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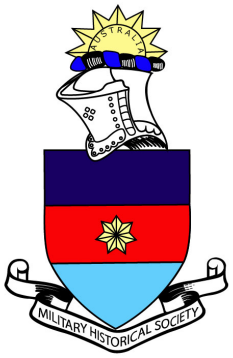

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Military Historical Society of Australia
PO Box 5030, Garran, ACT 2605.
email: webmaster@mhsa.org.au

SABRETACHE

JOURNAL AND PROCEEDINGS OF
THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF AUSTRALIA
(FOUNDED IN MELBOURNE IN 1957)

EDITED BY

JOHN K. LYONS

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AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

The aims of the Society are the encouragement and pursuit of study and research in military history, customs, traditions, dress, arms, equipment and kindred matters; the promotion of public interest and knowledge in these subjects and the preservation of historical military objects, with particular reference to the Armed Forces of Australia.

* * *

Australian Light Horse, 1917.

PATRON

Major E.W.O. Perry, E.D., M.A., B.Ec., F.R.H.S.V.

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Published by Authority of the Federal Council of THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA by John E. Price Flat 7, 16 Barrett Street, Cheltenham. Vic. 3192.

CONTENTS

FEDERAL COUNCIL NOTES

TRANSFER OF MANAGEMENT

As no objections to the transfer of the Society management to Canberra were lodged, the proposed amendment to the Constitution, as set out in the Notice enclosed in the December, 1972 issue of the Journal, will take effect from 1st June, 1973.

FEDERAL COUNCIL ELECTION FOR 1973/74

The present Federal Council based in Melbourne will retire on 31st May, 1973 to enable the new Federal Council based in Canberra to take office on 1st June, 1973.

The following nominations for the new Federal Council have been received:

Federal President	:	Major J.J. Frewen
Federal Vice-President	:	Brig. M. Austin
Federal Secretary	:	Mr. K.R. White
Federal Treasurer	:	Mr. H.B. Gordon

These nominees reside in the A.C.T. and will be able to effectively conduct the business of the Society at its Canberra Headquarters.

If no further nominations of members residing in the A.C.T. are received by me by 4th May, 1973 the above-named nominees will be declared elected and assume office on 1st June, 1973 for the year 1973/74.

J. E. PRICE
Federal Secretary.

NOMINATIONS FOR FEDERAL COUNCIL (CANBERRA) OF THE SOCIETY, 1973/74

The following Nomination Slips may be separated and sent to Mr. J.E. Price by either the nominee or proposer in each case.

FEDERAL PRESIDENT

Nominee .....

Nominated by .....

I accept the above nomination .....
(Nominee's Signature)

FEDERAL VICE-PRESIDENT

Nominee .....

Nominated by .....

I accept the above nomination .....
(Nominee's Signature)

FEDERAL SECRETARY

Nominee .....

Nominated by .....

I accept the above nomination .....
(Nominee's Signature)

FEDERAL TREASURER

Nominee .....

Nominated by .....

I accept the above nomination .....
(Nominee's Signature)

NOMINATIONS TO BE SENT TO MR. J.E. PRICE, FLAT 7, 16 BARRETT STREET, CHELTENHAM, VIC., 3192, by 4th May, 1973.

MESSAGE FROM RETIRING FEDERAL PRESIDENT

It is now some months since Federal Council proposed that the management of the Society might better be located in the National Capital, Canberra.

This proposition was received enthusiastically by the members of our Canberra Branch, who feel confident that they can do a good job in running the Society, and in producing our Journal. After referring the matter to our other Australian Branches, we find that there are no objections, and we are happy to announce, therefore, that the changeover is to take place on 1st June, 1973.

I am sure that this will prove to be a step forward for the Society. It is no doubt time that we had an infusion of new blood and ideas. For over sixteen years the old Committee (later Federal Council) has kept the Society in being, a record that is very good considering the comings and goings of other similar organisations. But we have not managed to make very much progress, and it is possible that lack of access to the facilities that will be enjoyed by our Canberra colleagues has been partly due for this lack of progress. Another reason is the plain fact that most Australians are pretty apathetic when it comes to membership of groups like ours, and unless they can see something concrete for themselves in it, they are reluctant to belong or to take part. This is pretty much a common human failing, but in a small population like ours, we just can't afford to be that way if our Society is to go ahead.

I would like to urge every member, therefore, to get solidly behind our new Federal Council, and to try to add a new member to double our numbers in the next year. This after all is the keynote to success -- a solid membership. With growing numbers, we can bring down the unit cost of production of our Journal, and funds will build up to enable it to improve further, thus generating a greater interest, and attracting new members again. And so it goes on.

Your old Federal Council wishes its successors all the very best in their efforts, and has every confidence that this change will be for the benefit of the members as a whole.

Barry J. Videon,
Retiring Federal President.

Melbourne,
30th March, 1973.

THE NATURE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF REGIMENTAL HISTORY

By Major Warren Perry, ED, MA, BEc., FRHSV, RL.

> "We all agreed that regimental pride was the greatest moral force that kept a battalion going as an effective fighting unit."
>
> Robert Graves: "Good-bye to all That."

The real history of a battalion is concerned neither with legends nor unmeaning technicalities. It is not even exclusively concerned with war and military operations. Some of the battalions of the Australian Military Forces can trace their history back a century or more and during that time they have spent more of their time in peace time training then in fighting in wartime.[1] A regimental history which dealt almost exclusively with its battalions' wartime service would therefore be a very incomplete one. The history of the regiment is instead a plain story of the existence of its battalions in peace and in war; it describes how the battalions fulfil, in peace and in war, the purpose for which they exist and how, in peace time, they fit into the ordinary social life of the community in which they are located and from which they recruit their personnel and build up their territorial traditions. If the history of a regiment or a battalion is looked at in this way then it will be seen that it is a history which is neither ravishingly romantic nor depressingly obscure, but rather a subject of interest to all intelligent people who may not even be in some instances either members or former members of the regiment.

There is a temptation when dealing with military history to think impersonally in terms of formations and units and too little in terms of men. Commanders receive plenty of attention from historians, particularly if they are general officers but this attention should not encourage the idea that formations and units are robots presided over solely by individual commanders. Good regimental or battalion histories serve a useful purpose in dispelling this false notion. A battalion is in reality a small closely integrated society of people; it is a hive of human activity which pulses with all the hopes, fears, wants, enthusiasms and prejudices which are common features of man's life collectively and individually.

It has been said that in the past the organization of a battalion bore some resemblance to that of a country estate which was presided over by a squire. The soldier's business was not too specialised. It consisted mainly of drill and small arms training and the tactical handling of simple weapons and their officers were well-

1. This paper was written in 1963; it takes no cognizance of later changes in the order-of-battle. Author.

acquainted with all aspects of this training and all the details of the relatively small and simple varieties of arms and equipment with which the battalion was provided. But today this picture is an anochronism. Nowadays, an infantry battalion is a complexly organised and highly trained body of officers and men with mechanised transport and high-powered automatic weapons which have consumption rates of ammunition that could not have been coped with by supply services in earlier wars. Today a battalion is more like an industrial enterprise than a country estate. It is operated by many different kinds of specialists under the direction of a general manager, known as the commanding officer, who has a special department of his own called Battalion headquarters. The Army thus reflects, from age to age, through the units of its various Arms and Services changes in the industrial life of the community on which it is based. These are changes in organisation, in methods of administration and in methods of production and in the nature of production. Thus horsed transport has been replaced by mechanical transport, in the system of communications telephones and wireless have replaced flag signalling, the heliograph, and the despatch rider. In the field electric lighting has replaced candles and oil burning lamps.

