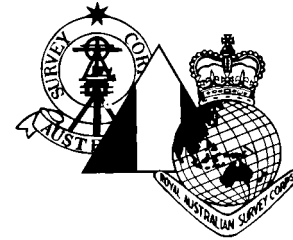


ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS
ASSOCIATION
Queensland Branch



BULLETIN

PO Box 5784 Stafford Heights 4053

ANZAC ISSUE No 26

APRIL 2006

ANZAC DAY 2006

March with your Association mates on Tuesday 25th April 2006. Anzac Day 2006 promises to be another memorable occasion starting with the dawn service at the 6th Engineer Support Regiment 7 Sqn Cenotaph at Enoggera Barracks adjacent to Samford Road. Again this year members and their families and friends are invited to the Engineer Sportsman's Club for a barbecue breakfast after the dawn service. A thirty seater bus will depart the Squadron at 0930 hours and passengers will be dropped as close as possible to the Assembly point for the City March.

We will form up somewhere in the vicinity of the Treasury Casino in Elizabeth Street. If in doubt inquire at the information booth in Queens Park. The Squadron is providing banner bearers and this year we will be led by John Hook. Our veteran member LVJ (Les) Smith has jumped in early and volunteered to carry our icon theodolite but with due regard to Les's age Derek Stanmore is to understudy.

Berets: We are assured that we will have our Association berets in early April (see notice below) so dig around and find your RA Svy cap badge and polish it up for the parade.

After the March: This year we are getting together at the Gaythorne RSL for a post-march drink and a bite to eat. The bus will take us there.

EDITOR'S NOTE

This is the Anzac Issue of our Bulletin and I have given some prominence to our WW2 veterans, both in personalia items and historical accounts. As always of course there is the usual regrettable vales notices of our WW2 veteran members, all of whom are now well into their 80s. Vales notices in this issue include our much loved Past President Jim Houston and Jim Brock from Victoria. Also included is Jim Brock's account of his WW2 service in 5 Fd Svy Coy, a similar account from John Gray in NSW and a short piece from Milton Blain relating to the immediate post-war deployments of 5 Coy. All of this seemed relevant to me for an Anzac Day issue.

COMMITTEE

Patron	Lieutenant Colonel EU Anderson MBE (Ph 3408 9179)
President	Peter Bates-Brownsword (Ph 3289 7001)
Vice President	Alex Cairney (Ph 3397 7583)
Secretary & Asst Treasurer	Mary-Ann Thiselton (Ph 3353 1026)
Treasurer	Ross Smithwick (Ph 3356 5786)
Functions & Sqn Liaison	John Hook (Ph 3354 2680)
Bulletin Editor & Historian	Bob Skitch (Ph 3265 1370)
North Coast member	Kym Weston (Ph 5445 6927; mob 0427 377 226)
North Queensland member	Dennis Gregor (Ph mob 0409 648 026)
Welfare	Jim Gill (Ph 3264 1597)
Auditor	Stan Campbell (Ph 3285 3970)
Squadron OC	Major Shaun Hoffmann
Squadron SSM	WO1 Barry Miller (Ph 3332 7564)

Note: Refer Veteran's Affairs matters to Peter Bates-Brownsword and Stan Campbell



The Royal Australian Survey Corps Association (Queensland) acknowledges the generous sponsorship and support of Pioneer Surveys Pty Ltd

EVENTS

EVENTS FOR 2006

Your committee has yet to firm up a program for 2006, however, we expect that it will be similar to that of 2005; in outline as follows:

25 April: Anzac Day Commemoration with 'after the march' at the Gaythorne RSL.

6 May: Andy Steen's 100th birthday.

28 May: BBQ at the **Thiseltons** – details below.

5 July: Col Alex Laing Memorial Dinner – 91st RA Svy Anniversary Dinner at the United Service Club.

2 September: Reunion Lunch and AGM at Gaythorne RSL,

October: Mapmaker's Dinner (I Topo Svy Sqn)

November: Derek Chamber's Award Presentation at I Topo Svy Sqn,

December: Christmas function somewhere (perhaps)

Last Friday of the month drinks at the Gaythorne RSL to continue.

Andy Steen's 100th Birthday is to be celebrated at the Sandgate RSL on Saturday 6th May at 12.00 mid-day. Andy's family is providing light refreshments and drinks can be purchased at the bar. The Association is assisting with some of the cost. Andy will be presented with a memento of the Association. Please let Mary-Ann know your attendance.

Col Alex Laing Memorial Dinner – 91st Anniversary Dinner at the United Service Club is scheduled for **Wednesday 5th July** this year. Three course gourmet menu cost is likely to be \$60.00 per head. This year the Association will meet the cost of beverages before and during dinner. Bookings need to be confirmed. RSVP Bob Skitch – PLEASE PHONE BOB BEFORE HE PHONES YOU! **PS** – overnight accommodation available at the Club at reasonable rates. For accommodation phone 3841 4433.

Tony and Loretta Gee's BBQ – The Gees are planning lots of trips this year (refer personalia section); so this popular event will rest in 2006 and be back again in 2007. **But !! READ ON...**the BBQ will be at **Rock and Mary-Ann Thiselton's** home at 15 Connery St McDowell on Sunday 28 May 06.. Phone Mary-Ann with offers of salads and deserts. (BYO MEAT AND DRINKS)

OUR HISTORY PROJECT – What did we do over all those years – 1946- 1996?

I continue to canvass support for this worthwhile project. Our collective memory can fill in many gaps but it is fading with the passing of years. In 2006 it will be ten years since the disbandment of the Corps we as individuals served, the Corps that gave such outstanding service to our nation for eighty-one years. We need to record what each of the units did over the fifty years following the end of WW2. It really is a simple exercise. I have had excellent responses from Clem Sargent, Noel Sproles, John Bullen, Charlie Watson, Alex Cairney, Percy Long and Ted Laker. Ross McMillan has sent an account of one of the more unusual jobs undertaken by N Comd Fd Svy Sect in 1962 – Operation Blowdown – a simulated atomic explosion in rainforest country. I have had promises from a number of others and the major gap area is after 1980. The following is a sample of the preferred format but I am just as happy to receive your input listed down the page – pen and ink is OK. Please give this matter some thought. Every bit helps

YR	UNIT	OPERATION PROJECT	DURATION	LOCATION	NATURE OF WORK UNDERTAKEN	PERSONS TAKING PART	OTHER INFORMATION
1956	N Cmd Fd Svy Sect	No name	On-going	Qld – Macrossan, Charters Towers,	Control for 1" to 1 mile mapping - 4th order triangulation, Intersection, resection, (plane table) baro heighting	Capt EU (Ed) Anderson OC, WO2 Blue Hunter, Sgts Snow Ralston, Jeff Lambert, Garney Cook, Cpls Ted Miller, Geoff Helsham, Sprs Sam Chambers, Brian Berkery, Bob Skitch.	Arrived May at Macrossan. Sect had not returned to Brisbane since sometime in 1955. Xmas in the field.....

