



EX- FORTUNA SURVEY ASSOCIATION INC

Reg No A0032912H ABN 79 051 661 936

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2008

10 Mar 2008

Volume 2, Number 22

Address: PO Box 613 Golden Square VIC 3555

Patron: Don Swiney MBE

President/ Editor : Gary Warnest (03) 5446 3171 (AH), Email grw@netcon.net.au

Secretary: Tracey Phillips (03) 5442 0263 (03) 5449 6330 (AH) phipsys@bigpond.com

Treasurer : Bob Thrower (03) 5442 0280, (03) 5442 5780(AH),

Public Officer : Bob Thrower Committee : Phil Smalley, Stuart Symonds, John Phillips

Melbourne Rep: Dave King (03) 5981 2549

Ex Fortuna Association to march with members of 3 Aust Field Survey Coy AIF for Anzac Day 2008 in Melbourne



This year as a special activity, an invitation is extended to all members of the Ex Fortuna Survey Assoc to join with the members of 3 Aust Field Survey Coy AIF for the 2008 Anzac Day march in Melbourne. This invitation is not only for the Bendigo based members but it is also an ideal opportunity for the Melbourne based members to get together without having to trek to Bendigo.

Just in case some members who have not seen active overseas service feel uneasy about marching, please be reassured that we are not trying to misrepresent your military service but rather those that march are acknowledging the contribution made by the Survey Corps.

The purpose of this visit to Melbourne is in particular to acknowledge the contribution made by the members of 3 Aust Field Survey Coy AIF and it is for this reason I request that as many members of the Ex Fortuna Survey Association as possible attend to make this a very special and memorable occasion.

Should anyone already in Melbourne be interested, their dawn service at the Shrine of Remembrance is held between 0545hrs and 0630hrs.

The march on Friday 25 April commences from the Flinders Street station and proceeds down St Kilda road for about 1.3 km to the Shrine. The form-up position is Group 88, with the 2AIF and it is marked with the traditional triangle banner and is located on the western side of Swanston Street between Flinders Lane and Collins Street. The Group is expected to pass the Flinders Street Station starting line by about 0945hrs.

We are NOT planning to attend the Anzac Day Commemoration Ceremony held at the Shrine between 1245hrs – 1330hrs.

Directly after the march, 3 Aust Field Survey Coy AIF have a cuppa near the NE corner of the Shrine and then move to the Survey Corps Tree located adjacent to the Shrine and hold a short commemorative service. After this service members can either walk back or catch our bus (if there is enough room) to the luncheon venue. There will not be trams running up St Kilda Road at this time.

At approximately 1200hrs lunch and (possibly a beer) at the “**Bull and Bear Tavern**” – 347 Flinders Lane, Melbourne. Situated between Elizabeth and Queen Streets. Take the steps down to the reserved function room. If there is anyone who is not able to make the march you are more than welcome to join us for lunch, however please let us know of your intention for catering reasons. Lunch will be at your own cost.