Yet beneath all these changes in stores, arms and equipment there has remained one constant factor - that of man management which, for convenience, may be regarded as an aspect of leadership. Leadership is as necessary today as at any time in the past and it is as much an art today as ever it was in earlier times. Skill in leadership is still required by regimental officers and their non-commissioned officers for the transforming of a body of men into a homogeneous combatant unit, for its training in peace and its tactical employment in war. A battalion is a very sensitive body of people, psychologically speaking. It is not a lifeless instrument which can be moved about, backwards and forwards, according to calculations by higher formations and without regard to the men who compose it. A battalion, in peace and in war, is subject to many psychological influences and its fighting capacity varies according to its collective feeling. It has been said that: "Disaster depressed its courage and its confidence; any advantage, though trivial in itself, animates its hopes and strengthens its discipline. The same troops are not to be recognised at different times, so differently do they comport themselves. Influences very keenly felt at one time, at another pass by without notice." These are important problems which demand effective handling by imaginative leaders and adequate treatment by regimental historians.

ii.

It is a curious fact that relatively little attention has been given in Australia to the writing of what may be described as histories of battalions os the Australian Military Forces in Contradistinction to histories of those war-time battalions of the Australian Imperial Force. Future historians may correct this tendency in a more productive way and thereby fill in, in some measure, this gap which exists in Australia's published work on its military history.[1]

1. One example of this correcting tendency is Lieutenant Colonel P.V. Vernon's The Royal New South Wales Lancers, 1885-1960 which was published in 1961 by the Royal New South Wales Lancers Association.

The writer of a battalion history works within certain prescribed limits and his work is beset with many difficulties. He must describe military training in its tactical, technical and administrative aspects and the preparation and conduct of military operations and peacetime exercises in the professional language commonly used by soldiers. Brilliant descriptive passages of battles, actions and engagements are valueless and command no widespread interest or respect if essential technical and administrative details are omitted or if these details are described incorrectly. The recording of military operations is an essential part of the writing of a battalion history. But this is only one aspect of a battalion's history and it should not be given more than its fair share of the total space. It is incumbent on a historian to record other aspects as well of a battalion's history. He should record something of the daily life of the battalion off parade as well as on parade in peace and in war: he should record something of its camps of continuous training in peacetime and in the case of a part-time battalion its home training parades. He should record something of the methods of training and tell how the men were clothed, fed and equipped and describes what amenities were provided for them at various periods in their history. The historian should not neglect to record something of the ceremonial life of the battalion - something about ceremonial parades in which it has taken part, something of the guards of honour it has provided for members of the Royal Family and for Governors-General and for Governors of Australian States and other distinguished people, something about street-lining duties which have been allotted to it as well as escort duties and so forth. All these things and many others are parts of a battalion's history. Many would consider a battalions history to be incomplete if it did not list, orrecord adequately in some other way, the names of all Honorary Colonels, Commanding Officers, Adjutants, Quartermasters and Regimental Sergeant Majors. But because of definciencies in records this detail is, unfortunately, not always available to the historian. The historian has to make real for the reader, who will in most instances not have been an eye-witness, the events which he describes. Usually these events are both real and important to eye-witnesses who may even have taken an active part in them.

The writing of a battalion history, apart from being highly skilled work, is an honourable and important task. It is a tribute to its past and present members ..... of all ranks. Indeed, it may even be said that a battalion has a duty to have placed on record, periodically in published form, a history of its past members and their deeds in peace and in war. Such a record serves not only for the guidance and inspiration of present and future members; it serves also as a mark of respect and gratitude to all past members, living and dead, for services rendered. In this connection it is well to remember that all present members of a battalion become, in due course, past members and all soldiers, generally speaking, ultimately

become again what they once were, namely, civilians. No former member of a battalion, with an honourable discharge, should be made to feel, by serving members, that he is an "outsider" on social occasions, when old friends can be entertained and old members welcomed back to the battalion. In these ways a battalion links the past with the present and can perhaps, by these simple means, face the future with greater strength and confidence. In the words of Captain Cyril Falls, sometime Professor of the History of War in the University of Oxford: "We owe a clear and imaginative record to the future, we who saw with our eyes and have all the evidence of eye-witnesses. Yet most of all we owe it to the actors themselves and the memory of what they were; their gentleness and kindliness and simplicity, their good-humoured and selfless philosophy, their temper that shook off the horror and depression which might have been more deadly than any enemy, and the smiling faces they turned to misery or to defeat."

* * * *

RESTING IN HISTORY

(Reproduced from "ARMY" Newspaper)

A COMMEMORATIVE wall containing 22 gravestones was unveiled by the Lord Mayor of Hobart, Alderman Soundy, at Anglesea Barracks, Tas. Comd., late last year.

A plaque to commemorate the external restoration of one of the Barracks' oldest buildings was also unveiled.

The wall plan was initiated by the Commander of Tas. Comd., Col. P.H. G. Oxley; when the stones became available following alterations in St. David's Park. All the stones selected for the wall are militarily historical and are from former graves of a cross-section of soldiers and units which served in Anglesea Barracks last century.

Most of the graves are more than 100 years-old and reflect Tasmanian history from the settling of Van Dieman's Land by Lieutenant-Governor David Collins in 1804.

The wall is placed in a curved position along one side of the famous memorial to the 99th Regiment of the British Army.

The memorial is the only one erected in Australia by a British regiment of the line to commemorate those soldiers killed on active service in the Maori Wars of the 1840s.

The gravestones are those of British regulars and Tasmanian volunteers who served on the Island last Century.

Resting in History Cont'd.

"They now form a monument to preserve the memory of all the Army pioneer stock which took such an enormous part in the founding and growth of Van Dieman's Land and throughout its formative years in which they were the staunch bulwark of our social structure and our heritage," Col. Oxley said.

The restored building was built by convicts in the 1820s and is also of valuable Georgian architecture similar to the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes which flank the Barracks' parade ground.

Both Messes were restored in the past two years.

It was originally the field officers' married quarters.

The original building extended another 40 ft. and the extension was the original commandant's quarter.

It fell down in disrepair towards the end of last century.

The building was restored by five sappers of 21 Const. Sqn., RAE, from Puckapunyal, S. Comd.

It is intended to restore the exterior of the building over the next three years.

* * * * *

A HISTORY OF THE DEFENCE OF PORT PHILLIP BAY +

by John E. Price *

1. Introductory Remarks

As a populated nation, Australia has always been particularly vulnerable to invasion. In the first one hundred and twenty years of our existence, the threat was ever present, for we were, very much, small pockets of isolated communities. It would have been quite an easy task for any agressive nation to have landed an armed force on any part of our coastline. This could have been achieved, without resistance and, in fact, without any knowledge on the part of the Governor, the Military authorities and, for that matter, the greater portion of the civilian population of the day. The invaders, once ensconsed, would have been difficult to dislodge.

In the half-century which followed the landing of the First Fleet, in 1788, the ever-conscious threat was that of an invasion by France. French ships were constantly in Australian waters and although they were, ostensibly, engaged in collecting scientific, and other data, it is quite easy to understand the apprehensions felt by the British Government, in Whitehall, and the local authorities.

+ An address given to the Junior Group of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria), on Wednesday evening, 21st March, 1973.

* Federal Secretary of the Military Historical Society of Australia.

