

## **VALE: Bill Jeffery**

Sadly I have to report the death of my good mate and Corps member, Bill Jeffery on 25 Feb 09 in Queensland. Bill was born 20 Sep 24 and spent his early years at Lockhart NSW close to the Vic border. Hence his favoring AFL over NRL. Bill served in 2/6 Commando Squadron during WW2. Actually 2/6 was in 7 Div not 6 Div as you may speculate from the numbering. 2/6 Motto was "Nothing over us" taken from a Woolworths advertisement which claimed that Woolworths stocked no item selling for more than 2 shillings and six pence (2/6). I'm not positive that it was Woollies it may have been Coles. I'm not sure of all the places that Bill served but I know that he was in the Markham Valley Campaign.

Being a Commando Bill was always very fit and left many a younger bloke puffing up the hill behind him. After the war Bill Joined the Survey Corps and rose to the rank of Sargent before taking his discharge in the late 60's. Some time before or after the war Bill trained as a sign righter and suffered in later life from the effects of the lead paint. Bill's printing was very good and he got a leave pass at the School because he was up to standard in lettering. However, the next week he missed out on leave because he had not improved on the last test. Bill made the cover for the Canberra Survey Corps Association Functions Attendance Book and kindly provided the autographs of those attending the Survey Corps Jubilee Dinner on 11 Nov 65.

After taking his discharge from the Survey Corps Bill joined the Geodetic Section of the Division of National Mapping in Canberra. Bill was a very good observer and did a lot of first order and Laplace Astronomical Observations. With the wind down of Geodetic field work Bill went on to Bathymetric Surveys of the Continental shelf, which is where I met up with him having heard a lot about him from Frank White and the older hands at Survey Directorate. We spent many years surveying on the MV Cape Pillar. Bill got on well with people and provided a steadying influence on many a new or old field hand or surveyor.

After resigning from AUSLIG as NATMAP had now become, and the loss of Jean, his wife of many years Bill moved to Gumly Gumly near Kapooka and became involved in fostering esprit de Corps among recruits at Kapooka.

Some time after becoming ill Bill moved to Queensland to seek treatment. I don't know the precise details of his life in Qld so I will not speculate.

Bill is survived by many children, grand children and no doubt great grand children. I will only mention his eldest son Ken who also served in the Corps.

Vale Bill Jeffery (take mets now)

Charlie Watson

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I knew Bill very well and developed a great deal of respect for him. He was genuinely honest and as straight as one could be. He was a good mate of Dave Hocking's where both served in the 2/6 Commando Company in WWII. It was while we were on the Markham Valley crustal movement survey in 1973 when Bill (who was doing the 1st order levelling component, and also the Kern DKM3A LaPlace observations) that he mentioned to me that he had been to Kaiapit (very close to the survey area) before with the 2/6 during WWII.

Brian Murphy

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Bill was a true gentleman in the gentle sense of the word, I first met him almost right on the top of Cape York in 1969, which is also the year I met Bruce Willington.

I dont think I ever heard Bill utter a cross word and he was very kind and helpful to the younger greener ones amongst the group.

Ted Graham

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I knew Bill very well having started work with Natmap in 1966 on the desk alongside him and under his wing for many years in the Technical Services area under people such as Anatol Sdanowytsch and Tony Bomford. We had great fun working together and as a young lad away from home for the first time Bill and his family took me under their wing and looked after me on many a weekend in Canberra. I also had the pleasure of teaching one of his daughters to drive.

Later in life Bill after his retirement and losing Jean he bought a house in a small NSW town called Jugiong, the home of my wife's (Sandra) family. He came to know many of Sandra's relatives after he got a job behind the bar in the only hotel in town.

He will be missed by many in Canberra.

John Payne