



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS
ASSOCIATION
Queensland Branch
BULLETIN

PO Box 5784 Stafford Heights 4053
Website: www.rasurvey.org

CHRISTMAS EDITION – No 61

DECEMBER 2015



Peace to the World
MAY THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON BRING YOU HAPPINESS AND
JOY AND MAY YOUR NEW YEAR BE ALL YOU WOULD WISH

CALENDAR 2015 – 2016

Anzac Day – Monday 25 April....details to be advised
AGM & Annual Reunion – Sat 11 September – Alderley Arms Hotel (to be confirmed)

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1 TOPO SVY SQN			
Squadron OC	Maj David Cave		
Squadron SSM	WO1 Diana Soutar	Ph 3332 7564 mob 043 817 5977	email: diana.soutar@defence.gov.au

Note: Refer Veteran's Affairs matters to Peter Bates-Brownsword and Barry Lutwyche

1 TOPO SVY SQN/1 INT BN – The somewhat confusing situation regarding the transfer of the Squadron from 6th Engineer Support Regiment (RAE) to the 1st Intelligence Battalion was outlined and explained at the Associations Day called by the Officer Commanding 1 Int Bn at Enoggera on Thursday 17th August. However, the 2014 issue of *The Australian Sapper* gives a somewhat different perspective on the issue. A report on the Associations Day is on page 3 of this Bulletin together with a relevant extract from *The Australian Sapper*.....Ed

NOTICES

BERETS – BERETS – BERETS

Stocks are held at Christie's in Sydney. Be distinctive in the RA Survey Association headdress.

Note: Christies can be contacted as follows:

Unit 4D; 1-7 Unwin Bridge Rd, St Peters, NSW 2044. Phone 02 9519 0784

RA SURVEY HISTORY by Dr Chris Coulthard Clark – copies are still available. Contact Secretary Greg Knight for details.

MAPMAKERS OF FORTUNA

Copies may be purchased from the Ex-Fortuna Survey Association (PO Box 865 Bendigo 3552) at \$60.00 plus postage of \$11.50 which includes cost of a padded postal bag.

ASSOCIATION TIE or SCARF & BADGE

Cost of tie or scarf is \$25.00 plus postage. Association badges are still available from the Queensland Association. Place your order with the Queensland Association. Phone or email Secretary Greg Knight

OUR HISTORY PROJECT – WHAT DID WE DO, 1946 – 1996?

Our 'What Did We Do' project remains open for further contributions. Have a look and see if you can fill a few of the gaps. Email your contribution direct to Bob Skitch bob@skitch.me or enter your data on our website –

www.rasurvey.org.

MEMBERSHIP

Keep your membership alive. Paid-up status for Ordinary Members terminates with the AGM on the first Saturday in September. Annual subscription is \$15.00 per year. We suggest that paying three or more years in advance is a good idea.

FACEBOOK GROUPS

Daryn Radford has set up a Facebook Group Royal Australian Survey Corps (RASvy) open to all to exchange information and photos. Darryn describes the Group as...

The popularity of the group is attested by its usage – 150 so far.

Dave Anderson our own Queensland member has set up another Facebook Group he calls 'R.A. Survey Uncut'. It can be accessed through the hyperlink

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/650449655017119/> or, by following steps suggested by Secretary Greg as follows: (1) *Navigate to Facebook in your browser*, (2) *In the 'find friends' bar at the top type in R.A. Survey Uncut*, (3) *Pres the search icon*.

Ed: I find the hyperlink connection the easiest but of course it needs to be copied out of the pdf environment. The website has good content similar to the Darren Radford website with some good sequences of the Anzac day parade.

ASSOCIATION DAY at ENOGGERA – 1 INT BN

Our RA Svy Association (Qld) was invited by the Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Gavin Stanford CSC to attend an 'Association Day' at the headquarters of the 1st Intelligence Battalion at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera on Thursday 27 August 2014. The same invitation went also to the Australian Intelligence Corps Association.

At 0900 as per the invitation we all gathered at the front gate of the Enoggera Barracks at the top end of Lloyd Street to be taken by a couple of mini busses into the barracks complex and to the headquarters of the Int Battalion. Our Survey Association was well represented with perhaps twenty members attending headed by President Alex Cairney, including some we hadn't seen for some time; the Intelligence Association had maybe twice that number. Our names were checked off from a nominal roll before embussing.