In the immediate years which followed the signing of the Peace treaties marking the end of the Napoleonic Wars, there was a lull. This was only short-lived, however, before fears of invasions, from either one of two sources, seemed to be just over the horizon. These were from Tsarist Russia and, also, the brash, young Republic of the United States of America.

The fear of a Russian attack was possibly, the greater of the two and this period, between the '50s and the '80s of the last century marked the rush to build fortifications. These bastions are with us still. In some cases, decaying reminders that although Britannia ruled the waves, the Australian colonists were expected to do their bit in defending their hearths and homes.

What would have happened should an invader have actually landed is now lodged in the realms of historic conjecture. Whether there would have been a fore-runner of the debacle, of gun-muzzles pointing in the wrong direction, similar to what was to happen, some thirty years ago, with the Fall of Singapore, or whether the local Forces would have won their spurs, is anybody's guess.

There is an absorbing story awaiting the person with the time, the patience and, above all, the willingness to sift through the pages of those musty archives which rest on the shelves of the numerous libraries, scattered throughout the State. For the full history of Victoria's defences, has yet to be written.

2. The seeds are sown

The first defence work, the predecessor of those which later dotted the Bayside scene, was that which was erected by the first garrison in Victoria's history. In 1803, a settlement, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel David Collins, of the Royal Marines, was established on the eastern shore of Port Phillip Bay, at a prominence, now known as The sisters, a little to the east of the present site of Sorrento. Its prime purpose was to off-set any French intentions in the area. A battery of six guns was mounted on the slopes of the Western Sister and a powder-magazine, to supply the artillery pieces, was built nearby. Several attempts, especially in the closing years of the last century, where made to locate this arsenal. Whether it is still there, is debatable.

Collins was never very happy with the site that he had chosen and was desirous to cross Bass Strait and establish a permanent settlement in Van Diemen's Land, where the weather was kinder and the water supply more plentiful. Governoe Phillip Gidley King, in Sydney, whilst sanctioning the move was anxious to have some sort of occupancy remaining on the Mainland, and suggested; 'That a small establishment be left at Port Phillip, with perhaps a trust serjeant and a superintendent might be sufficient.' In his haste to quit the site, Collins overlooked this request.

No more was done for nearly a third of a century. Although an armed force had moved into the neighbouring Western Port Bay, during the years 1826-1828, again with the intention of thwarting a surmised French move, to occupy the territory. The fact that the French ship had been and gone by the time the British troops arrived was another of those classic examples of 'Too little, too late.'

From the foundation of Melbourne, in 1834, there were a succession of British Infantry regiments, usually of company strength, stationed in various parts of the Port Phillip District. The duties of the troops were: to supervise the convicts and ticket-of-leave men, to protect the aborigines, to ensure the general security of the white population. In fact, maintain the status quo. The British Government, however, paid little heed to the appeals, made from time to time, to institute more substantial defences, in the form of batteries, forts and guns, for the defence of ports and harbours. Coastal defence remained hopelessly inadequate. In 1849, Earl Grey, then Secretary of State for the Colonies, informed the New South Wales legislature, of which Melbourne was then a part, that all barracks and military buildings would be handed over to them and that all military expenses, other than the pay of the troops, must be borne by the Colonies and that the garrison would be reduced to a guard at Sydney and one at Melbourne. If more troops were required the Colonies would have to pay for them, and if the barracks were not kept in a sound state, the troops would be withdrawn.

The Victorian Parliament, in 1851, almost as soon as it was sworn in, became anxious about the defences of Port Phillip Bay. Considerable argument ensued as to whether the Heads should be fortified, or that the defences should be sited nearer to Melbourne.

Defence activity was greatly stimulated by the outbreak of the Crimean War, with Russia, in 1854. A Select Committee of the Legislative Council was appointed to take into consideration the manner in which the Colony might be attacked and also to report upon the best method of meeting such an emergency. Captain Ross, of the Royal Engineers, made a report to the Committee, on the defence of the harbour, in which he recommended; that two steam guard-ships be stationed in the Bay, that 2,000 troops of the line, together with a company of engineers and a battery of artillery, were necessary for the defence of the Colony. He was opposed to fortifying the Heads. Authorisation had been received by the various Colonies for the raising of Volunteer Forces.

In the same year, the British Government realised just how important the Colony of Victoria was becoming. It was decided to transfer Army Headquarters from New South Wales to Melbourne, as Victoria was now the most central point of command, also mails could reach establishments in the Colony, faster than they could reach Sydney.

Sir Robert Nickle, the General-Officer-Commanding, British troops in Australia, arrived from Sydney, in August, 1854, and proceeded to set up his headquarters. Work was commenced on the extensive military barracks in St. Kilda Road and on batteries at Williamstown and Sandridge (now Port Melbourne). These latter works were partially completed, but no further steps of any importance in the matter of defence were taken until the year, 1858, when an arrangement was arrived at, with the British Government, in in virtue of which 400 regular troops were to be permanently stationed in the Colony, the War Office defraying the Imperial pay and allowances, whilst the Victorian Government undertook to provide the requisite accommodation and, also, the colonial pay and allowances.

In July, 1856, the total strength of the Regular and Volunteer Forces in Victoria, was 1,112.

The controversy over whether the Heads or Hobsons Bay should be fortified, continued vigorously. So that, in July, 1858, a Royal Commission, under the presidency of Major-General Edward MacArthur, was set up to enquire into 'the naval and military means, whether afloat or ashore, by which attacks of an enemy may best be repelled from these coasts.' The Commission initially favoured the fortification of an area from Point Ormond to Williamstown, rather than the fortifying of the Points Lonsdale and Nepean areas. It also recommended the enrolment of additional volunteers.

Upon a request from the Victorian Government, to the War Office for the services of an officer of the Royal Engineers to advise on and superintend the erection of defences, a Captain Peter Scratchley arrived in Melbourne, on the 13th June, 1860, aboard the 'Ottawa'. He bought with him a detachment of 21 of his Corps. For the next three and a half years he was actively employed in devising a system of defence for Victoria, during which period he took a prominent part in the Volunteer Movement. One of his first tasks, in this field, was to advise in the formation of the Victorian Volunteer Engineers.

Another Royal Commission was appointed, in 1860, to receive reports on the best means of defending Victoria. Scratchley submitted a Report, in the Preamble of which, he wrote:-
'The object of this Report, is to consider what system of defence is best adapted for repelling attacks on Port Phillip, and the settlements on its shores. It is my earnest wish to see this most important question, properly considered, and some definite plan of defence decided upon. The question, in my opinion, is far from solved; it is in a most unsatisfactory condition, and although it has been under consideration for nearly six years, no real progress has been made towards the construction of the defence'.

His Report was divided into three parts: the first of which was devoted to the consideration of the general system of defence to be adopted; in the second part, he considered the description and the amount of requisite for the proposed system, and the best means of disposing that force, whilst the third part, was an estimate of the expenses of carrying out the system of defence.

Scartchley, based his recommendation on the first premise that Britain had complete control of the seas, and was convinced that no nation would be foolish enough to commit a large force of ships and men to attack the Colony. He did envisage however, hit-and-run attacks by armed frigates or privateers, or an attempt by a single man-of-war, with a full complement of men, to attack shore establishments and shipping in different parts of the Bay. In the, defenceless and unprotected state of the Colony, such an attack would be devastating. He considered that the, then, defences of Williamstown and Sandridge were totally useless and, in fact, dangerous, for they gave the colonists a false sense of security.

Hobsons Bay, Geelong Harbour and the Heads were three main points which he felt required to be defended.

