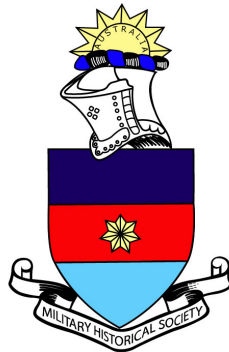


Military Historical Society of Australia
Sabretache



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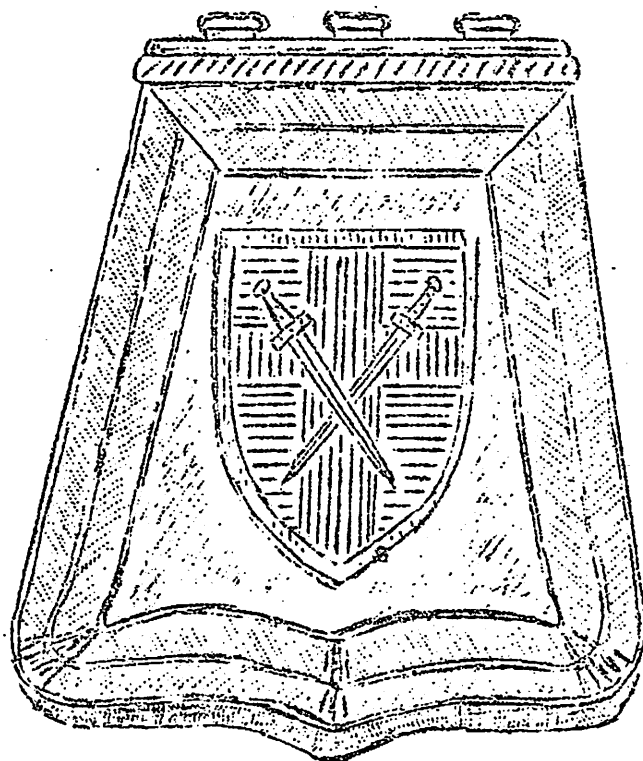
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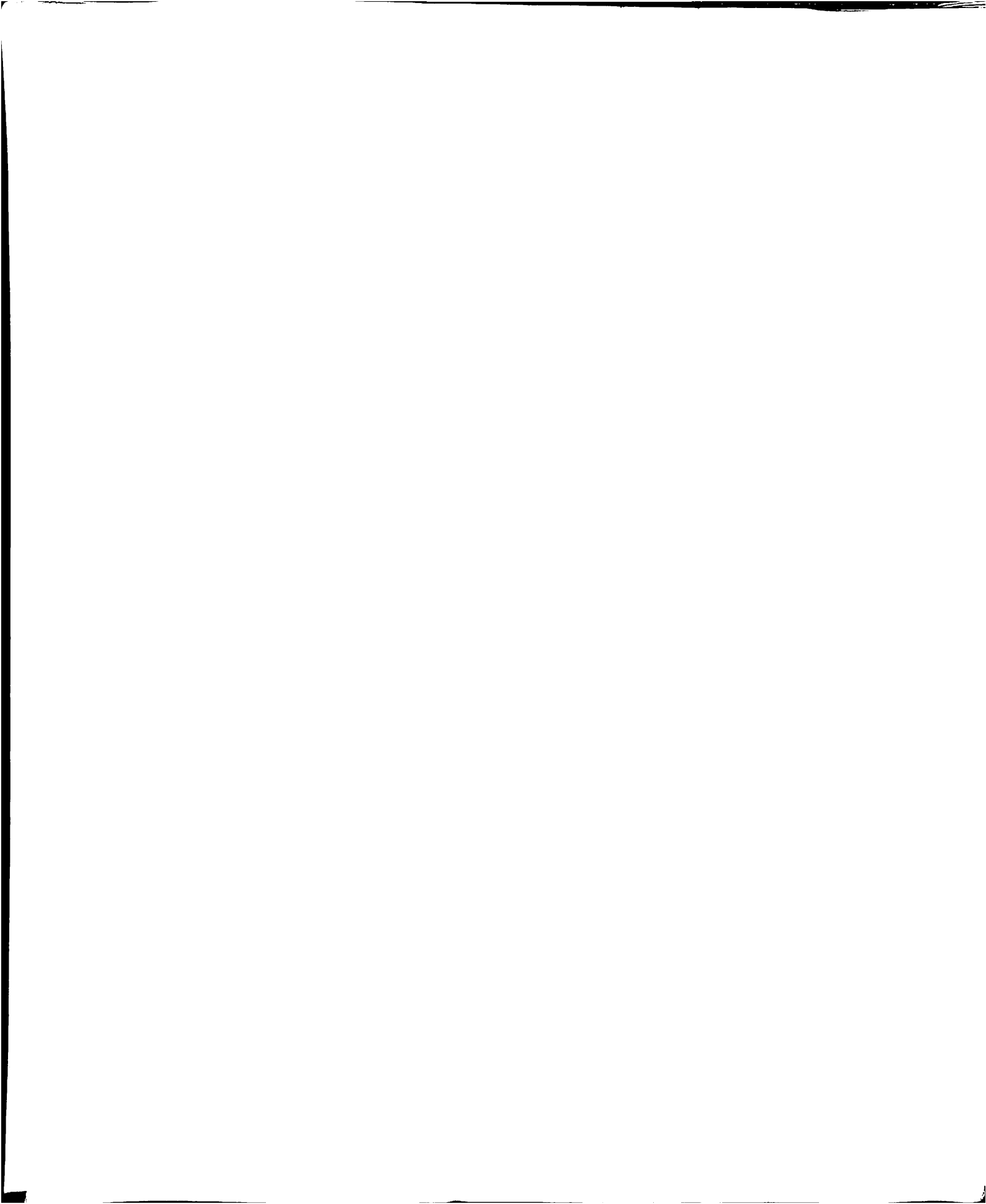
SABRETACHE.



The Journal of
The Military Collectors Society of Australia.

June

1958.



Inset on the flap of our Sabretache is a representation of the Society's lapel badge, which is based on the formation sign of 21st Army Group.

THE BLAZON: Shield azure, a St. George Cross gules, over all swords in saltire or, all in a bordure of the second.

.....

THE
COMMITTEE

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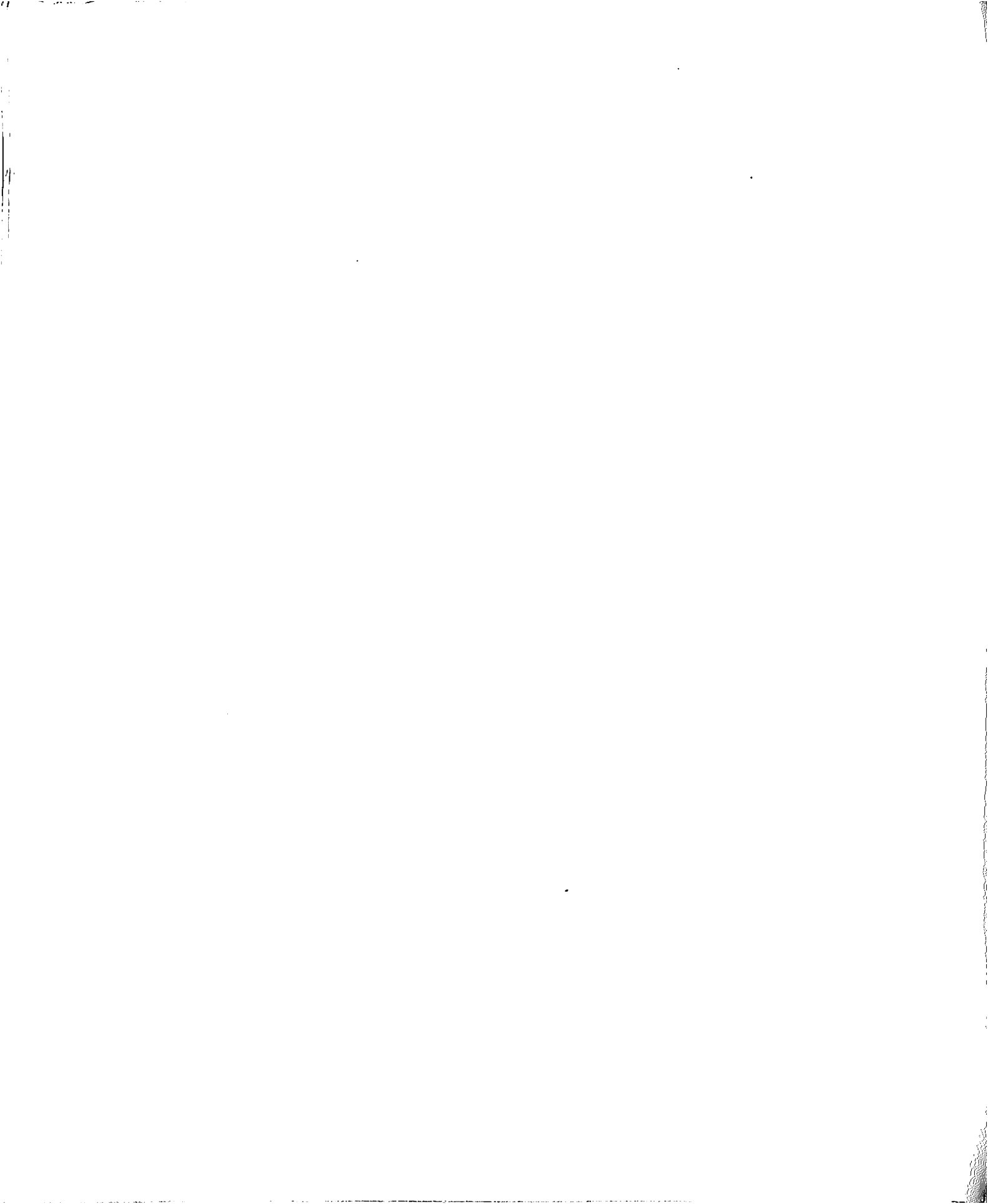
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FORTHCOMING
MEETINGS

20/6/58 at 690 Inkerman Rd., North Caulfield
(near Hawthorn Rd.)

18/7/58 at 1 Harper Avenue, Bentleigh.

15/8/58 at 11 Daff Avenue, Moorabin.



FOREWORD.

This is the first issue of our magazine, which we expect to appear at least quarterly from now on.

Its name, "SABRETACHE", is intended to convey the idea that it will carry useful information----the "gen". We hope that you will find that it does so.

The Editor will welcome any constructive criticisms of this magazine; and invites you to comment on any relevant matter, whether it be to add to or alter the contents of an article, or to give or request information.

To borrow a slogan of the business world, we will "strive to please"---- any help which you can give will make the task just that much easier, and the magazine that much better.

