Welcome to all members of the Canberra Survey Corps Association to this first newsletter of 2018. For this issue I thank John Mobbs and Josh Andrews for their support and most welcome contributions.

Email will continue to be used as the primary means of communication for our Association. The Corps Facebook page is a very useful tool for rapid dissemination of information and keeping in touch and it is increasingly helpful for projects such as John Mobbs’ Faces of the Corps where crowd-sourcing helps. But many members do not have or want a Facebook account.

One issue which has come to light is the matter of on-forwarding contact information of Association members and others who served in the Corps. It is a policy of our Association that contact information which is provided by members for the purposes of the Association will not be provided to any third person without the approval of the member. This also applies to projects sponsored by the Association such as the Corps Nominal Roll and Faces of the Corps. I encourage all members to treat other members’ contact information similarly.

For those of you who will be in Canberra on Anzac Day I hope that you will accept Charlie Watson’s invitation to attend the march and service at the Australian War Memorial especially to commemorate Australian Survey Corps members on the Roll of Honour and to represent and honour all of those who have served. After that we will enjoy lunch at the Kingston Hotel. Charlie would like RSVP by 23 Apr 18 to: Tel (02) 6254 3463 Email: cbwatson@webone.com.au

April 2018 Videre Parare Est Canberra Survey Corps Association
Of course I could not finish a newsletter without a call for articles for future issues. I believe
that collectively we have a reasonable recorded knowledge of ‘what’ the Corps did, ‘when’
and ‘why’, but what is missing are the personal stories of the ‘who’ and ‘how’. These can be
told through words, audio recordings or simply annotated photographs, all of which can be
published in the newsletter. There are many-many untold stories and photo-albums still to
be aired (see the great article ‘Facing the Past’ by John Mobbs in this newsletter).

Peter Jensen
Editor/President
pajmjensen@gmail.com

Christmas Happy Hour 2017
By Peter Jensen

About ten of us assembled late Thursday afternoon 14th December at Duxton Bar/Restaurant
at O’Connor Shops. Not a big roll-up but those there enjoyed the catchup. There were as
many apologies and there was support to continue the event this year. But it has been
brought forward a week as a few of us were start pre-Christmas travel in that week only
10 days to Christmas. So mark Thursday 6th December in your calendars at the same venue.

1918 and each ten years hence – some happenings in the
Royal Australian Survey Corps
By Peter Jensen

In the first edition of the newsletter of the last few years I have written an article about
military mapping and the Survey Section RAE/Australian Survey Corps 100 years ago. I have
now added a snapshot of some of what was happening in the Corps each ten years since, so
that each year 1915 to 1996 will be covered over ten years. I have also included ‘75 years
ago’ to cover in the next few years the Corps’ massive efforts in the Second World War.

100 years ago - 1918. Fourteen members of the Australian Survey Corps had volunteered for
service in the 1st AIF with three in the Middle East and eleven in France/Belgium. Only six
continued with the primary task of producing military mapping (1 inch to 1 mile maps) around
the key areas for defence of southern Australia. In March 1918 the AIF was reorganised and
the five Australian Infantry Divisions were brought together for the first time as the Australian
Corps initially under Lieutenant-General Birdwood formerly commander 1st Anzac Corps then
Lieutenant-General Monash. The 1st Anzac Corps Topographic Section was retitled Australian
Corps Topographic Section. In early-April the Section moved with Corps Headquarters from
near Ypres, Belgium into the Somme area north of Amiens. In April Australian Survey Corps
members Second-Lieutenant John Raisbeck, and topographers Sergeant Adiel Anderson and
Corporal Alan Roberts joined the Section followed in July by topographers Sergeant Arthur
Clements DCM and Corporal Oswald Watson. The other six Australian Survey Corps members
in France served with the RE Depot Field Survey Company on the main mapping topographic
surveys. In May, a proposal for an Australian Corps Intelligence Company of more than 700
men, including a Topographic Section of nearly 180 (being for Corps and five Divisional
Headquarters) was initiated. Events overtook the proposal, but the plan was consistent with
what was happening in the British Army formations where for the first time Topographic
Sections were assigned at the Divisional level. This showed the value of the work done in
direct support of the combat forces. When the war started the maps of France/Belgium were
prepared from standard national maps and the RE Survey sappers were despatched to the

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Middle East as field engineers. The German advance was stopped but the new trench warfare demanded much improved surveys and maps and the nine all ranks RE Survey men there in 1914 grew to about 5,000 by the end of 1918. For the topographers in the Topographic Section their work was mainly fixing field artillery batteries by resection and providing targeting map boards for those batteries. Typically the topographers fixed between two and ten batteries a day along with map boards. Meanwhile the draughtsman were producing special products with map updates from aerial photography and mapping German trenches and positions also from aerial photography. Work rates were between two and five special maps each day. Army and Corps workshops manufactured a lithographic printing press for the Section which printed up to 11,000 maps a month. In August, American survey troops from the newly arrived American Corps were attached to the Section for instruction. When the guns fell silent on 11th November the Australian Corps was in Reserve, some Section members were detached to the War Records Section and the work rate reduced significantly.

Sergeant Wallace Clements Stafford who had enlisted in a Field Engineer Company and posted to the Topographic Section 10 Mar 17, was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal on 5 Dec 18 for his work on 4 Aug 18 east of Villiers-Bretonneux in the preparation for the Battle of Amiens. The citation reading: “Awarded the DCM for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty as a topographer attached to Brigade (4th) Brigade Field Artillery. He had to resect with plane-table 18 fixed battle positions for field artillery. The only fixed points which could be used were in enemy territory and were not visible from battery positions themselves consequently he had to set up his plane-table upon high ground between the battery positions and the enemy. This meant he was in full view of the enemy, who during the whole time (about 8 hours) he was fixing these 18 batteries, were shelling him with 5.9" howitzers. He successfully accomplished his work, thus enabling the field batteries to fire with accuracy on zero day. In the subsequent attack he kept in close touch with the batteries and had all the new positions accurately resected the same evening. He performed most valuable service.”