He embodied a scheme in which special detailwas given for a system of earth-works around the shores of Hobsons Bay. These, it was considered at the time were well devised for mutual support and held to be complete and effective. However, there would have to be a land force, co-operating with the emplaced artillery, in repelling a seaward attack. For there would be little to stop an enemy, once inside Port Phillip Bay, from landing troops on either the east, or west, coast, below Hobsons Bay, and attacking in the rear.

Three earth-batteries were suggested to be erected on the Williamstown side of Hobsons Bay. One was to be termed the Right Battery, which may have sited on Point Gellibrand. If so, this was the most important emplacement. It would be the key to the whole position, for it covered Williamstown and Sandridge and the remaining batteries on the Williamstown shore, were hinged upon it. It was to be armed with eight 68-pounder guns, the standard artillery piece, for use in coastal defences, of the period. Not very long after the Scratchley Report was written a heavier type, of rifled ordnance, was introduced into the British Army. Subsequent defence reports considered using these pieces.

The second, the Lighthouse Battery would be armed with four 68-pounders. A third battery was to be located on the breakwater and would be armed with six 68-pounders. In addition to the batteries, Scratchley proposed to have a movable boom with a two and a half inch cable, to be floated by means of logs of timber, which in time of war could be moored across the only entrance to the harbour and, therefore, restrict the passage of shipping.

On the Melbourne side of the Bay, three sand batteries were to be built, all armed with three 68-pounder guns, they were 'Largoon', 'Central' and 'St. Kilda' batteries. There was to be an isolated battery, mounted on Point Ormond, which would be supported, at long range, by the other batteries. This, it was hoped, would act as a deterrent to enemy ships anchoring at a great distance from the Hobsons Bay batteries, and bombarding St. Kilda. An enemy might, also, be dissuaded from attempting a beach landing, within range of its guns.

Scratchley proposed to create a belt of scrub, all along the shoreline, for the practical purpose of masking the gun-positions. Whilst the scrub was growing, a supply of sandbags would be kept adjacent to the batteries, with which the defenders could rapidly create temporary cover. A road was to be constructed to afford a direct and swift communication between every one of the batteries.

In addition to the emplaced gun-positions, along the shore-line he proposed to have a mobile field battery, posted in some central position with the view of its being ready to strengthen any point which was hard-pressed and, also, to co-operate with the land forces, in resisting an attempted landing. Scratchley wrote that this battery would be able to move rapidly, by the road. The guns could also be placed advantageously at the heads of the numerous piers, on both sides of Hobsons Bay. It is interesting to note, when reading the Report, that Scratchley failed to say how he intended moving the field-battery rapidly from Williamstown to Sandridge, or vice versa, without the aid of the West Gate Bridge.

Although Geelong featured in a part of the defences system, Scratchley dealt lightly on its vulnerability. He suggested that if any attack were to ce centred in that area, it would be relatively easy, as a temporary measure, to block the Channel, forming the entrance to Geelong Harbour, by sinking a ship. He suggested placing a battery, of three 68-pounders, on Bird Rock, closed in the rear against a landward attack. For the defence of the interior he intended placing two batteries, of three guns each, one on Limeburners Point and the other, on a cliff about six hundred yards from Huttons Wharf. He thought that these batteries supplemented with a few 13-inch mortars, would keep marauding ships at a good distance from the shore, a small land force, in the vicinity, would be able to forestall a landing.

For the actual defence of the area around the Heads, the Report listed the following: On Swan Island, in the West Channel, he proposed placing an open battery, of four 68-pounders, together with a torpedo harbour (mines) and an engine-house. On the South Channel Shoal, a battery of twelve 68-pounders mounted in a casemate stone fort. Point Lonsdale, a fort, with three 68-pounders and one 13 inch mortar. Point Nepean, the construction of a fort, mounting six 68-pounders, with a defensive barracks behind and secure from a 'coup-de-main'. For Shortlands Bluff

(now Queenscliffe), the construction of a fort, mounting six 68-pounders also to be made secure from a 'coup-de-main'. Also, at about 300 yards to the South-Southwest of Shortlands Bluff, an open battery of five 68-pounders to be so placed that the fire of all would be concentrated on the entrance, and the basin of water within the Heads.

3. The Seeds start growing

The Maori Wars of the 1860s had been a constant drain on the British Army and the advent of the Franco-Prussian War, in 1870, provided the British Government with the much-needed excuse to withdraw all formations to stations nearer to the United Kingdom. The Australian colonies had to resort to their own defences. Negotiations with Whitehall, for the retention of certain elements of the British Army, especially units of the Royal Artillery, fell through. In 1871, New South Wales took the lead and passed the 'Naval and Military Act', empowering that Colonial Government to raise and maintain permanent forces. The other colonies also took steps to provide a nucleus of defence, in their own domain. But the need to correlate these defences in the various parts of the continent, led to the request to the British Government for advise. In March, 1877, two officers of the Royal Engineers, Major-General Sir William Jervois and Peter Scratchley, now a Lieutenant-Colonel and a C.M.G., sailed for Australia having been commissioned to advise on correlation of seaport defence. The original scheme, written by Scratchley, in 1860, although modified in armament, was adopted by the Victorian Government. But despite this it was not until 1882, following Russian ventures into South Australian waters, that the Government decided to do something further about the building of forts at the Heads and it was not until 1884, that Parliament passed an Act, especially appropriating £110,000 per annum, for five years, to defray the expenses connected with the defences, both naval and military.

The overall scheme for the defence of the Port Phillip Bay Heads was then:

i. Defence of the entrance: Nepean, Queenscliffe and Crows Nest batteries.

ii. Defence of the West Channel: Swan Island battery, in conjunction with a minefield.

iii. Defence of the South Channel: Franklin and South Channel batteries plus the minefield controlled from the South Channel Fort.

In addition some nine naval vessels were also involved, including H.M.V.S. 'CERBERUS'. It is understood that should the enemy fire be too severe, 'CERBERUS' was to retire inside Pope's Eye, a shoal, to the east of Queenscliffe, and with the protection afforded by the

South Channel Island: The stone annulus, which was to serve as a foundation for the fort, was in existence in 1885, but in that year no beginning had been made on the fort itself. The Government then constructed a temporary platform to carry two large guns. A small casemated stone fort was later built, containing a test room for mines. It was encircled with open piles to repel boat attacks, it also had a central raised breast-work with two machine-guns (possibly Nordenfeldts). A low musketry parapet protected the rear.
Eagles Nest: A small defence work at the end of Point Nepean with one 10-inch Breech-Loader gun and one 4.7 inch Quick-Firer.

The fortifications and armaments around Port Phillip Bay were finally completed by 1891. It is of interest that at this period, the Heads area was the most heavily fortified in the British Empire, south of the Equator.

Scratchley never lived to see the fruition of his plans, although the construction of the Port Phillip defences were proceeding, by early 1885, according to his recommendations. He was by this time a Major-General on the retired list and had been appointed advisor on the defences of the Australian Colonies. He had been promoted to a K.C.M.G. He died in the service of the Australian colonies, of malaria, in New Guinea. His body was returned to Australia and was interred in the St. Kilda Cemetery, on the 16th December, 1885.

In 1887, Major-General Schaw R.E., in reporting on the defences of Victoria said 'I would remark that the result of my inspection has impressed me with the good judgement in selecting sites and the skill in designing and carrying out the works which have been shown in the existing defences. The Victorian Government may well be proud of the forward state of the defences of the Colony and they may be very well satisfied with the excellent work done by their defence officers.

