

Magna Carto

EX- FORTUNA SURVEY ASSOCIATION INC NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2001

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A Big “Back to Bendigo” Weekend!

The Survey Corps Day Weekend Saturday 30 June - Sunday 1 July 2001 was certainly one to remember. With at least 260 attending one of the activities over the weekend and a further 28 who made apologies it was the largest Survey Corps Re-union since the disbanding of the Corps. It was the 86th anniversary of the formation of the Survey Corps and one could wonder what was special about that, and why on this occasion would so many come “Back to Bendigo”.

It had always been the intention of the Ex Fortuna Committee to hold a Dinner to Launch the Publishing of the “Mapmakers of Fortuna” the History of the Survey Regiment, however this did not occur in time. The notice of the event had been given some eight months earlier and a ground swell of enthusiasm for a dinner had started to grow to the point where large numbers wanted to attend the dinner, published History or not. It was not to be the formal invitation and gathering of the statesmen of the Corps which was to be left for the History Launch but was rather, a big get together of those wishing to indulge and reminisce in some Esprit De Corps. It was however, the first large Survey Corps Dinner fashioned after the Corps Dinners held at the School of Military Survey, Latchford Barracks, Bonegilla, since the disbanding of the Corps.



The Dinner setup and ready to go, complete with Menus and Candelabras

The support from the other Survey Associations was also appreciated, as all Associations generally hold some activity on Corps Day and had this year, specially made other arrangements to allow for the Bendigo Weekend. The earlier arrivers started impromptu get togethers on Friday. Some had arrived days before that, enjoying the company of friends and what Bendigo has to offer.

The Corps Dinner was a big affair, as even the photo does not show all the seating. On arrival the Ladies were each treated to flowers and their partners to a miniature metal badge of the combined Survey badges and colour patch as used by the Ex Survey Associations, specially struck for the

The response was, to say the least, over whelming. Had there not been a limit of 214 at the Dinner venue, I am sure that the numbers would have been at least double that attending. Without doubt, those who attended had a great time. Some had not met since the 1970's. At this point it is appropriate to thank all those who travelled from interstate who made the weekend so special, all States except Tasmania and the Northern Territory were represented with multiple attendees.

occasion. The Dinner ran very smoothly thanks to the help of the Bendigo RSL staff. After the meal, Warren Matheson from the Fortuna Pipes and Drums, piped in the Port and the more formal part of the evening followed.



Pat & George Graham, Ian & Pat Bootland and Pam Miles at the Dinner



Warren Matheson from the Fortuna Pipes & Drums, Piping in the Port

There was much reminiscing between breaks with portable cameras on each table recording the activities. A few photos have been shown but with such a large number, it has only been possible to show a selection. The albums will be available at the next function for viewing. Throughout the Dinner images of some of the Unit photos were screened onto a wall, some attracting many comments.



Allan Adsett, Dick Barwald and Lloyd Patterson
In front of the Portrait of Lady Dianna



John Smith, Warren Hall, Wayne Rothwell, Ian Thiselton,
with John Phillips and Mick Flynn

A number of apologies were made on behalf of those unable to attend due to various reasons including the health of themselves, their partners or their vehicles. Included in the normal toasts that followed was a toast in memory of the Princess of Wales, Lady Diana. Following a playing of the Corps Song, Stevo Hinic proposed a moving Toast to the Survey Corps, a copy of which follows.

Graham Hales then reminded us all that this was also the 50th anniversary of Litho Sqn and some usual Litho ruckus followed, including the claim that that this was the real reason for the Dinner. This was given the usual response by the crowd.



Litho Sqn Members on the Stage after the Dinner. Rob Bogumil proudly displaying his Litho Sqn "T Shirt".

The Corps Toast as presented by Stevo Hinic 30 Jun 01

Mr. Dining President, Fellow Corps Members, Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Before I propose the toast it would be remiss of me not to say just a few words about the Royal Australian Survey Corps.

