
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS
ASSOCIATION
Queensland Branch

BULLETIN

ANZAC DAY EDITION

APRIL 2000

ANZAC DAY

March with your Association on Tuesday 25 April 2000 in the traditional Anzac Day parade in the city. This year the Army is in the lead with the Sappers leading the Corps Associations. That means we will be immediately behind the Sappers – the 'Survey Sappers' – and should therefore march off somewhat earlier than in previous years. So be there no later than 10.30 am. We form up outside the Treasury Casino in Elizabeth Street. We expect to have some serving members of the 1st Topographical Survey Squadron (RAE) recently returned from Timor marching with us.

Something to distinguish our Survey Sappers will make its debut this year – any guesses?

After the March: We have been invited by the Sappers Association to join them for cheer at their new venue – the Jubilee Hotel in St Pauls Terrace Spring Hill. Cost at door - \$10.00 for food and drinks.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to our first Bulletin for the year 2000. I apologise for not getting out a bulletin or newsletter for nearly two years. We simply did not have the resources to do it.

Your new committee is determined to be proactive. It combines the skills of both young and older members. It has met four times this year and future meetings will be on the first Monday in every second month at the Gaythorne RSL. Members are welcome to attend if they wish to raise a matter.

Our aims this year are to establish effective communication, develop a comprehensive membership directory, develop a constitution, provide a welfare service to members to ensure they are receiving their due veterans entitlements and to continue to pursue recognition of survey and mapping service in the South West Pacific and Indonesia.

Peter Bates-Brownsword

EDITOR'S NOTES

With this Anzac 2000 issue of our Bulletin (the last being August 1998) I hope we can re-establish this important communication link between our members. We aim to produce three issues each year – March, June and November.

This issue may seem a little dry but it will improve. We need that lighter content – a personalia column, interesting snippets about members doings, photo's of our events. And, of course, vale notices of our members who have departed.

I hope to improve the style and format, but I need content, especially from our WW2 veteran members. Tell me your story like Andy Steen did for this issue. Keep in touch. My contact details are elsewhere in this issue.

Bob Skitch

COMMITTEE

President	Peter Bates-Brownsword (Ph 3289 7001)
Past President	Jim Houston (Ph 3351 4952)
Vice President	Bob Skitch (Ph 3265 1370)
Secretary	Mary-Ann Thiselton (Ph 3353 1026)
Treasurer	Stan Campbell (Ph 3285 3970)
Assistant Secretary	Barry Lutwyche Membership Records (Ph 3264 2191)
Functions Member	Alex Cairney (Anzac Day, Reunion) (Ph 3397 7563)
Bulletin Editor	Bob Skitch (Ph 3265 1370)
Member – Tpt to Reunion	Grant Small (Ph 3203 2287, Mob 0412 991 438)
WW2 Veteran Member	Hal Jones (Ph 3395 1404)
Squadron Liaison	Jim Gill (Ph 3264 1597)

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

MEMBERSHIP LISTING

After four years of relative inactivity your Committee is conscious of the fact that our membership listing requires revision. It is a matter of regret that some of our older members have died and we have failed to acknowledge their passing.

Barry Lutwyche has undertaken to revise our membership data base from whatever information we currently hold. The next issue of this Bulletin will contain the revised listing and members will be invited to thoroughly check it and advise Barry or Mary-Ann of amendments. Especially we want contact telephone numbers. We will try to enter as many as possible from the Telstra white pages disks, but they will need checking. Barry's phone number is in the panel above.

LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH DRINKS

For some time now an increasing number of Association members, ex Corps and serving members have been meeting at the Alderley Arms Hotel in Enoggera Road on the last Friday of the month for a quiet beer and a yarn or two. This is a great way to maintain the camaraderie of the Corps and keep in touch. Join us one of these Fridays!

VALE NOTICES

Jim Houston aided by Hal Jones has undertaken to keep check on death and funeral notices so that your Committee can respond appropriately, especially of our WW2 veteran members. Of course we are only able to do this within the Brisbane area from the Brisbane dailies so again we ask our country members to let us know of member's passing within their own localities. Jim's phone number is in the committee panel above.

With sadness we advise the following recent deaths:

Derek Chambers

Alex Yeates

Gordon Dutney

Ian Campbell

Ray Lawson

Keith Todd

Bill Miller

Ron Newman

Obituaries for Alex Gordon and Derek are elsewhere in this Bulletin.

MEMBER'S WHEREABOUTS

We often have mail returned 'address unknown'. Of course that may mean that the member has passed on but even then we continue to have an interest in the member's widow. Often they have simply moved into a retirement village. Can anyone throw some light on either of the following two members:

Mr A.G. (George) Goatham

Mr D.O. Brownsdon of Warwick

Please advise Barry Lutwyche

ANNUAL REUNION SEPTEMBER 1999

Reported by Stan Campbell

The reunion was once again held in the Light Horse Room at Gaythorne RSL. There was quite a good attendance with some members travelling considerable distances to take part in the festivities. Hans Kramer left his yacht in Gladstone and traveled down by train to attend while Grant Small drove to the Gold Coast and picked up Bill Miller and Ted Morris to bring them to the reunion. It was later discovered that Dave Johnston who traveled from the Gold Coast in an otherwise empty car lives just down the road from Bill and Ted, so Grant was saved the trip back.