4. Queenscliffe

Although the Borough of Queenscliffe, which incorporates the towns of Queenscliffe and Point Lonsdale, plus the islands of Swan Bay, was not established until 1863, its history commenced over fifty years earlier when a convict, William Buckley, escaped from Collins' settlement, at Sorrento, in 1807. Buckley wandered the western shores of Port Phillip Bay and is reputed to have established his home in Buckley's Cave which can still be seen in the cliffs near the lighthouse at Point Lonsdale

Shortlands Bluff, on which Fort Queenscliffe stands, was in 1836 named after a naval officer, Lieutenant P.F. Shortland, serving in H.M.S. RATTLESNAKE, which then was engaged on the first detailed marine survey of Port Phillip Bay. Point Lonsdale was named after Captain William Lonsdale, an officer of the 4th (King's Own) Regiment, who in 1836 was appointed the first administrator of the Port Phillip District of New South Wales.

The name Queenscliffe was given to the town in the year 1852, in honour of Queen Victoria - the final letter 'e' later was dropped by all except the municipal authorities. In 1853 a road was built connecting Queenscliffe and Geelong and in 1860 a regular service was provided over this route by Cobb & Co.

Following the recommendation of the 1858 Royal Commission, it was decided to raise an artillery unit, in Queenscliffe, as part of the Volunteer Artillery corps was formed, and three 68-pounder Muzzle-Loading cannon were embedded in the face of the cliff, beneath the site of the lighthouse now included in the grounds of Fort Queenscliffe. Today the last remaining cannon points menacingly at students as they enter the main gate of the Fort. The Artillery Corps was a huge success, from its inception, and the public-spirited citizens of the town enthusiastically volunteered to man the three cannon and soon became very expert in their use. An inspection of the original muster roll, revealed that in the year 1860 there were 79 volunteers. It would be interesting to compare that roll with the present roll of the State Electorate of Bellarine, for you would see the same surnames. Amongst the names listed was that of James Bailleau, grand-father of Baron Bailleau of Sefton.

The Garrison, as such, dates from 1882, when work on the Fort started. At that time, construction of the Fort was deemed urgent and most of the local fishermen and farmers were employed on the excavations and buildings. Wages for one man with a horse, or bullock, and dray were 14/- per day. The local Queenscliffe Volunteer Artillery battery was disbanded and reformed as part of the Victorian Permanent Artillery. After Federation, in 1901, the Victorian Permanent Artillery became the Royal Australian Artillery, part of which manned the Fort until 1947.

For many years, during the Easter holidays, the Garrison Artillery Companys from Melbourne and Geelong attended annual camps at Queenscliffe, where they encamped and took part in naval and military manoeuvres carried out at the Heads. Forts were manned, searchlights displayed, and target practise indulged in by the garrison. At the conclusion of the manning, the militia garrison companies fired their annual target practise and entered into competition for gun-laying, range taking and other details incidental to the qualifications for garrison gunners. At Swan Island the activities were just as busy as they were at Queenscliffe. The militia submarine miners, in conjunction with the permanent engineers, carried out their annual course, the toppedo sections being engaged in mine-laying, and the electric lights section on instruction and working of the searchlight plant.

1932 was the jubilee year of the Royal Australian Engineers, in Victoria. The jubilee celebrations were held at Queenscliffe, unfortunately a number of the serving members were absent on the biggest job that had yet fallen to the Corps, namely the construction of the defence works at Darwin. As an offset against the absent members the function coincided

with the Army School of Signalling course at which members of the R.A.E. from all over Australia were present. During the festivities which took place over the weekend of the 17th December, a visit was made to the old Depot on Swan Island.

To celebrate the centenary of the Army's association with Queenscliffe, the Fort was opened to the public on the 15th September, 1960, when Southern Command Band beat Retreat. Afterwards local civic dignitaries and personalities from previous Army occupants of the Fort were invited to a Centenary Dinner. To commemorate the centenary a battery of Hotchkiss 3-pounder guns were re-installed in the old gun-positions at the base of the lighthouse.

Port Phillip Bay has continued its peaceful pursuits, although, thankfully, those extensive defence works were never called upon, it was nice to know that they were there. It seems strange that were in the range of death-dealing weapons. Coastal defences are, now, as dead as the dodo. The old fortifications are still there, but they are in no condition to carry out there original purpose. We pray that the same applies to their more lethal descendants. When Captain Scratchley formulated his scheme of defence for Port Phillip Bay, he did an excellent job, But never in his wildest nightmares would he have forseen nuclear physics, high altitude bombing, radar and infra-red systems. His defence system, however served its purpose. We must be grateful to him and men of his foresight and calibre, for they followed, very closely, the principle 'The price of Liberty is eternal vigilance.'

* * * * * *

A LIST OF SOURCES CONSULTED FOR THIS ARTICLE

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'History of Fort Queenscliffe and The Australian Staff College' December 1971. C.A. Cunningham, Editor.

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Several Victorian Parliamentary Papers from 1860-1895.

The staffs of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, the La Trobe Librarian and the Institute of the Applied Science were most helpful and I desire to express my grateful thanks to them.

* * * * * *

MAJOR GENERAL SIR JULIUS BRUCHE

A Centenary is a Time to Remember

Nowadays many people are earnestly looking towards the coming century to try to divine what the future holds in store for them. But a centenary is not an occasion for conduct of this kind. It is rather one when it is permissable to take on a reflective mood and to refresh oneself with memories of those who have helped to make the Australian Army what it is to-day.

Such a person is Major General Sir Julius Henry Bruche, once a general officer of distinction of the Australian General Staff. He was born one hundred years ago, on the 6th March, 1873, at Carlton in Melbourne. This event was almost three years after the withdrawal in 1870 of British troops from the Australian Colonies and almost thirty years before Federation in 1901. He was educated at Scotch College in Melbourne where he was an enthusiastic member of its cadet corps; and in due course he entered the legal profession in Victoria and he practised as a solicitor in Melbourne. But he had another strong interest besides the Law.

He began his military career as a Militia officer, when, in May 1891, he was commissioned in Lieutenant Colonel Robert Robertson's 1st Battalion, Victorian Rifles which was located in Melbourne. Then, eight years later, in July 1898, he was appointed to the Permanent Staff of the Military Forces of the Colony of Victoria which were then commanded by Major General Sir Charles Holled Smith of the British Army. His first posting for duty, as a permanent officer, was to Colonel Robertson's Infantry Brigade; and in February 1899 he became a captain.

War came later that year. It was the South African War of 1899-1902 which began in October 1899. Bruche sailed from Melbourne in the following month, as a special service officer, for South Africa. On arrival there he was attached for a month to the 3rd Battalion of the Grenadier Guards. In 1900, from January to April, he served as Quartermaster in Colonel J.C. Hoad's Australian Regiment which had been formed at Cape Town; and from May to December in that year he was the Adjutant of Colonel Tom Price's Victorian Mounted Rifles Contingent. This contingent sailed from Cape Town, in November 1900, for home; and it disembarked in Melbourne on the 4th December, 1900.

But the war continued to drag on and a little more than a year later Bruche returned to South Africa. He was given command in Melbourne of a company in Lieutenant Colonel Duncan McLeish's 2nd Battalion, Australian Commonwealth Horse and this unit disembarked at Durban on the 10th March, 1902. Hostilities ceased two months later on the 31st May, 1902. In an unpublished manuscript which General Bruche gave me some years ago he said:

An order was issued that all troops were to be on parade next day, Sunday, 1st June, 1902.

