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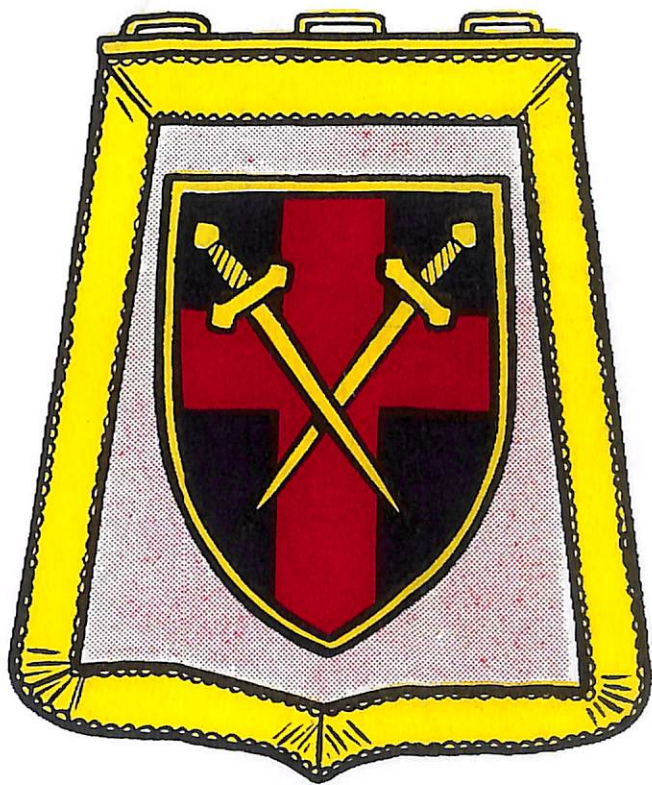
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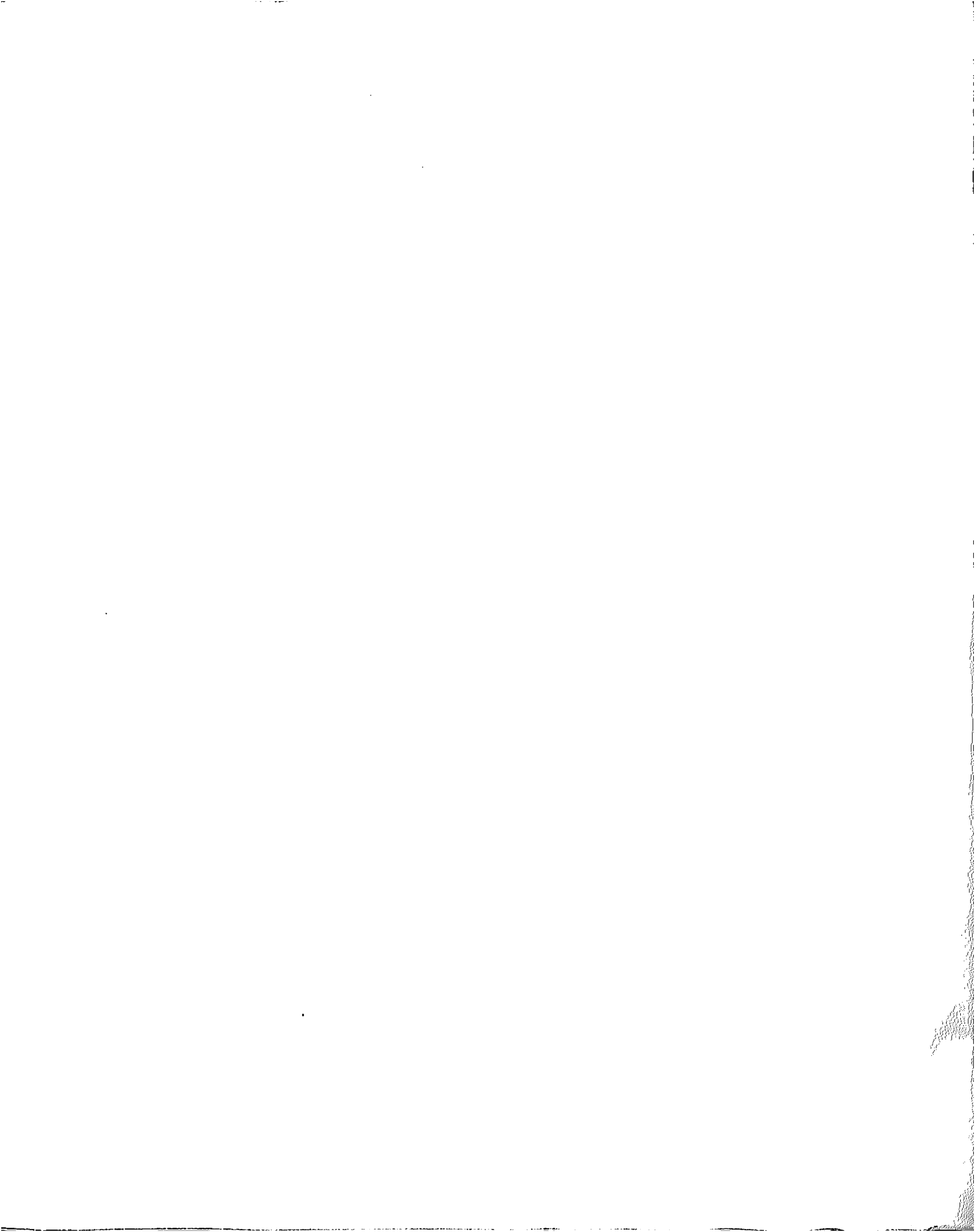