You will note that this magazine is duplicated on quarto-sized paper, that it is lightly stapled, and that it has no cover. Dispensing with a cover will save postage costs, and will give members a chance to file copies in a cover of their choice. If it is decided to keep articles relating to a particular subject together, this will be facilitated by the way in which major articles will be duplicated.

Subject to availability, additional copies of written articles may be obtained from the Editor at 6d. per sheet. Extra copies of photographic illustrations will be priced according to costs. Back numbers of "SABRETACHE" will cost 3/- per copy.

Members' advertisements may be inserted for a flat rate of 5/- each, except Trade advertisements, which will be the subject of special arrangements.

We hope that your association with us will be a long and a pleasant one.

THE COMMITTEE.



172.
FIREARMS OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR---I.

Most of the soldiers on both sides in this unfortunate War were armed with single-shot, muzzle loading percussion rifles.

At the outbreak of the War the Union had on hand as infantry weapons some 530,000 muskets of essentially only modified Revolutionary design. They were fitted with rifled barrels and percussion locks. During the first year of war, the Union armouries produced 10,000 of these guns. Second year production reached the figure of 200,000, and a further 500,000 were made.

Still more muzzle loaders were purchased from overseas. These ranged from 428,000 Enfield .577's from England to 60,000 Austrian tube lock conversions from Herman Boker & Co. of Belgium. Union records show a total of 4,022,130 muzzle loaders issued during the War, and of this total 726,705 were importations. 90 million rounds of lead bullets were issued during the War for these pieces. The Springfield .58 calibre was the most common type made in the North. The Whitneyville rifle also saw service with the Union, both in the Army and the Navy. The latter ordered 10,000 of these .69 calibre in 1863.

Breech loaders and repeaters were developed during the War and prior to it, the most famous being the Sharps, Henry, Spencer and Starr. 12,000 Spencers and 100,000 Sharps were bought by the Union forces. Some of these and other less-known types used the percussion cap system, while others took rim-fire cartridges.

Most of the Confederate arms falling into these categories were copies of captured Union weapons. The South imported many different European designs, among which appeared in limited numbers the Dreyse and Chassepot "needle guns". More popular with the "Rebs." was the Faucheur six-shot pin-fire revolving rifle of .44 calibre. A pin-fire revolver of similar calibre was likewise in heavy demand from this French firm. Special Enfield and Whitworth rifles from England, fitted with telescopes, were popular with Southern sharpshooters.

Most of the revolvers in service during the War were the cap-and-ball type. There were, however, several firms making weapons to take a rim-fire cartridge. Smith & Wesson and W. Irving of New York were among them. These rim-fire revolvers were favourites with Union officers. The maximum calibre for this type seems to have been .32.

The cap-and-ball percussion types were numerous. Some were imported but most appear to have been of native manufacture. A list of some of the better-known types includes Colt, Remington, Savage, Joslyn, Starr, Butterfield, Rogers & Spencer, Adams, Leech & Rigdon, Le Mat, Le Faucheur, Beals and Tranter. They varied from 5-shot to 9-shot capacities, most of them being single action weapons. The Adams, Tranter and Savage were double action. The French Le Mat had an additional barrel under its normal one to fire a charge of buckshot.

Quickfiring small arms immediately bring to mind the Gatling Gun. The writer can find only one reliable reference to their use during the



War. Twelve were purchased by General Benjamin Butler, who personally directed their firing during the siege of Petersburg, "with (says the chronicler) telling effect".

The Confederates had a quickfirer of their own, the Williams machi gun. The writer will endeavour to describe this in some future article. The "Rebs." also had another quickfirer, the Gorgas gun.

Cannon used by both side included breech and muzzle loaders, both rifled and smooth bore. The Confederates actually made a revolving cannon---its bulk and weight however seemed to have rendered it rather useless. Mortars of up to 13-inch calibre were used.

A. Watson.

.....

"Australia" shoulder titles, 1958.

Officers and men of the A.M.F. serving abroad continue in the tradition of there forerunners of the A.I.F. by wearing "AUSTRALIA" titles on the shoulders of their uniforms.

The present titles, as worn in Nos. 1 and 2 Dress^x, are more decorative than were the earlier types.

Officers of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps wear "titles, embroidered, Australia" in silver bullion on blue cloth. Officers of other Corps wear gold bullion on blue.

The corresponding embroidery for other ranks is in white or yellow thread respectively.

In all other orders of dress, only senior officers not allotted to a Corps wear "Australia" titles, and these are in Khaki, in either winter or summer weight material.

^x (These are the blue uniforms, on which regimental or corps badges are worn, but not regimental or corps shoulder titles.)

B. J. Videon.

.....

Green now for the Army.

The press on 7th January, 1958, informed us that the Australian Army will have "a new walking out uniform in off-green---the same colour as the American one.

This will replace the present blue walking out uniform."



IMPERIAL GERMAN MARINE INFANTRY.

The introduction of the Imperial German Army into the range of "Rose" model figures, coincident with the chance acquisition of several excellent German "pickelhauben", has stimulated further interest in an era already favoured by several members of this Society.

Prussian Grenadiers, resplendent in mitre caps or plumed helmets and white trousers, Bavarian Jager in sky blue and green, and a Mecklenburg-Trelitz District Hussar have appeared at recent meetings, whilst a sergeant of Field Gendarmerie, with notebook and pencil in hand, awaits completion in order that he may be ready to "take down that man's name".

A useful source of information on German uniforms of the period from 1901 to 1910 is "Handbuch der uniformkunde" (Knotzel-Sieg), whilst members of the British Model Soldier Society will have the December "Bulletin" giving an excellent article on the Prussian Guard and Line Infantry.

The most comprehensive coverage of this period, to the writers' knowledge, is contained in the rarely-seen "Die Uniformen der Deutschen Armee" by Ruhl (Leipzig 1913).

On Ruhl's authority the writer gives his idea of a very effective figure, using the standard "Rose" model German infantryman, with Jager shako with no more modification than the necessary addition of a "Brandenburg" buff, i.e., one having an upright flap bearing 3 equi-distant buttons.

MARINE INFANTRY, 1913.

There were 3 Sec-Bataillonen, numbered, appropriately enough, 1st, 2nd and 3rd. The service dress is described hereunder.

HEADDRESS. Jager type shako, black, with polished leather peaks and top, flying Prussian eagle helmet plate in gilt, and oval cockade inset with white.

TUNIC. Prussian blue. Collar white, edged with Prussian blue, and having on the white portion 2 yellow lace stripes from the front edge to the centre of the sides (Sometimes referred to as the Guard Stripe). The front edge of the tunic and the rear flaps are finely piped in white. Cuffs are white with the blue upright flap referred to above. Three horizontal equi-distant stripes of yellow lace cross this flap, and on each stripe a button is mounted toward the front. Shoulder straps are of white, bearing the design in yellow, crossed anchors, surmounted by a crown, and beneath the anchors and between their flukes the Battalion numeral in Roman figures. Buttons brass.

TROUSERS. Prussian blue, with thin white stripes at outer seams.

BELT, pouches and boots are of black polished leather.

The parade uniform is as above, except that the shako carries a black plume, and white trousers, with white stripes, are worn.



"The Queen of weapons for the Cavalry" is how Montecuculi---the most prominent general in the German service in the 17th. Century---described the lance.

Its use can be traced back to the Egyptians and Assyrians. Among the Greeks and Romans it was used by both horse and foot, with no standard pattern. In the Middle Ages it was the weapon of chivalry, and as such was about sixteen feet long.

The introduction of firearms revolutionised the tactics of cavalry and from 1597 for over two hundred years, the lance disappeared from the armies of England, though it remained in common use in Eastern Germany, Poland and Russia. It is interesting to note that Scottish lancers dealt severely with Cromwell's troops at Dunbar in 1650.

In Western Europe the horse-pistol practically eliminated the "arm blanche", and the true use of cavalry---the attack at speed and the charge---was nearly forgotten until Frederick the Great revived cavalry in the real sense of the word. In 1744 he converted all his Uhlans into Hussars, but in the Seven Years' War he re-introduced a lancer troop in each Hussar regiment, the men being equipped with lance, sword and long pistol.

Napoleon, in his conflicts with the troops of the Tsar, learned a respect for the lance, and in 1807 he formed a regiment of Polish lancers. In 1811 he converted nine dragoon regiments into lancers, whose success at Waterloo led to the British converting to lancers the following regiments of light dragoons:- 9th, 12th, 18th, 19th in 1816, and 17th in 1822.

These regiments saw foreign service in various parts of the world. The 16th in India in 1846 had the reputation of being the best mounted regiment in the Service, at home or abroad, employing Indian country-breds of the Katthiwar and Mewari breeds, all duns or chestnuts, compact and speedy.

The prowess of the 9th and 16th in India, and of the 12th Lancers in South Africa in 1851, inspired the re-embodiment of the 5th (former 15th Dragoons, disbanded 1799) as lancers in 1858. The 17th ("Death or Glory Boys") were in the van in the charge of the Light Brigade, and after the Crimea proceeded to India and were engaged in the campaigns that followed the Mutiny. In 1860 Fane's Horse in the China War further helped to raise the prestige of the lance.

So notable were the achievements of lancers in succeeding campaigns that in 1897 the 21st Hussars were re-equipped as lancers; with them in their historic charge at Omdurman in 1898 was Mr. Winston Churchill. Furthermore the front ranks of dragoons were equipped with the lance until guerilla warfare of the South African War was met.

At Elandslaagte in 1899 the 5th Lancers executed a brilliant charge whereafter the Boers never again faced lancers, "the men with the long assegais".



Despite the extensive use of cavalry in the Great War, opportunities to "get home" with the lance in the attack were few, the most notable occasions being:- 9th Lancers at Moncel and the 12th at Cerizy in France in 1914, 2nd Lancers (Indian Army) at Lejjun, and the 29th Lancers (I.A.) near the Jordan, both in 1918.

In 1927 Army Order 392 abolished the lance except for ceremonial purposes in the British Army. In 1939 it survived in the Indian Army, and in Poland, Latvia and Lithuania.

The pole of the lance was originally of ash impregnated with a mixture of linseed oil and tar; from 1868 male bamboo which is tough and elastic was used. In 1883 a leather protector like a sleeve was added to prevent the carbine from chafing the pole when slung. The point has varied from time to time. Small spiked points, broad spear points, leaf-shaped points have all been tried; a triangular point was finally adopted.

The use of the lance can have a great moral effect. However it is a rather cumbersome weapon, useful in the first shock but not in the melee which might follow. This led to the lancer being given a sword also, thus increasing the weight to be carried by the horse. Again, when the lancer dismounts the disposal of his lance presents a problem.