Let us take a few moments to reflect on the Survey Corps and its contribution to the development of this great country we live in. May we also reflect on the people who made up the Corps, the unique characters, the colourful personalities, highly trained and motivated. Their ingenuity in overcoming adversity, their ability to subdue hardship, confronting the eternal problem of the lack of resources but they still carried out their tasks to exacting standards. Many examples of the hardships faced by the Corps are described in Coulthard-Clark's book 'Australia's Military Map Makers'. However, if I may take the liberty to comment after reading the same book one actually realises how unrecognized and understated the role of the Survey Corps and its members has been in the development of this country.

In 1936 the then OC of the Survey Corps, Major Vance commenced a "Corps liaison letter" on a three monthly basis aimed at improving the "esprit de corps". Little did he know that 60 years later the Corps would be disbanded but the "esprit de corps" still exists and this is evident by the turnout here tonight. It is also evident by the numbers who had wished to be here tonight but due to various reasons could not. This camaraderie is also very apparent when one reads articles from the various newsletters published around the country by Ex-Svy Corps members who willingly volunteer their time and resources.

As we reminisce we realise the profound influence that the Corps has had on our personal lives. The many lasting friends, acquaintances and even more importantly, the spouses met whilst on postings, courses and detachments. Tonight amongst us are partners and guests who have never had the opportunity to feel that camaraderie that we as Corps members have felt. I have no doubt that at the conclusion of the events of this weekend they too will feel the bond and friendship that we developed whilst serving in the Corps.

For those members who are unable to be here tonight I'm sure their thoughts are with us. For those members who have passed on our thoughts are with them. A common analogy often quoted is that the Survey Corps was like a "big family" and many here tonight will subscribe and understand that view. I have no doubt that the many civilians who worked at "Fortuna" felt part of that family too. When the Survey Regiment as we knew it closed, it was the end of a unique era. I know that when the Regiment's history is finally published and the story of that era is told, I for one, look forward to reading it. I am sure that those associated with it's publication will chose a suitable date and time to allow us the opportunity to appropriately acknowledge that achievement and the efforts of it's author Mrs Valerie Lovejoy who is present here tonight. It would also provide us the chance to gather in an even greater number to share and celebrate the significance and meaning of this occasion to us all. I'd like to conclude by saying that when one carefully reads the words to the corps song one cannot help but feel that they, very appropriately, describe the current situation. However let me say that "you can take the Survey Corps out of the Army but you can't take the Corps out of the people".

Ladies and gentlemen please charge you glasses and be upstanding!
"To The Royal Australian Survey Corps"....."The Corps"



The culmination of the speeches came with the presentation by Valerie Lovejoy of the "Mapmakers of Fortuna" Thesis to Don Swiney. The Thesis resulted in Valerie being granted a Master of Arts for her efforts. Congratulations Valerie.

Not to be outdone, not that there was any chance of that, Janet Justin organised the Ladies who served at Fortuna to the stage for a photo of their own. Sorry Guys, but they made a much better photo.



The Ladies who had served at Fortuna included Margaret Taylor from WA and Barabara Bates-Brownsword from QLD.

The Saturday afternoon tour of Fortuna was well supported with about a hundred turning up. Thanks must go to DTA (The Defence Topographic Support Agency), sorry their new name is DIGO, The Bendigo Branch of the Defence Imagery and Geospatial Data Organisation (BEN-DIGO) for allowing the Fortuna Tour. The weekend would not have been complete without a visit at least, to Fortuna. Those that attended the tour were not disappointed. The Sunday Golf organised by Kevin "Chuck" Berry was a huge success for the three members who went. It is believed that the fresh air after the dinner from the night before, had a detrimental effect on those who had indicated that they were to attend.

Onto the Sunday BBQ...

Whilst the weather was kind, the outstanding attraction at the Eaglehawk RSL venue was the fire organised by Don Swiney. It is believed that had the firewood not been taken away, some would still be there now. More attended the BBQ than the 214 from the dinner the night before and this included quite a few extras who were unable to get to the dinner. It was a great opportunity for all to get to chat to each other although again with the numbers so large it was nearly impossible to catch up with everyone. Thankyou to the members of the committee and all those who helped make it a terrific day/weekend.