NOTICES

LAST FRIDAY

Last Fridays continue at the Gaythorne RSL with increasing patronage. Pop along and have a beer or a softie with your mates.

ASSOCIATION TIE or SCARF

Cost is \$20.00 and \$7.00 postage for each. We suggest you place your order directly with the Ex Fortuna Association, Tracey Phillips, email phipsys@bigpond.com or phone Mary-Ann. The tie features the Association tri-badge emblem in red with a diagonal purple and white stripe against a dark blue background – very handsome!

The Association BERET – Cost \$30.00 incl post

We expect to have a custom made beret ready for Anzac Day. Send cheque or money order to Mary-Ann Thiselton made out to RA Svy Assoc Qld asap. Beret will be posted to you. So polish up your old Corps badges and get ready for Anzac Day 2006.

VIETNAM – A TECHNICAL TOUR by Bob McMillan-Kay.

Copies can be obtained from Bob McMillan-Kay at a cost of \$36.00 including postage. We commend this highly successful book of Bob's Vietnam experience. Bob's address is 14 March Lane, Maryborough, Qld, 4650.

MAPMAKERS OF FORTUNA

Copies may be purchased from the Ex-Fortuna Survey Association (PO Box 865 Bendigo 3552) at \$60.00 plus postage of \$11.50 includes cost of a padded postal bag.

ASSOCIATION BADGE

Association badges are still available from the Ex-Fortuna Survey Association. Place your orders with Mary-Ann and we will try to satisfy them

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2005 – 2006 & 2006 – 2007

'Don't go to sleep on your membership!'
Keep in touch with you Survey Corps mates by being a paid-up member of your Association.
Our financial year runs from Sept to Sept. Subscription is but \$10.00 per year. We encourage you to pay three years in advance (or more if you wish). Some have already done this. Subscription is waived for veterans 75 and over who have been standing paid-up members of our Association.

MEDALS – Keep it in Mind!

The Australian Defence Medal will be for volunteer service in either the regular forces or the reserve for a minimum period of six years from the end of WW2 onwards. It is estimated that up to 400,000 servicemen and women could be eligible. Despite the 2005 Ministerial announcement a release date has not yet been promulgated.

The **Malaysian Government** is to award a commemorative medal to Australian servicemen and women who served in Malaysia from 1957 to 1966. The award is titled Pingat Jasa Malaysia (PJM), in recognition of their "distinguished chivalry, gallantry, sacrifice, or loyalty" in contributing to the freedom of independence of Malaysia. The Department of Defence will receive applications, verify the service and eligibility and facilitate the approval to wear the award in accordance with guidelines for foreign awards.

PICNIC DAY at SHADY GLEN

Sunday the 4th December was a beautiful day enjoyed all the more by those who attended Peter and Barbara Bates-Brownsword's picnic day in the rural garden setting of their home, *Shady Glen* at Highvale. Entertained by two jazz bands playing in the shade of that huge Moreton Bay fig, it was indeed a unique afternoon. The event was well attended by Association members as well as Peter and Barbara's musical friends and others from their church parish. Attending were: Stan and Helen Campbell, Grant and Beth Small, Mary-Ann and Ian Thiselton, Alex and Donna Cairney, Tony and Loretta Gee, Tony and Janell Harder, Jim and Marianne Gill, John and Cheryl Hook, John and Mrs Gilbert, Ace and Trudy Evans. **Ed:** Unfortunately at time of publication I do not have any photos although I am told many were taken. I would appreciate a few from those who attended, either prints by mail or digital by email for our June Bulletin.

NEW SITE FOR DEFENCE FACILITY IN BENDIGO

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence, Senator Sandy Macdonald, has announced that the new site for the Defence

Imagery and Geospatial Organisation facility is to be at Longlea, Bendigo. The new facility will be constructed on Commonwealth land adjacent to the Bendigo Multi-User Depot at the Longlea Defence Establishment east of Bendigo. A number of sites around Bendigo were considered in the evaluation of the most suitable site. The fact that Longlea is on Commonwealth land and no land acquisition costs will be incurred was an important factor. The completion date for the new building is expected in late 2007.

Ed: And where is Longlea? I think it is out towards Eppalock south of the Mclvor Highway – sounds a bit Vietnamese – appropriate?

PERSONALIA and other Jottings

Les (LVJ) Smith tells me that he will be wearing his 'OBE' on the next Anzac day march. That means that Perce Long can't be far behind either – and both still being paid to stand behind a theodolite, or 'total station' or something. Les says, however, that he is giving the game away – he has been bettered by technology at last!

Les has a great memory for those little incidents of his past army service that stick in the mind like when years back the Corps had direct recruited a licensed surveyor into the officer ranks who had no military background at all. It seems that a civilian dignitary was visiting the unit for some reason and the officer was required to muster all personnel together – a parade in other words. The officer assumed his position in front of the assembly and the be-hatted dignitary approached. Expecting an automatic salute the dig doffed his hat and the now somewhat flustered survey officer not being sure of what to do – curtsied!

Les's second recall is of a Dutch recruit in WA who had very little understandable English but who could at least plane-table. The unit was based up the WA coast on mapping work and the Dutchman was sent into a US submarine base in Shark Bay to do a plane-table survey of the camp site. He arrived at the base and reporting to no one immediately set to work. Within a short time two hefty NCOs confronted him with 'what are you doing here laddie?' Our Dutchman replied simply 'making a map of the camp' and with that he was bundled off into

custody. Sometime later he was released and made his way back to his base camp some miles to the south wondering what on earth the army was all about.

Les's third recall was of a bloke in NSW doing barometer heighting with his boxed set of three aneroids. Traipsing from one point to another he was accosted by a young lady asking what on earth he was doing. In jest he replied 'seeking out rabbit warrens affected by Myxomatosis'. The young lady seemed happy with that reply but reported her encounter to daddy when she got home. Daddy turned out to be the GOC of Eastern Command and gave DAD Survey Barney Herbert a hard time on the phone the next day.