In Australia, the only lancer units in the 19th Century were the New South Wales Lancer Regiment and the Adelaide Lancers ("A" Squadron, South Australian Mounted Rifles). The New South Wales Lancers in the South African War were armed with lance, sword and carbine, the same as British lancers.

After the 1903 re-organisation, when the three regiments of the N.S.W. Mounted Brigade were expanded into six, there were two additional lancer regiments, the Hunter River Lancers and Northern Rivers Lancers. However from 1903 to 1921 all the regiments were equipped and trained as mounted riflemen, without an "arme blanche", so the lance and sword were relegated to ceremonial and the tournament field. Vice-regal escorts carried lances up to 1939, but as horses are no longer used in the A.M.F., presumably this colourful pomp has been seen for the last time.

P.V.Vernon.



SUBSCRIPTIONS.

We remind our members that subscriptions for the year 1958/59 are due and payable on 21st June 1958, and should be forwarded to the Secretary by that date.

Rates for 1958/59 are:-

- Junior members.....10/6.
- All other members.....£1.1.0.

Society lapel badges at 5/- each may be obtained from the Secretary.



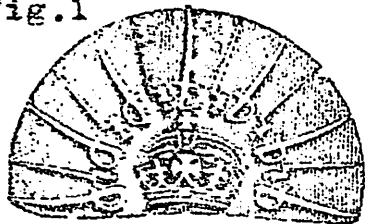
The Evolution of the Rising Sun

Why did the Australian military authorities select the Rising Sun as the motif of the hat and collar badge of the Commonwealth Forces?

That is a question which has caused many a digger to scratch his head, the more so when he recalled that the same device has long been recognised as the national emblem of Japan. Nevertheless, the badge was known as the Rising Sun, and some sought for an interpretation of its symbolism as applied to Australia. The solution generally favoured was that it was emblematic of a young nation rising in the Southern Seas. The truth is, however, that the Rising Sun is not the motif of the badge. Nor is the Setting Sun, as a disgruntled officer once alleged.

When, at the beginning of 1902, the 1st Battalion, Australian Commonwealth Horse (the first Commonwealth contingent) was raised for service in South Africa, General Sir Edward Hutton, who was

Fig. 1



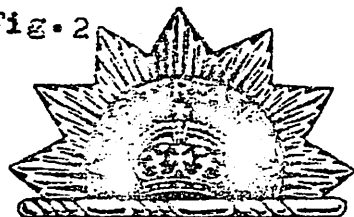
The trophy of arms from which the motif of the badge was borrowed.

then in command of the Australian Military Forces, decided it should have a special badge. A number of suggestions was made by his staff officers, most of them having as their chief feature native fauna or flora. But General Hutton would have

nothing to do with kangaroos or emus, waratahs or wattles. He wanted something martial. "Something like that," he said, pointing to a trophy of arms hanging on the wall of his office. This consisted of a semi-circular board, red in colour, on which was placed a large brass crown, surmounted by a half-circle of swords and bayonets. Such was the origin of the Commonwealth badge, which, in a later form, became popularly known as the Rising Sun.

A Melbourne die-sinker was asked to submit designs embodying General Hutton's idea. He furnished two, one with a crown, and the other with the now discarded "Advance Australia" coat of arms. The former was approved on the 7th February, 1902, and a supply rushed through for the 1st Battalion.

Fig. 2

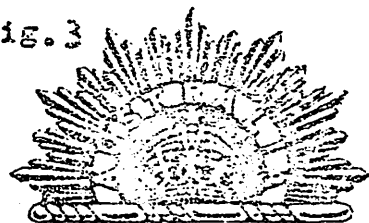


The first design (introduced for the 1st Bn. Australian Commonwealth Horse in 1902).

The badge for some of the later battalions was altered in two details. The metal around the word "Australia" was cut away, possibly to enable

a decorative effect to be obtained by placing the badge over a piece of coloured cloth. The rays, or arms, were also made differently.

Fig. 3



A later design for the Australian Commonwealth Horse.

In 1903 it was decided to introduce a badge for the Commonwealth Military Forces, which General Hutton was then endeavouring to weld into one federal force. Retaining the motif of the badge worn by the Commonwealth Horse battalions, the well-known firm of J. R. Gaunt & Son, of Birmingham, designed a badge identical with the A.I.F.'s Rising Sun.

This was taken into use in 1904. For a time it was worn only by the staff, the militia regiments taking advantage of the permission granted them to retain their own distinctive badges if they preferred. With the introduction of universal training in 1911 the badge came into general use, and in August, 1914, General Bridges had no hesitation in adopting it as the badge of the A.I.F.

Fig. 4



The design introduced in 1904 for the Commonwealth Military Forces and identical with the A.I.F.'s "Rising Sun."

When was the badge first called the Rising Sun? That is a question it is difficult, indeed impossible, to answer. Officially it has always been, and still is, known as the "Badge, Commonwealth, large, for hat," or "small, for collar." Doubtless to dodge this clumsy nomenclature some bright quartermaster introduced the new and now popular name.



The foregoing article appeared during the war of 1939-45, in a small souvenir publication entitled "We of the A.I.F." in conjunction with the film of that name.

This story of the development of the Australian Army badge is not accepted universally:-

Mr Robert Gray has provided the following interesting facts which challenge its veracity, and I quote his words:-

"Sir Edward Hutton assumed the position of G.O.C. the Commonwealth Military Forces on January 29th 1902. The badge was issued to "D" Company 1st Battalion Aust. Commonwealth Horse in Brisbane prior to leaving for Sydney on the 26th January 1902 where it joined the N.S.W. unit of this force. They left Sydney in the transport "Custodian" on the 18th February 1902. The badge was designed by Col. Cox Taylor and is taken from a part of the hat badge as worn by the old 6th. (Australian Rifle Regiment) N.S.W. Infantry. He was attached to the unit in 1897 and designed the badge for the regiment. The 1st. Batt. Aust. Commonwealth Horse was commanded by Col. J.S. Lyster and it was this officer who asked his Adjutant Capt. Cox Taylor to design a badge for the regiment."

The Army seems content with the former version, however, as Australian newspapers in April 1958 included a recruiting advertisement which depicted a version of the trophy of arms shown in Fig.1, followed by these words:-

" This is the true story
The illustration above is an authentic reproduction of the original trophy of arms mounted above Major-General Sir Edward Huttons doorway in Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, from 1902 to 1904. This mounted trophy consisted of a red semi-circular board on which alternate triangular and cut-and-thrust sword bayonets radiated from a brass crown design. From this doorway trophy design came the rising sun badge to gain honour and fame all over the world."

In any event, it is probable that collectors will be interested in the various types of "suns" which are known by the writer to have existed.

The Australian Commonwealth Horse certainly had a badge other than that shown in Fig 2. In it the sun's "rays" or arms appeared similar to those in Fig 3, and the word "Australian" appeared around the crown, which surmounted a scroll curving downwards towards the outer edges and bearing the words "Commonwealth Horse".



The badge shown in Fig 3 was worn as a collar badge (mounted on a gorget patch) to the Coronation of King Edward the Seventh. It is understood that the hat badge worn on that occasion was identical in design, but in the larger size.

Both the above types of badges were oxidised.

The badge which was adopted in 1904 (fig 4) has appeared in a number of forms since that time. These included minor variations due to the use of different dies, and more important variations which are deserving of mention, and are set out below:-

1. In peacetime the badge was generally of brass, but during both world wars oxidised copper badges were made. Some stocks of peacetime badges were oxidised for wartime use. During the latter part of World War 2 badges were painted dark grey, some appearing almost black. Officers could purchase small sized badges in an attractive venetian bronze finish from certain military outfitters.

The large size was for wear on the turnedup side of the of the hat, although some soldiers in World War 1 are shown in photographs with hat badges worn on the fronts of their hat bands (as was done in the Transvaal War). The small size was for wear on the fronts of peaked caps, and on collars.

During World War 1 "Tiptaft" of Birmingham produced a small badge whose greatest width was $1\frac{1}{2}$ ", whereas the usual width of this badge was $1\frac{3}{8}$ "

Some hat badges had the English vertical prong fitted at the back but the majority had the two eyelets.

Small sized bronze rising sun badges were worn on the fronts of the small soft felt hats and on the collars of girls of the AWAS during their service in World War 2. This sign was also worn on berets of troops utilising that form of headress.

2. Stokes & Sons of Melbourne manufactured a magnificent bi-metal and enamel sun, in both the large and small sizes, apparently the officers equivalent of the brass badge worn by other ranks.

The shape was as in Fig 4. The sun's rays and crown were yellow gilt, and the scroll with wording was of sterling silver. The semicircular "body" of the sun and the top of the crown were pierced to show a backing of red enamel.



3. A particularly fine solid sterling silver badge was manufactured by the well-known British firm of Gaunt & Sons. This was understood to have been worn by officers of the Light Horse between the years 1922 & 1930, before the re-introduction of regimental badges. (Between 1911 and 1922 Compulsory Training units wore brass numerals on the fronts of their hats, in conjunction with coloured bands denoting corps). Only the large size silver badge has been seen by the writer.

A lightweight pressed badge in a silver finish also existed at this time.

4. Members of the Royal Australian Nursing Service wore a white metal badge brooch fashion at the neck of their hospital uniforms, or as a tiepin with walking out dress. This was the small-sized badge, flat in appearance fitted at the back with a horizontal hinged pin which engaged a hook at the pointed end. This badge was worn until the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps received its own badge for hats and collars about 1952.

5. In 1952 the word "Commonwealth" was omitted from the title of Rising Sun Badges. The new badges appeared in both the large and the small sizes, and were in gilt and in frosted silver finishes. The original fastenings for the small-sized badges comprised a pair of sharpened metal prongs which could be pushed through the material of the garment, and then bent over. These were later discontinued, due to breakages, and the twin eyelets were used again. Silvered badges are at present used by some units which either have no regimental badge, or else have a regimental badge in insufficient quantities for all uses.

Since its introduction and until 1957 the Rising Sun Badge (with one exception was the only badge which was worn officially to war by all ranks of the Australian Army below the rank of Colonel. The exception was the "R.A.A." badge of the Artillery, which was worn in France and Flanders during the war of 1914-18. (Numerous badges were worn unofficially but these do not fall within the scope of this article).

Many units of School Cadets discontinued the use of their distinctive unit uniforms and badges during World War 2, and were issued with Army uniforms and bronze rising suns. These are still in use by many Cadet units, although the use of school unit badges is again spreading.

National Service trainees of the Army continue to wear Rising Sun badges (no collar badges are worn in the present battle dress tunics) in brass or bronze, many of them being the old wartime issues.



Immediately before the issue of the new type badges about 1952, many troops were required to polish their bronzed badges and buttons to achieve a bright copper finish.