Over from Perth was Yvonne Cocker, widow of the late Don CoCker, who was well known in the Corps, particularly in Bendigo, the School and in Western Australia. Yvonne was visiting Peter and Barbara Bates Brownsword and was glad of the opportunity to renew old acquaintances.

Bill Kitson, the curator of the Survey Museum at the Department of Lands presented a display featuring the work done by the Survey Corps in the mapping of Queensland, both during the war and in the immediate post war period. This display was very well received and provoked many comments from those present especially the WW2 members.

After a few beers but while everyone was reasonably sober and before the luncheon started, the Annual General Meeting of the Association was held. First came the nomination for the new committee with Peter Bates Brownsword being nominated as President, Bob Skitch Vice-President, Jim Gill Secretary, Mary-Ann Thiselton Assistant Secretary, Stan Campbell Treasurer and a Committee of Alex Cairney, Barry Lutwyche, Grant Small and Jim Howston. Despite the cries of foul and coercion all were duly elected (not that they had any choice). *(Some changes to the Committee structure were made at the first meeting in 2000 – Ed)*

President Peter then gave an update on the writing of the Corps history which is being undertaken by Chris Coulthard-Clark, a professional military historian based in Canberra. Apparently the text is finished and the completed manuscript should be in the hands of the printer by the end of 1999. *(Details of how to purchase a copy will be given in a later newsletter - Ed)*

Next a list of apologies was read out by Treasurer Stan. Among the numerous apologies was one from Frank Cooper who along with his membership fee, sent a donation to buy 'a small beverage for Jim Stedman and Coy'. (Unfortunately, Frank, Jim could not attend but the rest of the "Coy" enjoyed your hospitality.) Lloyd Twine also sent a very generous donation along with his membership fee and apology – thank you very much Lloyd.

Sid Prouse wrote saying that he cannot stand for too long or walk very well. I suppose, Sid, at 93 years of age there must be a good reason for your slowing down. Do you think that the bromide that they used to put in the tea is finally working?

After the formalities were over, a delicious meal was enjoyed by all, with the amber fluid flowing freely which facilitated numerous stories, some true some slightly exaggerated, of exploits in the Corps. The Light Horse Room is an ideal place to have our function; the staff is friendly, courteous and efficient and the food is certainly value for money. At the completion of the meal, President Peter called on Barry Lutwyche to propose the toast to Queen and Country. He was followed by Ed Anderson for the toast to the Royal Australian Survey Corps. Ed regaled us with a story about a certain Sapper (yes the ubiquitous Sapper X) a character we can all relate to. Bob Skitch then proposed the toast to departed comrades of which there were four known during the year: Ray Lawson, Ian Campbell, Keith Todd and Ron Newman.

Bob then brought us up to date on the issue of medals for survey operations in Indonesia and the South West Pacific. Bob and Peter have recently appeared before a committee of review, which is reviewing the service entitlements for South East Asian service 1955-75. They submitted that as these operations were at least as hazardous if not more, than most overseas peacekeeping operations, they should be recognized in the same way. *(There is a more detailed report on this matter elsewhere in this Bulletin - Ed)*

The afternoon concluded with the President thanking all for their presence and hoping next years reunion will be as successful.

All in all a great function with everyone saying how much they enjoyed themselves. Feedback from those present indicated that everyone is happy with the current venue and the timing, that is, a luncheon rather than an evening dinner. We hope to see you all there again at Gaythorne RSL on the first Saturday in September 2000 at 11 am.

**THE COLONEL ALEX LAING
MEMORIAL DINNER**

*Celebrating the 84th anniversary of the
formation of the Australian Survey Corps*
Reported by Stan Campbell

Once again the United Service Club with its old world charm and historical décor,

was the venue for the Colonel Alex Laing Memorial Dinner on 15 July 1999. The evening, very capably arranged by Bob Skitch, was well attended with about 30 ex-Survey Corps members and guests enjoying a sumptuous meal amid the delightful atmosphere of the club. Unfortunately Alex's wife, Dawn who attended the previous two occasions (1997 and 1998) was unable to make it in 99 but sent with her apology a letter that was read out to the gathering. She may be able to attend in 2000.

The Dining President was Peter Bates-Brownsword, who welcomed everyone and gave a rundown on the current status of matters concerning the Corps, namely the Corps history and the submissions for awards for survey operations in Indonesia and the South-West Pacific.

After a magnificent meal served with impeccable efficiency by a very capable staff, the President called on Barry Lutwyche for the loyal toast. He was followed by Peter Osterhage who proposed a toast to the memory of our late Colonel-in-Chief, Diana The Princess of Wales. Percy Long then proposed a toast to the Royal Australian Survey Corps Association which was responded to by Ed Anderson who recounted some very humorous anecdotes from his time in the Corps. We could all relate in some way to Ed's stories, the same type of escapades and characters seemed to occur all through the Corps, despite the different eras that we served in. Only the names changed.

