

(Follows on from Magna Carto Part A)

The Goldmines Hotel BBQ

The Sunday BBQ lunch was well attended at "Ed's Pub" once owned by Eddy Esposito an ex Corps member and later the Regiment's electrician. Many will remember his daughter "Kaaren" running it in later years when you almost needed an invitation to be allowed in. Thanks to Rick Walduck for your hospitality.

Parking was at a premium.



In the Pergola with the heaters



Or... out in the gardens

Off to Fortuna Villa



Warren Matheson, from the Fortuna Pipes and Drums leads everyone through the back gate and down past the Villa to the cairn.



The Cairn Ceremony

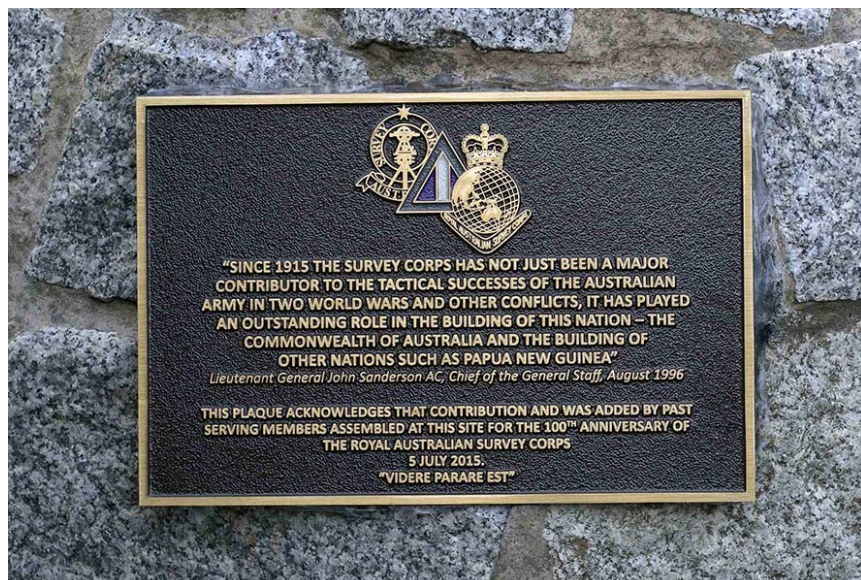
Introduction: "It is entirely appropriate that we gather here at this place to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Royal Australian Survey Corps. This memorial Cairn is dedicated to the military surveyors who whilst serving their country paid the supreme sacrifice during conflict.

Today we also remember those original members of the Corps who in 1915 although small in number, set the example for all who came after to follow, in service, loyalty, quality, achievement, and "esprit de corps". Whilst we are proud of their achievements and sacrifices, I am sure that they likewise would be proud of what the Corps went on to achieve during its existence. Today's service is to honour the members of the Survey Corps and those achievements and to record for future visitors the story of those that served at this site since 1942. We are also proud to have Rosemary Bowman and Derek Shannon here with us here today; both members of the original Land Headquarters Cartographic Company that first came to Bendigo in 1942."

Gary Warnest



L to R: Rev John South (past Survey Corps Major) Gary Warnest, Bob Skitch, Duncan Burns, Simon Lemon, Lindsay Perry (Chair of the National Land Surveying Commission of SSSI) and Paul Banks the current owner of Fortuna. Above: The Rev John South conducts the service and dedication of the newly unveiled plaque and story board. We suspect that he put in a good word for us for the good weather. Below: Simon Lemon and Bob Skitch after the plaque unveiling



A REFLECTION AT THE UNVEILING OF THE FORTUNA STORY BOARD

Lt Col Bob Skitch (Ret)

"Thank you Gary for allowing me this privilege.