On September 7th 1957, Australian newspapers carried under the headline "Rising Sun Badge passing" the following news item:-

"The distinctive Rising Sun Badge, which has become a part of every Australian Digger, will be left behind by the Malaya Force.

It will be the first time that Australian troops have gone overseas without wearing the badge on their hats. It has been replaced by regimental badges, which were withdrawn during the war.

The Rising Sun emblem was originally the badge of the Australian Light Horse regiment which fought in the Boer War.

It was redesigned in 1903 and adopted as the Commonwealth Badge.

Korea Force men sailed with Rising Sun badges, but were issued with regimental badges later."

On September 8th the Minister for the Army (Mr. Francis) was reported as having stated that "the traditional badge of the Australian Army the Rising Sun" would be worn by the Army component leaving for Malaya

Newspapers of the 27th October contained an item, under the heading "Badge" which said that the compromise reached concerning the wearing of the Rising Sun badge by Australian troops in Malaya was regarded as entirely unsatisfactory by the Returned Servicemens League of Australia.

Quote:- "Congress was told that troops of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, in Malaya wore the badge of the Regiment on their hats, and a cloth rising sun replica on their left sleeve."

These cloth badges depicted the Rising Sun in yellow, outlined and picked out in black, with the words "Australian Military Forces" in black on the scroll. The "Queen's crown" is blocked in in red. Badges are woven on two different backgrounds, one green, the other fawn, to match the colours of uniforms in use. Dimensions of the patch are 2"

This is not the first occasion on which a cloth rising sun badge has been worn by Australian troops.

Between 1915 and 1919 Permanent Forces of the A.M.F. wore a blue Rising Sun, with fawn lettering "Aust'n Military Forces" on the scroll and the Imperial Crown outlined in red. This badge was the same size as the hat badge and was embroidered onto a strip of khaki Drill 2" wide. Badges were "cut off the roll". The specimen of this patch which is in the writers possession measures 2" x 3½".

A woven patch for the Australian Victory Contingent featured the rising sun. This will be described in an article dealing with patches issued for special occasions.



LANYARDS.

The dress of personnel of the A.F.F. is now being brightened up by the addition of coloured whistle lanyards worn around the right shoulder and tucked into the breast pocket.

In order to ensure uniformity of colours the Army has expressed each colour by name, and also by a British Colour Code number.

These are set out below:-

SCARLET(BCC 209).

Royal Military College(The Sovereigns Company),
Royal Australian Infantry Corps,
Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps,
Royal Australian Army Provost Corps,
Officer Cadet School(Senior Company).

DULL CHERRY(BCC 38).

Royal Australian Army Medical Corps.

MAROON(BCC39).

Australian Army Legal Corps.

ROYAL BLUE(BCC 197).

Royal Australian Corps of Signals.

DARK BLUE(BCC 50).

Royal Australian Engineers.

DARK BLUE(BCC 49).

Royal Corps of Australian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers.

PALE BLUE(BCC 45).

Australian Army Educational Corps.

SLATE GREY(BCC 145).

Australian Army Catering Corps.

PURPLE(--).

Royal Australian Survey Corps.

YELLOW(BCC 112).

Royal Australian Armoured Corps.

YELLOW(BCC 114).

Royal Australian Army Service Corps,

Royal Australian Army Pay Corps.

RIFLE GREEN(BCC 27).

Royal Australian Regiment,
17/18th. Infantry Battalion(double twist).

MID GREEN(--).

Australian Intelligence Corps.

COSSACK GREEN(BCC 105).

Royal Australian Army Dental Corps.

WHITE(--).

Royal Australian Artillery.

KHAKI(BCC 72).

Royal Australian Military College(except Sovereigns Company),
Officer Cadet School(except Senior Company).



A SPECIAL "WANT."

We would particularly like to help out friends of the Army in a quest which has been advertised recently in the Press, so far without success.

Here is a copy of the press release:--

BAND SEEKS OLD SWORD.

One of the Australian Army's leading bands - The Royal Australian Engineers - based in New South Wales, has been unable to find a staff sergeant's sword for its Drum Major, although officers of the Corps, and the Institution of Engineers, Australia, have made efforts to obtain one overseas and in Australia.

The Institution told the Corps that it wished to present to the band two ceremonial swords - for the bandmaster and drum major - but swords of the traditional type are difficult to obtain in the United Kingdom.

As an alternative the Institution, at its annual conference in Newcastle this week, presented to the band a drum major's staff, which was a replica of the staff carried by the drum major of the Royal Engineers' Band in England. But the Corps is still keen to obtain the sword, which, by tradition, must be carried by the drum major.

A few of these swords, known as a "Claymore with basket hilt" were used in Australia, for ceremonial purposes, up to 1938. These were a legacy from the time when British troops were stationed in Australia. The main means of identification is the heavy nickel scabbard.

Officers of the Corps would be grateful to anyone knowing where such a sword might be obtained.

A copy of the Specification of "Sword, Staff Sergeants, No. 1, Mark 111, accompanied by detailed drawing, is held by the Editor, and if any member knows, or thinks he knows, of such a sword which might be available to the band, the Editor would like very much to hear of it., and check details.

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A NEW ARMS SOCIETY.

Our friend Mr Peter Bullock, of Sydney, has advised us of the recent formation of "The Antique Arms Collectors Society of Australia."

The Secretary is Mr. W. Bartlett, of 35 Juvenis Ave., Caravan Head, Sydney. N.S.W.

.....



1/14.

COLOUR PATCHES OF THE AUSTRALIAN
ARMY----1.

During and between the two World Wars, members of the Australian Army (both A.I.F. and A.M.F.), and later the Interim Forces, wore colour patches on their sleeves.

Colour patches were introduced early in the First World War, replacing small bronze metal numerals and abbreviated corps titles which were worn by the first troops who went off to war. At one time or another about 290 different colour patches were worn during the War.

Between the Wars, the number dropped to as few as 167.

The greatest number of patches ever worn by the Army was seen during World War 2. The exact number is unknown, but was probably about 1000.

During 1941 colour patches commenced to be worn on hat bands and berets in "shirt sleeve" order of dress.

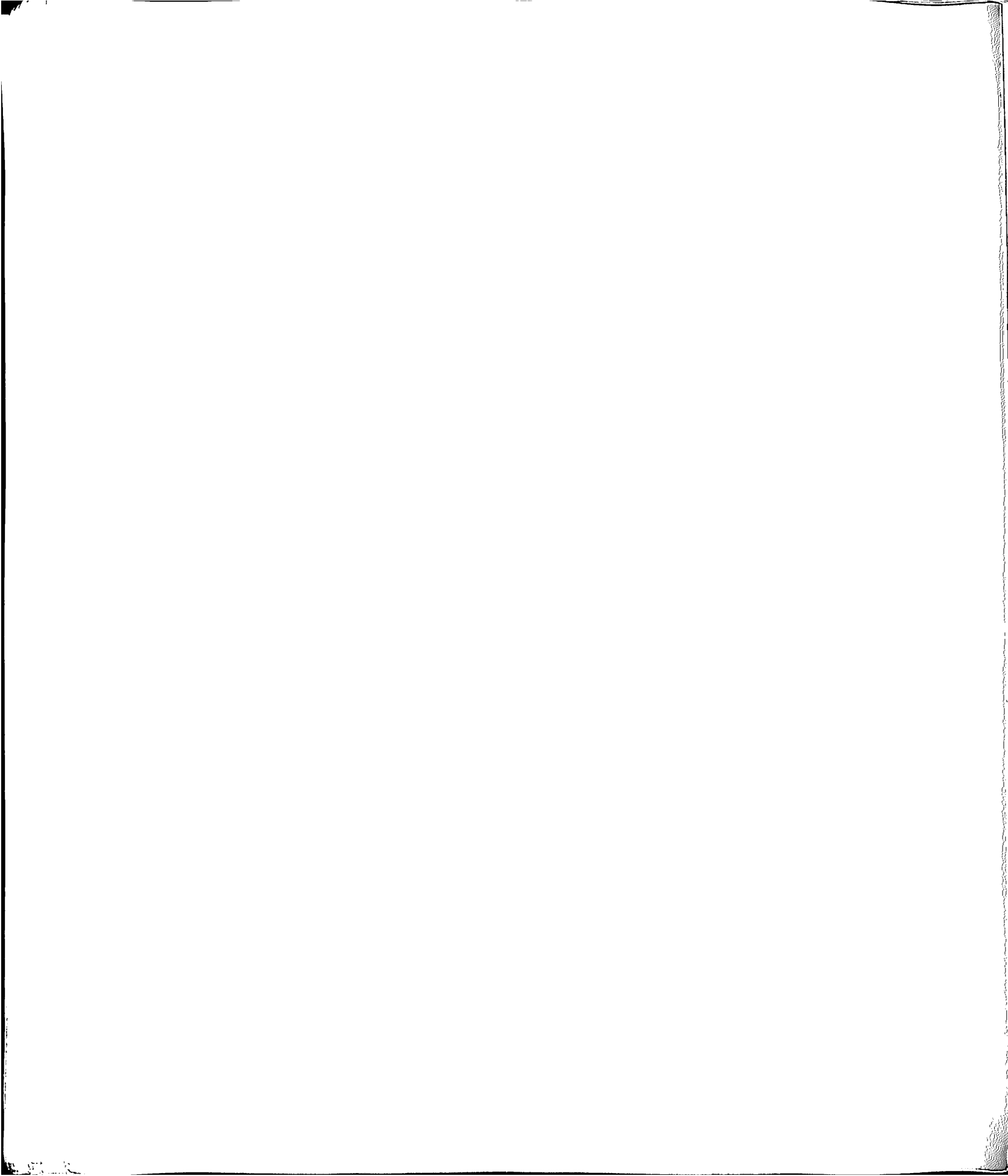
By the beginning of 1945 colour patches had become so numerous and so complex that the Army effected simplification and drastic reduction. For example, over 125 wartime patches of the Medical Corps were replaced in 1945 by one patch.

Dress Regulations of 1922 provided that serving soldiers could indicate previous service in a World War 1 unit by wearing the patch of that unit in miniature above the full size patch of the current unit. These miniature patches were to be half the size of the full size patch, and were worn $\frac{1}{2}$ " below the shoulder, and $\frac{1}{2}$ " above the full size patch. A patch to denote previous service in the Navy was of navy blue material, 2"x1", with the letters "R A N" in white thereon.

During World War 2, soldiers who transferred from one unit to another wore the miniature patch of the former unit over the patch of the latter.

Colour patches of the 2nd.A.I.F. had a $\frac{1}{4}$ " surround of french grey material. Militia and Garrison units had no surround, even though the patch might have been otherwise identical. An additional dress distinction of the 2nd.A.I.F. was the title "AUSTRALIA", worn in metal on the shoulder straps of service dress uniforms, and embroidered on cloth slides for shirts etc.