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The **MILITARY RESEARCH** and **COLLECTORS**
SOCIETY of **AUSTRALIA.**

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No. 1.

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ADVERTISEMENTS

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MEETINGS

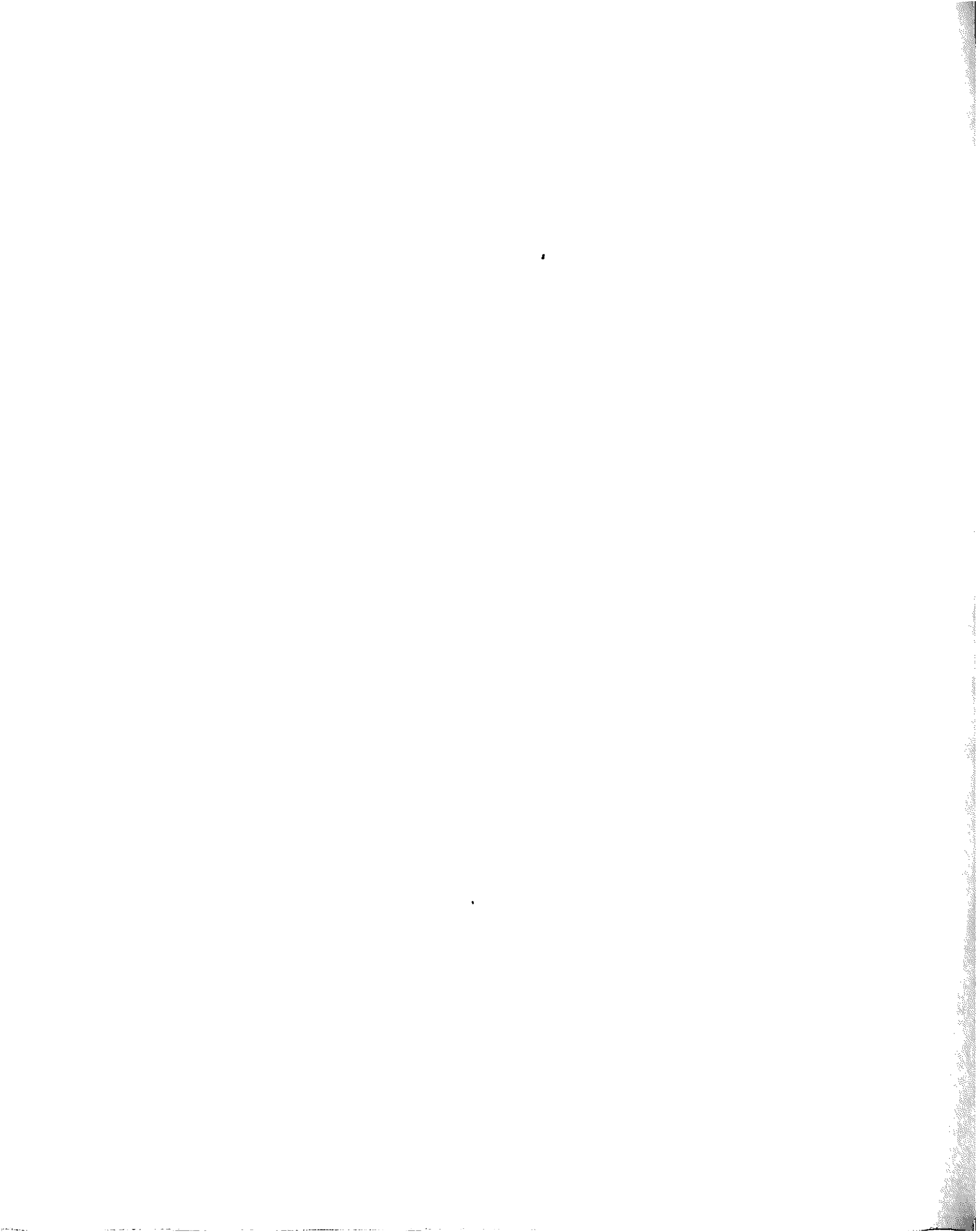
Meetings are held on the SECOND FRIDAY in each month. Meeting Place is usually notified in "SABRETACHE", but otherwise please contact the Hon. Secretary.