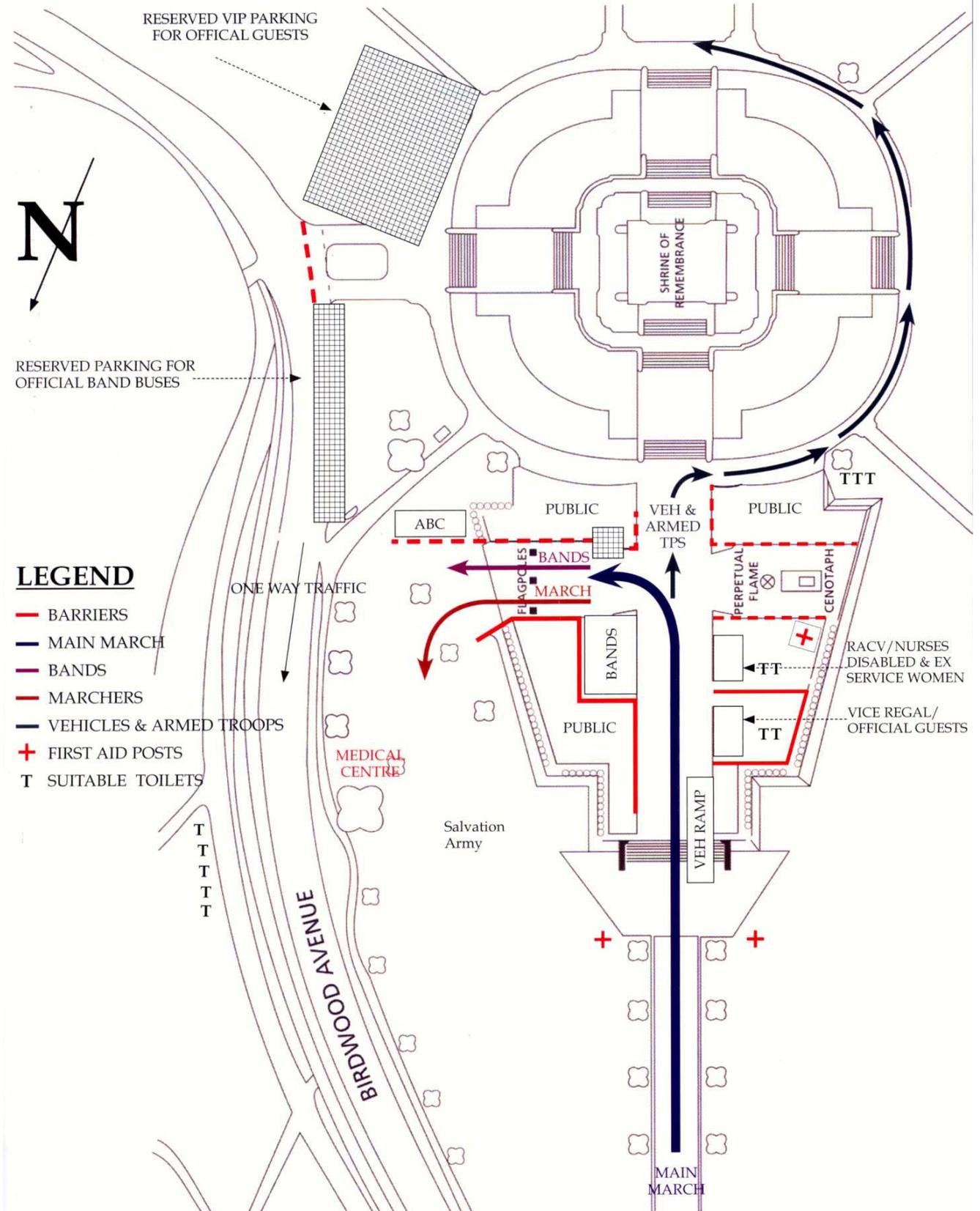
A number of members have already indicated that they will be attending with some travelling by own means either on the day or on the previous day. If there is sufficient demand The Ex Fortuna Association will provide (at no cost) a 12 seater bus to ferry members to Melbourne on the day, transport members from the march to the “Bull and Bear” for lunch and then return to Bendigo later in the afternoon.

Dress for the march would generally be neat casual or better and include medals. Survey Corps or Survey Association badges/ ties and in particular berets (either purple or blue) are strongly encouraged. We will be taking our Survey Corps Flag.

For Melbournians:

It is believed that on 25 April, trams on all routes will operate to the Sunday timetable, with the first tram as per normal weekday timetable and then every 30 minutes until the commencement of regular Sunday services.