In the Middle East, Australian Survey Corps Warrant Officer Class 1 Alan Stewart Murray had been serving with the Survey of Egypt and appointed as a draughtsman with the Headquarters Egyptian Expeditionary Force in Cairo and was now posted to the RE Survey Company. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (London Gazette 15 November 1918) - his citation read “for conspicuous gallantry and dedication to duty. For a prolonged period this warrant officer was engaged on surveying the area between the lines repeatedly working under machine gun fire and sniping. In order not to attract attention he usually worked alone with his plane table and instruments. Owing to his energy and coolness he has mapped a piece of country accurately and his work has been most valuable”.

90 years ago - 1928. The 14 men of the Corps, which reverted in name to Survey Section RAE (Permanent) from 1920 to 1932, were working on ‘1 mile’ mapping in coastal regions around Adelaide, New South Wales and Victoria producing four to five new maps per year. Production in 1928 was fairly balanced with 2,000 sq miles of triangulation, 1,222 sq miles surveyed by plane-table and 2,100 sq miles published as a standard ‘1 mile’ map. Average map area of 500 sq miles and average cost per map (for first 2000 printed) was 2879 pd 3 shillings and 4 pence ($228,748 in 2018 dollars accounting for average inflation only - from Australian Bureau of Statistics) (Report on a Conference Surveyors-General of the States and Representatives of Dept of Defence November 1929). Captain Lynch, who was one of the first RE Survey topographers loaned to Australia in 1910, was the senior officer of the Section.

80 years ago - 1938. Major Vance, who had replaced Captain Lynch on his retirement in 1934, was posted to Army Headquarters (AHQ), Melbourne, to perform his duties as Officer Commanding Australian Survey Corps and as part of AHQ staff. As the growing mapping need
for the defence of Australia was recognised, and perhaps due to the more senior survey officer representation at Army Headquarters, a Long Range Mapping Program was introduced including a three year expansion plan in Corps numbers from 35 all ranks to 97 all ranks with an increase of 25 in 1938 and an operating budget increase of more than 200%. When fully implemented the Corps would be able to produce each year 32 military standard 1-mile-to-1-inch maps and eight 2-mile-to-1-inch maps when the transition from plane-tabling to the Arundel method of graphical radial line plotting from RAAF photography was completed. The Corps structure was Nos 1 (4th Military District - South Australia), 2 (3rd Military District - Victoria), 3 (2nd Military District - New South Wales), 4 (Geodetic) Topographic Sections and No1 Drafting Section in Melbourne. Geodetic surveys of the Corps allowed 1st Order survey connections of 2nd, 3rd and 4th Military Districts to the Sydney Observatory. Some of this work identified that some parts of the network had to be upgraded with new observations.

75 years ago - 1943. In 1942 the Survey Corps had responded to the homeland threat and to support the Army in Papua with all of its resources as well as it could bring to bear at the time. 1943 bought new challenges, especially in Papua and New Guinea where BRIG Lawrence Fitzgerald, then Director of Survey, Advanced Land Headquarters, said in his book Lebanon to Labuan “it would be a misnomer to call it a normal programme as nothing in New Guinea was normal at the time”. By late February 2/1 Army Topo Svy Coy, less one section in Townsville and 3 Fd Svy Coy had reached Port Moresby and along with 8 Fd Svy Sect totalled 20 officers and 418 other ranks there. A section of 3 Coy went to Milne Bay to augment the section already there. In Australia 7 Aust Fd Svy Sect in Northern Territory was absorbed by 2/1 Army Topo Svy Coy and relieved by 1 Sect of 6 Army Topo Svy Coy which surveyed and mapped the north for the next two years. After the Japanese defeat at Gona-Buna-Sanananda, 2/1 Coy there was busy surveying and mapping that area and providing control for hydrographic charting between Milne Bay and Oro Bay. Survey troops in the field were responsible for establishing position, scale and azimuth as the theatre grid for artillery survey and topographic mapping. A small detachment was sent to Wau where Kanga Force was defending against an expected Japanese attack from Lae or Salamaua. Their task was to try and recover survey records, but in the event the Australian commandos had destroyed everything. The team then observed an astronomical fix, measured a baseline and observed a triangulation network in the immediate area. Kanga Force commander BRIG Moten visited SGT (later LT) Robb while Robb was observing an astronomical position on Wau airstrip, and tried out his skills with the theodolite then to join in with the local carriers laughing at his efforts and saying “him only soldier boy, this one master Robb” (BRIG L Fitzgerald, Lebanon to Labuan, 1980, p70). Such was the prestige of the surveyor. The attack did come but the remainder of the defending AIF brigade was flown in and the Japanese were soon in retreat. A party of 8 Fd Svy Sect was then sent to Wau where Kanga Force believed that a second attempt to capture Wau may come from the Lae direction in the north. This party advanced a narrow (in east-west direction) triangulation network and astronomical latitude and azimuth traverse through Bulolo to the north continuing into the Markham Valley where potential airfield sites around Nadzab were investigated. Meanwhile their camp at Wau was attacked during a Japanese air raid when CPLs Keith Barber and Brian Murray manned a Bren Light Machine Gun but abandoned it just in time to take cover when the aircraft attacked the building next to where they were out in the open. Fortunately there were no casualties but the unit’s rations were destroyed and the latrine was severely damaged.

In May, a 5 Fd Svy Coy detachment observed astronomical fixes around the southern part of Gulf of Carpentaria for ‘4 mile’ mapping from US trimetrogon photography. In September another det 5 Fd Svy Coy was sent to support Merauke Force on the south coast of Dutch New Guinea as at that time it was feared that the Japanese may try and develop a base west of
Torres Strait from which to attack Australia. The 5 Fd Svy Coy detachment was there for eight months until relieved by 2 Fd Svy Coy.