After the church service General Mildmay Wilson, commanding the Klerksdorp District, .. in a loud voice said: 'I have been ordered to read you the following telegram - "Peace was signed at midnight last night. Kitchener."'

Standing in front of my squadron I heard: "Five bob a day gone, chaps."

In due course Bruche returned home with his unit. He disembarked in Melbourne on the 2nd August, 1902 and resumed duty in Victoria.

At this time Major General Sir Edward Hutton, the Commander of the Commonwealth's military forces, was pressing on vigorously with his task of fashioning, out of the six heterogeneous military forces inherited from the former Australian colonies, one homogeneous Federal force. In this re-organisation Bruche played a part in the Military District of Victoria which, from July 1902 to January 1905, was commanded by Brigadier General (later Major General) J.M. Gordon (1856-1929).

In January 1910 Field Marshal Lord Kitchener made his official inspection of the Commonwealth's military forces in Victoria. Later that month, on the 25th January, 1910, Bruche sailed from Melbourne for duty in England with the British Army as an exchange officer. He spent about six months at the War Office in London, the Chief of the Imperial General Staff then being General Sir William Nicholson; and he also spent about six months at Aldershot Command which was then commanded by Lieutenant General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien. During this tour of duty Bruche visited Imperial Germany as an official observer at army exercises where he witnessed, on one occasion, the Emperor, William II, review a parade of 25,000 troops. Bruche enjoyed the uncommon advantage of being able to converse with German officers in their own language and it was proof again that in order to gain knowledge from a situation one must first bring knowledge to a study of that situation. Bruche, full of enthusiasm for the beneficial experience he had acquired overseas, returned to Australia in the following year after an absence of fifteen months. He disembarked at Port Melbourne in April, 1911. Then he took up duty in Tasmania.

When the War of 1914-18 began in August 1914 Bruche was serving at the Headquarters at Victoria Barracks in Brisbane of the 1st Military District which was then commanded by Colonel (later Lieutenant General) George Leonard Lee. There Bruche was the Assistant Adjutant General and since July 1912 he had been a lieutenant colonel. From November 1914 to June 1916 Bruche was the Commandant of the 5th Military District in Western Australia with headquarters in Perth and with the rank of colonel. He had succeeded in the post Colonel (later Brigadier General) Leslie Herbert Kyngdon, R.A.G.A. (1860-1923). Bruche had arrived in Western Australia in time to go to Albany, in December, 1914, to say good-bye to his old and very close friend, John Monash, who sailed from there in command of the convoy which carried his 4th Infantry Brigade to Egypt.

After Monash had sailed away Bruche had to console himself with the thought that soldiers must serve where they are told to serve. In his case he remained in command in Western Australia until June 1916. Then he was able to go overseas on active service. First he went to England. There he was posted to the A.I.F. Training Depots in the United Kingdom for he had a reputation within the Army for his knowledge and skill in military training. His GOC in this post was a former Premier of Western Australia, Brigadier General (later Major General) The Hon. Sir Newton James Moore. But Bruche soon went to the Western Front in France. There, from December 1916 to January 1919, he served as AA & QMG of General Hobb's 5th Australian Division. This division was the only one of the 1st A.I.F. to publish a history of its deeds in the War of 1914-18. The history, The Story of the Fifth Australian Division, was written by Captain A.D. Ellis who later became a county court judge in Victoria. In one part of this history he said: "Perhaps the clearest description of Colonel Bruche's personality would be to say that it was ideally constituted to work in harmony with that of the new divisional commander. While his great professional ability was accepted on all hands without question, it was eventually the character and broad humanity of the man that made his influence so profoundly and so beneficially felt throughout the division. His dominant characteristics were his absolute justice and personal integrity, his unswerving devotion to his duty, and his desire to help the units by every means in his power."

After hostilities had ended General Monash was appointed, in December, 1918, to the post of Director General of Repatriation and Demobilisation with headquarters in London. In January 1919 Bruche joined Monash's staff in London as the head of a branch and he remained in this post until he sailed from London in November 1919 with Monash for home.

Bruche now faced the post-war era in which the lot of the regular officer in Australia was not a happy one. Estimates fell to shameful levels, Establishments were reduced to cadres and the Army's ministerial direction was on the whole mediocre, unimaginative and of course wholly uninspiring. The consequences, as the War of 1939-45 revealed, were disastrous. Demoralisation within the Army was widespread, pay was poor, promotion in the permanent military forces was slow, facilities for training the field army were poor and inadequately provided for financially; and, in their individual training, Militia officers, especially in the higher ranks, were largely self-instructed. As bad as these conditions were, they were, unfortunately, made worse by the public apathy which was reinforced by ignorance and prejudice.

Only the best of the Army's officers could prevail against these discouraging conditions and carry on. So in those times the Army was indeed fortunate in having officers like Bruche who remained at their posts where, by their personalities, thier performance and their example they made contributions towards the maintanance of the Army in ways that the nation has neither acknowledged nor attempted to measure.

Bruche, in March 1920, followed General G.L. Lee in the command of the 2nd Military District as Eastern Command was designated in those times. Lee first proceeded on leave before retirement. Bruche had unusual powers of exposition. He could explain a situation clearly and succinctly and he could draw quickly a thumbnail sketch of an officer whose name might come up in the course of conversation. In a press interview at his headquarters at Victoria Barracks in Paddington on Thursday 13th May, 1920, which was the official date of Lee's retirement, he said: "My acquaintance with General Lee goes back to 1895. I remember the day well. He came down to the camp of the Victorian Forces at Langwarrin as staff officer to General Hutton then Commandant in New South Wales. He rode a grey horse, and there were two things that struck us all - his fine horsemanship and his geniality." Then Bruche went on to say of Lee that: "You never found him flurried. The most difficult and urgent matters were always met with ease and good humour, concealing ripe judgement. It secured him the loyalty and affection of all his officers."[1]

In June 1927 Bruche was posted to Army Headquarters in Melbourne where he became the Adjutant General of the Forces and the 2nd Military Member of the Military Board. The title of Adjutant-General is of considerable antiquity. There were three such officers in Cromwell's New Model Army. The post was added to England's standing Army in 1673; it was dropped in 1675; and it was restored again from 1680 onwards. As Adjutant General, Bruche was concerned mainly with administrative problems of personnel. He was responsible for recruitment and discipline, for the peace-organisation of the forces, and for the administrative arrangements for their mobilisation. One of his other important duties was the supervision of the Army's medical services. Bruche remained in this appointment officially until April, 1929.

His next posting took him again to London where, officially from April 1929 to May 1931, he held the dual appointment of Senior Military Representative on the Imperial General Staff at the War Office. While in London on this occasion he delivered a lecture, on the 25th February, 1931, at the Royal United Service Institution in Whitehall entitled "The Land and Air Defence Forces of Australia". The meeting was conducted under the chairmanship of the Rt. Hon. L.S. Amery, a distinguished British statesman and the Editor of The Times History of the War in South Africa, 1899-1902. The lecture was published, nine months later, in the Institution's journal.

For the next tour of duty Bruche returned to Australia and he disembarked in Sydney in May 1931. It was an unhappy home-coming. The nation was in the grip of a world-wide economic depression and at one

1. S.M.H., 14 May 1920, p. 9

stage of it regular officers of the Australian Army were obliged to take periodically one week's leave without pay. By this time the Royal Military College had been moved from Duntroon to Victoria Barracks in Sydney as an economy measure. There Bruche became its Commandant temporarily in succession to Brigadier Francis Bede Heritage - an officer whose personality had made a strong and beneficial impact on the staff cadets who had passed through the College in his time. Bruche held this post in 1931 for only four months - from May to September.

