

Vale – we shall remember them

Bill Harvey

36882 Warrant Officer Class One William (Bill) McDougall Harvey MBE (service 30 April 1959 - 10 January 1980) passed away in the Canberra region on 6 October 2022. Bill was an active supporter of our Association and contributor to this newsletter. Notice of Bill's passing attracted comments and memories from his friends and fellow soldiers from his more than twenty years of outstanding service to the Survey Corps, the Army and the nation.

After recruit and basic trade training as a Topographic Surveyor, Bill was posted to Army Headquarters Survey Regiment (Topographic Squadron), Bendigo, VIC in August 1960 where he was soon involved in the field survey detachment to Territory of Papua and New Guinea (June - October 1962) on the coastal First Order traverse. During this posting Bill's photogrammetric knowledge and skill was noticed and he was sent to School of Military Survey to attend a specialist photogrammetric operator's course. There he excelled, being awarded an 'A pass', something that was only awarded to exceptional students and then very reluctantly and in Bill's case only with the insistence of the senior course instructor. It was at Bendigo, that Bill met Philippa, another young soldier, and they married.

In December 1967, Bill was posted to School of Military Survey as an instructor and promoted to Warrant Officer Class Two not long after. In May 1970, he was posted to 1 Field Survey Squadron (1 Fd Svy Sqn) and immediately moved with the unit detachment to Territory of Papua New Guinea (TPNG) where the unit was establishing topographic survey control for scale 1:100,000 mapping. There Bill took on the challenging task of Second-in-Command Forward Operating Base which involved running day-to-day operations in supporting the remote survey teams and moving the forward base as required. After TPNG, 1 Squadron then concentrated on survey operations in northern Queensland. There Bill was the Operations Warrant Officer in Gulf of Carpentaria (1972) and Cape York (1973). Bill was the ultimate professional and example to all who he served with, being as a Warrant Officer Class One recognised with the award of Order of the British Empire (Member) - Military Division (MBE) for his outstanding service in the planning and operations management on Operation Sandy Hill 1975 (1 Fd Svy Sqn Group) on Cape York. In December 1976, Bill was posted to 2 Fd Svy Sqn (Sydney) and deployed on Operation Cenderawasih (Irian Jaya) May - August 1977 and again June - September 1978. As Operations Warrant Officer, Bill was responsible for detailed operational planning, survey standards and survey records. In November 1978, Bill commenced long service leave to complete a bachelor degree in surveying and mapping at the Western Australian Institute of Technology and elected discharge a year later. For his service Bill was awarded: Order of the British Empire (Member) - Military Division (MBE), Australian Service Medal 1945 - 1975 PNG clasp, Australian Service Medal - Irian Jaya clasp, National Medal, Defence Force Service Medal, Defence Medal.

Bill was remembered by his friends as: a real gentleman, a top bloke, the ultimate professional, bursting with exuberance and energy, highly respected by all ranks, always looked after his soldiers, knowing everything there was to know as a topographic surveyor.

Bill went on to work at the Papua New Guinea University of Technology and the Australian Survey Office, later Australian Surveying and Land Information Group (AUSLIG), Geodesy Program. In that capacity his service included: as a member of the Inter-Governmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping Working Party to revise Standards and Practices for Control Surveys; worked to establish the Australian Fiducial Network of geodetic stations; had a major role in establishing the Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994; and monitored geodetic survey aspects for Australian Government international aid projects in the Philippines. Bill was

a Member of the Institute of Surveyors Australia and a Member of the Association of Surveyors Papua New Guinea.

Bill was never one to cause (or appreciate) a fuss, requesting that he be cremated privately. Many of you would remember that Bill loved asian food especially Yum Cha, passing on a message for those wanting to remember him "Go to Yum Cha for me but remember, Chicken Feet are a definite must on the menu".

I thank John Bullen, Mark Heinrich, Richard Jackson-Hope, Ken Lyons, Rob McHenry, Don Swiney, Charlie Watson, ADF Service Records and Laurie McLean and Paul Wise (Natmap/AUSLIG) for their contribution to these memories and farewell to Bill.

On behalf of the Canberra Survey Corps Association, our sincere condolences go to Phillipa and their family.