By mid-year survey parties were despatched to most areas in New Guinea and a detachment of 13 Fd Svy Depot from Sydney arrived in Port Moresby to establish a map depot. For the first time preemptive survey and mapping of good quality was available to combat troops for successful Allied advances and capture of Salamaau and Lae in September and the Markham Valley in October. This work had not gone unnoticed by senior combat commanders with CGS LTGEN Northcott commending the work to DSVD Colonel Fitzgerald after a visit to the various field headquarters in June and Supreme Commander General Macarthur writing a letter of high commendation in October to Commander Allied Land Forces General Blamey, commending the men of 2/1 Army Topo Svy Coy, 3 Fd Svy Coy and 8 Fd Svy Sect, for their efforts in mapping 12,000 sq miles of difficult terrain in hazardous conditions in time for successful operations. In July a former survey soldier died of wounds in the Salamaau campaign. PTE Barry W Kemp 2/5th Aust Inf Bn had served in 8 Fd Svy Sect at Wau and before that 3 Fd Svy Coy in Victoria and had transferred to infantry only a month before he died. The units were all affected by tropical disease and illness sometimes with only half the men properly fit for duty. A detachment of 3 Fd Svy Coy had been in the Markham/Ramu Valleys providing surveys since October undertaking triangulation and intersections north-west to Madang to produce 1:25,000 combat maps for the 7th Division. They closely followed the advances of the 7th Division occupying conspicuous forward positions captured from the Japanese to extend survey by intersection into enemy held territory for artillery and also for mapping. See John Mobbs’ article in this newsletter including a photo of LT JE Mitchell and SGT SC Saunders, det 3 Fd Svy Coy, observing from a recently captured position on Shaggy Ridge. A detachment of 2/1 Topo Svy Coy was doing likewise with the 9th Division capturing Finschhafen then north-west along the coast towards Madang. 8 Fd Svy Sect was recalled to Port Moresby, absorbed as a section into 6 Army Topo Svy Coy and retitled then returned to Australia. In late December 1 Sect 2 Fd Svy Coy (51 all ranks) arrived in Lae.

Meanwhile, survey units, or elements thereof, in Australia were also key to the overall effort. LHQ Carto Coy, the heavy litho sections of 2/1 and 6 Army Topo Svy Coys, 1 Mob Litho Sect 11 and 12 Fd Svy Depot were at work, many times 24 hours a day for prolonged periods, drafting, printing and supplying maps, RAAF charts, plotting sheets and RAN charts with 24-36 hour turnarounds. Amongst 4 Fd Svy Coy’s work in Western Australia was an observed astronomical datum, azimuth and baseline in the Gascoyne Junction area (east of Carnavon) to extend triangulation through that area for ‘1 mile’ mapping. In early-1943 it was still thought that the Japanese may attempt a major landing in north/north-western Australia.

From the end of 1943 the topographic survey and field survey units in Papua and New Guinea prepared to be relieved by units in Australia. Soldiers who died in 1943 while serving with Australian Survey Corps units and who are commemorated at the Australian War Memorial are:

CPL Robert Berglind, died of illness, 1 Fd Svy Coy
SPR Walter Frost, died of illness, 2 Fd Svy Coy
SPR Reginald George, died of accident in Papua, 2/1 Army Topo Svy Coy
WO1 Gordon Meldrum, died of illness, 12 Fd Svy Depot

70 years ago - 1948. King George VI granted the title Royal on the Australian Survey Corps for its efforts during the Second World War. There is no doubt that the Corps’ greatest contribution to the nation was its work in the Second World War. Colonel Fitzgerald was
Director of Survey. The building of the new Australian Regular Army was underway. The structure of the Australian Survey Corps was the force-in-being and the minimum base for expansion in war, consisting of a Survey Directorate on Army Headquarters, an Army Headquarters Cartographic Company, an Army Headquarters Survey Company, an Army Headquarters Field Survey Depot and a Field Survey Section in each of Northern, Eastern, Southern, Central and Western Commands (then sections of 3 and 5 Fd Svy Coys) and a Survey School. The 4MD Svy Sect was raised to provide mapping and survey for what became known as the Woomera Rocket Range. E Comd Fd Svy Sect was busy establishing survey control for topographic mapping for the Snowy Mountains Scheme. On 4\textsuperscript{th} November 1948 there were only 20 officers and 186 other ranks in the Corps many having been discharged through demobilisation after the war or taking advantage of new employment opportunities elsewhere. The School of Survey was established at Balcombe Victoria.

60 years ago - 1958. Using the newly introduced portable MRA101 Tellurometer microwave based electronic distance measurement (EDM) system N Comd Fd Svy Sect completed a 562km first order traverse from Jondaryn to Rockhampton and Topo Sqn AHQ Svy Regt completed a 1637km traverse from Charters Towers to Tennant Creek. This was part of the Australian Geodetic Network and also went to the Series R502 scale 1:250,000/'4 mile' national map program approved three years before. EDM traverse largely replaced triangulation. EDM traversing together with the use of helicopters from 1957 to rapidly position and resupply field survey parties was to be of huge benefit in Northern Australia and Papua New Guinea.

50 years ago - 1968. The second rotation of personnel in A Sec 1 Topo Svy Tp (formerly Detachment 1 Topo Svy Tp) 1\textsuperscript{st} Australian Task Force, Vietnam took place after deployments of about 12 months. CAPT Noel Sproles, 2IC A Sect 1 Topo Svy Tp, was wounded in action at Fire Support Base Grey in South Vietnam. Colonel Frank Buckland OBE was appointed DSVY to replace Colonel Don Macdonald, both officers having served in the Second World War. The Corps completed its commitment of 216 of the 550 maps in the first series of general topographic maps of Australia, the Series R502 scale 1:250,000. In 1965 Government had approved the second series of general topographic maps of Australia, the scale 1:100,000 topographic maps, and the Corps commenced its part which would be 862 maps mainly in the higher Defence priority areas of Northern Australia.