From the Royal Military College in Sydney Bruche was posted back to Melbourne where he had begun his military career a decade before Federation. He was appointed, on the 1st October 1931, by the Scullin Government to be Chief of the Australian General Staff and 1st Military Member of the Military Board. In this appointment Bruche succeeded Major General W.A. Coxen, one of Australia's distinguished "gunner" officers, ans at the time he took up duty in Melbourne Mr. J.B. Chiffley was the Minister for Defence. Bruche was greatly impressed by Mr. Chiffley as a decision maker. Bruche, at 58 years of age, had reached the zenith of his career as Chief of the General Staff. But the way up had been long and arduous and the price had been intense devotion to duty. He held this post for 3½ years. During this time, in January 1932, the Scullin Government was succeeded by the Lyons Government and this was the last Government under which Bruche served as Chief of the General Staff. His first Minister for Defence in the Lyons Government was Senator Sir George Pearce who stands out from the surface of history as Australia's greatest Defence Minister. In October 1934 Pearce was succeeded by Sir Archdale Parkhill who was Bruche's last Minister for Defence.

One of the outstanding features of Bruches period of duty as Chief of the General Staff occurred towards the close of the year 1934. It was the visits to Australia of Field Marshal Lord Milne, who was then the immediate past Chief of the Imperial General Staff at the War Office in London, and Colonel Sir Maurice Hankey, who was then the Secretary of the Committee of Imperial Defence in London.

In April 1935 Bruche was succeeded in the post of Chief of the General Staff, by Major General (later Lieutanant General Sir) J.D. Lavarack; and he was placed on the Retired List of the Australian Army in which he had served as a commissioned officer for almost 45 years. He once told me that he was responsible for the introduction of the regulation which cancelled the practice of granting general officers a step in rank when they were placed on the Retired List. So, when he retired, the regulation applied to him also.

General Bruche lived on in retirement in Melbourne for more than a quarter of a century and he did during this time useful work of various kinds. In retirement he seemed not to have given up any of his military habits of punctuality, decisiveness, industry and courtesy. Sometimes when I called to see him at his home he would be wearing what the Ordnance people of that time described officially as "boots, ankle brown" but which were referred to

by the more irreverent users in units as "issue boots". He was a kind and helpful person; and he did much charitable work in an inconspicuous way. He was indeed a good citizen and a good soldier of his time.

On this occasion of the centenary of the birth of Julius Henry Bruche he deserves to be remembered as one of our general officers who, although dead since the 28th April, 1961[x], still serves as an outstanding example of a good soldier and a good citizen. He adorned the Australian Army, in times of war and peace, by his wide education and rick military experience, by his professional skill and general efficiency and by his integrity and devotion to duty.

WARREN PERRY[o]

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DESPATCHES

From Mr. R. Gray

The Editor, "Sabretache".

Sir,

I wish to support everything that Mr. Peter Shaw said in his letter that appeared in "Sabretache" for December, 1972.

Regarding the article on the Australian Infantry Battalions and Light Horse Regiments that appeared in that issue. I wish to make the following comments:-

1. The date 1914-1918 is not correct for the units named as they belong to the period 1927 and later. The territorial titles were awarded for these units from this date.
2. The Brigades and Divisions stated for these units is incorrect.
3. Why A.M.F. South Africa for the 16th/23rd Light Horse Regiments.
4. The territorial title for the 10th Light Horse Regiment is not correct. It should be the "West Australian Mounted Infantry".

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x Warren Perry, "Major General Sir Julius Bruche: An Appreciation." United Service Quarterly, Sydney Vol. 16, No. 1, July 1962, pp 2-5

o Patron of the Military Historical Society of Australia. Editor.

I read with interest your review of the book "Uniforms of the Australian Colonies" by A.N. Festberg and B.J. Videon, and wish to make a few comments concerning it.

1. "Their value as a meticulously accurate record of Australian soldiers in full uniform cannot be over-estimated." I do not agree with this. The information given for the Adelaide Lancers is not correct nor is the plate showing the uniforms.
2. "Each illustration is supported with carefully researched information from the dress regulations." In many cases the Dress Regulations do not tally with the plates.
3. The Dress Regulations for the N.S.W. Lancers of 1906 is given for the Adelaide Lancers.
4. The title is incorrect for the Adelaide Lancers. They were not known as the South Australian (Adelaide Lancers), but just "Adelaide Lancers". They were not in existence in 1901 as the book says.
5. The text regarding the Adelaide Rifles is far from the true facts.
6. The title of the book is not a good one as uniforms could be of any kind such as police, firemen, porters etc.,
7. "This book presents a genuine pictorial survey of the uniforms of the Australian Colonies with marvellous accuracy." This is far from being correct.

If you have a set of the Golden Fleece cards which came out some years ago I feel sure you will agree that they are far ahead of the incorrect details that are given in the twelve plates in the book. The one showing the Adelaide Lancers in the Golden Fleece series of cards is as near to perfect as you can get.

* * * * * *

AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS FAKES?

by B.J. Videon

In a recent issue of SABRETACHE I commented upon the fact that a number of relics of the Australian Flying Corps have cropped up recently, among them being some wings.

A recent query from a British collector has raised some doubt as to the authenticity of some so-called "Australian Flying Corps" wing badges, although these may not be identical with those appearing now in Australia.

My correspondent has recently acquired the following "A.F.C." wings:-
A.F.C. Pilot,
Observer, full wings with blue "O", and
the same as the above with a k/c above it.

Here is the interesting comment, and I quote:

> "Funny about the AFC Pilot's wing and the two Observer Badges that I mentioned in my last letters, as I am advised by the American contact that supplied them that he personally purchased them in Vietnam, and that they were made in that country for the Australian Forces. Seems quite a mystery, perhaps they were worn by your Forces as an unofficial badge."

It is quite definite that any Australian Flying Corps wings that might have been made in Vietnam would be fakes, and we have a high regard for the ability of some Asian races to reproduce accurately both embroidery and materials that they may be given to copy.

It would appear therefore that the British collector has unwittingly acquired reproductions of wings that until quite recently have been remarkable scarce, but which now seem to be available in rather larger-than-expected numbers. I have not yet checked out whether these are identical with the ones which I have, but this is in process, and members who may have these wings will no doubt be interested in the outcome.

I have not yet been able to establish the reason for the appearance of a crowned "O" wing, one of which I have and which has every appearance of authenticity, but it does NOT figure in the list of wings covered in Military Orders and Price Lists of the First World War. This may or may not be an omission due to late introduction of a new badge.

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BOOK REVIEWS

"WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENTS TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR"

by J.D.C. Burridge, 50 pages, including plates and a map of the South African War area. ISBN 0 9598942 0 9. Price $2.50, postage extra. Sales of this publication will assist the W.A. Branch funds. Copies available from Mr. J.D.C. Burridge, 9 Albert Street, CLAREMONT, W.A. 6010.

Here is a comprehensive and descriptive work concerning Western Australia's involvement in what is gradually becoming a forgotten campaign. As Mr. Burridge states in his Introduction, The South African War of 1899-1902 should be of immense interest to all Western Australians, for, per head of population, it sent more troops than any other Australian colony. This does not mean that this book has no interest to those who live East of the 129th degree of longtitude, or who may never own a Western Australian QSA. It is a very essential contribution to Australia's Military History, and includes an interesting thumb-nail history of each Contigent. I am certain that a wonderful story could be written of the Nursing Contigent's role. The work is of the same size and format as those published by Major Rex Clark, so making an excellent companion volume.