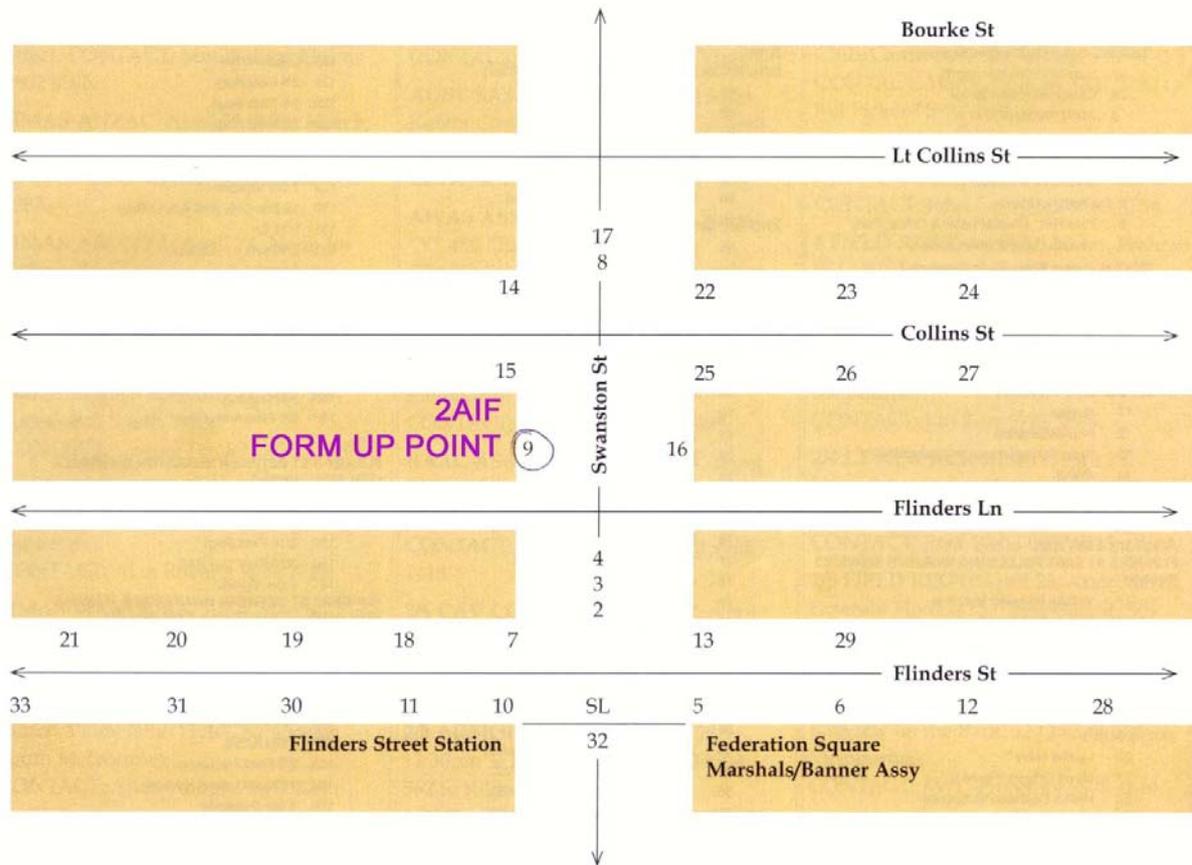
SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE SITE PLAN



LEGEND

- BARRIERS
- MAIN MARCH
- BANDS
- MARCHERS
- VEHICLES & ARMED TROOPS
- + FIRST AID POSTS
- T SUITABLE TOILETS

ANZAC MARCH ASSEMBLY PLAN



It is anticipated that the bus (if sufficient numbers) and any others travelling own means (car pool) on the day would leave from the Bendigo RSL memorial hall Pall Mall at approximately 0700hrs after the Bendigo dawn service and a "brew".

If there are any members that believe that they may need special vehicle assistance for the Melbourne march then please contact the secretary ASAP.

I strongly commend this activity to you to help make this a very special and memorable occasion for the members of 3 Aust Field Survey Coy AIF. Please pass this information onto any members who you think may be interested. **If you intend to go then please let the secretary (Tracey) know as soon as possible but NLT 31 Mar 08. This indication is needed for march organisers the bus booking and catering room. Melbourne members are also requested to advise of their attendance.**

NOTE: For those not able to go to Melbourne, then there will still be the Bendigo march behind our Association Banner.

As usual the form- up point is the same as last year opposite the Bendigo Regional TAFE in McCrae Street and members are asked to be at this location by NLT 1030hrs on Friday 25 April. Members are requested to wear medals and some form of Survey Corps apparel. You are encouraged to wear a beret, either the standard blue Survey Corps beret or the purple one adopted by the Queensland Branch.