Clem Sargent came to Brisbane on family matters in late January and a few of us were able to meet with him on Monday the 30th at the Regatta Hotel for a very pleasant lunch. Present were Peter and Barbara Bates-Brownsword, Ken Lyons, Alex Cairney (who picked Clem up from his brother's home at Brookfield), Peter Osterhage, Mary-Ann Thiselton and Bob Skitch. Clem was in good form with plenty of comment on personalities and events in our shared history. Clem left the Corps in 1974 after three years as Chief Instructor of the School of Military Survey and worked for the Commonwealth Surveyor General and then to National Mapping but never lost his commitment to RA Svy. In the early '80s he followed Jim Stedman in the honorary role of Colonel Commandant of the Corps. Clem has sent Bob some fascinating information on that most remarkable post WW2 undertaking of the Corps in the late 1940s, the Survey of the Snowy, undertaken prior to the construction phase of the Snowy River Project, perhaps the largest engineering project ever undertaken or likely to be undertaken in this country. **(See photo in Photo Gallery)**

Andy Steen reaches his 100th birthday on the 4th May 2006. Andy's wife Dot and family are having a celebratory function at the Sandgate RSL on Saturday 6 May. Association members are invited to attend to honour Andy's century. An Association presentation will be made to Andy. RSVP Mary-Ann asap.

Keith Cullen was a 5 Coy bloke serving in 1 Section who passed away some years ago. His son Alan, who lives at Cairns and who came to Rocky Creek for the plaque unveiling and dedication in August 05 is anxious to find out a little more about his dad's service. He knows his dad went to Moratai, perhaps on to Balikpapan, and recalls him mentioning that Alex Yeates and a couple of others went over to Macassar in the Celebes. It is an interesting thought. There is no mention of this in either Coulthard-Clark's Corps history or in Brigadier Fitzgerald's Lebanon to Labuan. What were they doing there? Alan Cullen believes his dad may have been in that group and believes that there may be some mention of it in Alex Yeates's papers. We are investigating.

Colin Van Senden in a Christmas message comments that he finds our Bulletin interesting reading even though he is one of the 'golden oldies', discharged from the Corps in 1946. "Although not knowing many of the 'newcomers' (ie, after 1946) I still find it fascinating reading and we were all privileged to have left a good legacy of mapping and all its ramifications for future generations. What would we have given for GPS in lieu of shivering at night doing star obs?" Colin and his wife wished us all a happy Christmas and a bright and healthy New Year. **Ed notes:**

(1) There was a fascination in star obs that I am not sure exists in the black box technology of GPS.

(2) Colin had a few words to say a bit back on his plane-tying experiences and somehow I lost them in juggling articles for a past Bulletin. But I have found them and Colin's piece together with a few further comments on that lost art are included in this issue.

Milton Blain has sent a note and comments – "Your mention of Mount Remarkable was interesting. I spent a fair amount of time on this Mount in the winter of '46 and for a Queenslander it was cold – very cold. In 1996 we had a reunion in South Australia (Colin Van Senden has previously made mention of this) of the team that went there in '46 and we were able to drive to the top of the mountain – a bit of a change. I am sending you a copy of the letter we gave to the Council at Cowell for you to include in your archives.

(Ed: the text of this letter is included later in this Bulletin – it is an interesting comment on a little

known task undertaken by the Corps immediately post WW2)

Barry Miller (Warrant Officer Class 1) is the newly appointed SSM of 1 Topo Survey Squadron and as such our principal point of contact. Barry is a RA Survey bloke having joined the Corps in 1980. He trained as a Survey Tech (photogrammetry) at the School of Military Survey and then saw service at the Regiment, 2 and 4 Field Survey Squadrons, the School and finally 1 Topo at the time of transition from Survey to Engineers. He was promoted to Warrant rank in 1 Topo and in 2002 was posted to Land Headquarters, Sydney as WO Topo. Barry is pleased to be back in the Sunshine State and is keen to maintain the relationship with our Association.

Noel Sproles, reported in our last Bulletin on his epic journey to Darwin on the Ghan and equally epic return to Adelaide by car. Noel further reports....

We had a good trip down from Darwin to Adelaide and covered some 7952 kms for a trip that would be 3026 kms long if we just stuck to the Stuart Highway. But it was worth it! Only three minor incidents to mar it in any way. I chipped a tooth just as we got out of range of any reliable dental facilities but it was a minor irritant only. Then my digital camera died on me. That was a bummer but at least it happened in Darwin where I could purchase one of those old fashioned steam driven 35mm things as a temporary replacement until I could get back to Adelaide to get the digital camera fixed. But then an errant stone punched a hole in the rear differential just as we were approaching Oodnadatta and that really changed the colour of our day I tell you. Again luckily we got to Oodnadatta (now, there is a town!!) and Adam, the proprietor, at what passed as a garage, had seen it all before sooooo many times that he got us back on the road again without breaking into a sweat. But it did mean an unscheduled overnight stop there and a full day walking about town to fill in time. Like, I mean, you can see Oodnadatta in a five minutes easy stroll at the best of times. However, we were grateful that it happened so close to town and we were not stranded out on the Track.

I had forgotten how big this country is. Every distance from here to there is in hundreds of kilometres – I was starting to think that we need a new unit of measure based on 100 kms. Now I just have to unpack, clean the car, and walk the border collie after his four week's confinement to barracks. He was so glad to see us that he did not stop barking for half an hour and his tail was still wagging an hour later. This from the 'coolest' dog whose usual display of high emotion is just one slow wag of the tail. Regards...Noel



Noel sent me this with the comment: 'Look at what the army issues to the troops now-a-days for a laundry bag. Laundry bag!! – The material seems more appropriate for a pair of sexy nickers. In our day we did not get laundry bags – we did not have time to do washing'.

Hank Opdem writes of his travels – *Well Bob you did ask how the Winnabago is going and it is about time I responded. As you probably heard we travelled around Australia last year anti-clockwise and had a great time. We travelled 18,000 km and still didn't get to Perth as we ran out of time. This time we plan to bolt in a couple of week's time and go clockwise to do the south west before winter sets in.*

I would really recommend tripping to anyone. One of our main interests is to visit gold fields and see if they left any of the yellow stuff behind. Found several small nuggets last time and we are going back to check a good sounding in WA which is under sandstone as we didn't have the right digging gear. This of course is most likely some hot clay but you'll never know until the hard yards are done.

Well this could become annual event as next year we will go to the Palmer River gold fields where there is still some nuggets to be found.

Hope all is well with you and give my best wishes to allCheers Hank

John (Jock) Kay tells me he finally sold his home at Port Frankland in Victoria and has returned to sunny and sultry Queensland, arriving only last month (January). Jock has moved into Bindawalla Gardens at Burpengarry and is engaged in setting up his new home (two linked transportables). Jock has an internet address: tybach@bigpond.com.au and his phone number is 3888 8731, mobile 0438 001 745. Jock assures me he will be with us on Anzac Day. Great to have you back, Jock.

Warwick Settree may be remembered by some. Warwick was a national serviceman who as a 2Lt worked with Clem Sargent and W Comd Fd Svy Unit in the Kimberleys in the late 1960s. When visiting Canberra last year he called on Clem and said he might be interested in contacting the Queensland Association. I phoned Warwick and had a short chat and he told me a little about his life since army days. A licensed surveyor, he has had a successful survey practice on the Sunshine Coast and has now retired. He lives at Moffat Beach in north Caloundra.