40 years ago - 1978. Colonel Jim Stedman retired as Director of Survey - Army with Colonel John Hillier being promoted and appointed to replace him. Colonel Stedman had served for 37 years enlisting as a Sapper on 27 Feb 41 in 5 Fd Svy Coy in Queensland then on active service in Merauke, Morotai and Borneo. He was the last Director to have served in the Second World War. Not long after he retired Colonel Stedman replaced Brigadier Frank Buckland OBE as Colonel Commandant Royal Australia Survey Corps. Corps units continued work on the national 1:100,000 mapping program, early work on the defence 1:50,000 mapping program, defence cooperation with Papua New Guinea and Indonesia and commenced defence cooperation projects with South West Pacific nations - Solomon Islands 1978. The Corps conducted its first MAPEX to test its ability to respond to unforeseen and rapidly changing scenarios.

30 years ago - 1988. Brigadier Lawrence Fitzgerald OBE, who retired in 1960 after serving in the Corps for 36 years including 17 years as Director over much of the Second World War, passed away in December aged 85 years. Fitzgerald’s wartime deputy Lieutenant Colonel James G Gillespie MBE also passed away not long before, aged 94 years. Gillespie served in Artillery in the First World War and like Fitzgerald was a gold medal recipient of the Institution of Surveyors Australia having been elected its inaugural President in 1952. In November, Colonel Alex Laing, Director of Survey - Army, retired and Colonel Don Swiney MBE
was promoted and appointed Director. On the occasion of the Corps birthday, the new museum and building at Latchford Barracks Bonegilla was opened by the former Governor of Victoria Rear-Admiral Sir Brian Murray KCMG AO who was the son of Australian Survey Corps Warrant Officer (later Lieutenant) Alan Murray who was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal in the First World War. The Admiral graciously presented his father’s medals to the Museum. Also on that day Colonel Laing announced that the Queen had approved the appointment of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales as the Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Australian Survey Corps.

A Government review (Richardson) and audit (Commonwealth Auditor-General) and Army review (Brigadiers Baker then Byrnes) of mapping were completed resulting in Army deciding to reorganise the Army survey force. Drivers included the huge technological leaps, the need for multi-product topographic data bases and the move to terrain intelligence in support of operations. The short term effect was: 1 Topo Svy Sqn was raised in Brisbane as a 1 Div unit from 1 Fd Svy Sqn and 1 Div Topo Svy Sect; MGI Sections were formed in 7MD (as a Pilot Project) and 5MD; 2 and 5 Fd Svy Sqns would be disbanded; 4 Fd Svy Sqn remained in Adelaide but moved under command Army Svy Regt whose strength was increased to fully operate Automap 2; 8 Fd Svy Sqn remained in Port Moresby; School of Mil Svy remained at Bonegilla; Army Map Depot remained at Bandiana in the short-term to be disbanded in 1993; and survey staff remained at Army Headquarters in Canberra and Land Headquarters in Sydney. The reorganisation reduced Corps full-time numbers from 630 to 541 all rank positions including 130 non-mapping related trades. 9 Div Topo Svy Tp (ARES) was disbanded early in the year. The unit was formed in 1970 as a squadron in the Communication Zone, reorganised and downsized in 1976 as a Topo Svy Tp in support of 2nd Division (in reality providing support to HQ FF Comd), joined with 2 Fd Svy Sqn in 1983 and finally integrated with 2 Fd Svy Sqn and ARES members were transferred to the squadron in 1988.

Meanwhile Corps units continued with producing maps mainly in the Defence 1:50,000 program, the RAAF air charting program and Defence Cooperation Program projects. The Corps’ new GPS and Inertial Positioning System (IPS) were in service and used together to rapidly establish horizontal and vertical control for 1:50,000 scale mapping of 2 x 1:250,000 map areas around the Moomba Gas Fields. The versatile GPS TI4100 receivers were in much demand including for: global geodetic surveys; development of kinematic surveys by vehicle, aircraft and ship; beach surveys; and ionospheric research. Army Map Depot restored ‘The Majors (LTCOL Clews) Hut’ near Khancoban to its original condition. 8 Fd Svy Sqn were all over PNG: assisting with the Joint Border Survey; preparing for scale 1:50,000 mapping surveys and air photography of the border zone for PNGDF; upgrading the Doppler satellite survey and national geodetic adjustment; investigating advanced cartographic training at Lae Univ of Tech for NMB staff; introducing four colour process printing.

In 1988, at the inaugural meeting of the Inter-Governmental Advisory Committee on Surveying and Mapping (IGACSM) which replaced the National Mapping Council (NMC), Colonel Laing advised the committee that Defence would adopt and transition all of its survey and mapping products to the WGS84 geocentric datum/system. NMC working parties had been addressing the impact of GPS (not operational until 1994) on the Australian Geodetic Datum for more than two years, but this announcement did hasten IGACSM to further investigate with their later decision to adopt Geodetic Datum Australia 1994, which for most survey/mapping purposes was then coincident with WGS84.
Army’s new organisation for its geospatial capabilities

By WO1 Josh Andrews (the major contributor) and Peter Jensen

After 22 years, Army has again reorganised its geospatial capabilities.

The following Chief of Army Order of the Day, 6th December 2017, and update on implementation of the order, has been kindly provided by WO1 Josh Andrews (formerly RA Svy), Geospatial Intelligence - Army, Land Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance and Electronic Warfare Program, Land Capability Division.

ORDER OF THE DAY
ON THE OCCASION OF
THE TRANSFER OF ARMY’S GEOSPATIAL CAPABILITIES FROM
THE CORPS OF ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS TO
THE AUSTRALIAN INTELLIGENCE CORPS
6 DECEMBER 2017

On the 6th of December 2017, the transition of Army’s geospatial and multi-media capabilities from the corps of Royal Australian Engineers to the Australian Intelligence Corps will commence. The transition coincides with the Australian Intelligence Corps Birthday and involves the transfer of ECN 423 Geospatial Technicians, ECN 180 Multimedia Technicians and Geospatial Engineer Officers. The transition will include the transfer of technical control of the Army geospatial capability from the Force Engineer Branch to the Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance and Electronic Warfare Program. Similarly, geospatial training and employment category sponsor duties will transfer from the Combined Arms Training Centre to the Defence Command Support Training Centre.