Many of us who hadn't been to the Enoggera Barracks for three or more years were astonished to see the changes that had taken place in recent years. Many of the buildings we had known so well were no longer there having been replaced by modern and not necessarily attractive but no doubt functional structures with only those of heritage value remaining. The 1 Topo building is still there although barely recognisable from the road surrounded by very plain looking additions, again no doubt internally functional. Of course in the 'old' days we were accustomed to free and easy access to 1 Topo but that is no longer the case.

First I must say that the warmth of the welcome we all received was little short of overwhelming and continued throughout our visit, finishing with a lavish barbecue and an open bar. Doors were held open by young soldiers whenever we were moving from venue to venue.

On entering the Int Battalion building, a large imposing grey block structure only a short walk from 1 Topo we were divested of mobile phone and cameras (I had one of the latter – whatever was I thinking about?) – and advised not to take notes (as if we would?). We were led into a large double screen lecture room and given the usual safety and security briefing. Oddly enough there was no PA system which meant that many of us had more than a little difficulty in hearing, and understanding all that was to follow. (Even with my hearing aids in and turned on.) The first spate of briefings concerned the historical origins of Aust Int from about 1905 onwards to the present day and the creation of the 1st Int Bn which seems to be an umbrella organisation covering one way or another all Int elements across Australia other than those organic to combat units. There are four companies in the battalion and in a sense one Squadron – 1 Topo. In due course 1 Topo will become a company of the battalion and 1 Topo sappers will be redesignated 'privates' – I suspect a not very popular outcome for the currently serving sappers. The detail of the functions of the four Int companies probably meant a great deal more to the Int Association fellows than to we surveyors. Surveyors? About twenty actual surveyors in 1 Topo will remain with RAE. An historical background on RA Svy was also given from 1910 onwards; the creation of a Corps in 1914 and its waxing and waning strengths over subsequent years but little mention of was made of the post WW2 considerable achievements.

We all wandered across to 1 Topo itself for what I thought was a pretty ordinary display. At the side of the main building an 11'x11' tent was set up covered with a cam net and within it a couple of computers set up with screens showing photo or maybe satellite images and at one side a couple of tables FS with three or four paper maps showing imagery. Two quite notable ones was designated 'change maps' where images (satellite or air photo) taken a few days apart having been digitally superimposed on each other highlighted in red areas of changed detail – no doubt for further investigation. Then a quick walk through the corridors of the Squadron, and a look at the memorabilia displays then out of the front door and back to Int. Hmmm! I felt that 1 Topo was the poor cousin of the morning. Imagine fifty or more persons trying to file in and out of an 11'x11' in the space of half an hour! Enough said!

Back at 1 Int we returned to the lecture room with more briefings on Int, covering the remaining two companies, a small break for a cup of coffee and then a bit of a highlight – a little play-acting on interrogation emphasising the limitations of permitted interrogation – number, name, rank and blood group. Nothing more! The interrogatee was brusquely ordered to stand at attention by the interrogator with the former for whatever reason refusing to divulge his blood group but eventually doing so after gentle persuasion. Play-act over! I wondered whether an Afghan soldier would have any idea of his own blood group! In fact I found that last session of the briefing quite interesting.

Throughout the morning I was considerably impressed by the competence of the young soldiers briefing – male and female – some of junior NCO rank. They were all very articulate, clearly on top of their topics, rarely referring to notes.

All of this came to an end at about 1.00pm and we filed out to the courtyard for a quite lavish prepared barbecue. We retired Association fellows had first chop before the hungry young serving soldiers partook. A few speeches afterwards – with our Alex responding and then both Association presidents were presented with Int Pendants, in nice boxes (just like the boxes in which we get our assorted service medals).

And that was it. The mini buses took us all back to the main gate to our own parked transport. Was it interesting? I would say in retrospect – yes.....Bob Skitch

GEOSPATIAL INTELLIGENCE – extracted from ‘Australian Sapper’ 2014 – 2014 – 47

Ed: The following extracts are from a two page article in the Australian Sapper, an annual publication of RAE. The article is sub-titled ‘The 1st Topographical Survey Squadron, 1st Intelligence Battalion’. Military jargon has progressed since my days to a point which I find is barely intelligible. Cop this one.....‘Network Centric Warfare’ !!