Garney Cook: Garney and Eileen visited Canberra in September last year to attend their grand-daughter Bronwyn's 21st birthday. Garney said it was bitterly cold but they stayed for a week and their daughter Jenny had arranged for the family to visit the Canberra Zoo and Aquarium where the big challenge was to 'pat the Cheetah'. Eileen did so and has a certificate to prove it! Apparently the technique is to approach the cheetah from the tail end, not the mouth end. I am not completely convinced. I didn't know that our National Capital had a zoo and aquarium. Is it that place sitting on top of that hillock overlooking some lake or other? When Garney told me about this adventure he said it was a Jaguar and I thought 'is that the cat or the car.' But he phoned back to say the object patted was but a cheetah – a biggish pussy cat no less.

Ken Shaw sent a very newsy post-Christmas email with a lot of Gosford news. Ken says he gets frequent visits from **Bill Boyd** and **Dave Thompson** who have taken up bike riding as a

health thing. They ride all over the place and include Ken and Nance at Wyoming as one of their destinations. Ken has had a bit of bad luck. He tripped in the shower closet badly gashing his upper left arm and ankle and head butting the shower wall dislodging six tiles and putting two holes in the wall. Wow – what a head-butt! Maybe he had his tin hat on. Woy Woy hospital stitched him up but he has been somewhat restricted in his activities since then; no bowls and swimming and only body washes administered by Nance no doubt. Hmmm! Ken says, *“apart from that I’m keeping pretty well (arthritis aside) as is Nance – we’re awfully well for the shape we’re in!”*

Ken and Nance had a bushfire scare in early January at 3.00 in the morning. On the ridgeline behind them the flames were roaring high in the air and the crackling of the burning timber was loud enough for Ken to hear. Fortunately a wind change forced the fire back on itself and saved the day.

Ken had a surprise phone call from **Derek (Yogi) Shannon** – he’s 84, keeping in good health and still lifting a glass of red wine when he gets the chance.

Bob McMillan Kay is a frequent correspondent. He sent me some interesting photos of a highlight of his Light Horse and Military Museum of 256 Queen St Maryborough, a Saracen Armoured Personnel Carrier which, he says, he bought from a bloke on the Gold Coast. The Saracen wheeled APC predated the M113 tracked APC used extensively on Vietnam. Bob says *“it is a great attraction and good for shopping at the supermarket. Guaranteed a spot in the car park. Pity I can’t take it on the street.”*

Bob’s Light Horse Museum started in Maleny in 1995. It is now called the McMillan Light Horse and Military Museum after and dedicated to General Sir Gordon H.A. McMillan, hereditary Chief of Clan MacMillan and former Commanding Officer of the Argyll and Southern Highlanders. The Museum would be well worth a visit should anyone have a little time to spend in Maryborough. Visits by booking only through Mavis Banks (4123 5497) or the curator, (4123 3774) **(photos in our Photo Gallery)**

Bob further states: *“Just as an aside I have a large collection of British War Office Maps (mainly 1944 at 1 :250 000) which were found*

at the Maleny Tip by a mate of mine. I was glad to get my hands on these I tell you. They cover Germany, Eastern and Northern Europe, France and Belgium. Also a set of 1: 1, 000 000 Australian Aeronautical Maps of New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, dated 1944). Great historical value I think.

Bob also sent a photo copy of part of the Melbourne ‘Argus’ newspaper dated 7 June 1941 depicting ‘Military Photoprinting Equipment’ of the AHQ Cartographic Company in six photographs. No names are given other than Lt Gen V.A.H. Sturdee at the official inauguration of the equipment. AHQ Cartographic Company was initially located in Mitchell House at the corner of Elizabeth and Lonsdale Streets, later to move to Fortuna, Bendigo as the LHQ Cartographic Company to become the AHQ Survey Regiment.

Alex Cairney attended the marriage of his daughter Julie to Richard Hrovat in Sydney on 29 December 05. A Christmas wedding indeed and what a handsome pair they were. But who would have recognised Alex in dinner suit and black tie? Only the mop of white hair gives him away – see photo in ‘photo gallery’. No excuses Alex – at the next Mapmaker’s dinner we expect to see you in black tie.

Tony and Loretta Gee have really caught the travel bug. In the latter half of last year they toured Turkey, Egypt and Greece for three months. (full report needed Tony!) They have just returned from Tasmania – visiting Loretta’s sisters – and depart soon for a spot of fishing at Lucinda, south of Townsville. They have outline plans for India after July. Tony says he will be with us on Anzac Day and most likely at our Alex Laing dinner in July.

Joseph Alan Tinker served with A Sect I Topo Svy Tp from Oct ’70 to Oct ’71. Lloyd Patterson on behalf of a friend is trying to contact Joe. Does anyone remember him or knows his whereabouts?

Brian Mead: Brian writes – My retirement days are now well and truly over, as I have continued to work for my son Mathew, at his

Applecross Pizza Shop. After a three day roster over each W/E, I need a day or two recovery time! Still, the pocket money is too good to give up now. I seem to be filling the void in the roster more and more these days. The availability of staff is very much a 'feast or famine' affair; most of the employees are University, TAFE or high school students. I remember telling Lloyd Patterson as much – dealing with young people is not much different than dealing with young soldiers. It can be very frustrating. Annette is busy earning a dollar with her artistic murals and is currently finishing off two Christmas commissions.

Dave O'Hara: a message from Brian Mead: Barry Harms is trying to locate Dave O'Hara who served in RA Svy during the 1950s and 1960s. Is anyone able to offer an avenue of inquiry. Barry lives locally in the Perth northern suburbs.

FROM OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

Western Australia

The December 'Westlink' was huge and in several sections. Highlights included:

- Corps display at the Army Museum of WA located at the Artillery Barracks, Burt Street, Fremantle. The display consisted of a number of excellent historical photos with well presented explanations.
- Annual Reunion Dinner at the Victoria League, Shenton Park on 24 Sept 05.
- History by Bob McKenna – the Derby mapping and EDM Traverse – Sept 1958.
- Terry Linz and his 'Men in Sheds' program. This is a men's health initiative. Terry is based at Bridgetown WA. **(Terry and Lyn Linz's photo in Photo Gallery)**
- Mike Venz and his role with the Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA). Mike's role is the development of training for all volunteer firefighters in WA.
- Noel Sproles article on the Coral Fire Support Base, Vietnam, 1968. This story is for a future Qld Bulletin.

Of particular note was the unveiling of the RA Svy Memorial in the Karrakatta memorial Precinct. The Survey Association was given the RAE 'old' plinth on which to mount their plaque. The unveiling was attended by Brian Mead, Brian Firms, Geoff Simpson Col Comdt RAE and Bob Gianatti Senior VP RAE Assoc WA **(Photo in Photo Gallery)**.