THE BADGE

Inset on the flap of our Sabretache is a representation of the Society's Badge.

BADGES

Lapel badges are available for 5/- each. Cuff links are available for 12/6 per pair.



LAST

POST.

Members will be sorry to hear of the death of one of our foundation members, after a long period of ill-health.

Mr. Charles R. MURRAY,

late of

64, Donald St., Footscray,
Victoria.

passed away

on

Saturday,

25th. June.

1960.

Charlie was a well-respected and liked member, and his passing will leave many with a sense of loss.

Four members of the Society attended the impressive funeral service.



I.

THE ROYAL MILITARY TOURNAMENT OF ENGLAND IN 1891
THE PARTICIPATION OF A TEAM FROM THE VICTORIAN MOUNTED RIFLES.

by Major Warren Perry, R.L.

"The mounted infantryman was an infantry soldier who fought on foot, and used his horse merely as a means of locomotion. He was trained as an infantryman, and the extra training required to make him a mounted infantryman consisted of enough equitation to enable him to get about without damage to himself or his horse and the enlargement of his views by practice in mounted reconnaissance".

(From "ANNALS OF THE KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS", vol. IV, p. 332)

i.

The Origin of the Royal Military Tournament.

It was said in 1890 that for many years past all English and Indian stations had had their military sports or tournaments, and that the stimulus which had been given to military training and to the development of the physical fitness of the Competitors, had done a great deal to promote efficiency, individually and collectively, within the British and Indian Armies.

The Royal Military Tournament (Later designated the Royal Tournament, and known by this title today) grew out of these military displays, and, after a couple of years of ineffective effort, it was established successfully, with the support of the public, as one of the regular events conducted by the British Army in England. (See The Programme of the Royal Tournament of 1948 which says that "The origin lay in an Assault-at-arms arranged by Colonel Tully of the Surrey Volunteer Rifles during the course of the National Rifle Associations meeting on Wimbledon Common in 1878.)

The first annual Tournament was held in 1880 under the direction of Major-General Burnaby and Mr. J.H. Rafferty, who was the manager of the Agricultural Show Ground at Islington, where these displays were originally held.



After the increasing popularity of the British Army in the English community had secured the success of the tournament of 1883 the annual display was permanently and officially established with the approval of the Commander-in-Chief of the British Army, the Duke of Cambridge.

It was stated in the programme of ^{the} Royal Tournament of 1948 that: "In 1897 there was a War Office talk about an Army tourney. A year later the Duke of Cambridge, with the approval of Queen Victoria, sanctioned the holding of a display of arms at the Royal Agricultural Hall, to benefit the Army Charities. Thus the Royal Tournament was born, and has carried on since Wolseley's day under five sovereigns".

Since that year this annual event has increased in importance and popularity, although this article is not concerned with the Royal Military Tournament after the year 1891.