In 1952 all colour patches were abolished, and formation signs and cloth titles were introduced.



Shapes of colour patches were significant of the formation to which the wearer belonged, and in the case of WW2, the shapes included the following:-

- A square, denoting higher commands, L of C units or base units;
- A triangle, Corps troops, M G and pioneers;
- An upright rectangle, 5th. Division;
- A squat rectangle, 6th. Division;
- A square set diamond-wise, 7th. Division;
- An oval, 8th. Division;
- A circle (and, after Tobruk, a T-shaped patch), 9th. Div;
- An arrow head pointing forward, 11th. Division;
- A double diamond, Commando units.

There were various other shapes for Armoured and Motor units.

In most patches the positioning of the colours had a definite significance; for instance, in the cases of Infantry and Armoured units the lower colour indicated the Brigade, and the upper colour indicated the Battalion within the Brigade.

In the following series, a number of patches will be illustrated, and, as far as possible, patches have been checked against original samples.

(Bibliography: "Colour Patches", Sun News Pictorial, Melbourne, 1945,
 "To Benghazi", Gavin Long, A.W.M., Canberra, 1952.

- Series No.1 shows:-
- (a) Higher Commands,
 - (b) 2nd. A.I.F. Middle East,
 - (c) 6th. Division, 2nd. A.I.F.

May 1958.

A.N.Festberg.

.....

The Hume Regiment.

On 23rd. March 1958, The Hume Regiment (The 59th. Infantry Battalion) was granted the Freedom of Entry to the City of Shepparton, Victoria, its "home" city.

This is the first occasion on which the Freedom of a City has been granted in Australia.

The Hume Regiment displays on its Colours battle honours won by the 59th. Battalion A.I.F. in the War of 1914-1918.

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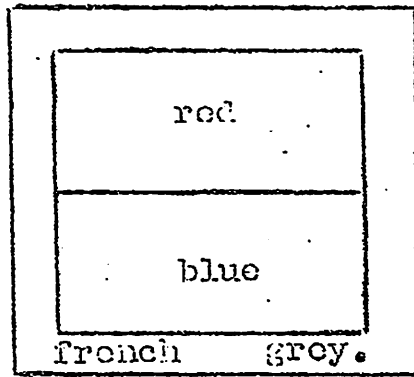


AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES
HIGHER COMMANDS

Land H.Q.

1 Aust. Army.

2 Aust. Army.

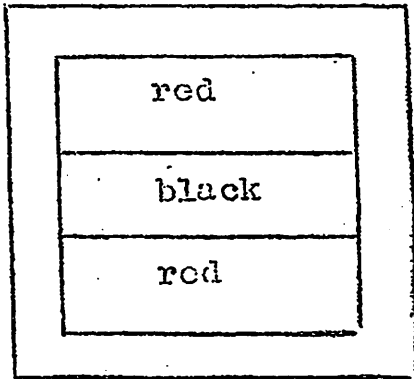


1.

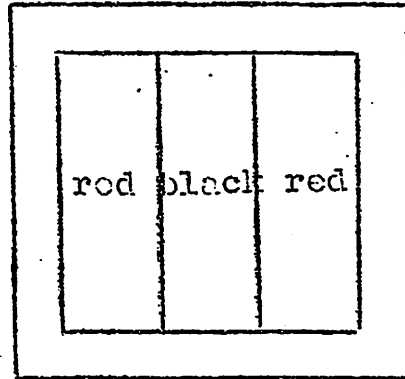
4. 1 Aust. Corps.

5. 2 Aust. Corps.

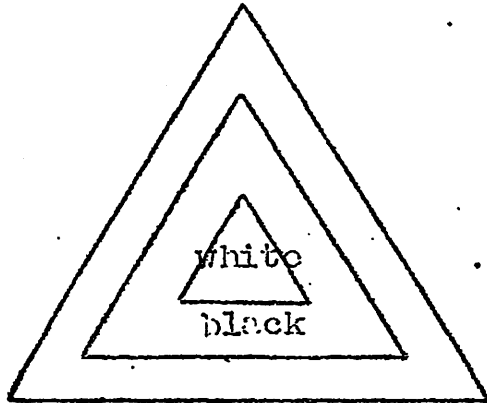
6. 3 Aust. Corps.



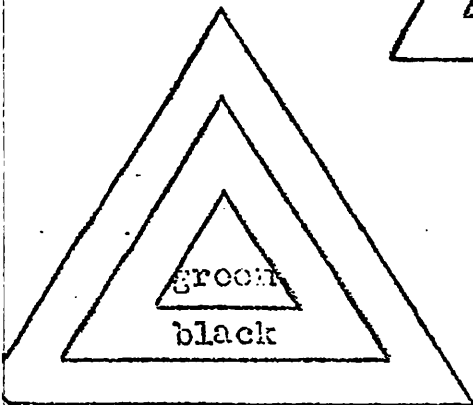
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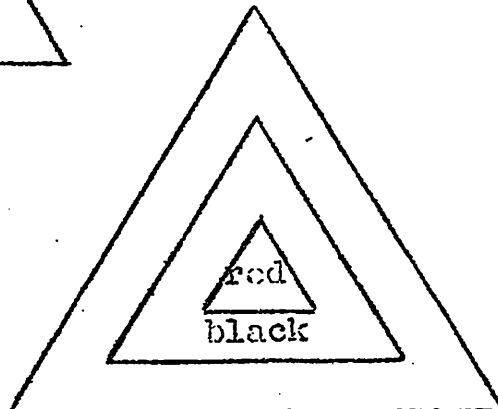
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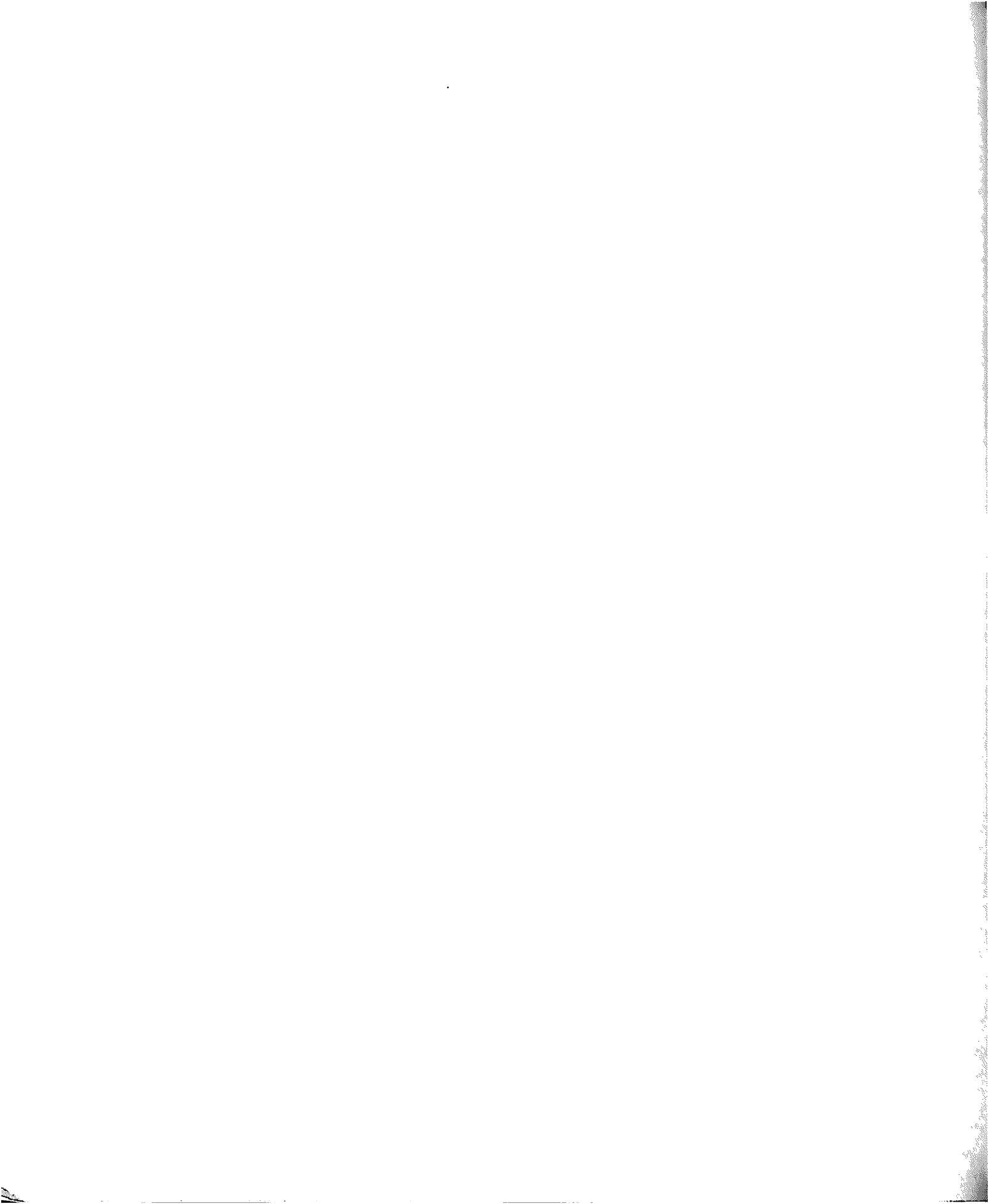
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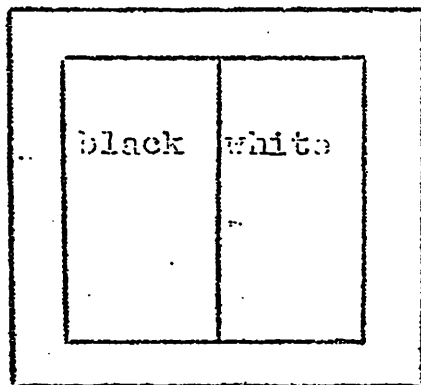
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6.

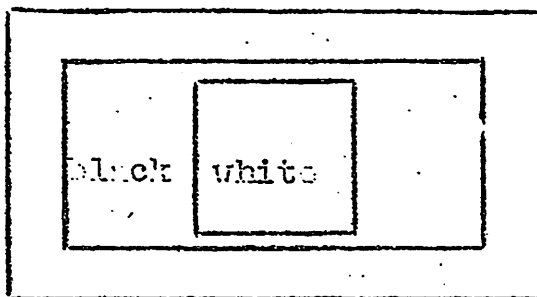


7.