I first laid eyes on this place we call Fortuna in late 1955. My Basic Survey Course, the 7/55 came from Balcombe in a creaky old Army bus, a trip that seemed to take most of the day. We arrived in the late afternoon. It was a cold gray afternoon and there behind the shrubbery was this grey old building, sort of forbidding and not at all welcoming. I wondered 'what on earth!' The verandas were all enclosed – roughly enclosed. We entered up the front steps and once inside I could see some traces of original grandeur. We were welcomed by the Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Lindsay Lockwood and the RSM Warrant Officer Des Moore. We were led around the reed covered lake overhung with large trees and up the steps to our accommodation hut, called the 'long hut' at the end of the parade ground and we more or less settled in for an overnight stay. There were tents permanently erected down one side of the parade ground accommodating a dozen or so Nashos. Dinner was in the adjacent kitchen and other ranks dining room after which we filled in the night. The next morning we paraded in our KDs wearing boots AB with their hob nail soles and gaiters, not on the parade ground because it was raining but in the parqueted floor ballroom. It is amazing what that parquet floor put up with. Then followed a tour around the old building – Cartographic Squadron up stairs, map compilation in the music room and Litho Squadron in the Battery and the associated rabbit warren of small rooms. There was sleeping accommodation upstairs in what I later knew as the template room and later proving and editing. Multiplex was in a darkened room adjacent to the CO's office and of course we were shown the marble bathroom and the bath in a cupboard in what was then the CO's office. Also the mysterious tunnel We departed by bus mid afternoon with many differing impressions, almost surreal of all we had seen and had a late arrival back at the School of Survey.

I will now fast forward twenty two years to the time I was privileged to serve as Commanding Officer. In 1977 much had been done to the old building by successive Commanding Officers, both within the building and in the gardens. Colonel Lockwood was a gardener and during his long tenure as CO he did much to restore the gardens. I well remember turning out on a Friday afternoon in a work party to do an hour's weeding in the lawn. Frank Buckland did much to restore the building itself and miraculously managed to recover the cast iron veranda balustrades that had fallen victim to wartime metal collections – to be turned into guns and whatever. Fortunately they were in store somewhere.. Gradually the Villa had been tidied up, repainted internally and externally but without any thought given to its heritage values. What were they? Little was known about the history of the place. We were vaguely aware that it had been the home of George Lansell Esquire – after all, his statue was down town in Rosalind Park.

There was always a great deal of local interest in Fortuna Villa and past COs tried to meet the frequent requests to visit by holding the occasional open day. The last one before my arrival had apparently been near disastrous, gardens trampled, congestion on stairways, fittings broken off and souvenired and litter everywhere. My predecessor strongly recommended that we do not take it on again. There was also the vexed question of insurance cover in the event of an accident and personal injury. I was effectively dissuaded but nevertheless to maintain and develop better rapport between the Regiment and the Bendigo community I believed there must be a better way. I won't go into the detail of how it developed but the Regiment's Regimental Fund Committee entered into an arrangement with the then Bendigo Trust to arrange tours for up to twenty visitors three times a week, Wednesday afternoon when most of the soldiers were playing sport, Saturday and Sunday afternoons. The tours would be conducted by the duty staff, usually a young sapper or corporal who certainly rose to the occasion and could lay on some pretty interesting stories. The ghost of George Lansell kept popping up everywhere. We charged a small amount for the tour, it may have been \$5.00 and split the proceeds with the Trust who arranged the tours and controlled the numbers. Having researched the early history we produced a souvenir booklet with coloured plates of the salient features and the carefully planned route of the tour which of course finished up with the tunnel. Our share of the proceeds went into Regimental funds for the express purpose of purchasing fittings and fixtures appropriate to the building – gasoliers light fittings to replace the old dangling light bulbs, heritage style wall paper. We had good advice from the the Carneys of Eaglehawk Antiques. That was the start of things.

The next step occurred about a year later. Commonwealth Works Department painters arrived to give the building its ten year coat of paint – battleship grey and white, more of a blue grey I think. Again my good friends, the Carneys of Eaglehawk Antiques came to the rescue with appropriate advice on the sort of colours that would be appropriate to a 19th century building. I found I had an ally in Colonel McBride, Chief Engineer in HQ 3 MD in Melbourne, an Englishman who had a personal interest in heritage buildings and thought Fortuna one of the best. With his support I called off the painters who hadn't actually started. Colonel McBride arranged for an expert in old buildings from Ballarat to visit for a few days to provide appropriate advice on heritage colours. Our paint expert crawled all over the building scraping back layers of paint to reveal what lay underneath and a week later produced a detailed colour guide. With a few modifications it was adopted and result is what you now see.

