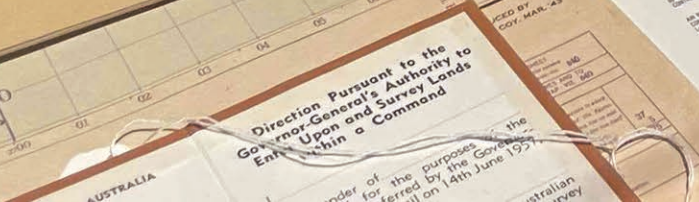
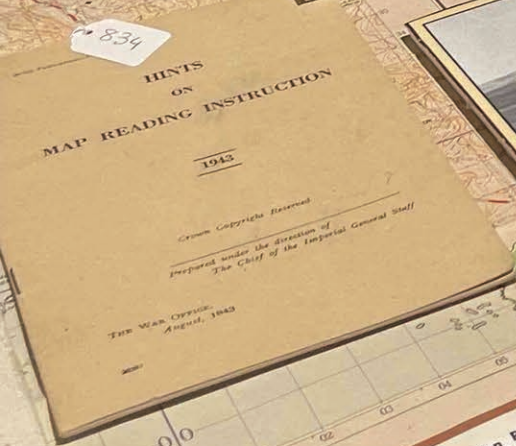
WOODEN RIFLE-SHAFT RULER
 For map reading or map-making, suitable for office or field



Sapper F.G.C. Coughlin and Lance Corporal R.J. Pauley Plane Tabling in Syria, 1941



EAGLE AND GLOBE STEEL CALIPERS
 For the measurement of the internal/external diameter for engineering purposes



SERIES SPEEDY EDITION