Outside at the BBQ many around the fire

The Unit Flag comes home

The weather beaten Survey Corps Flag that flew on the flag pole at the Survey Regiment for many years, disappeared at the amalgamation with RAE in 1995. The Flag which had been missing for the last six years, suddenly appeared, coming home in time for the Corps Day weekend. It is really great to have it back.

The BBQ cont...



Alex Cairney, Ken Shaw, Bruce Cockburn, Stan Campbell
Pat McConnachie, Peter Tangey, Merv Marks and others.



Doug & Chris Carswell, "Biddy" Dazkiw
Dennis "Wally" Walters and Rowan Gillies at the Unit Albums

From the President....

The Australian Service Medal saga continues. We had previously reported that those who were on the Mandau and Gading 1 operations were now eligible for the award of the ASM (1945-75), SEAsia clasp. We can now add to that that those who were on the Gading 2,3 and 4 operations are now also eligible for the same award and that was promulgated in special gazette number 230 dated the 29th June 2001. The eligibility ceases on the 30 April 1975 in conjunction with the cessation of ANZUK service. We have now also been advised by the Director of Honours and Awards that the Chief of Army has also approved the recognition of the Gading 5 operation as a matter of equity as the service was predominantly the same as the previous four deployments and occurred almost immediately after Gading 4. This will require an amendment to the current Instrument of Declaration and Determination for the ASM with Clasp 'SEAsia'.

The Cenderwasih series of operations between 1976 and 1981 will be recognised by an award of the ASM with clasp 'Irian Jaya'. Approval was not given for the award of the AASM as it was considered that it did not meet the established criteria for warlike service.

The Nusa Barat and Pattimura/Nusa Timur series of operations along with the operations in the South West Pacific will not be recognised.

For those that approval has already been given and have a gazette number, application can be made now. For the Gading 5 and Cenderwasih series, the gazette has yet to be published. We understand that application forms are available at local RSL branches and we will try and get copies of the application forms for distribution. For those who were on those operations that are not eligible and feel that an injustice has been done, you should make contact with the committee and we will see if we can act on your behalf. We would need to make it a combined application if we are to be successful. The partial success of the representations that we have made is due in no small part to the efforts of Clem Sargent and Phil Chapman (for the Cenderwasih series).

The question has been raised that if someone has gone on one or more of the Gading series operations and then on one or more of the Cenderwasih series, are they entitled to both the ASM 1945-75 and the ASM. In order to cover all cases (we think), we have had advice that:

* if you were on the Mandau operation and then on the Gading 5 operation then you would be entitled to both medals, if however you were on any of the other Gading operations and then Gading 5, you would be only entitled to the ASM 1945 - 75, the principal being, one medal per operation despite the fact that Gading 5 was after the 30 April 1975.

*if you were on the Gading 5 operation only then you would be entitled to the ASM with clasp 'SE Asia'. Should you then be on any of the Cenderwasih series then you would be entitled to the additional clasp 'Irian Jaya'.

*if you were on any of the Cenderwasih series but had been previously entitled to the ASM 1945-75, perhaps as a result of PNG service then you would still be entitled to both medals.

Don Swiney,

Survey Corps/ Engineer Museum Update

For those at the Dinner, Don gave a brief update of the restructuring of the Museum. This is in line with the Army's direction as a whole in making Museums self supporting. The flyer and application form for the Military Engineering Heritage Company follows on the following pages. The initial Survey Corps Museum Building at Moorebank was built as a direct result of the agreement to amalgamate with the Engineer Corps as the Survey Corps had an existing Museum Building at Bonegilla. This building (covered in the last Magna Carta) has now been tripled in size and renamed the Australian Army Museum of Military Engineering. It is vital that as many Ex Survey Corps members as possible become members of this new Company. The Survey Name has already disappeared from the Museum Name and unless we are happy to be relegated to a back corner of the building which was originally constructed entirely for Survey Corps Memorabilia, we must have representation (**in numbers**) in this new Company. The cost is \$15 per year. Your proxy votes should be allocated to the Survey Corps Representative on your application unless you are able to attend the initial meeting to be held on 29 August 2001. There is a new home page constructed for the Engineer Museum and is worth a visit.
<http://www.aamme.com.au>