The evening concluded with Col Moorhead proposing a toast to departed comrades and absent friends followed by the ceremonial passing of the port and subsequent retirement to the bar for a nightcap or two. Altogether a wonderful night and we are hopeful that the tradition of this now annual event is maintained and well supported in the future.

Editor's Note: The first dinner in this present format commemorating the formation of the Corps was held at the United Service Club in 1997 coinciding with a visit by Alex and Dawn Laing. Upon querying what the Association was doing to celebrate the Corps birthday and receiving in response a somewhat blank stare, Alex in his usual forceful manner suggested

that we might get off our butts and do something. A dinner was hurriedly arranged at the USC. Alex, then in the final stages of terminal cancer attended the dinner and addressed us all on the then recent demise of the Royal Australian Survey Corps and, as he saw it, the demise of mapping as a national priority. Alex's performance was memorable and within four months of that event he was no longer with us. So we have continued with this tradition that in a sense Alex initiated, partly recognising a past officer who had the Corps embedded in his heart and partly to commemorate the organisation to which we all at sometime belonged and believed in. Alex's contribution to the Royal Australian Survey Corps was directed to the standing of the Corps within the whole of the Army. More than most he believed in the Corps and what it did. Perhaps he wasn't unique in this, however, he sought to embellish the Corps in a way that its military status would be clear to all. He was responsible for the appointment of Diana the Princess of Wales as our Colonel-in-Chief and her untimely death was closely coincident with his own.

Perhaps more than any Director of the Corps before or after, Alex supported the Corps Association in all of its State branches. As Corps Director, when visiting units of the Corps, he always inquired of the Association and where it was possible to do so attended its functions. In seeing the disbandment of his beloved Corps it was his wish that the Association would continue to sustain its memory and traditions and the camaraderie of its members. – Bob Skitch

ANZAC DAY 1999

Reported by Barry Lutwyche

A Royal Australian Survey Corps Association contingent of thirteen marched on a fine warm Anzac Day in Brisbane.

The group was led by recently retired Warrant Officer Class 1 Barry Lutwyche and included Ed Anderson, Bruce Bowers, Tony Gee, Jim Gill, Bruce Gordon, John Hook, Peter Osterhage, Peter Tangey and John Winsbury.

Banner bearers were Corporals Lee Palfrey and Tery Malone from the 1st Topographical Survey Squadron.

The East Timor operation comprised two components. *Operation Warden* concerned theatre logistic support and *Operation Stabilise* was the peace keeping component. Mapping (or geomatics) came under Operation Warden.

LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH DRINKS

Reported by Ian Thiselton

Friday 31st March 2000 saw a great turnout at the Brook Hotel, Mitchelton for a chat and a few drinks. The move to the Brook from the Alderley Arms was caused by the renovations currently underway at the Alderley Arms. The renovations are to continue for some time so the next get-together on Friday 28th April will also be at the Brook.

Fourteen in all turned out for a yarn and a quiet drop. New faces in the crowd included Sandy Craig, Wolf and Jo Thun and Bob Thrower. A few wives also came along to catch up and have a drink.

So hope to see you there in April. (*Inquiries – Phone Ian Thiselton 3353 1026*)

OUR SQUADRON'S INVOLVEMENT IN EAST TIMOR

Editors Note: The following article has been provided by Captain Shaun Hoffman, the Squadron 2IC, to the Association for inclusion in this Bulletin. The article has been provided to the Sapper Association of Queensland for inclusion in their next newsletter. For those from a different era of survey operations, some of the terms used may not be understood. For all intents and purposes consider **military geographic information (MGI)** as all forms of map data, principally, topographic, and **geomatic support** as all activities associated with the provision of mapping in both paper and electronic form, including survey control, aerial photography, photogrammetry, cartography and reproduction. **Imagery acquisition** includes aerial photography and imagery obtained from satellites.

As the lead nation for INTERFET, Australia was responsible for the provision of military geographic information to the force. This was achieved by deploying elements of the 1st Topographical Survey Squadron based at Enoggera, known in the theatre as 1 Topo Svy Sqn IFET. The Squadron deployed its advance parties into East Timor on 22nd September 1999 with the main body deploying five days later on the 27th. A small detachment providing support to Headquarters 3rd Brigade, also deployed with the brigade headquarters from Townsville on 21st September.

The Squadron initially deployed MGI and geodetic survey sections following up with the establishment of 1 Topo Svy Sqn IFET a week later. 57 personnel were deployed over the period of the operation. Most were located in Dili, some at Suai and one warrant officer in Darwin.

Conduct of Operations

Support provided by the Squadron included the following:

- **Geomatic Advice.**
- **Geodetic Survey.** Geodetic Survey support involved the provision of geodetic control (primary and secondary) for mapping purposes and some site and beach surveys for engineering and investigation purposes.
- **Product Distribution.** The Squadron was responsible for ensuring that all INTERFET forces received paper maps and other MGI products at the force and formation level.
- **Military Geographic Intelligence** MGI support to INTERFET at the force and formation level was provided by an MGI Cell of 22 personnel attached to 1 Topo Svy Sqn IFET and a Geomatic Support Detachment of 9 augmenting HQ 3rd Brigade. During the four months of the operations the MGI sections completed over 700 different tasks which included terrain visualisation, photomaps, investigation sheets, a number of geographic information systems, charts and map sheets at different scales, 3D image drapes and 3D fly throughs.