The Royal Military Tournament had two objectives. One was to raise funds for military charities. The other was the promotion of skill-at-arms in all ranks of the regular and auxiliary forces of the Empire. As a public display, it was to some extent spectacular, but practical objects were kept in view and several of the most spectacular events also had training value. In the arena of this annual tournament the champions of all forces of the British armies met to try their skill with the various weapons with which they were armed. Good horsemanship may be said to have been the backbone of the Royal Military Tournament in the 19th Century. It will be seen that high standards of training and physical fitness were demanded of entrants who competed in these tournaments. These standards were set, of course, by the British Regular Army and those were the standards with which visiting teams from volunteer and militia forces of the British colonies overseas had to comply. (See "The Age", Friday 18th April 1890, p.6. for an article on the origin and history of the Royal Military Tournament.)

ii.

Victoria sends a Team to the Tournament.

It was announced in "The Argus" on the 21st April 1890 that no time was being lost in making the preliminary arrangements connected with the sending of a team from the Colony of Victoria, which would be drawn from the Victorian Mounted Rifles, to England to take part there in the Royal Military Tournament of 1891. The Commanding Officer of the Victorian Mounted Rifles, Lieutenant Colonel Tom Price, issued the following Order to all Officers commanding companies of the regiment who, on its receipt, made the contents known to all members of their companies. This order read as follows:-



"The Treasurer of the Royal Military Tournament in London has made the following very handsome offer to the Officer Commanding, Victorian Mounted Rifles:-

'That a team of not less than 6 nor more than 12 come to London to compete in the Tournament; that the team be lodged and fed for 14 days; that the team be horsed for all competitions; and that £200 be handed over to the senior officer of the party for distribution amongst the team.'

Such an offer evinces that spirit of good comradeship that is essential to all successful soldiering, and which is one of the traits of the British Army all over the world; its significance will not be misunderstood in the regiment, and names of volunteers are now called for to take part in the Tournament with a view of training the same for next year's meeting, the offer this year having arrived too late to be acted on. (See leader "The Argus", 16th. April, 1890, p.5).

The Government has decided to place £500 on the Estimates towards expenses, and this sum and the £200 will be divided among the team, who will have to provide everything out of these sums, except the fortnight's board and lodging and horses. The work that may be expected from them will be contests of the following nature:-

Tent pegging, lemon cutting, sword v sword, sword v lance, sword v bayonet, both mounted and dismounted, jumping in sections, wrestling on horseback, etc.

An examination will be made of all competitors from each company. The best three men all round will be chosen, and the 27 so chosen will again have to cut out, and the best all-round lot will be taken. In this examination shooting will also be considered, as matches will be open for members at the National Rifle Association, and possibly a Lloyd Lindsay section may be entered.

The credit of the regiment is now in its own hands, and only the best men will be selected. To be selected remains with the members of the regiment themselves. Let them look to it.

The time of absence from the Colony will probably be five months.

"Quoted from "The Argus", Monday 21st. April, 1890, p.5.)

The Victorian Mounted Rifles was a volunteer mounted infantry regiment. It had been raised in the Colony of Victoria in 1885, during, and as a consequence of, what was known as "The Russian Scare". Its first commanding officer was Lieutenant Colonel Tom Price (later Col. Thomas Price, C.B. Born 21st. Oct., 1842. C.O. of the V.M.R. from 1st. May, 1885 to 30th. June, 1902. Died 3rd. July, 1911).



Price was a Tasmanian by birth. At the time of this "Russian scare" he was residing in Heidelberg, a suburb of Melbourne, after having retired from the Indian Army in April 1883. He was appointed by the Government of Victoria to the Permanent Staff of the Colony's military forces on 1st. May 1885, with the rank of Lieut. Colonel, and, on the same date, posted to command and raise the Victorian Mounted Rifles.

(It is said in "THE OFFICIAL HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA IN THE WAR OF 1914-1918, Vol VII, 12th Edition 1944, p.29, that: "The Light Horse was not a cavalry force. Its members were not armed with sword or lance. They were mounted riflemen, or in other words, mounted infantry, and their horses were intended merely to give them the greatest range of activity as a mobile body. The men were not trained in shock tactics.")

He soon infused his own energy and enthusiasm into all ranks of the Victorian Mounted Rifles. He often lashed his critics and his subordinates with merciless but picturesque invectives, and he often got in return as good as he gave. He had the emotional force of an actor and the concentration of an artist. He produced results. He built up a reputation. And he made enemies as well as friends. He was a hard-working officer and a strict disciplinarian.