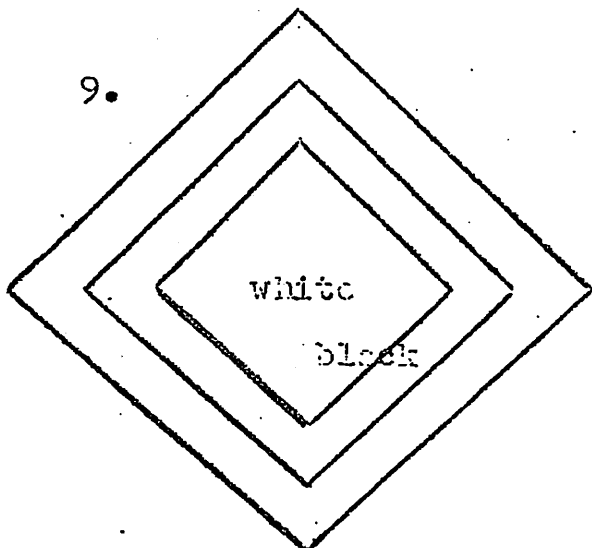
AIF Administration HQ.

8.



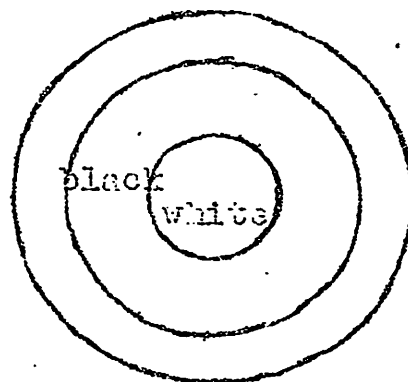
5th. Division.

9.

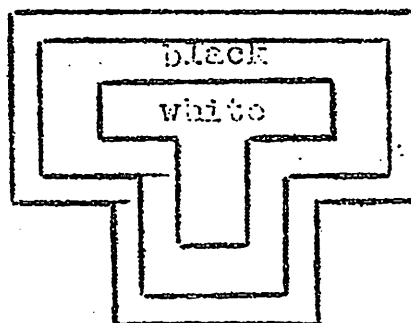


7th. Division.

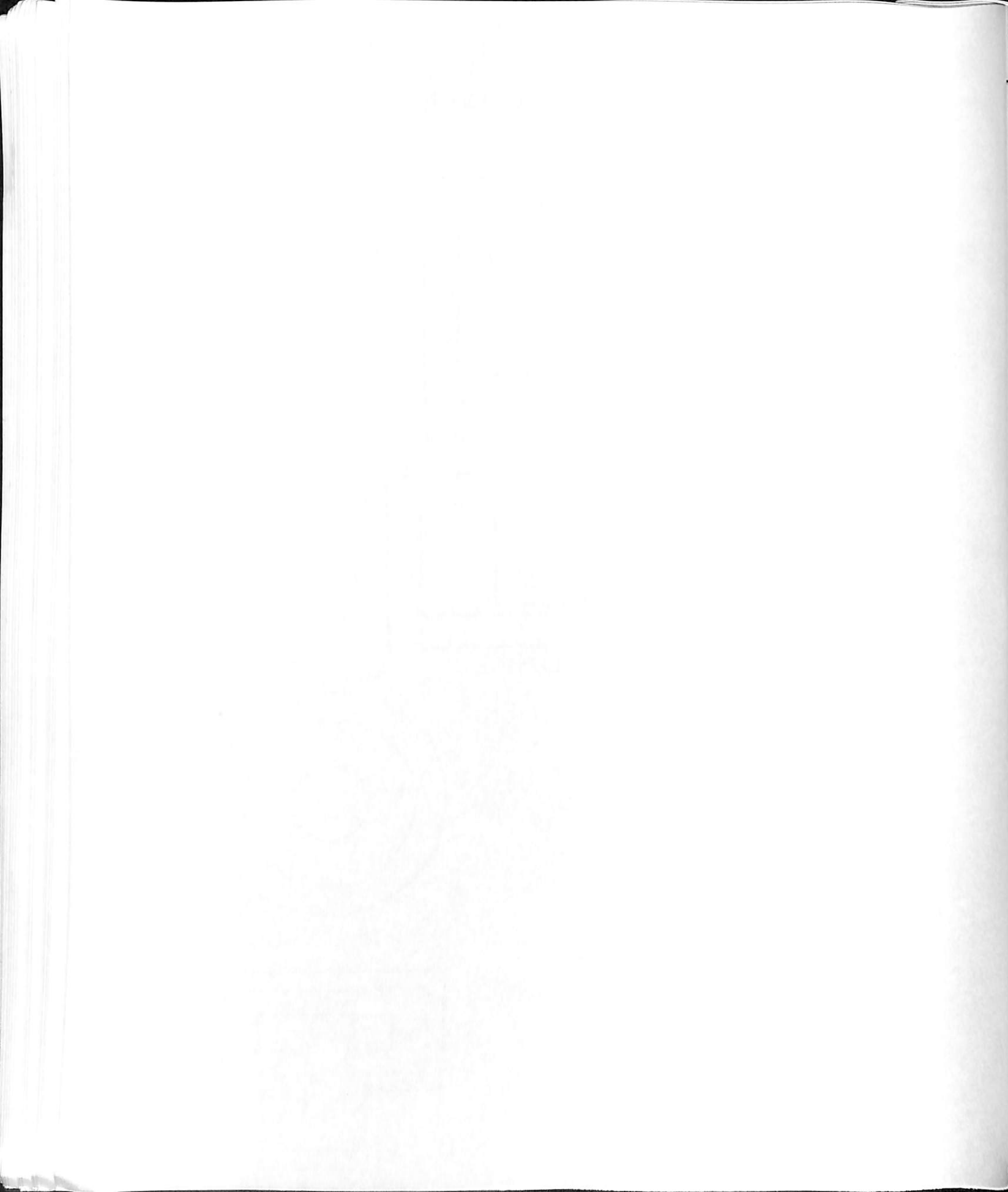
10.



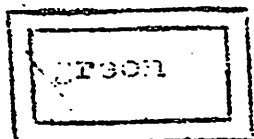
9th. Division (to 1942).



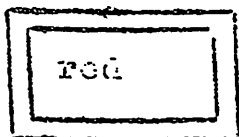
10th. Division (to 1942)



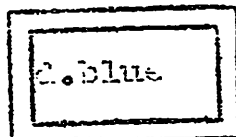
(c). 6th. Division A.I.F.



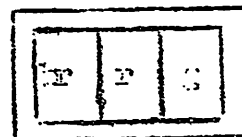
HQ 16 Bde.



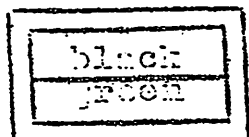
HQ 17 Bde.



HQ 19 Bde.



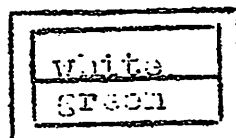
2/6 Cav. (cd)
Regt.



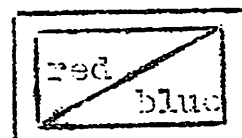
2/1 Bn.



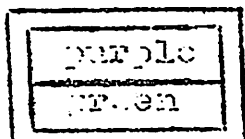
2/5 Bn.



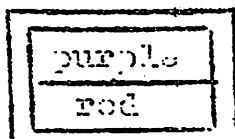
2/4 Bn.



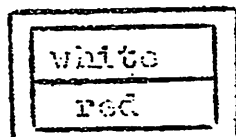
Artillery.



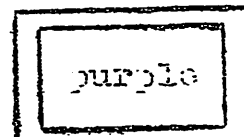
2/2 Bn.



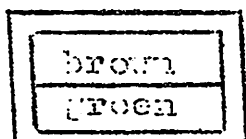
2/6 Bn.



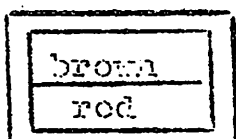
2/8 Bn.



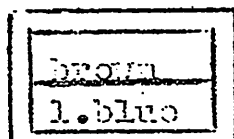
Engineers.



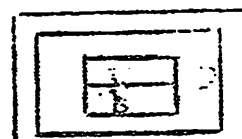
2/3 Bn.



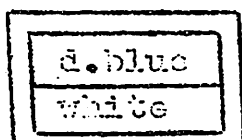
2/7 Bn.



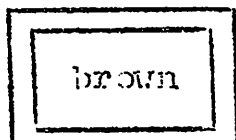
2/11 Bn.



Signals.



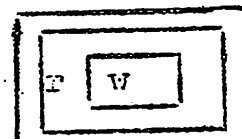
AASC.



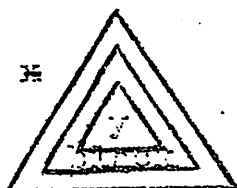
AAMC.



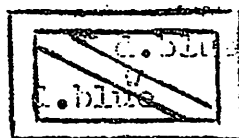
Provost Coys.



Postal.



2/1 MG. Bn.



Carrier Coy.