The Army started to take an ongoing interest in the building, or perhaps it was Commonwealth Works. I looked out one day to see masons working on restoring the Roman Fountain. Over the years much was done, inside and out. The restoration of the lake and the surrounding gardens undertaken by my predecessor Peter Constantine was a major achievement. All this came to an end in 1996 when the Army Survey Regiment with the rest of our Royal Australian Survey Corps disbanded and the Regiment became a Commonwealth Public Service organisation. Many in the past made significant contributions to Fortuna and we can be thankful that it is once again in good hands and has a bright future. Congratulations Paul on acquiring this magnificent property and may your venture be a very successful one.

The Story Board about to be unveiled tells the story very succinctly of the Royal Australian Survey Corps and that of Fortuna during its fifty two years of army occupation. I suspect that had Fortuna not been taken over by the Army in 1942 it would not have survived the destructive post World War Two years of the 1950s and 60s when Bendigo lost several of its late colonial buildings – in one instance to be replaced by a service station.

The last Commanding Officer of the Army Survey Regiment Duncan Burns is with me here and together we will reveal this quite magnificent board that tells the story, our story, of The Royal Australian Survey Corps and the Army Survey Regiment here at Fortuna Villa.

I will finish with the words of the last verse of our Corps marching song – 'Wandering the King's Highway'. Somehow they seem appropriate to our many older members who once served.

*Nights are cold, maybe I am growing old !
Yet I thrive and the mates I meet, make it good to be alive.
Comrades farewell, what if we never meet again
The memory will stay
As I go, rain or snow,
Wandering the King's highway."*



The story board being unveiled by Duncan Burns and Bob Skitch (Past Commanding Officers of the Survey Regiment)

The heritage bench seats shown below that were donated by the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI) and Mapping Sciences Institute Australia (MSIA) were presented by Lindsay Perry

None of us would have survived with out the name tags thanks to CR Kennedy.



Rosemary Bowman and Derek Shannon
Original members of the Land Headquarters
Cartographic Company



The Army Survey Regiment

On the 1st July 1915, just ten weeks after the landings at Gallipoli, the Australian Survey Corps was raised as a unit of the Permanent Military Forces with a strength of three officers and sixteen other ranks. Subsequently, all but four members joined the AIF and saw active WWI service in Sinai, Palestine or France.



Major Bill Sarll OC LHQ Cartographic Company
(1942 - 1945 Souvenir Booklet)

When the members of the Australian Survey Corps returned from Europe in 1919, they were organised to form a survey sub-section and a draughting sub-section located in Melbourne. In 1941 a photographic / lithographic section was added to the draughting component and this combination was then renamed the Land Headquarters Cartographic Company.

In January 1942, the officer commanding the company, Major W.M. Sarll, was directed to find a more suitable location for the unit, North of the dividing range and away from the areas of military concentration at Seymour and Albury. He inspected possible sites at Kellor and Kyneton, finally arriving in Bendigo. That evening in the City Family Hotel, a local resident suggested he should look at Fortuna Villa, the one time home of George Lansell the 'Quartz King'. The following day he paid sixpence for the conducted tour of the mansion and promptly decided that it met most of his requirements as a base for the unit.

The LHQ Cartographic Company moved into Fortuna Villa to take up permanent residence on 11 June 1942. The photographic / lithographic plant was installed in the building that had housed the quartz stamper battery, while the cartographic sections were located in the old mansion. During World War II the Cartographic Company produced 834 maps and printed 20 million maps and charts (involving 76 million impressions) including the mapping to assist the retaking of the Philippines. After the war the Cartographic Company remained at Fortuna and was renamed the Army Headquarters Cartographic Company.



Taking an observation using a geodetic theodolite
c. 1960
(Unit Photo Album)

The Southern Command Field Survey Section, located at Albert Park Barracks, Melbourne, was relocated to Bendigo in 1955, and the AHQ Cartographic Company was granted 'Regiment' status and renamed the AHQ Survey Regiment. The Regiment was now capable of performing all the functions involved in the production of maps and charts from original survey to final map printing. The Regiment then mounted field survey operations around Northern Australia and Papua New Guinea.