- **Imagery Acquisition.** The Imagery Acquisition Section provided unclassified imagery to all countries making up INTERFET. The Section utilised the RC10 Aerial Camera mounted on a Beechcraft King Air aircraft and the film processing component. The Section captured imagery of point targets, broad area coverage, road recce and high and low level obliques.
- **Reproduction.** The Reprographic Section deployed with the Field Printing Press shelter, fitted with the Ryobi 500 offset printing press, the Agfa Repro Master 2000 camera and the Rapid Flex film processor. The Reprographic Section was particularly successful in providing support to the psychological operations but due to its size limitations (470mm x 345mm down to A5) few products from the MGI Cell were printed in bulk. The amount of impressions completed were 802,000 utilising 210 printing plates.

1 Topo Svy Sqn (Rear)

Rear detail support in terms of personnel administration, logistics and technical support was provided by the Squadron back at Enoggera Barracks. This proved to be an essential element in keeping 1 Topo Svy Sqn IFET and its detachments in East Timor not only with products that could not be produced in the theatre, but with re-enforcement's and specialist stores unable to be acquired in a timely manner through the normal logistical channel.

Redeployment

The redeployment back to Australia of 1 Topo Svy Sqn commenced on 17 Dec 99 with twenty three personnel including two from the Geodetic Support Detachment at HQ 3 Bde returning. The remainder of the Squadron returned to Australia on the HMAS *Jarvis Bay* on the 2nd February 2000.

Conclusion

The deployment of 1 Topo Svy Sqn IFET has demonstrated the Squadrons ability to successfully deploy force and formation level detachments over significant distances at relatively short notice. Operations Warden and Stabilise have provided the Squadron with the

opportunity to validate procedures, training methods and equipment.

**REVIEW OF SERVICE ENTITLEMENT
ANOMALIES IN RESPECT OF SOUTH
EAST ASIAN SERVICE 1955 – 75**

Reported by Bob Skitch

To address mounting dissatisfaction across all three services with the eligibility requirements for entitlement to the Australian Service Medal 1945 – 75 and any ensuing benefits, a review was conducted during 1999. The review undertook to hear and receive submissions from all those who felt aggrieved at a series of public hearings in all major centres throughout Australia.

It is important to realise that the issue is not simply one of receiving a medal but also one of being entitled to veterans affairs benefits that may accrue with the medal.

There are three Australian Service Medals, one for active service (Australian Active Service Medal, a second for non-warlike peace-keeping operations or other like operations of a hazardous and arduous nature undertaken in the period 1955–75 and a third for similar non-warlike operations after 1975. The submissions made your Association to the 1999 Review dealt with entitlement to both the Australian Service Medal 1945–75 and 1975 and beyond. The submissions covered survey operations in Indonesia that extended from 1970 to 1984 and in the South West Pacific from 1980 to 1994.

The Review was carried out by Major General, the Honorable Bob Kennedy, a retired judge of the South Australian Supreme Court assisted by Rear Admiral Philip Kenedy, RAN, both retired. Hearings were conducted in Brisbane from 21st to 23rd July 1999 and your Association was represented by your President Peter Bates-Brownsword and Bob Skitch. Bob had made a previous submission through his local member which had been referred on the Ministers for Defence and Veterans Affairs.

Submissions had been made earlier in writing to the Awards and National Symbols Branch of the Department of

Administrative Services (the relevant Department at that time) and also to the Review at its other hearings by other State branches of the Association and in 1996 by Lt Col Peter Cates, then with the Pay and Conditions Branch of HQ ADF. Also the RSL itself in a motion of its National Executive of 2nd March 1998 strongly supported the awards for both Indonesian and South West Pacific operations. All in all there has been a veritable assault both by the Association and others acting independently using all available avenues to press our case.

Reverting to the Mohr Review; its very title implies a restricted terms of reference. The Review was restricted to South East Asian operations occurring between 1955 and 1975 – full stop! Therefore it could not respond to evidence presented in relation to South West Pacific operations or operations after 1975 although the Review panel was prepared to listen to such evidence.

The findings of the Review have now been published and are as follows:

ARMY SURVEY ACTIVITIES

Anomaly

The Royal Australian Survey Corps Association put before the review a very strong prima facie case for further consideration for recognition of its member's service particularly in Indonesia both before 1975 and in the years afterwards.

Their main contention was that there should be an award of the ASM with an appropriate clasp for this service. The submission also included service in other areas in the South West Pacific area but in my view this latter service did not make out as strong a prima facie case as the Indonesian experience.

A list of international operations undertaken by the Corps is attached in Annex H. Many of these operations listed fall well outside the Terms of Reference of the review. (A copy of Annex H can be obtained from Bob Skitch – Ed)

Conclusion

It is my opinion that the claims warrant a full re-examination of this service especially the Indonesian segment of the claim.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the matter of recognition of Army survey tasks be referred to Army for consideration.