Geospatial Technicians, Multimedia Technicians and Geospatial Engineer Officers have proudly served in the Royal Australian Engineers for many years; however, as the nature of the provision of support to operations continues to evolve, it is necessary to realign functionally to enhance our capabilities. Geospatial Technicians, Multimedia Technicians and Geospatial Engineer Officers now provide direct support to intelligence functions and the majority of their positions are embedded within intelligence units and staff, both domestically and on operations. As a result, it has been determined that the Australian Intelligence Corps is a more suitable corps to manage these functions.

I welcome those providing Army’s geospatial capabilities to the Australian Intelligence Corps and I wish you all the very best in your continued careers. I trust that you will enjoy your new corps and I look forward to the realisation of the enhancement of the Australian Army intelligence capability.

Richard M Burr, DSC, AM, MVO
Major General
Acting Chief of Army

December 2017
“Here is how the change is working:

- The change started in Dec last year and is due to be completed by 1 Jul this year.
- 1 Topo Svy Sqn is now called 5 Intelligence Coy, but still wears the 1st Topo Svy Sqn colour patch, 5 Coy is a sub-unit of 1st Intelligence Battalion (no change).
- Geospatial Engineering Wing is currently under SME, but will change to the Defence Force School of Intelligence (Canungra) at the middle of the year. The wing will be renamed as part of the change. The wing will not physically move from Holsworthy at this stage.
- All positions associated with Engineer Surveying will remain in RAE, this includes an instructor at SME, A cell at 19 CE Works and the two sections at 6 ESR. The plan is to create a new Engineer Survey Trade within RAE.
- All other positions and people have or will change to AustInt before the middle of the year, most have changed already, as I understand it only the members of GEW have yet to change. Officers are being sorted out before middle of the year as well, they have yet to change over.
- There are no plans to change the Museum.
- All Multimedia personal are changing to AustINT at the same time.”

The following is from the public website https://www.army.gov.au/our-people/units/forces-command/6th-combat-support-brigade/1st-intelligence-battalion

“The 1st Intelligence Battalion is a specialist intelligence unit with unique collection, influence and analysis capabilities in the Australian Defence Force (ADF). The 1st Intelligence Battalion is part of the 6th Combat Support Brigade.

The motto of 1st Intelligence Battalion is ‘Periculum aliis arcete’ - Latin for ‘Keeping others from danger’, and aims to provide specialist intelligence operators, teams and detachments to support ADF commanders in all operating environments.

The unit maintains a range of specialised human intelligence; information operations; materiel and personnel exploitation; all source intelligence fusion; and geospatial intelligence capabilities.

Some members of the unit are specially selected for their unique roles within the ADF Human Intelligence Program.

The 1st Intelligence Battalion comprises principally members from the Australian Army, but also includes selected members of the Royal Australian Navy and Royal Australian Air Force.

The 1st Intelligence Battalion is the largest intelligence unit within the ADF and has a mass of intelligence collectors, analysts, geospatial technicians, and multi-media technicians.

The 1st Intelligence Battalion, formed in 1999, traces its history from Australian Intelligence Corps units and organisations formed prior to the Vietnam War, with a legacy to 1st Division and 2nd Division Intelligence Companies; and the Australian Psychological Operations Group (Vietnam). The unit also has a rich heritage from the Royal Australian Survey Corps, Topographical support units from World War I and the now retired 1st Topographical Survey
Squadron.

The 1st Intelligence Battalion has provided individuals and specialist teams to support all operational theatres of the ADF since 1999 to the present.”

Facing the Past
By John Mobbs

With the intriguing twists and turns of the Spr Arthur Boyd story still fresh in my mind, I wasn’t too sure where the next “Faces” story would take me when I received the following unsolicited email on 3 December 2017:

“Hi John
I came across your name when doing some research on a photo album I bought in a box of items at a clearance sale. The album belonged to “Spr B Daniel, 2nd Fd Survey Coy” and contains a number of images from the early 1940s around the north coast of Australia. Bruce went on to have a fairly distinguished career as a doctor and finished as a Major in the army.
I run an antique shop and have sold the album to a collector but am happy to send you some of the images it contains if it would help your project. I had another album of his photos in New Guinea but unfortunately I sold it without capturing many of the images. I have attached a few sample photos below - let me know if you would like more as I’m happy to send them through before passing it on to the buyer.

Regards
Cathy Meyers, Uralla”

The photo at right was typical of what Cathy had discovered in the album. She had captured this one with a phone camera, so I responded thus:

Hello Cathy,

Well, firstly, thanks so much for taking the trouble to track me down!

Secondly, you may be aware that, for the last five years or so, I’ve had the pleasant duty of trying to put as many faces as possible to the names that we have in the Nominal Roll of Royal Australian Survey Corps personnel who served between 1915 and 1996 - when the Corps was disbanded and re-absorbed into Royal Australian Engineers.

The pics you have, being from a private collection, will be wonderfully candid and if the names are with them, they will be an invaluable addition to our official “Faces of The Corps” collection, the
contents of which is now in the thousands of images. Those names will add certainty to my
identifications and will also save me many hours of sleuthing!

From the information you’ve given me thus far, Spr (Sapper) B. Daniel is almost certainly Major Bruce Ramsay Crofton Daniel, Service No. N281169 who is recorded as having enlisted on 8 Oct 1941 and (believe it or not) was discharged on 23 July 1981. A lifetime of service. I wonder if he’s still with us - a centenarian, if so, surely!

I am sure to have records for some of the others named in your sample pics. I’ve attached a sample of the rendering that I apply to each photographic image (with apologies for the semi-nudity!) I would certainly be grateful if you can scan and forward every photo that you have (preferably at 600 DPI - and flat, please), if you can manage it - that means that you would need to transfer them to CD or DVD for postage, the cost of which I would be most happy to meet.