The Regiment had a significant lithographic and photographic capability to support both cartographic map production and the use of aerial photography. It owned a Klimsch Commodore Camera that was reputed to be the largest process camera in the Southern hemisphere and it was a vital resource.



The Print Room operating in the old quartz stamper battery c. 1959
(Unit Photo Album)



Klimsch Commodore Camera c. 1959
(Unit Photo Album)

On 14 June 1970, the AHQ Army Survey Regiment was given the honour and distinction of the right of 'Freedom of Entry to the City' by the citizens of Bendigo. This privilege, whereby the Regiment marched as a formed body of troops through the streets of Bendigo was exercised again in 1977, 1980, 1985, 1990 and for the last time in 1995.

The Regiment provided significant mapping support to the allied forces during the Vietnam War and provided emergency mapping in support of the rebuilding of Darwin after the devastation caused by Cyclone Tracy. The Regiment was able to use its significant capability to exploit aerial photography flown the day after the cyclone to produce high quality mapping in a timely manner.



Manual cartography by hand 'scribing' map compilations c. 1969
(Unit Photo Album)

In 1973, the Regiment was renamed the Army Survey Regiment.

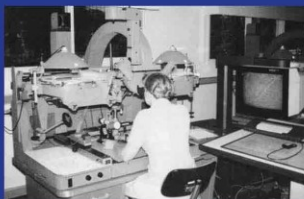
Automap, a computer-assisted cartography system to replace manual cartography was introduced to the Regiment in 1976, and upgraded in 1984. The continual introduction of increasingly more sophisticated computers into the Regiment, driven by an expanding demand for digital topographic data, made the Regiment a world leader in the exploitation of this technology.

Following the Second World War, the Regiment had substantial commitments to Australia's National Mapping program at scales of 1:250,000, 1:100,000 and the Defence 1:50,000 scale mapping program. It produced and then printed the charting for the Royal Australian Air Force and printed charts for the Royal Australian Navy. The Regiment completed entire map coverage of Papua New Guinea at 1:250,000, 1:100,000 and aeronautical charts at various scales and made significant contributions to the Defence Cooperation Survey and Mapping Programs in Indonesia and the South West Pacific countries.

In 1990 the printing capability of the Regiment was upgraded with the commissioning of a Speedmaster five colour press. A further enhancement was achieved in 1995, when a four colour Large Format Man Roland Press was commissioned, providing the Regiment with the capability to print on demand the full range of maps and charts used by the Australian Defence Force.

The role of the Royal Australian Survey Corps was to provide the mapping, charting and geodetic support to the Australian Defence Force and to contribute to the national development mapping programmes throughout Australia and its region. The Royal Australian Survey Corps was disbanded on 1 July 1996 when its traditional military topographic support function was formally re-integrated with the Royal Australian Engineer Corps. The remaining mapping functions were either transferred to other Australian Defence organisations or ceased as military sponsored activity.

Since 1942, a majority of the members of the Royal Australian Survey Corps had served at Fortuna Barracks at some stage. Whilst doing so they contributed significantly to the well being of the city of Bendigo by their participation in community life, membership of churches, educational and sporting organisations and service clubs. It is noteworthy that the Department of Defence occupied Fortuna Villa for a longer period than the Lansell family. The Army Survey Regiment was disbanded in November 1996 and the Department of Defence operations at Fortuna Barracks ceased in 2008.



Capturing three dimensional digital topographic features from stereo aerial photography using a modified Wild B8 Plotter as part of the Automap 2 System c. 1988
(RAISy - Introduction to Topographic Mapping Handbook)



The Army Survey Regiment on parade c. 1995 (Unit Photo Album)

VIDERE PARARE EST
(To see is to prepare)



This story board was provided by members of the Ex Fortuna Survey Association to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Royal Australian Survey Corps July 2015.



Paul Banks after being presented with a plaque went onto welcome everyone to Fortuna and outlined his plans for the restoration and development of the site. He announced the impending start to monthly tours of the Villa to be conducted by our Richard Arman and in conjunction with the Bendigo Tourist Information Centre. Bookings and details of the tours are available on line.