So – what now? Clem Sargent (in Canberra) and Don Swiney (past Corps Director and Colonel Commandant) are working on yet another submission.

One might well ask why the Review did not at least recommend the medal for the pre 75 Indonesian Operations. We understand that such a recommendation would have pre-empted consideration of post-75 operations – so there!

THE ANDY STEEN STORY

As told to Bob Skitch

It was my pleasure to convey long time member of our Association, Andy Steen from his Brighton home to our 1998 50th annual reunion at the Gaythorne RSL. (Also in 1999) Andy had been a consistent attendee at our reunions during those years they were held at various venues in the City (sometimes commuting from rural Queensland) but since moving our reunion to Gaythorne and with advancing years he had found it difficult to make his way across the suburbs.

Advancing years indeed! Andy is a sprightly 95 years and full of high spirit and humour. His broad smile is, I am told, legendary. Arriving at his Brighton home of some thirty years, Andy was waiting for me in an immaculate and somewhat sporty suit and highly polished two tone brown shoes purchased in the old US of A where Andy had his first brush with GST. (Don't ask Andy about GST!) Andy had, clutched in his hand, a plastic bag full of his garden produce - cabbage, turnips and freshly picked strawberries - which he pressed on me and which I gladly accepted.

The trip from Brighton to Gaythorne passed quickly with Andy regaling me of his wartime exploits told with great humour which I am hard pressed to effectively reflect here. In any case there are some bits I would be bound to leave out. Briefly, Andy joined the Corps, not as a soldier but as a civilian axeman in 1940 to form a small group of five civilian axemen and drivers attached to 5 Company. Over the ensuing years he climbed and cleared nearly every hill between Brisbane and Cairns. In 1942 the Army decided that

civilians in its ranks were no longer desired and Andy and his civilian mates were given the option of enlisting or the sack. They all chose to enlist (at a reduced pay rate) and Andy was made a Corporal in recognition of his experience. Incidentally, before the war, Andy humped his swag during the depression years and drove a taxi in Brisbane in the late thirties, which is what he was doing when war broke out.

Andy speaks warmly of his comrades and the officers (Gunna Yeates and Plugger Martin, Groucho Marchant) under which he served - at least most of them and we won't mention the others. His knowledge of hill tops appears to have been an asset. As we all know - those of us who have climbed many a hill - the actual top of the feature can be somewhat elusive. So it was with the infamous Mount Elliot south of Townsville. Captain Yeates was quite sure that there must have been a point on the mountain top from which one could get 360 degrees visibility into and beyond the surrounding countryside and so see right down into Townsville itself. The reconnaissance party reported back - not so! The top is a slightly inclined north-south ridge, sloping to the north, well covered in vegetation. In the belief that there surely must be a high point which would afford the desired degree of vision, the Captain decided to take to the top with Andy leading the way. Although hot and humid at sea level and for most the way up, when actually on the top it was miserably wet and cold, under a permanent mist and, by now, dark. So was Andy's mood by the time he got to the top and he resolved he would have nothing further to do with this venture and made himself as comfortable as he possibly could under the circumstances leaving the redoubtable and good natured Captain Yeates to chop and gather firewood and make the best of their rather miserable circumstance. Andy told me that he thereafter carried a cross of remorse for having 'bludged' on the good Captain who only too willingly forgave him. As for clearing the top of Mount Elliot - I can only assume that this was done at least sufficient for their purpose.

Andy told of being sent out to North Barnard Island south of Innisfail in a party with Captain Eggleston on a 'secret' mission, this being to locate some survey

marks of special significance. The other two in the party were Les Warm and Aub Wendimundi. They were taken in a charter boat that put them on the Island from where they were able to indulge in considerable fishing. Andy tells that the fish were numerous and only too willing to attach themselves to the end of their lines. After gutting and scaling on the rocks the heads and guts were swilled out to sea by the tide which attracted the sharks. Standing on a rocky knoll with feet astride a narrow channel, Andy had a close encounter with a shark of considerable length and girth which attempted to pass through the channel between Andy's sturdy legs. Attempted, because the shark didn't make it. Andy, his .303 at the ready, fired a slug through the shark's neck killing it outright. The .303 slug was later found lodged in the skin on the underside of the shark, such was the toughness of the brute. Andy said the shark was cut into chunks for the party but it was pretty tough eating. Andy also tells of hearing one day a low rumble as if rising from the ground which turned out to be a very large convoy of American 'liberty ships' proceeding northwards to goodness knows where.