QLD ASSOC BBQ AT TONY GEE'S BRIBIE ISLAND RETREAT

Tony and Loretta Gee kindly invited QLD Association members and their partners to a barbecue at their very beautiful Bribie Island retreat* on Sunday 8 April 2001 To call the event a barbecue is to greatly understate the feast offered. It was magnificent. Many of the tasty dishes had been pre-prepared; however Tony did in fact barbecue and cut a very professional image in so doing at his very handsome outdoor kitchen.

The QLD Assoc Patron Ed Anderson who also lives on the Island was in attendance. It was great opportunity to catch up with quite few of our members we haven't seen at Association functions in recent times. The photo below reflects the conviviality of the occasion.

* Retreat it may be but with Tony now retired from Telstra and upon the sale of their Aspley home, Bribie is to become the permanent residence of Loretta and Tony.



Back row standing: John (JB) Barry, John Hook, Ed Anderson, Barry Lutwyche, Doug(Butch) Winterflood, Bruce Bowers, Bob Skitch, Peter (Blue) Blaskett, Irene Blaskett, Peter (Emu) Osterhage, Cheryl Hook, Robin Smith (out of view)
Centre row seated: Alex Cairney, Ann Bowers, Tony Gee, Wendy Skitch, Kym Weston, Faye Weston, Jim Gill, Marie-Ann Gill (out of view)

Front row seated: Dell Osterhage, Loretta Gee, John Smith.

Evan Giri has now moved from Bendigo to Albury. We still hope to see you at re-unions.

Frank and Naomi Bryant have moved from Adelaide back to Strathdale, Bendigo. They arrived just in time for the Corps Day Weekend, some welcome party, good timing! We now look forward to seeing you both more often.

Maureen Chadwick. It was a shock to hear that Maureen had passed away in Bendigo on 9 Jan 2001 as a result of complications after an operation. Our sympathy goes to Warren.

Phil Maher has recently had a motor vehicle accident in Bendigo, we hope that he will be fully recovered and back driving again soon.

Bob Roche. We all hope that you are on the way to recovery after your stay in Melbourne's Peter McCallum.

New Members

We wish to welcome Stuart Symond to the Committee and to the following new members to the Association. Jenny (nee Hadow) and Ian Johnson, Garran and June Hill (Melbourne), Paul and Joan Kenyon (Bendigo), Hayden (Havachat) and Malcolm Beer (Echuca), Jim and Trish Mitchell (Bathurst, NSW), Kaetland (nee Gay Robinson) and Andre Corbould (Canberra), David and Dianne Wicker (Baddaginnie, VIC), TJ (Terry) and Lea Wicker (where ever you are)(Blair Athol, SA), Ian Fitzgerald (still complains about Victoria VS Queensland) (Runcorn, you guessed it QLD), Paul Hopes (Mitchellton, QLD), David and Katrina Jobe (Maiden Gully, VIC), Wayne and Sonia Lloyd (Bendigo), Verity Dixon (Glenelg North, SA), Mick and Carthy Banham (just retired from the Army), (Gordon, ACT), Allan and Olive Choat, (Alphington, VIC), Mick and Susan Byrne (Bendigo) Rhys and Joanne Delaine, (back in Bendigo), Mary-Anne and Ian Thiselton, McDowall ,QLD), Jim and Tracy Ash, (Strathdale), Peter and Robyn Tangey, (Mitchelton, QLD), Peter and Phillipa Tuddenham (also back in Bendigo) .

Association Badges



For those who attended the Corps Day Dinner, you will have received a miniature Gold plated metal Association Badge and others were able to obtain them over the weekend.

There are still some badges left (size and design shown), so if you would like one please contact the Secretary, cost of the remaining Badges is now \$10 ea. Some of the Survey Associations have some stocks, so that you may be able to pick one up there. The numbers are limited. The detail in the badges is amazing with even the letters in the boomerang perfectly formed.