Remember last year Keith Barber (centre) surprised and overwhelmed us all by his decision to turn up and be part of the march that was the largest contingent yet. Dave Lampton-Young carried the banner.

The Havilah Rd RSL will still be the venue for lunch and refreshments following the march. Please let the secretary know if you will be available to march in Bendigo. If you can't make the march, then try to join those who do afterwards at the RSL.

VALE

LTCOL Thomas Clem Sargent OAM

It is with sincere regret that we acknowledge the passing of Clem Sargent

14 August 1923 —31 December 2007,
Royal Australian Survey Corps 1946- 1975
Hon Colonel Commandant 1983 – 1989.

As we have all seen from Clem's activities over the years he was always the true professional. He always had the interests of the Corps at heart and was never one to seek credit for the many things that he did. The funeral at the Duntroon Chapel was fittingly well represented by Survey Assoc members.

Djwedd y daith ei wasanaeth drossard
(End of the journey, his duty done)



CLEM SARGENT

We are gathered here today to farewell and pay tribute to our esteemed friend, Clem Sargent.

Clem Sargent joined the Interim Army in March 1946 with the hope that he would be sent to Japan with the Occupation Forces. Instead he was allotted to 5th Field Survey Company of the Survey Corps, based at Chatswood in Sydney, as a Sapper. He did his initial survey training under Major Bert Eggeling and Warrant Officer Class 2 Spencer Snow.

In October 1946 he did field work in the Snowy Mountains. He was part of Spencer Snow's survey party which commenced levelling from near Jindabyne to the top of Mt Kosciusko. The levelling stopped at Charlottes Pass because snow covered the remaining high ground.

After a brief Christmas break in Sydney work commenced again in Jan 47, still as part of now Warrant Officer Class 1 Snow's survey party. In March 1947 the survey party rode horses into the Grey Mare Range and the Rolling Grounds and worked for six weeks establishing survey control. Clem remarked recently "I'd never ridden, couldn't ride then and still can't". The survey party was forced to pull out for the winter. Clem had been promoted to Corporal around this time.

In 1948 Clem was working on the Berridale 1 inch to 1 mile map. Major Clews's plan to do barometric heighting down Hannells Ridge had to be cancelled because of snowfalls. This saved Clem and Sapper Williams having to ride a horse from "The Chalet", at Charlottes Pass, down through Dead Horse Gap and Tom Groggin to meet with the Maj at the bottom of Hannells Ridge. Later that year he attended a course at the newly established School of Military Survey at Balcombe. This was the first



course of several courses that he would attend over the next couple of years. The Commanding Officers were Major Bert Eggeling and later Lieutenant Colonel Bill Johnson.

In 1949 Clem was posted to the Long Range Weapons Establishment, with Don Ridge. Lieutenant Snow commanded the Unit and Sargent Ken Cook was the Unit senior non commissioned officer. In 1950 Clem was involved in surveys for the Woomera rocket range and participated in measurement of the Koolymilka first order base line. This was the last such baseline measured in Australia.

After a Special Survey Course at Balcombe in the latter part of 1950 and another in 1951, Clem was commissioned as a Lieutenant on 15 December 1951 at the same time as Ed Anderson, Don Ridge, John Hillier and Frank Stevens. Early in the New Year he did a Course on the "Multiplex" aerial mapping system at Bendigo.

Between October 1952 and January 1954 he was posted to 15th National Service Training Battalion, at Puckapunyal. There he was initially a platoon commander responsible for training recruits in the "old National Service intakes" of 3 months duration. He was later the Assistant Adjutant of the Battalion. When asked about being stuck behind a desk he said. "I wasn't overly struck on it. But I did what I was told"

From January 1954 to September 1955 he was posted to Southern Command Field Survey Section. During this posting he worked on establishing survey control for 1in to 1 mile maps mainly in the Mildura-Ouyen areas of North West Victoria, with some work at Ringwood and Wangaratta.