No doubt the work on North Barnard Island was completed because the charter boat returned after about three days and took the party back to the mainland. Some day's later Andy and his team were to climb Mount Bartlefrere. They ascended Crookneck, all three feeling less than well. Andy recalls that he felt as if he was getting the flu. Andy, and presumably the others were admitted to the Cairns 9 Div tented hospital where it was determined that they had scrub typhus, contacted on North Barnard Island. Scrub typhus was a killer, but Andy and his mates survived due, Andy thinks, to a medical breakthrough shortly before. Over the crisis they were evacuated from the comfort of the 9 Div hospital to the somewhat spartan convalescent camp at Scrubby Creek. (Where, according to Andy, the beds were 'plywood troughs.) Andy remained at Scrubby Creek for two weeks, however, scrub typhus was sufficient reason to be further evacuated this time to Ingham. Andy says that before leaving Scrubby creek he was fully re-kitted with new gear – everything, an act which in Andy's opinion yet again demonstrated the remarkable illogicality of the military mind. A medical board in Ingham downgraded

him to B grade so it was back to Brisbane for discharge to spend the remaining weeks of his military career at the transit depot at Redbank near Ipswich undergoing numerous tests.

Reporting to the orderly room one day he was asked if he had yet been assessed at the 'giggle house', such assessment being necessary for final reclassification before discharge. Andy, ever suspicious, replied that he had no need to go to the 'giggle house'; the whole Redbank camp was sufficient a 'giggle house' and that would do him. One of the discharged inmates had told him that in the 'giggle house' the shrinks ask all sorts of stupid questions. The ex-inmate was asked in all seriousness "what would you do if you looked out of the window and saw the Jap Fleet sailing up the highway"? Presumably the ex-inmate gave the correct response in replying "Call out the guard Sir" because he was no longer a 'giggle house' inmate. Anyhow, Andy was admitted to the 'giggle house' and was given 'confetti' books to read out aloud, these requiring a hidden number to be identified within the confetti pattern on each page. Andy suspected there was a trick in this so after the first few pages he stopped identifying the hidden number because it was held that if you went too far they might think you a bit dopey. Not Andy; he passed with flying colours. (He wasn't colour-blind either!)

Finally day of discharge came and he was asked if he was going to apply for a pension. "No" replied Andy "there's nothing wrong with me". "But didn't you have scrub typhus"? the questioner persisted. Andy, by now anxious to be clear of the place, replied he did but was now all right. "Well you better fill in these forms and you might get a pension" and Andy did under protest and he did get a pension which has been a nice little earner over the past 52 years.

Andy's venture back into civilian life began with a referral to the PMG recruiting board who sought to offer him a clerk's job which wasn't Andy. He wanted to be outside again, preferably on the end of an axe. His brush with scrub typhus was a stumbling block, however, they agreed to put him before a medical board where, to Andy's indignation, he had to parade in the raw. They thought him a pretty fine specimen

and he was cleared for outside duties. Andy was appointed a trainee linesman and that is what he did for the rest of his working life retiring as a line inspector in 1970.

So that is Andy's story. He married Doris Edna, ten years his junior, about four years before the War and had two children, both hail and hearty today. Andy's home in Beaconsfield Road, Brighton is comfortable and full of the memorabilia of a very long lifetime, one that is far from over yet. His front flower garden is full of pansies, iceland poppies, geraniums, sweet peas and his vegie garden at the back has strawberries, carrots, turnips, peas, cabbage and cauliflower with garlic to keep the pests at bay.

All this on a journey from Brighton to Gaythorne and return. From Brighton to Gaythorne? No, it was a journey through a lifetime - Andy Steen's lifetime. No wonder it seemed to take no time at all.....

PS: Andy confirms that the account is probably no more imperfect than his memory and he forgives any small discrepancies.

VALE – ALEXANDER BARR YEATES

Editor's Note: Alex Yeates obituary as published in the Queensland Surveyor's Bulletin and the Australian Surveyor is reproduced here in full. It extends beyond his wartime experience to reflect the whole of the man who was our patron for many years. Many of us might have believed that Alex's wartime experiences and his consistent loyalty to the Association was the central feature of his life. But of course he had many other significant interests, not least of which was his peace-time career. Much of the detail presented below was provided by his son Rod Yeates and was read at his valedictory at St John's Anglican Cathedral. Rod is at present arranging the plaque for Alex's ashes site at the Mount Thompson Memorial Garden and has gone to some length, first to obtain the fine-line outline of the original Australian Survey Corps badge and then to get the relevant permissions to have it inscribed on the plaque together with the traditional 'rising sun' badge. The Association has been able to assist in this process.

Alexander Barr Yeates, Surveyor General for Queensland from 1966 to 1975, died

peacefully on 21 September 1998 at the age of 89 years.

Alex, the eldest of six children, was born in Toowoomba in 1909 to Kenneth and Jessie Yeates. He had one brother Maitland, who predeceased him and four sisters. He was educated at the North State School, Toowoomba, Toowoomba High School, and Toowoomba Grammar School where he was a prefect and a member of the first football team. He retained a lifelong interest in T.G.S. and for several years was a member of the Board of Trustees. He took an active role in the Brisbane branch of the Old Boys' Association and latterly was honoured by being made an honorary life member.

Alex has said that he took up surveying on the advice of his doctor who thought that an outdoor life would overcome a boyhood of ill health. The advice was sound and Alex enjoyed good health throughout his long life. On leaving school, he became articled to Mr Surveyor Edmiston who practised in the Mackay district. Much of the work involved cutting up land for cane farms, often in very rugged country. The life of a surveyor in those early days was not easy. Home was a tent, and drawings were often done by lamplight.