In continuing to seek funds for the publishing the Regiment History, the Local History Grants Scheme is now back on line. Applications are due in September with distributions in December. The Association will be making an application for some funding and are optimistic of a successful result. Further funds are needed including Pre-Publication sales. A return slip is attached at the end of the newsletter for anyone wishing to take up this option.

I still have some copies of the Corps History in stock at Bendigo, so if you want a copy give me a ring or pick up a copy at the Sunday 1st April Reunion.

The Survey Museum at Morebank has been tripled in size since its original construction. Now designated the Army Engineer Museum the extensions are nearing completion. All the current Royal Australian Survey Corps Memorabilia is currently in store at the Geomatics Wing at Morebank. Once the extensions are complete the Geomatics Wing will desperately need assistance to re-setup the exhibits. If anyone is able to help please get in contact with Major Brian Sloan on (02) 9600 1536, some arrangements with accommodation may be possible.



The Survey Museum extensions showing the two new sections added to the rear of the original building



The Entrance to the Army Engineer Museum

VALE



FRANK BUCKLAND.

Brigadier Frank Desmond Buckland OBE, CO AHQ Svy Regt 1 Dec 62 to 29 Jan 65, D Mil Svy 23 Mar 67 to 31 Aug 72, Col Comdt RASvy Jan 73 to Jan 76, Patron of The Canberra Survey Corps Association, died in Canberra 17 May 01 after a protracted illness.

Frank Buckland joined the Aust Svy Corps in Sep 1938 as a topographer and transferred as a sergeant to the 2/1st Aust Fd Svy Coy (RAE) following its raising in 1940. He served in the Middle East with 2/1st and was employed plane-tabling along the Trans-Jordan - Syrian border. On the return of the 2/1st to Australia he was commissioned as a lieutenant on 23 June 42 and served in Australia in staff appointments and in New Guinea. In the immediate post-war years Frank was on the staff of Survey Directorate and in 1947 was selected to accompany Major Bill Johnson to UK and Kenya to study the application of radar-controlled air photography and the use of Multiplex.

A posting to the School of Military Survey followed, before an appointment as OC W Comd Fd Svy Sec and DAD W Comd, on promotion to Major. Then one of the first two exchange postings to HQ FARELF where he was Mentioned in Despatches before returning to Australia where he was OC C Comd Fd Svy until, on promotion to Lt Col, Frank became CO AHQ Svy Regt. This was followed by two years as AD Svy AHQ before promotion to Colonel, Director of Military Survey in 67. He retired as Hon Brigadier in August 72, in his own words, 'to make way for younger officers'. During his service as D Mil Svy Frank Buckland was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE), the citation noting his professional ability and his personal attention to the well-being of the members of the Corps. He was instrumental, during this time, in launching the series of operations in Indonesia that are now being recognised by the award of the Australian Service Medal with the clasp SE Asia.

Following his retirement Frank Buckland devoted his time to working for the Smith Family and Canberra Legacy, of which he was President 1977-1978. Always a keen sportsman, he continued to play squash, tennis and golf into his late sixties. Diagnosed with cancer Frank fought a hard battle until he succumbed on 17 May. Always a very private man who concealed his true feelings, he stipulated that he should be privately cremated. The service was attended by his family and a few close friends. The Corps was represented by John Hillier and Clem Sargent. Our sympathy goes to his wife, Joy, son Graham and daughter Sue, his five grandsons and one great-granddaughter.

Don, 'Donkey', Gray died in Canberra on 20 March. Don, a laconic WWII infanteer, served in the Topo Sqn in the early 60's but left after his first period of enlistment to join National Mapping where he worked until his retirement. Donkey had a dry (some would say dusty) sense of humour and was known for his mastery of rhyming slang. Wally Mooney was coach of the Fortuna Football team and remembers an occasion of one of the forays to Ballarat to play the RAAF for the Bones of Contention. Don was in his late thirties or early forties at that stage, fairly lightly built but was still playing footie. He lined up on his much younger, bigger and fitter RAAF opponent and on the game went. Wally remembers that at half time Don lifted his jumper and showed him a large swollen bruise on his ribs. Wally's reaction was to have him replaced and have his wounds see to. No way! Donkey was going to see the game out and did, playing a pretty good last half. Later he was treated for three broken ribs. Such was the man, Donkey Gray.