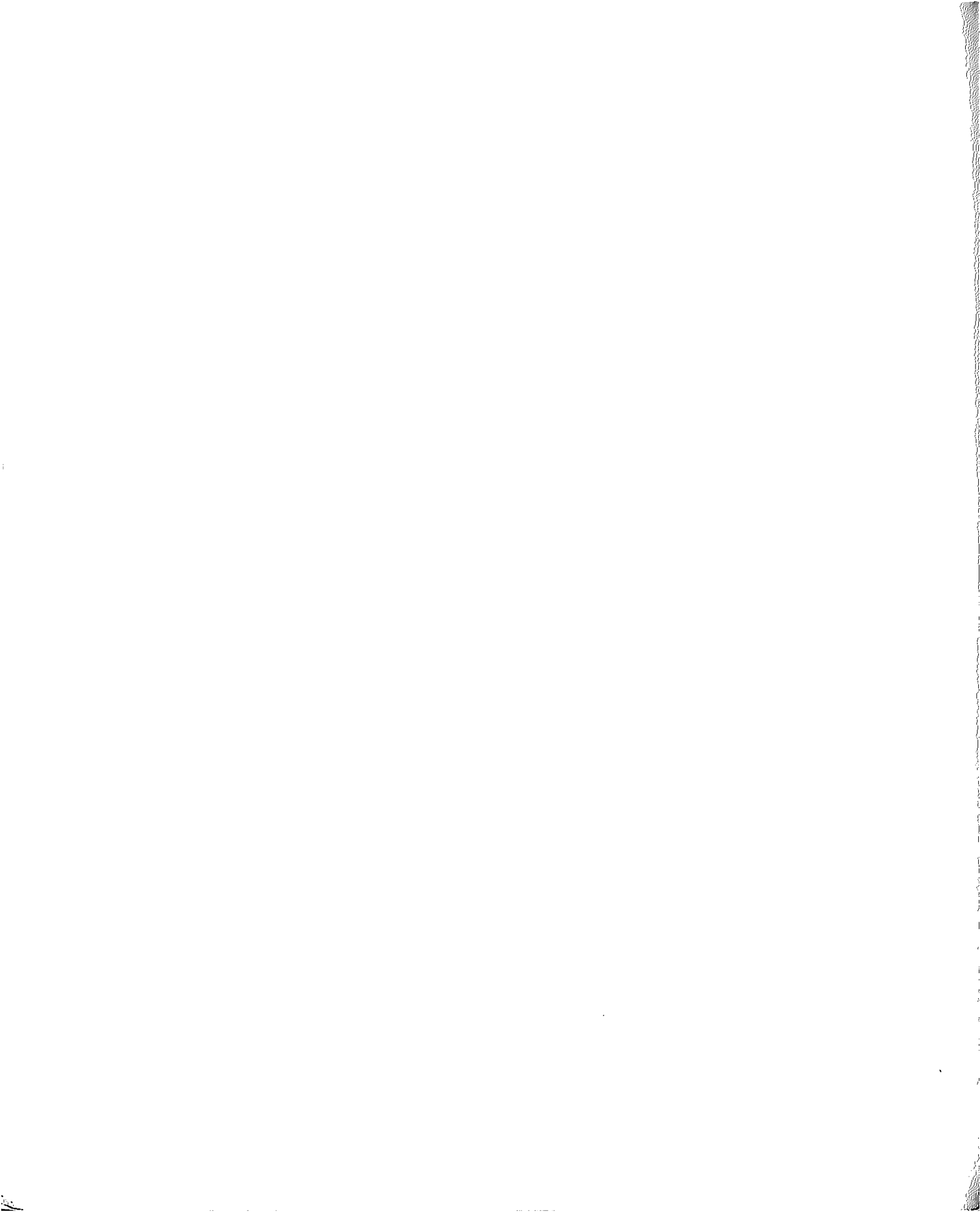


2/1 Pioneer Bn.

(≡ Corps Troops attached to Division.)

br = brown, r = red, g = green, p = purple, w = white, b = blue,
y = yellow.

(Patches illustrated in (a) and (b) are actual sizes; the above
are reduced in size for convenience.)



SOCIETY NOTES

1/19.

The Military Collectors Society was formed on 17.5.57. During the first twelve months of its existence, much time was necessarily spent in "getting organised". A Constitution was drafted, and the foundation members had to get to know each other.

Time was found however, for a small Christmas party, which was held on 21.12.57, and with this function were combined the following competitions.

1. Best American model soldier, any period, conversion or manufacture by competitor.
2. Best soldier or police figure of any period or country - conditions as 1.
3. Best mounted figure - conditions as 1.
4. Best exhibit of military insignia 1800-1914.

Trophies, which were generously donated by some of our members, were awarded to the winners in each section, and the occasion may fairly be claimed to have been a success.

During the period of the Australian Industries Fair (3 weeks from 7.3.58), and exhibit of model soldiers, uniform items, badges, books, etc., was displayed in the Exhibition Building. This exhibit attracted much interest, but costs incurred detracted from its success.

Television viewers received a very brief glimpse of some of our collectors' pieces on 8.5.58.

The Committee has also engaged in a considerable amount of business including :-

1. Application to the Secretary, Department of the Army, for official recognition of this Society, and assistance in the procurement of badges, etc. This matter is being dealt with. As one of the main aims of this Society is research into military dress, it is hoped that in due course we will have access to libraries of military establishments.
2. Application to the Director of the Australian War Memorial for publication of postcards depicting Australian uniforms, for publication of military colour prints, and for assistance in providing certain material for "Sabretache". A sympathetic reply has



been received, although it is understood that the publication of postcards may not be considered economically possible, due to lack of demand.

3. An approach to leading Australian manufacturers of metal and cloth badges, seeking the supply of obsolete badges for collection purposes. Some manufacturers have old stocks on hand, and one well-known firm expressed willingness to restrike old metal badges to order, provided that orders will be economically worthwhile. A trial order has been placed for a wide variety of badges to fill definite requests so far received.

Members wishing to purchase either metal or cloth insignia should write to the Hon. Secretary.

4. Approaches to Military units which have observed ceremonial (such as Trooping of the Colour, etc.) for copies of their official programmes for distribution to members. Unfortunately, up to date, these have had to be purchased, and it has been possible to send copies only to our kindred societies overseas for purposes of historical record.

Members who would be prepared to purchase these programmes as they are issued should write to the Editor stating their requirements (i.e. complete coverage, trooping of colours only, etc.) Costs seem to average about 2/- per copy. We will endeavour to arrange for the supply of any back numbers and will try to advertise forthcoming functions in sufficient time to allow members to order programmes.

Procedures at meetings have been streamlined and members are invited to attend on the third Friday in every month, and to bring along more of their models, or latest acquisitions, for discussion and display.

Competitions, particularly in the model field are expected to be held annually at Christmas Time. Details will be notified in the next issue of "Sabretache".

It is regrettable that a "sour note" was struck when two of our early members, B. Snowfoot and J.I. Lock, had to be expelled under the provisions of Article 17 of the Constitution. It is hoped that the provisions of this Article will not need to be exercised again,

The previous Committee was re-elected at the May monthly meeting.

R. POWELL,
Hon. President.



1/21.

ARTICLES WANTED

The Editor will be pleased to receive articles for inclusion in "Sabretache". If you have information which is of interest, but feel unable to write an article about it, then send the information in rough form, and we will see what we can do with it.

Articles should be as factual as possible - when a matter is in doubt, the doubt should be expressed. When authority exists for a statement it is desirable to quote it.

So, whatever the subject, and no matter the form, provided there is a chance that it will be of interest to the members, the Editor would like to receive it.

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INFORMATION WANTED

Mr. A.N. Festberg is endeavouring to compile for the Society a lineage of Australian Cavalry and Infantry units from Federation to date.

If any member can provide any information which will assist Mr. Festberg, he will be grateful to hear of it.

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A DISTINGUISHED SERVICE BADGE

We are informed that the Soviet Army has a badge which could place it in the lead in the worldwide competition for the creation of new badges.

It is that of "Distinguished Sanitary Man", and apparently is in the form of a red and silver badge, somewhat shield-shaped, for wear on the right breast.

Does any reader know of a similar badge for another country?

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1/22.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED.---Old Australian and New Zealand badges, buttons etc., of Army, Navy and Air Force.
Robert Gray, 5 Elder Tce., Glengowrie, Sth. Australia.

WANTED.---Confederate relics of the American Civil War; large copy of Confederate battle flag; Confederate kepi (or a copy); German pickelhaube and Uhlan cap; British Line Infantry and Dragoon helmets; and, from Australian source only, a Martini Henry rifle.
K.Pryor, 28 Jersey St., Balwyn, Vic.

WANTED.---Nazi uniform peaked cap; models of Nazi German soldiers, other than Wm.Britain's figures; American Civil War relics.
K.Gilkinson, 36 John St., Oakleigh, Vic.

WANTED.---I am keen to acquire the following pieces of headdress for inclusion in my collection:-
Lancer helmets of British and German Armies as in 1914, preferably of 17th. Lancers and as worn by 19th.Uhlans.
Officer types not required.
B.J.Videon, 1 Harper Ave., Bentleigh SE15, Vic.

FORMATION SIGNS WANTED.---1 pair of each of 1 AGRA, 5 AGRA, and 7th. Infantry Brigade.
Alfred Festberg, 2 Springfield Ave., Toorak, Vic.

FOR SALE.--- 2 WW1 German pickelhaube helmets, in gray felt, with detachable grey iron spikes, grey badges etc., have been handed to me for sale. These are in very fair condition, and the owner asks £3 for each. One Prussian, the other Wurtemberg. Postage extra.
B.J.Videon, 1 Harper Ave., Bentleigh SE 15, Vic.

WANTED.--- A collector specialising in miniature figures and headdress of FRANCE FIRST EMPIRE and IMPERIAL GERMANY 1880 to 1910, I am anxious to acquire a German Dragoon type helmet, early Prussian figures by Wm.Britain and any Napoleonic figures by Hignot.
Bob Powell, 11 Daff Ave. Moorabbin, Victoria. XL 4131.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS.

On November 22nd. 1957 celebrated the 50th. Anniversary of the granting of the title "Royal".

The Corps of Australian Engineers was formed in 1902 from the States' Field and Submarine Miner Companies, and on November 19th. 1907 the title "Royal" was granted.



WHITE COOLIES

Our readers may be interested to know that there is available at F.W. Cheshire Pty. Ltd. Booksellers, of 338 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, a paper covered edition of Sister Betty Geffrey's excellent book "White Coolies", which tells of the experiences of a group of Australian Nurses in Japanese hands.

Price is 3/9d, and no one interested in the literature of the 1939-45 War should miss this book.

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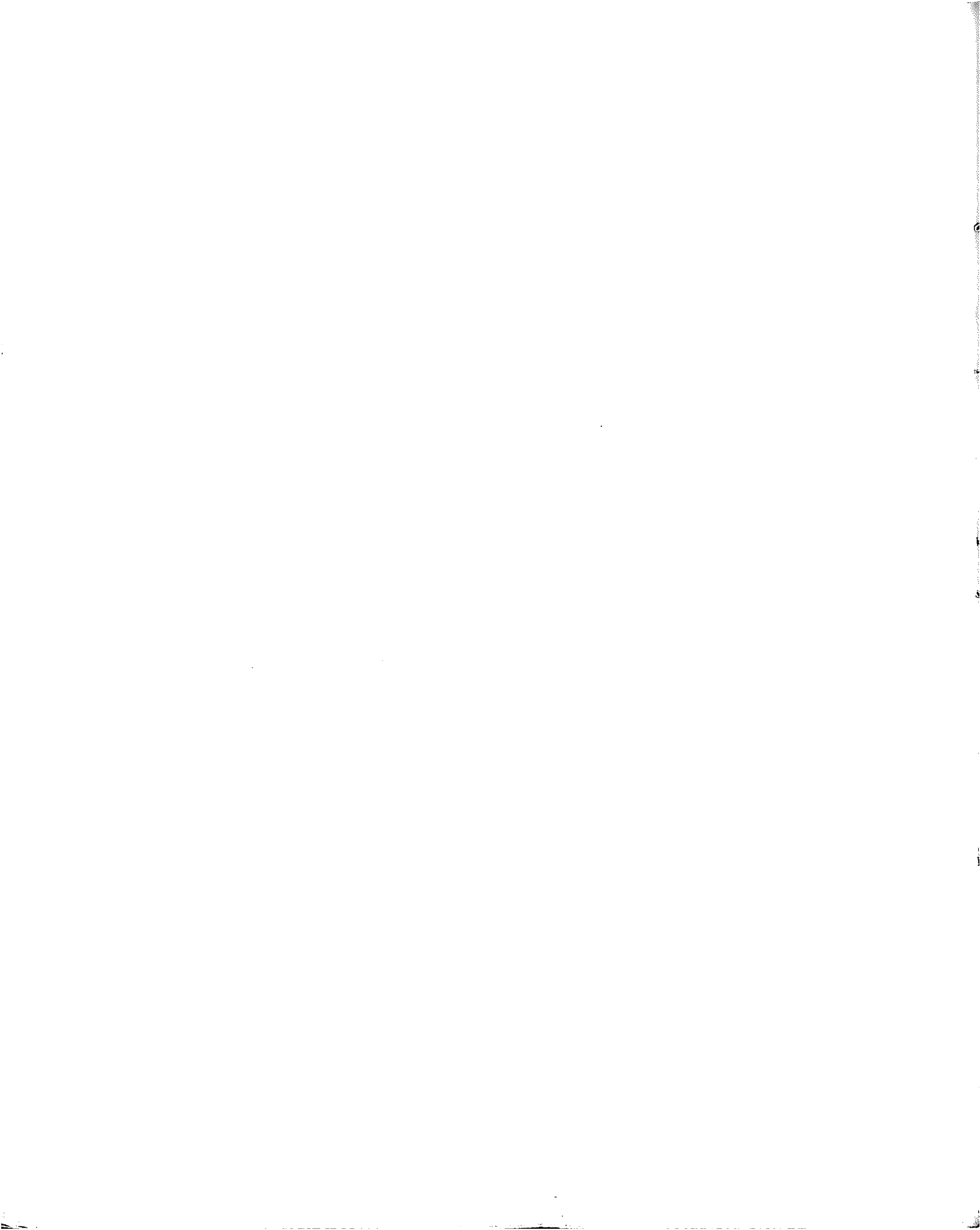
ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE, DUNTROON