In due course Alex moved to Brisbane to complete his studies under articles and took a position in the Titles Office. Alex qualified as a surveyor and in 1937 joined the Main Roads Department as an authorised surveyor, where he continued until the outbreak of World War II, working mainly in western Queensland.

With the advent of war, Alex joined the Australian Survey Corps, and rose to the rank of Captain. Alex was placed in command of the 1st Field Survey Company which had the task of producing urgently needed military maps of the coastal area of North Queensland at the scale of 1:63,360, the inch to the mile series. The work involved a great deal of triangulation, extensive chain and theodolite traversing and plane tabling with the aid of air photographs. Field photogrammetry was carried out employing principal point traversing and contouring under a stereoscope with the aid of a parallax bar – state of the art at that time. The resulting maps were little short of remarkable and

stood the test of time for many years, being displaced only by the 1:100,000 series in the 1960s. Alex's war service continued through north Queensland, the Gulf and the Torres Strait Islands finally serving at Moratai, Balikpapan and the Celebes.

Alex enjoyed the camaraderie of the Army and throughout the post war years maintained close contact with his wartime comrades through the Queensland Survey Corps Ex-serviceman's Association (later the Royal Australian Survey Corps Association) of which he became Patron.

After the war Alex returned to the Main Roads Department for several years. In 1953 he joined the Toowoomba City Council as Chief Surveyor, and was associated with a wide variety of projects in the city including the establishment of a survey control network for which he is remembered in Toowoomba to this day.

Alex was an active member of the Institution during the post war years serving on the divisional committee and was elected President in 1964. The appointment was unique in that this was the first occasion that a president was appointed who was resident outside of Brisbane. His commitment to the Institution necessitated Alex, after completing his normal work, travelling frequently to Brisbane down a road which, at that time, few would choose to travel on at night, often returning on the same night. During that time Alex also undertook studies in town planning at the University of Queensland. He was a member of the Royal Australian Planning Institute, later a fellow, and served as that Institute's President in 1967/68.

In 1966 Alex was appointed Surveyor General of Queensland, a position he held until 1975 when he retired from public service. As Surveyor General he served as President of the Surveyors Board of Queensland and Chairman of the Place Names Board for the same period.

There were many highlights in Alex's career and one that gave him great pleasure was in 1969, when as Surveyor General he attended an historical ceremony at 'Cameron's Corner', the place that marks the intersection of the three

States of Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia. The Surveyors General and Lands Ministers of the three States were present at the ceremony during which the original wooden post placed by surveyor Cameron in 1880 was replaced by a concrete one. The three Surveyors General stood at arm's length of each other – each in his own State. To commemorate the occasion a post office was set up for and 500 letters were posted. The stamps on these letters are collectors' items.

Alex retired in 1975 after an exemplary career of over forty years in the surveying profession. He was held in the highest esteem by its members. He wrote many papers on historical aspects of surveying.

In retirement one of Alex's pleasures was to keep in touch with members of his Army Survey Corps and he was always delighted to meet up with his old mates and reminisce about army days. He took a genuine interest in and gave a great deal of support to the widows of deceased Corps members. Another occasion which gave him a great deal of pleasure was when in December 1991 a plaque was affixed to the wall of the Hamilton Town Hall to record the time when units of the Survey Corps were housed there during the war. Returning to his wartime rank for the day, Captain AB Yeates, AIF inspected the Guard of Honour and unveiled the plaque which was then dedicated by the Rev. Philip Armstrong, Chaplain to the Queensland Royal Australian Survey Corps Association. The gathering was attended by over one hundred distinguished guests including Major General Fittock, the Commander of 1st Division and other military and State dignitaries as well as Royal Australian Survey Corps personnel and close friends. Anzac Day was always a special day for Alex and when the Survey Corps Association was incorporated in the march he proudly marched behind its banner, on one occasion completing the march after recent surgery on both knees.

Alex was a foundation member of the Queensland Retired Public Service Officers' Association and served a term as President. He had an abiding interest in the history and geography of Queensland, being an active member of both the Royal Geographical Society (elevated to Fellow)

and the Royal Historical Society. The 'Notable Australians' entry for 1978 records Alex's recreational interests as golf, squash, travel, reading and gardening. Of course those who knew Alex would be aware that photography was one of his special interests. He was indeed an excellent amateur photographer. At any gathering be it family, informal, military or official, Alex's camera was always in his pocket and more times than not held ready for action at his eye. He was an ardent collector of historical papers, books and records especially those concerning surveying, and his collection included some rare pieces.

Alex married Marjory Hurworth and they had one son, Rod, who graduated in Economics at Queensland University. His second wife was Doreen Thomas, who pre-deceased him in 1994. Doreen was a member of the staff of Toowoomba Grammar School during the war years when many of the male staff were involved in the war.

Alex remained a committed Christian in the Anglican tradition throughout his life, attending St James Church in Toowoomba, St Andrews South Brisbane and St Johns Cathedral Brisbane. He had many friends in both the clergy and laity.

Alex's life was celebrated at a Requiem Mass at St John's Anglican Cathedral on Tuesday 25 August 1998.