To the Print Room

Rosemary Bowman cutting the Anniversary Cake





Peter Swandale and Bob Bogumil attempt to open the Litho Sqn time capsule. Unfortunately the enclosed port crock was broken and that damaged some of the contents shown below.



How quickly things change.....

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Hopefully it is 2015 and this note has been found inside a time capsule located in the left wing, as you look from the front, of the Lithographic Squadron Barbecue located at the rear of 'Wayzgoose Hall'.

1990 was a watershed year for Lithographic Squadron. The acquisition and commissioning of much new equipment and facilities enabled the Squadron to face the challenges of the 21st Century with confidence. 1990 was also the year in which a number of major steps were taken along the tortuous procurement path leading, hopefully, to the acquisition of a Graphic Arts Scanner and a Large-format printing press. (are these technologies still relevant?) It is assumed that these have been replaced and upgraded as a matter of course. Large steps were also taken towards the revamping and reorganizing of the Trades employed within the Squadron; Photographic and Printing Technician. An attempt to re-instate civil recognition, lost in 1981, for both these trades was also commenced.

Of course the equipment and facilities only form the bare framework of any organization, the people associated with the organization give it form and life. The Squadron's character and traditions are derived from its members and the inaugural 'Back-to-Litho' Day held on 23 November 1990 provided a unique opportunity to view first hand the people who formed the basis for the tremendous pride and spirit which is engendered in the Squadron.

I have every confidence that this entity, known as litho, will continue and flourish and will again be on show when this note is read. I wish you all the best and I hope that I, or some of my compatriots are present at the reading.

Robert Coote
R.A. COOTE
Major
Officer Commanding
Lithographic Squadron

20 December 1990

A tour through the tunnel and the Villa followed the afternoon tea, thanks to Paul and Lisa Banks.



The Survey Corps flag flew proudly at Fortuna one last time, dusk and the lowering of the flag brought to a close the 100th Anniversary celebrations in Bendigo, made special by the approximately 500 who attended.

Items for Sale

We are ordering more of the Ex Fortuna Survey Association 100th Anniversary Caps to satisfy orders taken over the weekend. Caps are \$15 plus postage.



We have also had some interest in Polar Fleece Jackets and Vests.

Half zip long sleeve \$35 (size S to 4XL)

Full zip Ladies or Mens Jacket \$36 (size S to 4XL)

Unlined vest \$28 (size S to 4XL)

Reversible vest \$35 (size S to 3XL)

Short sleeve Polo top \$25 (size S to 5XL)

Clothing will be available on about a four week turnaround.



100th Anniversary miniature badges are now also available at \$10



Postage for all items will be extra or they can be picked up if you are in the area.

If you want any one of these items then please Email us soon on rasvy100@gmail.com

Digital Photos

To access the data and photos on the printed USB drives that were given to those attending the dinner, you need to twist or turn the bottom of the USB clockwise and the USB shaft emerges.

We have created a "Google Drive" so that you can add your photos and access all the official photos from the reunion on the internet.

The details of the Google Drive are:

Login to the Google Account: rasvyphotos (no extension required)

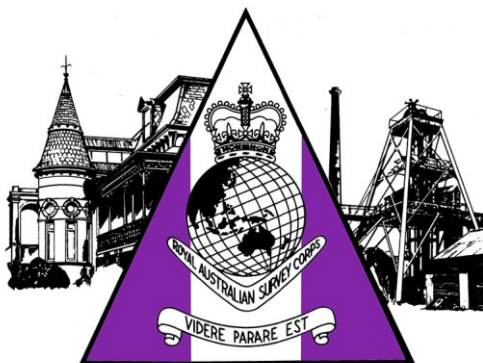
Password: r@svyphotos

We are aware that a number of people are having trouble accessing the Google Drive so we will be attempting to place a copy of the photos on the Ex Fortuna website before too long.

<http://www.exfortunasvy.org.au/index.htm>

Bendigo Happy Hours

Happy Hours are held at 5pm on the First Friday of each month at the Gold Mines Hotel, Marong Road, Bendigo. (03) 54436175 Meals are available if you wish. See you there.



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