Regarding the other album you already sold, would it be asking too much to put me on the trail of the buyer, without infringing on his/her privacy too much? I’d like to make contact and ask if copies might be made available - for the same reasons.

Thank you for your interest - how did you find out about our project?

I look forward to further information exchange with you. If you wish to give me a ring and leave a voicemail please do. I’ll return your call soonest.

Her response was swift, as follows:

“Hi John

There are about 20 photos of people in the album - I'm not sure about the quality of our scanner, but I'm happy to give it a go.

Bruce Daniel passed away last year - the album was bought at the clearing sale of his effects earlier this year. He had an amazing property called "Wilbetree" at Mudgee and was a descendant of Robert Lowe who was one of the first families to settle in the area. There was five generations of stuff for sale! He was a prolific collector and there was a lot of interesting military and medical items auctioned on the day, which I managed to get a few of (a compass and tripod, canteens, medical bits and pieces and even some ration packs from Vietnam).

I'm happy to contact the person who bought both albums and ask if I can forward his details - he's a military collector living in Coffs Harbour.

I entered the terms 2nd Field Survey Company (from the front of the album) in Google and it brought up a newsletter from the ACT that mentioned your project, which is how I found your contact details. I come across lots of different stuff at auctions and I think it's important to try to direct the history to where it's valued.

I'll have a go at scanning over the next few days and post it off to you and provide contact details for the other album soon.

While waiting for Cathy Meyers to try her scanner, I put out a query to Peter Jensen, who must have contacted Rob McHenry and John Bullen. That turned out to be first-order serendipity, since John had personal knowledge of and experience with Bruce, as the following info conveys:

“Bruce Daniel is shown as having left the Svy Corps at the end of WW2 as a Spr. But what CARO hasn’t said is that he then served in RAAC and then in RAAMC, retiring as a Major (having refused promotion to Lt Col) in the mid-1980s. However, I note that CARO has supplied both his post-war Army numbers.

He is very much a VIP at RMC where Daniel House (the married quarter of the deputy Commandant) is named after him. For 50 years from 1939 to about 1990, this was the married quarter of the RMO at
RMC. Inside Daniel House his framed portrait is on display adjacent to a plaque. The text on the plaque is as follows…

MAJOR B R C DANIEL RFD ED

Bruce Ramsay Crofton Daniel was born in Sydney on 28 July 1924. Putting his age up by two years, he enlisted on 8 October 1941 for full-time service in 2 Field Survey Company. On 13 August 1942 he transferred to the 2nd Australian Imperial Force, serving in New Guinea in World War Two as a soldier in 3 Field Survey Company, Australian Survey Corps.

After demobilisation on 8 May 1946, Bruce studied Medicine at the University of Sydney under the Repatriation scheme. In 1948 and 1949 he served briefly in First Armoured Regiment (Citizen Military Forces), Royal Australian Armoured Corps.

On qualifying as a doctor, Bruce joined the medical staff of the Repatriation General Hospital at Concord as a civilian doctor. He also joined the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps where he served as a captain and a doctor in the CMF.


Major Daniel’s next posting was to the Royal Military College, Duntroon, as the Regimental Medical Officer from 2 December 1969 until 23 July 1981 when he retired from the Army at the conclusion of a long and fine career.

Major Bruce Daniel was the second longest serving RMO at Duntroon and was resident in this house for the whole of that period. He was highly regarded for his competence, helpfulness and geniality. His wife Marcia was Assistant Registrar on the Duntroon academic staff for much of this period. Together they were widely respected and liked in the Duntroon community.

John Bullen continued:

“I met Bruce in Vietnam, both as 2IC of 1 Aust Fd Hosp (where he and John Lambie were great friends) at Vung Tau and as acting OC 8 Fd Amb at Nui Dat (where he was temporarily my next door neighbour when Digger James was on leave). He features in my book Captain Bullen’s War, as also does John Lambie.

While living in Canberra throughout the 1970s, Bruce Daniel always took an interest in Svy Corps activities. Retired and aged 90, he lives near Mudgee.”

My postscript, below, includes further reference to the plaque and to Bruce Daniel.

I forwarded John’s information to Cathy and on 5 December, she replied thus:

“Thanks for the extra information, he certainly lived an interesting life. I grew up in Mudgee and my family is still there, and Bruce Daniel was a well-respected doctor in the local community also. Tony Crockett is happy for you to contact him about the first photo album - his phone number is [supplied]. I’ll let you know when I’ve done the other photos!”
By 10 December, some disappointment had crept in:

“Sorry for the delay in responding, things are getting hectic around here and our first Christmas visitors are due to arrive tomorrow! Would you believe we have two scanners and neither of them work properly. I think they are so old the light has burnt out in them or something - whatever the case, they are producing some fairly poor quality images.

I have taken some photos with my phone having used that method before for other projects. I’ll attach one image and see if that will be good enough quality for your project. If yes, happy to transfer and post the rest. If no, I may have to send the album to you to scan prior to sending it to Tony Crockett (who also bought the first album).”

Her attached images demonstrated the effects of keystoning, curvature and flaring, so I nervously requested that she send me the album for scanning myself, not knowing its physical condition.

It arrived on 13 December in sound condition. The small photo shown here was typical of its contents. Properly scanned at 600 dpi however, they will stand considerable enlargement.

I scanned 22 individual photos of interest covering possibly 30 different servicemen. I’ve straightened, cropped and enhanced those that follow.

A separate envelope accompanied the album. More about that later!

On first glance it appeared that Bruce Daniel must have been behind the camera for the photos in his album. There was not one photo clearly identifying him. I therefore anticipated that it would take some detective work to identify him and everyone else, by name. I expected to have to use other individual photos from the album (and possibly from the second album yet to come).
Coraki, mentioned in the photo above is situated on the Richmond River in NSW, between Evans Head and Casino. The photo is dated January 1942 and this, together with mention of Kyogle in another photo, firmly establishes the activities of “No. 13 Topo Party” as being part of No. 2 Field Survey Company, first raised under Captain Clews on 20 September 1940. Chris Coulthard-Clark\(^1\) records 2 Fd Svy Coy being moved to Kyogle in April 1942 and being engaged on mapping work involving as many as 15 parties, mainly in the Northern Rivers district, as well as in the area between Gosford and Bathurst. In June of that year, the field parties, of which Bruce Daniel was surely a member, were concentrated at Kyogle for reorganisation in preparation for their move to Queensland.