VALE – GORDON ARTHUR DUTNEY

Gordon Dutney was born at Kingaroy on 8th May 1924. After schooling he entered into an apprenticeship as a sign writer which was interrupted when he enlisted into the AIF in 1942.

He spent the major part of his service in the Survey Corps, serving with a detachment of 5 Field Survey Company (AIF) which was attached to the 2/9th Battalion in the full scale invasion of Balikpapan when the war ended in 1945.

After returning home he completed his apprenticeship and qualified as a sign writer, continuing in this trade until 1963. He then purchased a newspaper business

at Caloundra which he managed until he was forced to retire due to his war related injuries.

Being a tenacious and determined character, he purchased a 'hobby house' at Hervey Bay and spent many years renovating this property in his leisure time.

Gordon married Hazel in 1948. Hazel maintained the family home at Caloundra and kept an interest in the Hervey Bay property for some time after Gordon's death but she too passed away recently.

Editor's Note: Gordon was a frequent contributor to our Bulletin in the past, providing a report on the 1994 Reunion – 'A Sapper's view of our Last!! Reunion' – and poem on our flag in the December '94 issue.

VALE – DEREK CHAMBERS

It is with especial sadness that we advise the death of Derek Chambers. Derek passed away on Sunday 9th April 2000 after battling leukemia for many months. Treatment had affected Derek's immune system and as a result it was difficult for him to accept visitors during his last few months.

Derek was a post WW2 Survey veteran, enlisting in about 1963 at an early age. He completed his service as a Staff Sergeant having served on numerous field operations in Australia. He saw active service in Vietnam in 1966/67.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Derek's wife Lorraine and his children.

A more complete obituary will be published in the next issue of our Bulletin

THE GOLD CARD CAMPAIGN 1999

Those who listened to the 1999 Federal Budget speech may have heard as I did – that through the Department of Veterans Affairs the Government was going to extend to **all** WW2 veterans the greatly prized Gold Card. However the 'small print' which didn't reach the public was WW2 veterans **with qualifying service**. This excludes those WW2 veterans who remained in Oz for the duration and no doubt with them many of our survey lads.

The Gold Card Campaign 1999 is a tri-service veteran's initiative sponsored by the RAAF Association. The campaign has the support of the RSL and essentially it is all about lobbying federal politicians from the Prime Minister downwards to and including local members. Some money is needed to cover basic administrative costs and donations can be sent to the 'Gold Card Campaign Committee, 78 Finnis St Adelaide SA 5005. In a recent newsletter the following useful observation is made:

By proclamation in the Commonwealth Gazette dated 25 April 1942 all persons subject to military law were declared to be on active service. Our enlistment was for service in Australia and overseas regardless of where we were sent.

The Campaign asks for WW2 veterans to register their particulars with the Committee. For further information contact the campaign office on 08 8267 1337.

HISTORY IN THE WRITING

Many of our readers would know that there are presently two histories concerning the Royal Australian Survey Corps in the writing.

The first is the official Corps history by Dr Chris Coulthard-Clark, an accredited military historian and the second is a history of the Army Survey Regiment being researched and written by Mrs Val Lovejoy, as a master's thesis in history.

The official Corps history is due for publication in about August 2000 and will be available at a discounted price \$29.00 to Corps and Association members. The price to the public will be \$50.00. The discount results from the use of some residual Corps funds together with a generous donation from the Institution of Surveyors (Australia).

The Regiment's history is more of a social history – the Regiment in the context of Bendigo. Don Swiney advises that Val's final draft is some 140,000 words in length and includes many anecdotes. The version she will submit as her master's thesis will be about half that length. To gain control of the draft the Association has to find a further \$4,000 and then there

is the question of its publication. Don Swiney is investigating other funding sources – philanthropic and government. I have suggested selling the Mess silver. I understand it gathers dust in a back cupboard at Casula. There must be a way.

Bob Skitch

Snippet: Brigadier Don Macdonald celebrated his 90th birthday recently. He remains hale and hearty! **Happy birthday Don!**

DO YOU REQUIRE A LIFT TO THE REUNION IN SEPTEMBER? IF SO, CONTACT GRANT SMALL. Phone 3203 2287; Mob 0412 991 438

THE HUMOUR OF HAL JONES

Hal Jones has maintained a supply of 'Stanley' strip cartoons and the sayings of that Survey Corps ancient philosopher Halee Jones in successive past Bulletins and Newsletters. Here is a selection of Halee Jones from past issues. Stanley is on Page 14.

Halee Joneshe say

- *Anyone with normal blood pressure these days.....just isn't paying attention!*
- *Rule of thumb for travellersboil it – cook it – peel it – or forget it!*
- *Experience comes from what we have done..... wisdom comes from what we have done badly!*
- *More people would learn from their mistakes.....if they weren't so busy denying they made them!*
- *There are three stages in a persons life:*
 1. *They believe in Santa Claus*
 2. *They don't believe in Santa Claus*
 3. *They are Santa Claus.*
- *A good sleeping pill is a clear conscious!*
- *The difference between genius and stupidity..... is that genius has its limits!*