He was promoted Temporary Captain on 22 July 1955, prior to posting to Army Headquarters Survey Regiment at Bendigo on 20 September 1955, and to Substantive Captain on 15 December 1955. In early 1956 he managed to escape the office and do some work back on the Ouyen-Mildura 2nd order triangulation with Keith Todd, Norm Tupper, Bruce Coburn and Tom Royle. Army Headquarters Survey Regiment had recently been reorganised to include a Topographic Squadron as well as the Cartographic Squadron.

Between August 1956 and November 1957 Clem worked on Project "Cutlass". The project was a shore-ship-triangulation survey of New Ireland, new Hanover and surrounding off-shore islands in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea. The project was a cooperative effort between Australia and the United States of America, Army Map Service (29 Engineer Topographic Battalion). The project was similar to the preceding New Britain survey; Project "Xylon".

Following years of arduous field work Clem became the Adjutant/Quarter Master of the Army Headquarters Survey Regiment.

In the years 1961-1962 Clem worked on geodetic surveys and control for 1:250,000 scale mapping and in the Queensland Gulf Country and Cape York. When stationed in the Coen area Clem was pleased to be given the task of searching for one of the "K" trees marked by the Kennedy Expedition in 1848 some where in the Weymouth Bay or Shelburne Bay areas. I'm not sure which. He found the general area but bushfires had removed all the likely trees in the area.

By this time Electronic Distance Measurement (Tellurometer) was in use by the Survey Corps. A single traverse line replaced the cumbersome triangulation chain and establishing survey control became much faster. Astronomical observations for latitude, longitude and direction were also routine methods used in survey control work.

After promotion to Major on 15 December 1961 Clem was posted to Army Headquarters, Survey Directorate, which had recently moved to Canberra, as Deputy Assistant Director Survey. On 9 March 1965 he was posted to a similar position as Deputy Assistant Director Survey at Headquarters Far Eastern Land Forces, Singapore until February 1967. As the Deputy Assistant Director Survey he would have been responsible for the smooth administration of Survey Directorate as well as financial and personal matters.

On his return to Australia he became Officer Commanding Western Command Field Survey Unit and Deputy Assistant Director Survey Western Command, based in Fremantle. There he was responsible for the Survey Corps 1:100,000 mapping programme in the Kimberly Region of Western Australia.

Around this time traditional methods of surveying had changed markedly. New equipment called "Aerodist" had recently been introduced into the Corps. Lines between survey points were measured by an aircraft flying between the points making electronic measurements to instruments at the ground stations. Intervisibility between survey points was no longer a problem, and lines could be much longer, up to about 200kilometers. This was a great advantage in the rugged, remote or flatter areas of Australia, New Guinea or Indonesia.

Between April and August 1970 Clem was seconded to Eastern Command Field Survey Unit in Sydney to command the first Defence Mapping aid project in Indonesia - Operation "MANDAU" in West Kalimantan (Borneo). Initially the operation was to be commanded d by a Capt, however, as Army Headquarters began to realise the size and importance of the Project a Major was called into the job. Clem was selected because Major Bob Hammet the Officer Commanding Eastern Command Field Survey Unit had recently died and Captain Ted Laker the Officer Commanding designate had not yet returned from his posting in the United Kingdom. The remaining Officer's Commanding were busy preparing for their own major field operations. "Mandau" was an international project that included

United Kingdom Forces from the Royal Engineers – Survey Service, Indonesian Army Topographers, Australian Army, A Royal Australian Air Force CARIBOU aircraft contingent and chartered civilian Aircraft. Besides Survey there were Army detachments from Signals, Aviation, Service Corps, Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Pay Corps, Catering Corps, Medical Corps and Ordnance Corps.

“MANDAU” was also significant in that it established a bond of trust between the Royal Australian Survey Corps and Indonesian Army Topographers that was to grow stronger year by year. Later when relations between the Indonesian and Australian Governments became strained, co-operative surveys were able to continue pretty much as normal

Clem and his Detachment were the people that started it off.