The photo above shows their vehicles used at that time, complete with camouflage paint. The photo below shows a homestead building, presumably commandeered for use as their headquarters for a time.

At least it wasn’t under canvas and that would have surely provided some creature comforts, particularly for draftsmen.

Plane tabling was obviously in use by the surveyors of 2 Fd Svy Coy at that time and there are several photos of members busily engaged in that mapping technique.

\(^1\) Australia’s Military Mapmakers: 2000 p.p. 82
Cpl Harold Arthur (Tut) Turrell pictured at his plane table, is shown in our Roll as enlisting on 22 April 1940 (along with so many others in the Roll) but no discharge date is indicated. However, the WW2 Roll of Honour (AWM) shows that Turrell, born in Subiaco in WA and living in Kogarah in NSW, enlisted at Grafton in August 1942. He served until April 1947, achieving the rank of Sergeant. There is another photo of him, in uniform, taken in March 1947 beside Constance’s hut in the Australian Alps.

Another positive ID for the Faces Collection - Bruce Daniel’s photo album was already paying dividends! And so I worked on these photos until the next phase commenced.

Tony Crockett had meanwhile contacted me by phone and had agreed to send Bruce’s second album. From the description given by Tony, that album recorded some of Bruce’s time as a member of 3 Fd Svy Coy, serving in New Guinea from March 1943 to May 1944.

It was waiting for me when I returned from a Christmas/New Year 4WD trip to the Big and Little Deserts, Western Victoria, on 18 January 2018.

Places where the photos from this album were taken are: Dumphu, Nadzab, Markham Valley, Shaggy Ridge, Ramu Valley, Guy’s Post, Gusap, Terry’s Post, Loloki River, Milne Bay, Rouna Falls, Buna, Finschhafen, Moresby and Lae. These place names resonate strongly for anyone who has read military history or been to PNG and visited some of the battlegrounds contested by Japanese and Allied forces in WW2.

Many of the photos are scenic in nature, sometimes from a vessel, or around the tented camps, but several of them make other personnel identifications possible. One that caught my eye relates to Chris Coulthard-Clark’s book where he records the following:

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2 Ibid p.p. 86
“Another detachment from 3 Company under Lieutenant J.E. Mitchell was flown in to undertake surveys in the Ramu Valley and the Finnisterre Range for 1 Australian Corps, carrying out rapid triangulation and intersections for a series of 1:25,000 combat maps extending as far north as Madang. Part of this detachment was on the famous Shaggy Ridge feature and making observations within days of its capture after grim fighting in January 1944.”

This is corroborated by Heather McRae (et al):

“Meanwhile a party from ‘B’ Detachment were able to observe into enemy territory from Shaggy Ridge (height 4900’) in the Finnisterre Range ‘within several days of its capture by our forces’ completing their observations ‘under enemy artillery fire’. ‘Although there were no battle casualties’, reported Major Keig, ‘members of this detachment were in close proximity to the enemy on a number of occasions’. The observers on Shaggy Ridge included Lieutenant J.E. Mitchell, Sergeant S.C. Saunders and Sapper Kirby.”

The photo above, presumably taken by Bruce Daniel, is a visual link to that event and results in two more IDs for “Faces”, as follows:

- VX135779 Jack Eric Mitchell born in Prahran Victoria 1917, enlisted in Melbourne in July 1940, discharged from 3 Fd Svy Coy in December 1945 with the rank of Captain. He was appointed as Surveyor General of Victoria in 1972, serving until 1979 (as “John”)
- VX112338 Sydney Charles Saunders (the partially obscured booker) born in Kyabram Victoria, enlisted there in October 1941, discharged from 3 Fd Svy Coy in July 1946 with the rank of WO2. (He is more clearly identified in another photo)

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Another photo entitled “Lake & Artillery from Guy’s Post” clearly shows puffs of smoke from artillery firing in the valley below.

Readers interested to know just how grim the fighting was at Shaggy Ridge, may like to visit this link:


I elected to scan 16 whole page sides of this album since the risk of damage to the photos would have been be too great if I removed them from their corner mounts. This yielded 64 photos, from which I expect to make about 15 identifications.

The prize, however, was a loose photo just inside the album cover, of a fit-looking soldier, wearing campaign ribbons, alongside another soldier bearing a passing resemblance to Bob Skitch.

The soldier’s kitbag is on his shoulder and there, partially obscured on it is “NX13288?? and “B.R. DA?? - Two initials and the first two letters of his name (as subsequently confirmed with the Nominal Roll).

This was the subject of my search!

I now felt I had enough to declare a positive ID for Sapper Daniel. Here is the rendered photo, greatly reduced in size for this newsletter.

NX132884 was Spr Daniel’s second regimental number, upon transfer from 2 Fd Svy Coy to 2 AIF.

RFD is Reserve Force Decoration
ED is Efficiency Decoration

These decorations were awarded in later phases of his long and distinguished Army career, after leaving Survey Corps.

With that important identification task completed, I returned to the envelope received from Cathy Meyer. It contained Bruce Daniel’s identity discs (dog tags). She had entrusted them to me, believing that I would know best what to do with them. I must admit to feeling a little uneasy about this at the time.

Bearing his fourth-issued regimental number of 2127076, these tags would have been worn during his service in Vietnam.

I spoke with Peter Jensen and after considering the obvious option of offering them to the Australian War Memorial, where there must be hundreds in various collections, we agreed
that I would try to find a member of Bruce Daniel’s family and offer to return the tags, if they were wanted. So, back to the email - and on 3 March, I sent the following:

“Cathy,

Do you have any likely leads for the relatives of Bruce Daniel in Mudgee?