Ken, 'KO' Johnson died suddenly from a heart attack in Canberra on 14 April. Ken went to the Middle East as a reinforcement for the 2/1st but was drafted into a Railway Construction Coy and did not rejoin Svy until after his return to Australia. He served in New Guinea and is believed to have been with the 2/1st at Morotai. After the war he served on at Fortuna until 1949 when he left to join National Mapping. He remained there until his retirement. Ken was a skilful draftsman, great bushwalker and an adroit handyman. He was a foundation member of the Canberra Survey Corps Association and for many years helped carry the Association banner on Anzac Day. He will be sadly missed. Our sympathy goes to his wife, Jo, and family.

Brian Jordan passed away in May this year after suffering a stroke about four years ago. Brian as a WO2 had served at the Survey Regiment for many years. In later years Brian lived at Hepburn Springs, Dalesford VIC and as a member of the Association, always had fond memories of his time with the Survey Corps. Our sympathy goes to his wife Margot.



Thomas Frederick 'Tom' Chisholm died on the 28 May in Bendigo. Tom's health had been failing for some time before his passing. Tom spent the majority of his life in Bendigo and had several careers besides his Army service at Fortuna. He was well known for his years at Fortuna in "G" as a WO1 and later on in the early 70's as the Navy Liaison Officer. Tom was always "The Gentleman". He gave many years of service to the community and especially to the Chum Street Uniting Church. The Church was full at Tom's funeral, a mark of the man.

Corps Members at Tom Chisholm's Funeral
Don Ridge, Don Swiney, Siggy Mehling, "Kellogs"
Warren Chadwick, Glen Swiney, Gordon Haswell,
Colin Cuskelly, Wilf Bennallack, Judith Charlton.

Ian Neilson and Gary Warnest not in the photo.



FUNCTIONS...

The next Survey reunion function... Saturday 3 Nov 2001 at 1900hrs.

After the Big Corps Weekend Reunion activities the next function , the Reunion and AGM at The Serviceman's RSL Club 73 Havalah Road, Bendigo (03) 5442 2950 is to be more low key. A quick AGM commencing at 1900hrs will be followed by the Bistro meal , (pay as you go) and a general get together.

RSVP for Catering by Thu 25 Oct 2001

Gary Warnest (Wk) Ph (03) 5444 1834, Fax (03) 5444 1835, Email: grw@netcon.net.au
Or Doug Carswell (Wk) Ph (03) 5442 0228, Fax (03) 5444 3630

NOVEMBER 2001 FUNCTION RETURN

The Secretary
Ex Fortuna Survey Association
PO Box 865

Name BENDIGO VIC 3552

Will be attending the following Function: (Tick for attendance)

Saturday 3 Nov 01 AGM/Bistro Meal "Bendigo Serviceman's Club" Number attending



Book Pre - Publication Sales "Mapmakers of Fortuna"

Mapmakers of Fortuna, a History of the Army Survey Regiment traces the events, influences and personalities involved in the Australian Army's mapping activities at Fortuna Villa Bendigo from its arrival in 1942 until the Unit's disbanding in 1996. This is a thoroughly researched factual History, skilfully crafted by Valerie Lovejoy into a very readable story. The publication has many original photographs, map extracts and includes a list of all those who served at Fortuna. This is a valuable resource which should be part of the library of everyone interested in the development of mapping within Australia and especially those who served in the Royal Australian Survey Corps.

.....
(Name) (Date)

Wish to purchase copies of "Mapmakers of Fortuna" at a Pre - Publication Price of \$50.00 ea

I enclose \$..... .. sent to The Treasurer, Ex Fortuna Survey Assoc, PO Box 865, BENDIGO V1C 3552

Some delivery charge may be payable depending on the delivery method.

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