The history and the requirement for change

By virtue of reliance on computing technology that has undergone rapid expansion in recent years, Army GEOINT capabilities have progressively evolved from collectors to analysts. The 18 years since the demise of the Royal Australian Survey Corps (RASvy) has seen the focus of change from collecting and presenting basic information on terrain to gathering and analysing information about how the entire battlespace will influence operations. **Technicians who previously collected information on topography and vegetation by laboriously hand tracing aerial photographs and surveying individual points** can now rely on a plethora of civilian and military sensors that provide vast amounts of data in very short time frames. (*ED: Is that what we did – laboriously hand trace aerial photographs? Perhaps back in the 1930s! Where is the writer coming from?*) The result has been a transition to becoming an expert in the collation, analysis and exploitation of many different types of data. While the process of managing, collating and exploiting information is dependent on scientific principles and an engineering approach, the effect generated has become more and more of an intelligence effect.

This change in the nature of the information produced by geospatial ‘Force Elements’ has seen a consequent change in the locations and ways in which they are employed. Before the emergence of digital technologies the dissemination of geospatial information was via hardcopy maps that were distributed down to the lowest ranks. A switch to digital technologies did not replace this function, but meant that the majority of analysis only occurred where such technologies were being employed and where they were relevant to the commander’s decision making: at Battle Group Headquarters or above. Other factors such as the increasing distribution and ‘democratisation’ of geospatial information through applications like ‘Google Earth’ have also resulted in a change of focus away from determining what terrain lies over the horizon, and towards what effect all components of the battlespace will have on the commander’s plan. In recognition of this change geospatial capabilities have been increasingly employed where they can best inform the commander from within the intelligence cell in a headquarters.....etc, etc.

The move to employ geospatial technicians within Intelligence Cells meant that the continued location of the 1st Topographical Survey Squadron (1 TSS) within an Engineer unit was anomalous with the employment of the rest of the capability. 1 TSS is the primary Raise-Train-Sustain unit of GEOINT within Army and contains 70% of Army's Geospatial Technicians (ECN 423) as well as all of its Imagery Analysts. It also possesses strong links to a variety of intelligence units and agencies. With the need to generate detachments to be imbedded within 1st Intelligence Battalion (1 Int Bn) All Source Cells becoming the first priority for the Squadron, it was a logical move to reallocate command of the Squadron from the 6th Engineer Support Regiment to 1 Int Bn as part of Plan Beersheba.

The transfer process was a rapid one, with authorisation for the move issued by the Chief of Army in November 2013 and the change of command occurring on 20 January 2014. The survey capability has remained under command of HQ 6 ESR (Engineer Support Regiment) and is now focussed on engineer survey in support of construction activities. **While now commanded by an intelligence battalion headquarters, 1 TSS proudly remains a RAE squadron comprised mainly of Sappers. It is also the custodian of the heritage and traditions of the former RASvy following the amalgamation of that Corps with RAE in 1996. In terms of lineage, the Squadron is directly linked to the 1st ANZAC Survey Section formed in 1915 and has retained its unique colour patch on the slouch hat as a result.** (ED – my bolding)

ED: The complete paper can be obtained from me by email should anyone require it. Of course it is within the current issue of The Australian Sapper. The paper was drawn to my attention by Lt Col Peter Eddy (Ret).

AWARDS DAY at 1 TOPO

WO 1 Diana Souter, SSM of 1 Topo advises... I would like to advise that after lengthy consideration, we have decided not to award the Derek Chambers or CPL Ash Birt Awards this year. Sadly we received only two nominations for each award and felt that neither of them were deserving of the Awards. It was also felt that simply handing out the Awards, for the sake of presenting them, would demean the Awards themselves.

Regards...Diana

Ed: A little sad. What is happening to our old RASVY unit?

ANNUAL REUNION AND AGM – 12 Sept 2015

Conducted this year at the Alderley Arms Hotel (where we have our post ANZAC Day march get-together) and after several years of heading to Kilcoy the Association had a good roll-up of members and partners. I (Bob Skitch could not attend – on that second Saturday in September my diary tells me I was visiting the Maritime and Wreck Museums in Fremantle). Secretary Greg Knight emails me that those attending were President Alex Cairney, Stan Campbell, Dave & Sarah Anderson, Peter & Barbara Bates-Brownsword, John (Jim) & Sandra Beard, Jim Gill, Greg Knight, Barry Lutwyche, Dave & Julie O'Shannessy, Hank Opdem, Warner Hutchings, Peter (Jose) & Christine Rodriguez, Grant Small, Lyn Thompson, John Gilbert, Ted Van Ginneken and Diana Souter.

I note with interest that a few of our stalwarts are absent but quite a few of those we rarely see were present such as Jose & Christine Rodriguez, Hank Opdem, Warner Hutchings, and Ted van Ginneken – a pleasant surprise!