With regard to his dog tags, I feel that, in the first instance, I should try and contact any of his living rels and ask if they would like to retain them. They may not even know that they were discarded at the clearing sale where you purchased them. If no one wants them there, I’m inclined to offer them to the Officers Mess at Duntroon, where there is a plaque and inscription dedicated to him and recognising his service. They could be mounted in a small polished wooden case with glass front (which I’d be prepared to make) and displayed alongside the plaque. Anything you can give me would help - I’m happy to follow up, as soon as I have a place to start.”

Her response was again helpful, as follows:

“Hi John

I haven’t got a direct contact for the family, but in the lead up to the auction I did speak to his daughter in law Alison (married to Bruce’s son Richard I think) who was doing a lot of the cleaning out. There were a lot of personal items sold on the day, but I’m sure it would be worth contacting them to see if it is something they would like.

Probably your best bet would be to contact the selling agents First National in Mudgee - Tim O’Brien [phone number supplied] owns the business and was the auctioneer on the day. The property was ‘Wilbetree’. Glad the photos have found somewhere to live on and be displayed for others to enjoy!

Good luck with returning the dog tags, otherwise I think your alternative plan sounds fitting.”

My next email to Cathy, on 8 March, relates what happened next:

“Hello Cathy,

I have some good news!

Following up on your lead, I did speak to Tim O’Brien, who undertook to see if he could contact relatives. I gave him my contact details to pass on, if he was successful.

Lo and behold, Bruce’s daughter Sue rang me yesterday and we had a nice chat. She explained that during the preparation and on the day of the clearing sale, things were very hectic on site and there were several items sold that were not intended to be (even the chairs they were sitting on)

She believed that she had put Bruce’s identity discs (dog tags) somewhere safe and the same for his photo albums. She was not aware, even yesterday, that these had been sold and I could tell that she was feeling somewhat emotional.

She was very grateful that you had passed them to me and that I had reached out to find an appropriate owner for them. The fact that I have scanned Bruce’s two photo albums is also a comfort to her and I will take steps to send her a CD with all of the images, when I post off the dog tags to her in the next day or so. I’ll also send her the passage of emails between Peter Jensen, John Bullen and myself regarding the recognition of Bruce’s work at Daniel House, Duntroon.

I’ll also give her Tony Crockett’s details, should she wish to take steps to try and regain the
original albums. He has them both now.
This has turned out very well and I’d like to thank you for doing your bit.”

It was gratifying to cap off another “Faces” story, with this email received from Bruce Daniel’s daughter on 16 March 2018;

“Greetings John,
Just wanted to let you know I have received your parcel and am very grateful to have Dad’s dog tags back in the family’s possession! Thank you for the photo (it’s on display!) and the CD which I have not as yet had a look at…due to the modern computer not having a CD reader and I not owning a TV!
I have spoken to my brother, and, when time permits, he will look for a photo of Dad in his dress uniform to send to you.
Again many thanks and warm regards to you for your kindness.
Good luck with the project!
Sue (Daniel)

Sue Daniel later agreed to provide her photo, below. No further words are necessary.

Postscript:
Readers wishing to know more about the dedication ceremony for Daniel House, should follow the link below, to review pages 1-3 of the Duntroon Society Newsletter 1/2014, to which John Bullen contributed substantially:

Postcards – people, events, what’s new etc

Faces of the Corps and the Corps Nominal Roll - Peter Jensen

John Mobbs has been spending a lot of time and running down rabbit holes in all directions to add to the ‘Faces of the Corps’. John now has photos with names of 1,100 Corps members (about 1 in 6) and added 163 in the last year. John welcomes any photos either by email or mail. The RA Svy Corps Nominal Roll 1910-1996 Version 2018 is now published on the Corps website - see the link on the Home page. A challenge for us both in the medium-term is to link the two projects to make the collection readily available to all Association members.

Interest by the broader survey community in RA Svy history - Peter Jensen

I was very pleased to accept an invitation from the Australian Institute of Mine Surveyors, Mudgee region, to present a paper on the history of the Royal Australian Survey Corps at their March 2018 seminar. The purpose of the seminars is to provide professional development opportunities for Registered Mine Surveyors who are required each year to maintain competency in mine surveying and general survey practice. Topics at this seminar were survey history and today’s technologies in particular total stations integrating GPS, laser scanners and EDM (theodolites without eyepieces but controlled by a remote tablet device) and very small unmanned and manned aerial vehicle mounted sensors. To many young surveyors today if it is not GPS and coordinates they don’t want to know about it - one paper hammered home the land surveyors golden rule ‘monument before measurements’. After seminar feedback was that my paper was very well received and appreciated. Many of the nearly sixty attendees knew of the Corps, but were surprised with the breadth and depth of the Corps’ survey and mapping work.

Members of the Institute in the region have an active interest in historical military survey in particular the work done by the tunnellers of the Engineer Field Companies at Gallipoli and the Engineer Tunnelling Companies in France/Belgium. Featuring as a discussion on the Institute website is the story of one mine surveyor. At Passchendaele in September 1917, 22 year old mine surveyor from near Newcastle, Captain Clarence Smith Jeffries, Officer Commanding B Company 34th Aust Infantry Battalion, was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for his conspicuous bravery in organising and leading one party and later another to attack and capture two machine-gun emplacements (six guns) and sixty-five prisoners, while under heavy artillery and enfilade machine-gun fire. He was killed in the second attack ensuring that the main advance was not slowed.

Our Association Calendar 2018 – the fridge magnet

Wed 25th April 2018             ANZAC Day march, commemorative service and lunch
Fri 29th June 2018              Corps 103rd birthday lunch for 1st July
October/November 2018          Golf Day (SNAGA)
Sun 11th November 2018          Remembrance Day dinner
Thu 6th December 2018           Christmas Happy-Hour - The Duxton Bar and Restaurant, O’Connor shops at 5pm

April 2018                      Videre Parare Est                      Canberra Survey Corps Association