South Australia

The December 2005 South Australian Association Newsletter was received from SA President and Newsletter Editor Alex (Darby) Munro and as usual, this compact little (A5 format) publication was chock full of information. Darby and his committee are ruminating on a change of format but for what its worth – I think they should stick with it; it's a good one! Snippets from their newsletter follow:

- **First Fridays** – these take place at the Saracen's Head (hotel I presume) should you be visiting Adelaide I am sure you would be made most welcome. Phone Alex on 8277 7074.
- **Bob Mills** the super bikie (reported in our December Bulletin) came in 5th in the World Solar Cycle Challenge conducted in October from Ceduna to Adelaide. Bob is 62 – not bad!
- **Ken and Lorraine Talbot-Smith** and family went sailing in the Whitsundays last year on a 40ft catamaran named *Seawind 1200*. The venture was two years in the planning. It was the experience of a lifetime in the waters off beautiful beautiful Queensland!
- **Pat Cox** (known to many of us in Queensland) isn't in the best of health. He lives at Crystal Brook and is fairly limited these days in his activities.
- **Max Colleti** is fighting a cancer condition and is positive about its outcome. He restarted work in December. Our best wishes are with Max.
- **Bret Knuckey** has spent the past 23 years since leaving the Corps producing the Adelaide UBD street directory and is now semi-retired having been made redundant following a corporate takeover. Bret and Jane plan a trip to New Zealand in April this year.

The SA December Newsletter has published a full listing of attendees at the Bendigo 90th Anniversary Dinner. I would be happy to scan this and mail or email it to any member who may wish to peruse it.

VALE

Jim Houston

It is with sadness that we report the death of our Immediate Past President, Jim Houston. Jim died on the 22nd December 2005 after a short illness. 'Young' Jim, as he was known by many of our older members, was always a very supportive member of our Association and a font of knowledge on his many 5th Field Survey

Company mates. In the latter part of the war he served as the Company's orderly room sergeant and became known to just about all who served in 5 Field. Jim was one of those people best described as a 'nature's gentleman'. His unexpected death was a shock to us all and we extend to his widow, Val and the family, the sincere condolences of the Association.

The family obituary is published below with the kind permission of Val.



James Patrick De Valera Houston was born on the 9th December 1921. He was the youngest of 6 boys born to Patrick and Mary Houston.

Jim's father passed away while working in Cloncurry when

Jim was 7 and his older brother Maurice took on the role of major support to his mother and became the father figure to the younger boys. He was 16 and worked during the day at Wunderlichs Tiles while studying Surveying at night.

Jim was educated at St Brigid's Convent School, Red Hill and Marist Brothers College Rosalie. He left school at 15 when he completed his Junior Certificate.

On finishing school in 1937 Jim worked for a carrying firm until 1941 when he joined the army and was allocated to the Australian Survey Corps. Jim's older brother Maurice was also in the Survey Corps and was able to claim Jim to join him in the Corps. He was deployed to numerous service camps through out Queensland and then saw overseas service in Ambon and Morotai. During his time in Ambon he served as an administrative clerk. At the end of the war he transferred to a unit that assisted in the release of prisoner's in Morotai. Jim rose to the rank of sergeant and when on leave he was joined by another older brother Desmond who was also a sergeant. When based in Townsville Maurice, Jim and Des would meet at their Aunt's residence for a meal. Fortunately, all three brothers survived the war.

Jim told his family of his many experiences during his army days. After the war he kept in contact with many of his army mates and in 1947 helped to organise the Survey Corps Ex-serviceman's

Association of Queensland. He was secretary for many years and was president, past president and life member of the Association. (Photo of the 1949 Committee in the Photo Gallery)

In 1947 after being discharged from the army he was offered a position at the Government Printing Office as a clerk. While he worked during the day he was also studying during the evenings. He worked in many sections of the office and in later years became Chief Clerk, the position Jim held when he retired in 1982. Jim gave 36 years to the Queensland Public Service.

In 1948 at a work colleague's pre-wedding party he met Valma Hassett, his future wife. Jim and Val were married in May 1954. In 1955 their first child, Suzanne, was born closely followed by Judith and 6 years later Michael. In the early '60s Jim and Val relocated to Grovely and set about raising their young family. Jim was a family man who had a strong sense of community and was actively involved in the local Catholic parish taking an active role in parish and church life. During the '60s and '70s Jim was a regular bowler at the Gaythorne Bowls Club where he was secretary and later president. He continued to enjoy a roll up until he was 80. Jim was a sports enthusiast and one of his greatest joys was watching his beloved 'Broncos'. He belonged to many clubs including Everton Probus, where he was their third president and also the Gaythorne RSL and lately a friendship club for veterans sponsored by the Department of Veteran Affairs. Jim was a keen gardener and an avid reader of many topics

Jim and Val loved to travel. They made several trips overseas including, Samoa Singapore, the United States and Canada. In latter years their travelling consisted of visits to Sydney and other parts of Australia.

Jim enjoyed good health for most of his life. In 2002 Jim underwent successful coronary bypass surgery. This gave him three more years with us.

In mid 2005 Jim and Val made a major decision to leave from Ferny Hills and move to Keperra Sanctuary Retirement Village. Jim's health had started to decline, Jim and Val moved in November, unfortunately Jim only had three weeks before requiring hospital admission. Jim deteriorated and passed away peacefully at Wesley Hospital on the 22nd December 2005.

Jim is survived by his wife of 51 years Valma, his three children and 3 grand children. Jim will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

Jim Brock: After recent telephone contact with Jim Brock and receipt of his WW2 and post war experiences it was something of a shock to



learn from his son Peter that Jim had passed away soon after on the 5th November 2005. It was probably consistent with Jim's ebullient and optimistic spirit that he made light of the fact that he was suffering from a terminal cancer.

Some of Jim's remarkable life story was told in our last Bulletin (December '05) although more specific mention was made of the survey reference tree on Mount Spec in north Queensland which is itself a memorial to those 5 Coy blokes who left their names cut into a shield-shaped blaze on the trunk of the tree. Jim's story of his time in 5 Coy appears later in this Bulletin. Amongst his many talents it is clear that Jim was an excellent and amusing writer. This photo of Jim is relatively recent and is taken from his funeral service program.

Max Skeates passed away on 28 Dec 05. The funeral service for Max took place in the Chapel of the Norwood Park Crematorium Sandford St Mitchell on Wed 4 Jan 06 at 10.00 am. Max commenced his career as a photographer at the Regiment before moving to the Printing Detachment in Canberra where he spent many years, retiring at the rank of sergeant. Max's wife Clare and later Tricia both pre-deceased him. Max is survived by his children Chris, Nina, Tony and Mikal and grandchildren Kye, Kallum, Greard, Catherine, Bridget, Aaron and Liam.