Secretary Greg advises that Ross Smithwick was ill and could not attend. The AGM was routine and the existing committee members were all returned with the exception of Vice President Kym Weston who stood down and was replaced by Dave O'Shannessy.

Unfortunately no photos were taken.

MEMORIES OF THE ARMSURVEY MAP DEPOT

Ed: *The Army Survey Map Depot (its most recent name) was perhaps the most unsung and little known unit of RA Svy. Most members probably had a vague awareness that there was such a unit of RA Svy somewhere, but little else. I remember visiting the 'Depot' in the late fifties or early sixties while attending a course at the School then at Balcombe. It was located at South Kensington. It was staffed as I recall by civilians, elderly fellows and being impressed at the speed with which they could count maps. The Depot moved to Bandiana sometime in the 60s, perhaps at the time of the move of the School from Balcombe to Bonegilla and was given a more military establishment. What a move that must have been – well over a million maps! Certainly a posting to the Depot was never seen as a 'plum posting' but nevertheless those who served there reflect a loyalty to their old unit as can be seen in these recent comments below, culled from 'Facebook'*

Patrick Miller (in an email) reflects I was on the 31/67 Basic Survey Course. I'm a friend of Don Stewart. Have been a jazz muso all my life. This was the reason I requested posting to the Depot in Sth Kensington. Apart from a field trip to PNG in 69 and an incomplete Intermediate Course in 1970 I spent my whole 6 years there.



Then on Facebook....

When I arrived at the Depot in 1967 the OC was Captain James Gabriel Long. Gordon Haswell was the QMS and Martin "Tom" Sawyer ran the photo library. Peter Rossiter came to replace Gordon before going to do his knife and fork course and coming back as OC when Jimmy Long went to Vic Barracks as DAD. Tom was replaced in my time by Barry Cusack, Bob "Stretch" Hayden and Jeff Turner. I believe that David "Blue" Averay (from my Basic Course) was also OC for a while after Peter.

I knew all of the RASvy blokes: Denis Marshall, Tony Waldon, Mick Collins, Peter Rossiter, Roger Rees, Jim Cheater and Rocky Camps, but none of the other corps fellows. Peter was responsible for my rapid rise from sapper to sergeant. If I didn't want to continue on the survey side, he thought I could make a very creditable QMS while I served out my 6 years



STALWARTS OF THE MAP DEPOT

Back Row: Cpl ?? Cpl M. Collins, Spr R. Rees, Spr N. McKenna, L/Cpl G. Dick,
Front Row: Sgt T Waldron, Capt P. Rossiter, S/Sgt W. Smith, Sqt J. Cheater.

I left the Depot (my main posting apart from SMS courses and a PNG field trip) in February 1973. We had a nice group photo which, sadly, I've lost. Denis Marshall sent me this one taken more than a year later. Fluffy Cheater was the first RASvy bod that I met at the School when I marched in from 1RTB. Peter Rossiter was one of the finest blokes I met in my 6 years in the Corps

At the Depot in Bandiana, Spring 1972. One of our nashos, Dave Godfrey (now the CEO of Melway) was a keen photographer and did a terrific colour photo of us all. I've lost the photo and would love to get a copy. While we were setting up for some individual shots Denis Marshall dashed across and photobombed me long before it became a thing.

Alex McLellan

Very nice. I served as the OC from 1978-1980. Fluffy Cheater was the admin sergeant and later retired to work in Wodonga. I remember Roger Rees (from 4 Fd Svy I think).

Bob Skitch

Recognize a few of the faces but am stuck for names. I served with Peter Rossiter on Project Cutlass (New Ireland) in 1956/57. We were both corporals. Peter ran the equipment store on board the FS 216 & 392. We had a common interest in classical music. I have a couple of photos of Peter at that time

John Leworthy

You're all too young you blokes. Back in 62/63 I was at air photo library at Albert Park. Maps at 3 BOD, Sth Kensington. The OC was based in the tower at Vic Barracks. He had a joint role, DAD Southern Comd and OC AHQ Fd Survey Depot. Originally - Major Harry Raisebeck, followed by Major Stevens when Harry was discharged. Barry Parker could fill in the gaps for personnel. Sadly both bases have been long ago bulldozed. Albert Park is where the F1 Grande Prix is now held.