His last appointment was Commanding Officer and Chief Instructor of the School of Military Survey, Bonegilla, from which he retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel on 19 March 1975. The Commanding Officer and Chief Instructor of the School is a very important job as it carries the responsibility for setting the standards for the next generation of Corps members. The standards apply not only in the technical area but also in the areas of work ethics and general conduct. In these areas Clem was well suited to the job.

Clem joined the Australian Survey Office after he left the Army. There he was involved in the training of survey technical officers. After a time at the Department of Defence (Directorate of Recruiting) he completed his career with the Division of National Mapping as the Senior Executive Officer (Planning and Co-ordination). It is ironic that a former survey corps officer should hold the purse strings at the Division of National Mapping.

Since retirement from the Survey Corps he has kept an active interest in Corps matters - as editor of the National Bulletin of Survey Corps Associations for five years and as President of the Canberra Survey Corps Association for over ten years.

Clem was appointed Colonel Commandant of the Royal Australian Survey Corps for a period of four years from 10 February 1983 to 10 February 1987. This appointment was later extended until 10 February 1989.

In retirement Clem has been involved with three major Survey Corps Association Projects.

Firstly: Publication of the Corps history. Chris Coulthard-Clark completed this project with the publication of the book “Australia’s Military Mapmakers” in September 2000.

Secondly: The dedication of a commemorative plaque to recognise those who served in survey units on Active Service.

Many of you will remember the great occasion on 9 July 2007 when His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia and Clem unveiled the plaque at the Australian War Memorial.

Thirdly: Re-establishment of the Survey Corps Museum at the School of Military Engineering, Casula. A start has been made to this project. There are many items already on display. However, it will take some years to bring the Museum up to its full potential, and there will be an on going maintenance requirement. We have a dedicated group working on the project.

In addition to his Survey Corps activities Clem had a great interest in military history. He joined the Military Research and Collectors Society, the predecessor of the Military Historical Society of Australia, in Victoria in 1959. Since then he has been an inaugural member and office bearer of both the Western Australian and Australian Capital Territory Branches. He has held senior positions in the Society such as Federal Secretary (1978 -1988) and Federal Vice President. He has been the Australian Corresponding Member of the Council of the Society for Army Historical Research (Based in the United Kingdom).

His military history interests are primarily in the Peninsular War and the Peninsular War Veterans in Australia. He has published one book “The Colonial Garrison 1817-1824”, which is a history of the 48th Regiment, the Northhamptons, who were in Australia between 1817 and 1823. He has been working on another regimental history; this time the 40th Regiment, 2nd Somersetshire Regiment, who served two tours of duty in Tasmania between 1824 and 1860. He has written many articles for the Society’s Journal “Sabretache”. “The Royal Australian Survey Corps 1915-1990” is one article that quickly springs to mind.

For his services to Military History Clem was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in June 2003.



I think that you will agree with me when I say that Clem has had a busy, often exciting and certainly a fulfilling career. If you have ever been part of ship to shore or helicopter operations you will understand what excitement can be. We all enjoyed his cheerful manner and the enthusiasm he showed for daily life. His no nonsense style of getting things done was appreciated by us all, even those that were volunteered.

And so as we say farewell Clem, I offer to you some lines from the Chorus of the Survey Corps Song.

“Wandering the Kings Highway”:

“But when I start my journey
At the dawn of another day
I give a health to comrades
Pals of the king’s highway.”

by **Charlie Watson**

Ina Marks, wife of Major Merv Marks (Retd), formerly RA Svy Corps, passed away in February at their home, 32 East Boundary Road, East Bentleigh, Victoria following a long battle with cancer over many years.

The Canberra Association advises the passing on 20 Nov 2007 of **Brian Murray**. VX 116124 of the New Guinea Survey Section.

Bill Porter the military dentist and **Mick Tandberg** the SGT Cook from the 1970’s at Fortuna have passed away at the end of 2007.

Sick List

Ian “Ike” Lever now in Hervey Bay Queensland has been in hospital with kidney problems for most of January but is now on the road to recovery, convalescing at home.