Terrance John Winzar (Yarpa): (from WA Assoc 'Westlink') Terry was a country Victorian lad who spent much of his RA Svy career as a printer at Fortuna. He was an active sportsman and one of those Fortuna fellows who were liked by all. He went on to spend some time with recruiting and then 1 Topo (Brisbane). He also instructed at the Geomatics Wing of SME.

As a result of a military accident Terry received a medical discharge and later returned to Bendigo. His early death at the age of 45 has left his many friends wondering why.

JIM BROCK'S STORY

Jim Brock wrote....You asked for some of my own recollections about WW2 days in Survey, when I started off at Colac in the 3rd. Field. Survey Company. And that's where I met Alan Jenner for the first time and we were together for years after. After three weeks at Colac with the 3rd, Alan, several others and I came by train to the Survey Training School at East Burwood, which was 3 months' of hard going in the depth of winter and with insufficient blankets at night. When we 'graduated' we went to Royal Park staging camp and from there by troop train to eventually end up at Indooroopilly. There we spent about a week on camp duties including having to dye all our clothing in the deepest green. Following this a crowd of us were sent on to join the 1st Field Survey Company (later to be the 5th) at Gladstone show grounds where we were introduced to being field survey men learning some of the basic work in the field which I greatly enjoyed. I remember the fellow who was in charge of our 'team', Jake Rees. That too was when I met such people as Milton Blain, Neil Clerehan, Joe Matthews, Leo O'Leary and Paddy Walsh. All of our lot that came up from Indooroopilly was known as the 'green ants' because of our green clothes of course and I guess we were very 'green' about most things. I remember being based at Gladstone for a few months working in the vicinity of such places as Mt. Larcom, Yarwin, Bajool, and Raglan. I also remember going to Rockhampton on 21st. of December and noting with interest at midday that we had virtually no shadows, because of the equinox. Another name that suddenly springs to mind is Freddy Pordage whom I remember assisted me when I was doing my first bit of plane tabling and contouring east of Miriamvale and south of Gladstone. That's all a very long time ago! So I tend to be a bit fuzzy about some of the

names.

I took my first home leave from Gladstone – I suppose that would have been 6 months after arriving there and when we eventually got back to the leave and transit depot at the Exhibition Buildings in Brisbane was very surprised to find that we were not being sent back to Gladstone; instead we finished up at Innisfail which was HQ for doing the maps of the Atherton Tableland. That work was very interesting and was becoming more intense so I got quite a buzz out of that. I remember the names of all the places where we camped; Jagan, Malanda, Millaa-Millaa, Yungaburra, Atherton, Herberton, Ravenshoe, Wongabel, Wondecla, Mt. Garnet, Mareeba, Kairi. It was interesting to visit these places in subsequent years. During one such visit my wife and I were very pleased to meet Lloyd Twine.

As far as I can recall instead of being sent overseas from the Tableland we were sent south to Ingham where we were based for 6 months or so. Methods of map making were changing and the company was divided into small sections and I had the misfortune to be put in a reinforcement section so was one of the last to leave and eventually did out of Townsville on an American Liberty ship (the *Sea Barb*) designed to look like a cargo vessel but in reality a troop carrier with bunks, as I recall 5 high, in the holds. The only time I achieved any notoriety in the army was when we all stuck our weapons and webbing one on top of the other between the bunks on the *Sea Barb* and when we came to disembark at Morotai some days later I was shocked to find that some opportunistic crew member had apparently nicked off with my revolver. So, one AJ Brock had to go through a preliminary inquiry for a court martial and I was eventually judged completely innocent, however, it was an unpleasant feeling being on a court martial charge for some time.

We had a few weeks in Morotai and then we were sent on a tiny coal-burning troop and goods carrier, the '*Both*,' as reinforcements for

the recent landing at Balikpapan and I think it was while we were actually just tied up at the wharf when the news came through that the Japanese War was over – unbelievable!

I remember a pleasant camp nicely situated north of Balikpapan with Alex Yeates in charge but work was winding down and quite suddenly we got news that we were being sent back to Australia and that was much ahead of when we expected to be sent because it was not as though we had served months or years fighting in a desperate war situation. However, back to Australia it was, first to Brisbane to a camp at Leichardt and then on to Chatswood in Sydney where we had a somewhat restful time. It suited me down to the ground as I had relations living nearby at Northbridge but eventually I was sent down to Wagga to be in charge of collecting the ground detail for the inch to the mile map of Wagga Wagga. Why that area I wondered until I realised that the Military Camp, Kapooka, was right in the centre, and the cynic in me took over – we have just finished a war and here we were doing things associated possibly with the next war! Eventually the Wagga work was finished and I came back to Chatswood to be greeted with the pleasant news that I was due for discharge.

So on the 1st July 1946 at age 22, my father asked if I would like to come and work for him in his relatively small manufacturers' agency business, in which he represented overseas manufacturers of a variety of products particularly associated with the building industry. High quality stuff too – I was the person who brought Cabot's Wood Stains to Australia – we were the Australian representatives for Samuel Cabot of Boston USA, a delightful association. You could say that we 'did our bit' for the Australian language in so far as we added those two much-used words; Mission Brown. We even had Australian manufacturers seeking to copy us using such sentences as 'with all those wanted 'American colours'. Eventually we started manufacturing the Cabot range in Australia and the business

just grew and grew until finally we simply ran out of money trying to cope with the huge cost of TV advertising and other things too numerous to mention. Finally we succumbed to repeated approaches from ICI Dulux and the Cabot's side of our business was taken over. We are very pleased with the way Orica (formerly ICI) run their Cabot activities, still featuring the terrific personal service to clients that we were so proud of in our time.

I was also the person that bought Pirelli studded rubber flooring to Australia (you know the sort of stuff you walk on at airports) and we finished up making a large number of Pirelli rubber flooring items at a factory in Silverwater, Sydney. Our association with Pirelli was not, however, quite as happy as our relationship with Cabot.

Our third main interest and mine in particular was glass for use in building glazing and also public transport. We were certainly innovators in that area, being much involved with the introduction of special glasses with special coatings for heat reflecting and glare reduction, a whole stack of things also too numerous to mention. I retired some years ago, doing it in a gentle way one day less per week per year over a period of five years, but at 81 I must admit I still miss it and continue to look at all the latest things in building and transport glazing and wonder why they are using this or that product and just hope that they remember where they can get the best.

I should mention that my father and I had a marvelous association together- 34 years in total; rather rare in father and son businesses. We have both been knighted by the present King of the Belgians for our services to the interests of the Belgian glass industry in Australia. Indeed there is nobody in the world who has represented them in any foreign country as long as we did. My own association lasted 55 years - and I am proud of that.