The Queen Mother presented the Queen Elizabeth the Second's Banner to the Corps of Staff Cadets at The Royal Military College on 26th February, 1958.

Five thousand guests watched as 200 cadets in No. 1 ceremonial dress "blues" took part. The R.M.C. Band was dressed in white helmets and white coated uniforms.

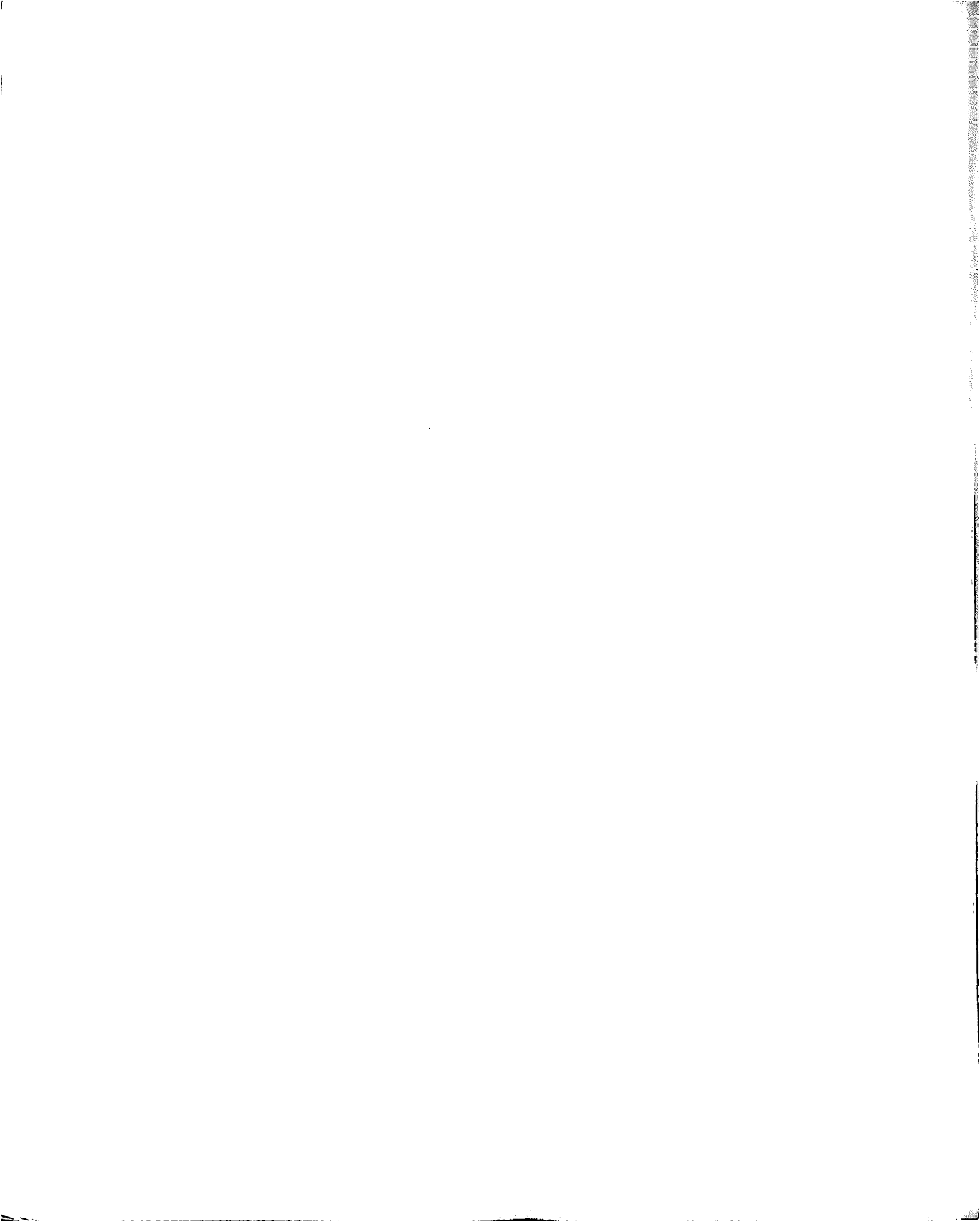
The banner is to be held each year by the champion cadet company, which is now known as the "Sovereign's Company".

The Commonwealth Government Clothing Factory in Melbourne manufactured the banner, which is of blue silk, fringed with gold. The Queen's Cipher appears in gold on one side, with the crown embroidered in coloured silks. The year "1954" appears on the top left corner of this side. The Royal Coat-of-Arms appears on the other side. The Staff, surmounted by a lion and crown, is decorated with two red tasselled cords. (26.2.58).



D I R E C T O R Y .

- ASHRAF, M., 16-3-992, Malakpate, Hyderabad, AP2, INDIA.
Collects buttons, titles, cap and collar badges (British C/W India.)
- CARTER, G.H. 44 Williams Rd., Prahran, VICTORIA.
Collects Artillery and aircraft models, German Insignia.
- DARE, Beatrice M., (Lieut-Col), W707 Fifth Ave., Spokane 4 Washington. U.S.A.
Collects Patches and metal insignia world wide.
- DINNEEN, T. 51 Woodville St., Hendra, Brisbane, QUEENSLAND.
Collects model soldiers 1939-45 and equipment of that period.
- DORNBUSCH, C.E. 50 Chauncey Ave., New Rochelle, N.Y. U.S.A.
Military bibliography.
- DUNCAN, I.L. 1580 Madison St., Oakland 12, Calif. U.S.A.
Collects U.S. Regimental insignia, and British C/Wealth metal cap and collar badges and shoulder titles. (No cloth.)
- FESTBERG, A. 2 Springfield Ave., Toorak, VICTORIA.
Collects Military literature and Australian Army insignia.
- FLEMING, James O., 202 Milford St., Clarksburg, West Virginia. U.S.A.
Unit histories, patches and distinctive insignia.
- GILKINSON, K. 36 John Street, Oakleigh, VICTORIA.
Collects model figures and literature re North American Indians, U.S. Cavalry and Nazi German forces, also Nazi insignia.
- GRAY, Robert, 5 Elder Terrace, Glengowrie, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.
Collects Naval and military history of Aust. & N.Z. forces, badges of same.
- HARPER, Hugh G. 5 Craigs Ave., Edinburgh 12 U.K.
Collects cap and hat badges of British C/Wealth, cloth formations, titles and flashes.
- HAZENBERG, R. 1 Devon Rd., Bucklands Beach, Auckland, N.Z.
Collects cap badges, cloth titles and formation signs.
- HIGGS, Brian M. 21 Wills St., Balwyn E.8, VICTORIA.
Collects military books and badges, mainly British C/W and U.S interested in Armbands and brassards.



- HINDS, Mack, 50 Middle St., Ascot Vale W.2, VICTORIA.
Collects badges and buttons.
- HORDEBN, P.B., 67 Argyle Rd., Kew E.4, VICTORIA.
Collects model soldiers modern period.
- KAYE, Peter, (Dr.) 227 McKinnon Rd., McKinnon, VICTORIA.
Collects and converts model soldiers, collects military prints and books, and Army medical insignia.
- KING, H.L., 3 South St., Farnham, Surrey, ENGLAND.
Collects British cap and helmet badges 1881-1957, Canadian cap badges since 1939, Australian cap badges during reign of present Sovereign only.
- LOUTH, Bernard, 26 Cark Rd., Keighley, Yorks, ENGLAND.
Collects anything military.
- MURRAY, Charles. R. 64 Donald St., Footscray W.11., VICTORIA.
Collects Police and military badges world wide.
- POWELL, Robert. 11 Daff Ave., Moorabbin, VICTORIA.
Casts, converts and collects model soldiers, particularly Napoleonic and Franco Prussian periods.
- PRYOR, K.W. 28 Jersey St., Balwyn, VICTORIA.
Collects model soldiers.
- SAUNDERS, A.W. 2 Home Cottages, Frieze Hill, Taunton, Somerset, ENGLAND.
Collects model soldiers.
- SKADINS, Charles R., 10 Duckett St., Brunswick, N.10, VICTORIA.
Collects books and cuttings etc., of military interest, American Civil War in particular.
- SPRAGUE, Rodney J. 35 North Rd., Elwood, VICTORIA.
Collects weapons and medals.
- STORER, H.J. 16 View Street, West Footscray, VICTORIA.
Police uniforms and badges of British C/Wealth.
- ✓ TEAGUE, Ian C. Lieut, R.R.A.R., Enoggera, QUEENSLAND.
Ribbons and decorations, titles and formation signs of Aust-Mil. Forces.
- ✓ TRAINOR, J. 32 Darlington Gve., East Coburg, VICTORIA.
Collects badges (cloth and metal) and medals.
- ✓ VIDEON, B. J. 1 Harper Ave., Bentleigh S.E. 15., VICTORIA.
Collects Military and naval headdress and insignia.
- WATSON, A. New Park, Tylden, Victoria.
Collects model soldiers, interested American Civil War.

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