PERSONALIA and Odd Jottings – some from 'Facebook'

Patrick Miller recalls on FacebookI was a member of the 31/67 Basic Survey course that ran from July to December 1967. I only did my 6 years in RASvy. Yet the funny thing is, despite not really keeping in contact with those guys I met when I was just 17, I can recall the name of everyone on that course: Dave Anderson, David Averay, David Barry, Peter Biorac, Phil Farry, John Hook, Brian Mead, Pat Miller, Rod Offer, Chris Sharp, Joe Stasiuk, Bill Stockdale, Brian Taylor, Brian Turner, Paul Wakeling, Mario Zappulla. Instructors: Don Cocker, Darby Munro, Ross McMillan. I guess it happened at a very impressionable age. I learned things that I could still do if asked - jigger work, even set up a Tellurometer. I wish I could see some photos of us taken back then. *More of Patrick's recollections in the article on the Survey Depot.*

Patrick Miller put this photo of himself with **Bob Mason** on Facebook with the comment....



Here's a photo that speaks volumes. It was taken by Mauro (Mario) Zappulla at Goroka in late 1969. Nineteen year old me is being patiently instructed by Bob Mason on the intricacies of Aerodist trace computing. Around the table you can see a single Brunsviga and a Curta calculator (in its case). In those pre-digital days, the Aerodist readings were recorded on thermal paper as a continuous roll. The sine waves from the left and right channels would gradually increase in wave length until they passed their shortest distance to the ground station. We used to put our hands on the short point of each channel and then clap them to find

the mid-point. I was good at that. Then came the complex job of calculating the actual distances. I was hopeless at that. After days and days of never coming up with a believable solution I was dismissed from the comps tent and sent to VH-TYV to make altimeter observations. That was more suited to my modest talents.

Rob McHenry (Canberra Survey Corps Association).....The recent leadership machinations of the Australian political parties paled into insignificance as the back-room manoeuvrings and deal brokering for the coveted position of President of the Canberra Survey Corps Association reached fever pitch last week. An applicant pool of thousands was carefully scrutinised by a very select committee (a positive vetting process was mandatory) with one clear candidate being unanimously selected as the heir

apparent. Although there is some speculation that money may have changed hands for favourable considerations, all parties concerned are denying the allegations.

The paraphernalia and rituals, including secret handshakes associated with the office are to be transferred at a confidential but suitably sombre ceremony between the outgoing president and his successor in the near future. I have seriously great pleasure in advising that **Peter Jensen** is now the very deserving and capable President of the Canberra Survey Corps Association. Congratulations Peter.....Regards to allRob

Ed: ...And I believe Editor of the 'ACT Newsletter'. It goes with the Office!

Mark Linny placed this remarkable photo on the Facebook RA Svy Group. The two fellows standing at the centre are Mark and Dick Crawford. But whatever is that odd looking structure they appear to be building over the ground mark?



The would be the most perfectly laid out cross I have ever seen – but then, it is in the apparent middle of a paddock – not on a stony difficult hill top!....Ed

Patrick Miller emailed...I was on the 31/67 Basic Survey Course. I'm a friend of Don Stewart. Been a jazz muso all my life. This was the reason I requested posting to the Depot in Sth Kensington. Apart from a field trip to PNG in 69 and an incomplete Intermediate Course in 1970 I spent my whole 6 years there.

Brian Mead reports....I have just been advised by **Brian FIRNS**, that he is recovering from recent heart valve surgery. His heart problems were diagnosed during a routine visit to his local GP – blood pressure / blood tests etc.

Brian said that his surgery went well with the leaking heart valve repaired, rather than replaced. He will be convalescing at his brother Eric's home for at least two weeks.

Brian may be contacted (Mob) 0427 888 445

VALE

Ruth Ridge – Gary Warnest advises...'It is my sad task to inform the Survey Corps community of the passing of Ruth Ridge yesterday 7 Sep 2015 in Bendigo.

Both she and Don had been reasonably well until a sudden onset of pneumonia that put them both into hospital last week. Don returned home soon after the Bendigo centenary celebration without his much beloved wife Ruth.

Donna Grayland – Paul Hopes advises...Sad news: to all RASvy folks, Donna Grayland passed away last night after a battle with cancer, she was only 42. Donna served with RA SVY from June 1991 to April 1996..