AS JOHN GRAY RECALLS

I enlisted in Brisbane (aged 18 years and 4 months) on the 20th June 1942. After a few days I was transferred by train to Melbourne and into camp at the show grounds at Burwood. The first person I met was a Sgt Pat Boyle. About 17 years later we met again and I discovered his wife and mine were distantly related. Our families became close friends. The Boyles had 8 children and we had 6 and they attended the same schools. I attended his funeral about a year ago.

After three months at Burwood learning military procedures and doing some plane tabling I was transferred to Gladstone with two men who became life-long friends, Jimmy Brock and Neil Clerehan. You had some notes in your last bulletin about Jim, who, I regret to say died a few weeks ago. My wife and I and Neil attended his funeral. Neil is still practicing architecture in Melbourne. For about twenty years each March I have spent 10 days in Melbourne playing golf and meeting with Jim and Neil for dinner.

We were quite a time in Gladstone. I recall marching down the main street in full regalia on some occasion to which you referred in a recent bulletin. In February '43 we went to Rockhampton to join the AIF. Before that time we were in the CMF, ie Chocos. We were now the 5th Field Survey Company, AIF. About 50 years later Jim and Neil and I revisited Gladstone and the Mayor kindly took time off to show us around.

After Gladstone it gets a bit confused as to the order of events but I do recall being camped at Innisfail, Tully, Jagan (on the Atherton Tableland), and quite a while at Wongabel. Pat Tuxon was in my tent there, a nice guy but I haven't heard anything about him since. Also Bill Fox who became a close friend. (Bill died about 2 years ago). The Comforts Fund wireless was in my tent and a lot of betting used to take place there. The unit bookie was, I think, Percy Draheim. I remember having a bet on a filly called Tea Rose but was on guard duty during the race. As I came off duty Percy asked me which race I had backed her in. I could smell a rat and said whichever one she

started in. Percy paid up. I think that race is now called the 'Tea Rose Stakes'.

From Wongabel I remember many occasions getting ready to go overseas – trucks prepared to drive off the landing craft and so on. We would be sent to some port, then after a few days back to another port or even back to Wongabel. I can remember thinking, well – if we are winning the war how bloody hopeless the Japs must be.

Eventually the day arrived (I think about early April 1945) and we got on board and zig-zagged our way to Morotai. I recall the death of President Roosevelt was announced soon after we left port. I must have played 100 hours of pontoon en route. Then after Morotai it was the landing at Labuan on, I think, the 10th June 1945. This was a brief time of some danger in that we guarded both sides of the road to Brunei as the infantry moved ahead. Also, for a while the nearby artillery kept up a random barrage which was uncomfortable.

A few months later the war with Japan ended. First priority for return to Australia was those with 5 years service including 2 years overseas. Next were those returning to reserved occupations. I had been studying Civil Engineering at night at the Brisbane Technical College while working for M.R.Hornibrook. This got me onto one of the first ships home. On board were a number of Australian POWs who had been at Sandakan. They were appallingly emaciated and there were about five meals a day in which we all shared.

On return I studied under the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme. All fees were paid plus 3 pounds 5 shillings a week; the last year's payments were an interest free loan. I matriculated in 1946 and graduated in Civil Engineering in 1950. I won a Gowrie Scholarship for 2 years at Imperial College in London. 1952/3. I then returned to Brisbane, married Margaret and worked in the design office of the Brisbane City Council, designing bridges.

One day, about three years later, a chap called Tristan Antico came to the office and asked me to join him to start the Brisbane branch of his

recently formed company Pioneer Concrete Services Ltd. I resigned from the Council forthwith and spent the next 32 years with Pioneer. So much for my recently acquired Master's Degree. It was an exciting time. Pioneer expanded all over the world in concrete and quarrying; also in cement and mining. It acquired a number of public companies including Ampol, Ampol Exploration, and Queensland Mines.

I retired in December 1988 and am enjoying retirement to the full – golf, swimming, bridge, stockmarket and a bit of travel. All 6 offsprings live nearby; all are married and have produced thirteen delightful grandchildren. Thankfully my wife Margaret and I enjoy good health.

Some names I remember who were friends: Hal Jones, Percy Peel, Jim Stedman, Jim Alexander, Cliff Bartly. Cliff told me that if Bernborough was ever allowed to race to back him in his first start and to keep backing him until he stopped racing! Also Tommy Sullivan, Doover Cooper and the legendary Les Tagg and Bob Bobroff.

That's about it. Hope some of it is useful.
Regards... John Gray
Ed: a great contribution John. Hope you kept backing Bernborough!

**5TH FIELD SURVEY COMPANY –
a small but important task –
submitted by Milton Blain**

In Milton's words the following is a letter.....
'presented to the District Council of Franklin Harbour on March 22nd 1996 in appreciation of the tremendous hospitality and friendship offered to us fifty years ago by the residents of Cowell.'

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, MBE, Legion of Merit, was transferred to South Australia to work with the Royal Australian Navy, *HMAS 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 (SA)
Sapper John Pike (Qld)
Sapper Bob Love (SA)
Sapper Frank Prowse (Vic)
Sapper Frank McMillan (SA)
Sapper Nev Stoddart (Qld)
Sapper Jack Llewellyn (SA)

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

MORE ON PLANE-TABLING – Colin Van Senden's reflection

The mention of 'plane-tabling' seems to conjure up recollections of that quite fascinating combination of graphics, geometry and art. Yes, art – examine any of the few remaining plane table sheets and try to dispute that they do not have considerable artistic merit. On that 24 x 18 inch sheet there evolved the

fascinating composite of lines and symbols depicting the complete topography of a land area, 12 miles by 9 miles; the roads, railways, bridges, buildings, streams, forests and even the shape of the land itself represented by lines joining points of equal elevation at 25 or 50 foot intervals – the contours of the earth's surface. Recollections of intersections, resections, triangles of error, even pacing, sight rules, clinometers, (Indian of course) – it was a mystical science and certainly an art form. Plane-tabling was a unique skill and there were some who simply couldn't get the hang of it and others who would take off like the wind.

The true practitioners of plane-tabling had their own name in the lexicon of mapping. They were 'topographers'. To them most of the pre-WW2 maps at the traditional scale of an inch to the mile owe their origin. Aerial photography was then only a useful side aid – there were still a few years to go before it totally displaced the plane-table. The skill was still being taught on Basic Course at the School of Survey in the late fifties; perhaps mainly as an introduction to the evolving hi-tech mapping process. All of the mathematical processes of triangulation, traversing, intersection and resection could be carried out graphically on the plane-table board.

I recall Jack Cullen telling me once that he had been working for weeks on a particularly heavy plane-table sheet in the Victorian highlands and he had returned to Victoria Barracks in Melbourne to finish off the sheet and then go on leave. In finishing it off he accidentally tipped a bottle of indian ink across it and somewhat crestfallen and no doubt apprehensive he took it to the Warrant Officer in charge, a rather gruff fellow, expecting a lambasting. Warrant Officer Gruff examined the sheet, a little sympathetically and then said: "this is too bad – you'll just have to do it again – during your leave!" Jack did.