Dave King reports that he is now 80% fit and won't get much better as he has COAD or COPD whichever!! Putting it in a nut shell, he says that he can't walk more than 10 yards without getting out of breath so Veteran Affairs have to look after his needs and they do it very well.

Ross McMillan in Albury, a member of the Queensland Association, is not at all well. Ross is on oxygen 24 hours a day suffering from severe emphysema and associated conditions affecting his heart. He is well looked after by his wife Marie and when the Association phoned him he was having a game of dominos with one of his grand children. Ross would enjoy a phone call. His number is 02 6024 7272.

John Cattell is well and truly back on track after his illness and as active as ever. John, still living at Nerang spends several days each week renovating his daughter’s old Queenslander home at Windsor.

Military Superannuation

DFRB – Defence Forces Retirement Benefit, Scheme 1948-1972

DFRDB – Defence Forces Retirement and Death Benefits Scheme 1972-1991

MSBS – Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme

The Department of Parliamentary Services has recently released a Research paper headed ‘Military Superannuation – myths and reality’. It is a succinct and easy to read paper some 18 pages in length and can be found on the following web reference:

http://www.apo.org.au/linkboard/results.chtml?filename_num=189369

The paper’s executive summary states: ‘Essentially it is an historical account of the development of the military superannuation schemes listed above from the re-creation of the Australian Regular Army following the end of WW2 to the present day. Military superannuation Arrangements have been subject to extensive changes. Yet another change may occur in the wake of a recently completed review of military superannuation arrangements. Both serving and retired members of the Australian Defence Force have legitimate grievances in relation to superannuation matters. However, often lobbying efforts in pursuit of these grievances have been based on a poor or inaccurate understanding of past events and current conditions.

This paper presents background information on past events and current arrangements for any discussions following the recent release of the report of the review of military superannuation.’

Lobbyists for military superannuation reform have questioned several of the assumptions made in the paper.

Map sheet 5075 Snake Bay, Series R621, Ed 1



Approx co-ords of **Nodlaw Island** - 130°34'E, -11°22'S

This is one of those RASvy urban myths – along with ‘crow proof fence’, trains on railway lines, alligators in swamps and initials hillshaded into maps.

Col Cuskelly heard about this in the mid 70's and immediately knew it to be true.

Tony Waldon was field checking this area, found an unnamed island and decided to name it (after himself), the name was approved by the nomenclature board (or whoever) and the rest is history.

No Third Friday get together this Month

As the third Friday falls on Good Friday there will not be a Monthly Survey get together at the RSL.

Warning Order

The DIGO Social Club advises that as part of the relocation from Fortuna villa some time early next year there is a possibility that there will be a number of functions where the Ex Fortuna Survey Association and its members could be jointly involved. This involvement could possibly be on the scale of the Survey Corps 90th Anniversary celebrations and held over a weekend. Watch out for further information.

Membership

Apology – The last posting of the Magna Carto included wrong paid up status details, sorry. The Association fees remain at \$10 per year. Magna Carto newsletters can also be distributed as pdf documents. If you would like Magna Carto distributed digitally in pdf format then please Email Tracey at phipsys@bigpond.com and let us know what Email address you would like it sent to. The pdf viewer called acrobat reader can be downloaded free from <http://www.adobe.com>

The Secretary
Ex Fortuna Survey Association
PO Box 613
GOLDEN SQUARE VIC 3555

Name:

Contact Details:Ph.....Email

I / we wish to attend the Anzac Day Activity with 3 Fd Survey Coy in **MELBOURNE**, (please circle)

Marching **Y / N**

Attending Lunch function **Y / N**

Request Bus transport from Bendigo **Y / N**

I / we wish to attend the Anzac Day Activity in **BENDIGO**, (please circle)

Marching **Y / N**

Attending Lunch function at the RSL **Y / N**



If undeliverable return to:
EX FORTUNA SURVEY ASSOCIATION INC
PO BOX 613
GOLDEN SQUARE VIC 3555

Print Post Approved
PP302041/00005

SURFACE
MAIL

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

Volume 2 Issue 22



"Magna Carto"

NEWSLETTER OF THE
EX FORTUNA SURVEY ASSOCIATION INC