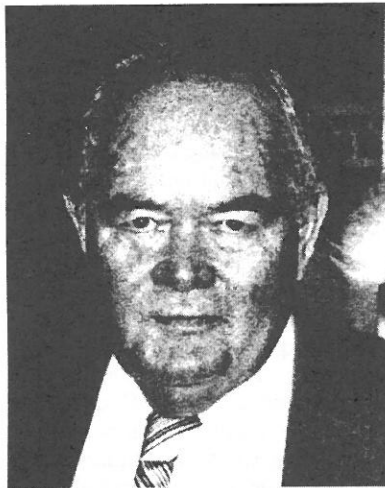


## Obituary . . .



**Edmund Francis Norman  
(Ted) Seton**

**19-09-20 — 07-02-97**

*Written by Keith Waller*

**I** first met Ted when I obtained a position with the Department of the Interior over Christmas 1950.

We were both registered by the same Surveyors Board in 1953 and I moved to Melbourne to work with the Division of National Mapping.

We maintained sporadic communication by letter. It was a shock to hear that his first wife had been killed in a car accident in 1955.

Ted went overseas and worked with the Scottish Hydro-Electric Board where he was engaged in tunnel surveys in the Grampians.

When he returned to Australia in 1957, he joined the Division of National Mapping and we became firm friends.

Most of Ted's work was astronomical observations to establish latitude and longitude for mapping control in remote areas of Australia — mostly in the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

I remember his getting into trouble in the Simpson Desert when the transfer gear-box on his Land Rover jammed. Fortunately, his radio was working (they were not all that reliable in those days) so he was able to send a telegram through the Flying Doctor network to Melbourne to order new parts.

These were air-mailed to Alice Springs where they were transferred to the local Conellan Air Service who located Ted and his assistant among the sand ridges and dropped the spares to him.

Ted rebuilt his gear-box and was able to complete his programme.

I returned to Brisbane in 1959 and our communication was again reduced to the occasional letter.

In 1970, Ted joined the Australian Survey Office in Brisbane.

I don't know a great deal about Ted's war service. I do know that he joined the A.I.F. in 1940 and saw service in New Guinea and that he was invalided out in 1942.

He rejoined in 1943 and was with a machine-gun battalion through the Islands up to Borneo. Knowing the man, he would have served with distinction.

Ted had a great interest in his profession and was constantly upgrading his knowledge. However, his interests extended beyond surveying.

He was well read in history, particularly in the life and times of Cromwell.

He studied German, possibly to assist with his technical reading, and his interest in astronomy extended beyond its surveying applications.

He was well regarded by his peers and his service to surveying was recognised in 1983 when the Institution of Surveyors honoured him by up-grading his membership to that of "Fellow".

He had a positive influence on younger surveyors who worked with him and I gained the impression that they looked on him as something of a father figure.

Ted was a gentleman. I do not believe that he was capable of an unkind act. He was "A Good Bloke".

He was unfailingly cheerful and accepted with grace the dreadful blood disease which he believed was caused by radiation received on his surveying trip through Maralinga after the atom bomb tests.

These are some of my recollections of Ted. Each of us will have his or her own memories.

Grieve for him for a little while, but remember him with affection for the rest of your lives.

Rest in peace Ted. ▲