So what has brought on this spate of musing on plane-tabling? Thumbing through my ever increasing file of letters and items for future Bulletins I came across a letter from Col Van Senden (Col, not Colonel) I received some 15 months ago in which Col reflects on his own introduction to the art of plane-tabling.

Col recalls: "*Reading Noel Sproles article on plane-tabling has brought back memories of my introduction to plan-tabling at the Survey Training School at Darley near Bacchus Marsh in Victoria in the middle of winter in 1943. I joined the Army the day I turned 18 but my pay book shows my pay started a day later.*"

My only boast to the uninitiated was that I was only a 'private' for a week. That week was spent in the horse pavilion at Wayville Show grounds in Adelaide. I was then posted to the Survey Training School at Darley and became a sapper. This exalted rank I then held for three and one half years.



Plane Tabling in the Dromana Valley – in the middle of winter

My first work at Darley was in the drafting section playing around with aerial photographs. I only lasted inside for a fortnight as I managed to spill a bottle of indian ink over my run of photos, probably attempting to mark up principal points or something similar. Resulting from that episode, dear old Warrant Officer Bill Bailey quietly suggested that I was better suited to outside field survey training, under supervision of that remarkable old patriarch Jack Cullen. I'm sure that all of us under the direction of these two men will have very fond memories of them.

I soon became very engrossed with watching my map grow on the plane-table and after a month or so into the course I was dropped by vehicle in the morning and spent the day wandering around the fields near Darley compiling my map. It was winter and I recall wearing my greatcoat all day which had the decided advantage that its great pockets held my cut lunch and a packet of army biscuits of which I ate nearly a packet a day. The country around Darley was fairly undulating and being dropped off complete with plane-table, alidade, indian clinometer, trough compass and numerous scales, rubbers (the surveyor's best friend), pencils etc, helped to keep me pretty fit

and I was glad to rendezvous with the truck in the afternoon to get back to camp.

Some of us spent extra time in the field and I managed to cover over half the plane-table with complete mapping detail. Accuracy of course may have been open to a certain interpretation licence, but all in all I thoroughly enjoyed my training at Darley and in fact, after discharge I immediately took up Articles in Adelaide to become a Licensed Surveyor.

Colin Van Senden soon after was posted to 2 Field Survey Company then based at Childers where he undertook more advanced training under Capt Clews. From Childers his section was sent to Tenterfield where he recalls they did a lot of barometer heighting. His next move was a stint with an Infantry Training Battalion at Warwick and from there to join 6 Topo Survey Company at Toowoomba, based at Gabinbar. 6 Coy then moved down to Grovely in Brisbane and in April 1945 6 Coy was finally deployed to Lae in New Guinea. Colin's section went on to Wewak where they remained until the end of the war. Because of the prevalence of endemic malaria at Wewak 6 Coy returned to Australia at an early stage and disbanded, Colin to Adelaide on leave. It was after reporting back from leave that Colin was sent to Port Pirie to join a section of 5 Field Survey Coy undertaking the land component of a hydrographic survey of Spencers Gulf.

COMMUNICATION by Jeff Lambert

My, how the scene has changed. At Northern Command in the fifties one of the transmitter/receiver sets we inherited from World War 2 vintage was what was called, if my memory serves me correctly the '62 set'. Installed in the back of a Jeep it left no room for a rear passenger. Of course the authorities during the war were not keen on powerful transmitters in the hands of any Joe, lest the enemy, either by design or accident, received classified information, however, especially if one suspended some thirty or more metres of horizontal aerial, the sets were fairly powerful for receivers at that time. Which brings me to the point of my story.

A long time ago, I seem to recollect that it was Col Pugh and I, were establishing position fixes by star observations for one inch to four mile (oops! 1: 250,000 now) map control in the

Carpentaria Gulf region. We took a day off to complete calculations and do a little washing in an adjacent stream if only to modify the aroma within the Jeep, when in crackled New Guinea on the 62 set.

"Lae calling Moresby; Lae calling Moresby"

"Moresby"

"I have Mr Jones for Mr Jones – (connection details)"

"connecting"

"Hello Son what's the problem?"

"Mr Smith wants (specifies) a grade of oil and I'm right out --what'll I do?"

"Same as last time – change the bloody label."

"Yeh! – I thought about that Dad but he wants three barrels"

– long pause and then sigh of resignation- "OK! will deliver asap."

Perhaps that is where OIL'S AIN'T OILS. originated.?

Later in the day..... caller and receiver came in loud and clear identifying themselves as a caller on shore somewhere up Darwin way to a fishing boat somewhere out at sea, where, after due acknowledgement the following exchange took place.....

Shore: "Hey Jacko, ran into an old mate of yours at the pub last night – had a whale of a night – suffering today though – over "

Boat: "Who might that be? – over"

Shore: "Old Dipper, and he was in right form – the old b....told a good joke – want to hear? – over"

Boat: "Listening – over"

Shore: (joke – blah-blah...blah) "Haw-haw-haw – haw-haw-haw etc – over

Boat: "Hee-hee-hee – hee-hee-hee etc etc – over"

Shore: " More haw-haw-haws – over"

Boat: "Hee-hee-hee – you're right; the old buzzard hasn't changed – hee-hee-hee – over"

Shore: "Haw-haw-haw – you can say that again – haw---haw-haw – over

Boat: "Hee -hee-hee---see you later Donga---looks like there's a bite on here! – hee-hee-hee – over and out"

Which goes to show – the beauty of a joke is not only the pleasure in the transmission but also the pleasure in the reception!

LET'S LAUGH

BEWARE OF THE LIONS – a warning issued by the Ministry of Fish and Wildlife – Mozambique (or some other unlikely place). Due to the rising frequency of human-lion encounters, the Ministry of Fish and Wildlife Mozambique is advising hikers, hunters, fisherman and any motor cyclists that use out-of-doors in a recreational or work-related function to take extra precautions while in the bush.

We advise outdoorsmen to wear little noisy bells on clothing so as to give advanced warning to any lions that might be close by so you don't take them by surprise.

We also advise using out-of-doors to carry 'Pepper Spray' with him or her in case of an encounter with a lion.

Outdoorsmen should also be on the watch for fresh lion activity, and be able to tell the difference between lion cub shit and big lion shit. Lion cub shit is smaller and contains lots of berries and dassie fur. Big lion shit has bells in it and smells like pepper.

Enjoy you stay in Mozambique.



1st TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY SQUADRON

No report this issue. The Squadron has been very busy over the past couple of months and we will hear all about it in the June Bulletin. **Ed**