Michael Ryan – Not one of ours but Brian Mead states that Mick, a very significant person in the West gave our Association a lot of support. Brian passed on an email advising Mick's passing 'It is with

sadness that I report that the RAE Corps has lost a great Sapper. Michael John (Mick) Ryan passed away at 0136 hrs last night. Mick has now joined all his past mate and enjoying a beer or two with them.
REST IN PEACE MICK'

Brian adds...WO1 Ryan was never in RA Survey. He was a long serving Member of RAE – over 30 years. His expertise was in EOD.

Locally he was a dedicated Member /President of the WA RAE Association.

The Ryan Club – 13 Fd Sqn RAE is named in his honour. Each Anzac Day our RA Svy Association enjoys the hospitality of the members of the Ryan Club.

MR SURVEYOR THOMAS ALEXANDER VANCE

Mr Paul Wise, retired from the Division of National Mapping, assisted with research by Mr Laurie Mclean also of National Mapping, has written an account of T. A. Vance, not only a significant Corps member over a number of years serving in WW1 in the Middle East and first Corps Director from 1941 to June 1942 (previously OC, Australian Survey Corps March 36 – Dec 40) but also a surveyor of note before WW1, on the Transcontinental Railway and the survey of the Australian Capital Territory.

From Paul Wise's writing....

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Alexander Vance died on 9 February 1959 and was buried at Yackandandah in north-east Victoria. Vance's grave is marked with a family headstone and a memorial plaque bearing the badge of the Australian Survey Corps. The plaque states: Renowned for his precision as a geodetic surveyor, a pioneer in the use of aerial photography as an aid to mapping. A surveyor of the highest distinction.

Placement of the memorial plaque was initiated by another former Director of Military Survey the late Colonel NRJ Hillier (1928-2013)

Paul Wise's comprehensive article can be found on the following website...

<http://xnatmap.org/adnm/docs/1genmap/vanceta.htm>.

Note: to access the hyperlink from pdf transcribe to a 'word' (or similar) doc.

Postscript: The Vance's youngest child Thomas Alexander Vance, junior (1923-2008) served with distinction in the RAAF during World War II. On 28 March 1944 the then Flying Officer Vance was awarded the DFC for his outstanding ability as a fighter pilot. In 1946 he was discharged from 452 Squadron RAAF with the rank of Flight Lieutenant.

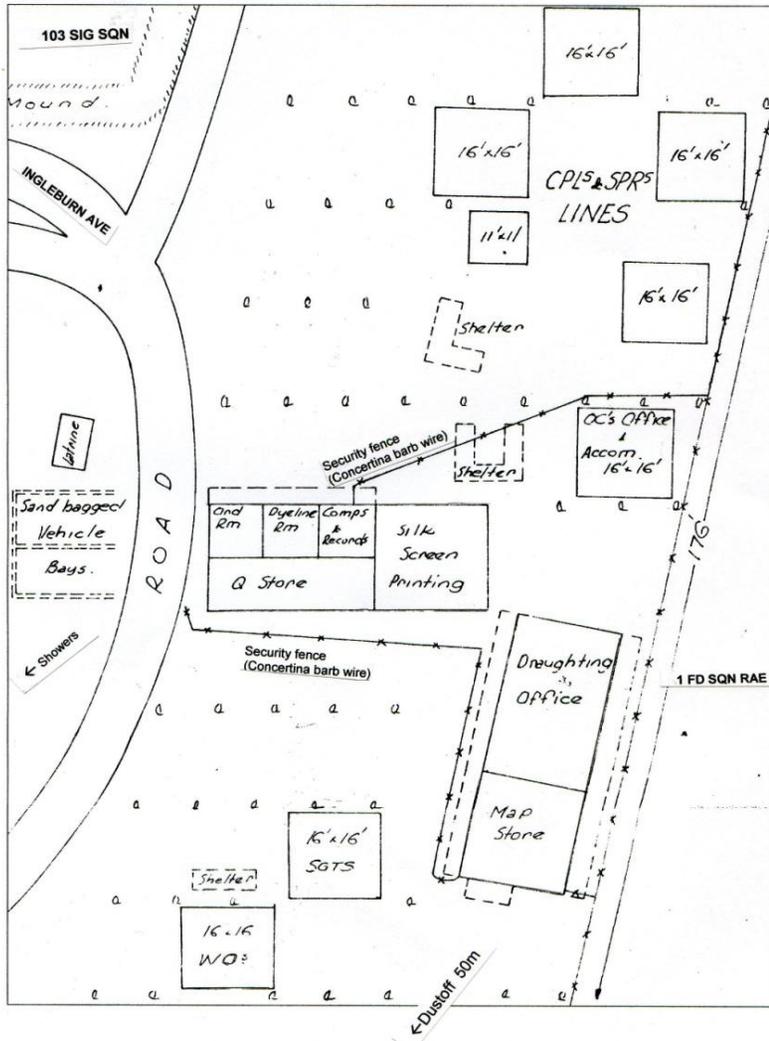
1 TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY TROOP Vietnam – 1967 and 1971 – where we worked..... and (next page) where we played!