"PHILLIP OF AUSTRALIA" An account of the Settlement at Sydney Cove 1788-92. By M. Barnard Eldershaw. Published by Angus & Robertson (Publishers) Pty. Ltd., Cremorne Junction, N.S.W. National Library of Australia card number and ISBN 0 207 125147. Price $4.95. Available at most bookshops.

I found, after settling down to read this book, an interesting and absorbing story of the problems and tribulations which faced Arthur Phillip in his task of organising and establishing the infant settlement, which nestled around the shores of Sydney Cove. This volume, which was first published in 1938, presumably in time for the sesqui-centennial celebrations, is well-produced with some three hundred and fifty pages of text, an excellent bibliography and an adequate list of sources. There are eleven illustrations, mainly works by contemporary artists, of good reproductive quality.

Although not of imperative interest to students of Military History, I still recommend it as a readable book on the founding of a Nation and as a tribute to a man of outstanding ability.

John E. Price

* * * *

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* * * *

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Contact me at above address. J.E. Price.

* * * *

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DIRECTORY AMENDMENTS

NEW MEMBERS:

(532) Dr. K.G. Klietmann, 1 Berlin 12, Liebnizstr. 48, Federal Republic of Germany.
(Orders, decorations, & medals; The history of uniforms; Regimental Colours & Standards)

(533) Mr. S. LIMB, Flat 3, 16 Dempster Street, CARNARVON, W.A. 6701.
(Medals of all Nations)

(534) The Librarian, Public Library of South Australia, Box 419 G.P.O. ADELAIDE. S.A. 5001.
(Subscriber to the Journal)

(535) The Curator, Musee Royal de l'Armee et d'Histoire Militaire, Parc du Cinquantenaire 3, BRUXELLES 4, Belgium.

(536) Mr. K.M. RUANE, 202 Henry Lawson Drive, GEORGES HALL, N.S.W. 2198.
(Australian Army Badges)

(537) Dr. L. LADEN, 123 High Street, SORRENTO, W.A. 6020.
(Weapons)

(538) The Librarian, Bridges Memorial Library, Royal Military College. DUNTROON. A.C.T. 2600.
(Subscriber to the Journal)

(539) Mr. E.J. WOOLLEY, 108 Prince Edward Street, MALABAR, N.S.W. 2036.
(The collecting of Military badges & titles)

(541) Mr. H. JONES, 11256 81a Avenue, DELTA, B.C., Canada.
(Cloth badges, formation signs & military insignia of the British Commonwealth; also the Expeditionary Forces raised by the Empire in W.W.1.)

(542) The Librarian, Tasmania Command Library, Anglesea Barracks, HOBART. Tasmania, 7000.
(Subscriber to the Journal)

PROMOTION TO LIEUTENANT-COLONEL

(106) Congratulations to Lt-Col. T.C. SARGENT.

CORRECTION TO NEW MEMBERS LIST IN DECEMBER 1972, ISSUE:

(524) Miss G.D. THORNEYCROFT should read: Miss G.D. BROWN.

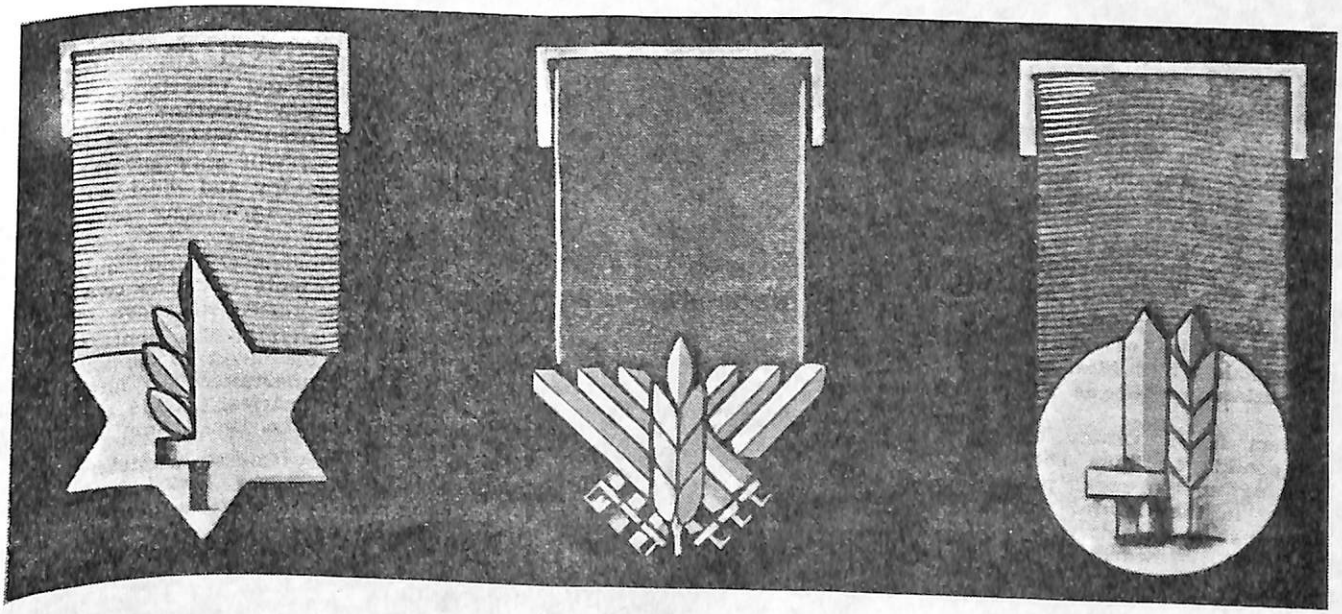
CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

(250)	Mr. I.P. ALEXANDER	to	3 Snooks Court, BRIGHTON, VIC. 3186.
(339)	Capt. P.J. DENHAM	to	64 Fifth Avenue, CHELSEA HEIGHTS. VIC. 3196.
(415)	Mr. K. KURTZ	to	P.O. Box 636, LAE, P.N.G.
(219)	Capt. S. KUUSK,	to	480 Portrush Road, LINDEN PARK, S.A. 5065.
(92)	Mr. L.D. MATTHEWS	to	41 Myall Avenue, KENSINGTON GARDENS, S.A. 5068
(307)	Mr. J.E. PRICE	to	P.O. Box 113, CHELTENHAM, VIC. 3192. (Residential address unchanged)
(106)	LT.-COL. T.C. SARGENT	to	Box 8, Milpo BANDIANA, VIC. 3694.
(488)	Mr. S. SMITH	to	c/- 118 Abingdon Terrace, DIDCOT, Berkshire, England.

DECORATIONS FOR

ZVA HAGANA LE ISRAEL (ZAHAL)

The Defence Minister, General Moshe Dayan, announced the introduction by the Israel Defence Forces (ZAHAL) of medals of honour to be awarded to the 533 soldiers who won citations since the 1948 War of Independence, excluding the thirteen soldiers who were honoured with the title HERO OF ISRAEL.



From left to right:

The Medal for Valour on a yellow ribbon, the Medal for Courage on a red ribbon and the Medal for Distinguished Conduct (and non-combat bravery) on a blue ribbon. The ribbons are suspended from stirrups. The designs were executed by Dan Reisinger and the photo is by The Jerusalem Post (30 January 1973).

It is expected that the awards will be presented in Jerusalem during ZAHAL's 25th anniversary celebrations in May.