May 1967

.....November 1967

Plan Layout from Monthly Report N0 12 May 1967

Oblique Photograph provided by Rob Hunter on the RASVY Facebook Group site



ED: I have extracted the following paragraphs from my account of that first year at Nui Dat to give some background to the map and photograph above The site allocated to the Troop at the top end of Ingleburn Avenue after the mortaring incident and 'Long Tan' following the Task Force Commander's (Brigadier O.D. Jackson) order to disperse (we were occupying a site only fifty metres from TFHQ), was ideal – slightly elevated, less mud and slightly gravelly. It was to remain the Troop location for the remaining five years of the Vietnam conflict.

Altercation with Signals over boundary

My diary has the rather terse entry for 28 August 'altercation with Sigs over boundary'. Absurd as it might sound real estate within the inner perimeter was becoming a scarce commodity or at least it seemed so. 103 Signals Squadron and a couple of smaller Signals units occupied an extensive area opposite the Task Force headquarters on the northern side of Ingleburn Avenue. I am not sure what constituted their eastern boundary (to be our western boundary) but clearly their OC, Major Peter Mudd considered it to be well east of where I believed it was. Engineers had been very helpful and had cleaned up and levelled the area on our northern fringe where I planned to put the sappers' and corporals' accommodation tents so our intent was obvious. Major Mudd appeared at the entrance to my just erected office and accommodation tent clearly irate and insisting that we were occupying his territory. He was a major and I was a captain – a fairly junior one at that and I was in any case very disinclined to enter into a confrontation. I pointed out that the location we were occupying had been allocated by the camp commandant (although I knew that we had pushed our northern boundary probably twenty metres beyond that which Captain Hurford had indicated – a small matter in my mind) and I wasn't intending to pull back. Major Mudd, normally a quiet mannered officer, turned on his heel and marched off, clearly very annoyed. He must have taken it up with Dave Hurford or more likely with the DAA&QMG, Major Crowe, because it was the latter who half jokingly said to me a day or two later something to the effect that I had been treading on Sig's toes. It must have rankled Peter Mudd because from time to time he made passing mention of it in a not entirely joking manner. I have no idea what use he had in mind for that small location (it was up against the wire of the inner perimeter). Sigs already occupied a considerable chunk of prime real estate.

Troop Security

In March we had a visit from a 1ATF Counter Intelligence Unit officer (cannot recall the person and I think the unit was a relatively recent acquisition). One look at the sort of work we were undertaking – pre-operational and intelligence products – caused the gentleman to all but go into melt-down and the result was a direction to surround the work area in a two level barrier fence of concertina barbed wire so creating a compound with controlled access to work areas. My own office and accommodation tent was within the compound. The configuration of the wire allowed direct outside access to other ranks accommodation, the map store, dyelining room and orderly room. The whole effort was thankfully undertaken by Engineers and supervised by the Counter Intelligence Unit. Some sort of identification pass system was mooted but as far as I can recall not instituted by me.

The second (non) tropical hut now being ready for occupation and to meet the imposed security requirements needed some rearrangement of internal functions; the map store and screen printing swapped locations (to allow external access to the map store), not an inconvenient move and we were able to construct two multiple shelving units for map storage so finally getting rid of the remaining finger bruising map boxes brought from Australia. Also the Q Store was relocated into the new tropical hut. Map 4 shows the general layout of our Troop site with the security fence in place.



..
.....and where we played!

Happy days on the beach at Vung Tau – 1971
(Photo by Allan Adset)

THE TONY GEE STORY

Ed: I have commented before that too often we outline the career of one of our esteemed RA Survey members only following their demise. I always knew that Tony Gee had a unique career, both in RA Survey and afterwards in civilian life. I asked Tony to give me a brief on his life in RA Survey and afterwards. This is his story....



Tony – the Corps RSM

Joined up in Feb 1968 after my Senior Year 12 (Brisbane State High School). After basic infantry training the offer was either to wait for the next OCS intake or join 8RAR based at Terendah Garrison, Malaysia. Naturally the 12 month paid holiday overseas was the way to go. On return to Australia I was offered again OCS or to commence training for Vietnam as a Section 2IC in Mortar Platoon. Again I opted for the 12 month overseas experience. It was during that period that some wise WO/SNCO told me that if I really want to enjoy Army life I should aim for warrant rank. Well it's obvious which route I took.

At the end of my tour I decided to transfer to RASvy because I couldn't imagine digging foxholes for the rest of my army life as a good career move.

After graduating as Student of Merit of the 42/71 Basic Survey Course I was posted to 1 Field Survey Squadron. Completed my Intermediate Course in 1974 and posted to School of Military Survey Bonegilla on promotion to Sgt in 1978, then SSgt in 1979. In Aug 1981 I was seconded to UK on promotion to WO2.

My first appointment at 42 Engineer Survey Regiment was ASTCO with 19 Squadron. From early 1982 I moved to 19 Sqn as Assistant 2IC where work travel took me extensively throughout England, Wales and Scotland, Germany, Belgium and Kenya. At the end of my posting in August 1983 I was given a stint as Acting Adjutant at Regimental HQ during his absence on leave for 2-3 weeks. It was something different and the CO was quite impressed with my performance as he'd recommended me for PSO on my final (UK) PR66.

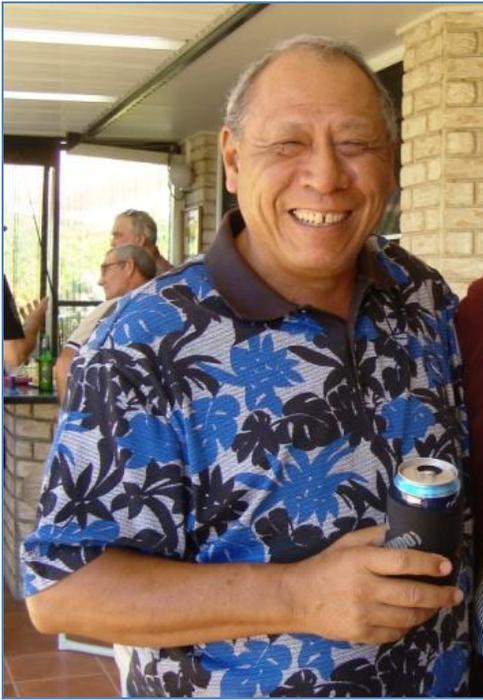
Within a month of my posting to 2 Fd Svy Sqn I was promoted/appointed WO1 SSM. It was a very enjoyable 84/85 as the two six month Central Pacific operations took us to Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Vanuatu, Tuvalu and Kiribati. Couldn't ask for a better job.

All good things must come to an end as I was urgently sent to Latchford Barracks in Dec 85 to take over as RSM of the School under CO Jim Corliss. We worked very well together as a team and Jim was not at all pleased with DSvy when they snatched me in Jan 87 to take over as RSM RASvy. My two years under Colonel Alex Laing were enjoyable also as it provided me the total all round experience to set me up in civilian life. It also gained me over 10 kg in weight with all the Regt dinners we attended, especially the last few months when we both announced our retirement at the end of 1988.

If I was to name my greatest achievement in my time in RASvy it would be my initiation in, the designing/mandatory consultation with, and total involvement in the acquisition of the Corps flag.

Shortly after leaving the Army I was very fortunate to be offered a job in Telstra, albeit a menial one. My first job was to collect coins from Telstra payphones and within two years I became Coin Room manager for SE Queensland where several millions of dollars would pass through my secured and restricted area every month.

For coming up with innovative ideas and implementation of cost effective and efficient work practices in coin collection and counting, I was awarded an all expense paid (with partner) trip to the Winter Olympics at Lillehammer, Norway in 1994.



During 1995 I decided to develop an information management system for payphone services to improve security and better reconciliation of revenue. This system was approved and accepted by the National Executive Management and I was requested to roll out nationally to all depots in Australia. After I was appointed the National Administrator of the Info System I was to spend the next two years flying to and fro around Australia to set up the system with a computer programmer tagging along in support.

The millions of frequent flyers points accrued in the two years would have given me a few trips around the world but unfortunately they were with Ansett Airline and we all know what happened to them. I remained in the position of administrator til my retirement at the end of 2000.

Sorry Bob for being so long winded but I was thinking about writing my memoir as requested by my family so this was more for my benefit than anything else to cover the period 1968 - 2000. Best regards.....Tony G

The 'bon-vivant' Tony we now know