It was announced in the press in Melbourne on Saturday 28th. March 1891 that the Minister for Defence, Lt. Col. Sir Frederick Sargood had received a communication from the Colony's Agent-General in London, Sir Graham Berry, which enclosed a letter from The Secretary of the Royal Military Tournament which was to begin in London towards the end of May 1891. In this letter, the Secretary stated that the Tournament's Committee had noted with pleasure that a detachment of troops from the Military Forces of the Colony of Victoria was to visit England to take part in the Tournament that year. The Secretary went on to say, in this letter, that, although the instructions of the Commander-in-Chief of the British Army, Field Marshal the Duke of Cambridge, did not authorise the Committee to send a special invitation to the troops of any particular colony in preference to any other, "yet the detachment of Victorian troops, as the pioneers of a great, and, it is hoped, of a long-continuing patriotic movement, will be welcomed by the Committee with special appreciation." (See "The Age", Saturday 28th. March, 1891, p.9).

A team was selected, in due course, from the Victorian Mounted Rifles to compete in England's Royal Military Tournament in 1891. This team consisted of the following eleven members of the regiment:-



Lt.Col.Tom Price; Captain Duncan McLeish of Yea (F Coy.) (later Col.Duncan McLeish, C.M.G., C.B.E., V.D.; born 20th July 1851; first commissioned 1st April 1887, in Victorian Mounted Rifles as Lieutenant; retired list 15th, May 1911; died 17th April 1920); Lt.William Andrew Bon, of Melbourne (A Compny) (no biographical details of Lt.Bon have been discovered except that he was born on 23rd January 1868; he was commissioned on 25th April 1890 in the Victorian Mounted Rifles as Lieutenant; and that on the 21st August 1896 he was transferred to the Reserve of Officers); Sergeant J.McLaughlin of Violet Town (E Coy); Lance-Sergeant S.C.Ferguson of Melbourne (A Coy); Corporal A.Laing of Warragul (D Coy); Lance Corporal J.F.Martin of Thoona (E Coy); Private G.A.Cookson of Alexandra (F Coy); Pte.G.B. Jefferson of Melbourne (A Coy); Pte.E.Mawley of Sale (C Coy); and Pte.D.Murray of Alexandra (F Coy).

(See "The Argus", Monday 30th March 1891, p.5, and Thursday 31st December 1891, p.6, for lists of the names of the members of the team. No official documents have been discovered against which to check these names. Nominal rolls for the team were not published in Victoria General Orders for either 1890 or 1891. In Press reports the name of Laing has also been spelt "Lang", the name "Mawley" as "Manley", and "McLaughlin" as "McLoughlin".)

The team sailed from Melbourne on Easter Saturday, the 28th March 1891, for London, in the R.M.S. "Ballarat". (The officers of the team were granted leave from the Victorian Mounted Rifles from 28th March 1891 to 27th December 1891. See General Order (Victoria) No.94, dated 4th March 1891). This ship arrived at Plymouth on Tuesday morning 12th May 1891, and at Tilbury the following morning. (See "The Times", London Wednesday 13th May 1891, p.10).

iii

The Tournament of 1891.

The President of the Royal Military Tournament of 1891 was Field Marshal the Duke of Cambridge, who had been the Commander in Chief of the British Army since 1856. The year 1891 marked the holding of the twelfth annual meeting of this Tournament. The profits which it made at these meetings were devoted to military charities. In the period between its inception in 1880, and April 1891, the Executive Committee of the Royal Military Tournament had, according to "The Times", contributed £24,500 to military charities.



This tournament had also done much since its inception to encourage skill-at-arms throughout the British Army at home and abroad by the distribution of bronze and silver medals and substantial cash prizes.

(See "The Times", Monday 6th April 1891 p. 10.)

The offices of the Executive Committee of the Royal Military Tournament in 1891 were located at 20 Bucklersbury London E.C. The Chairman of this Committee was Major General Philip Smith C.B., who was the Commander of the Home District. The Secretary of this Committee was Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Tully of the 4th Volunteer Battalion, Surrey Regiment. The Commandant of the Tournament was Colonel George M. Onslow, late 20th Hussars.

See "The Times", Monday 6th April 1891, p. 10)

On Friday evening 22nd May 1891 the Executive Committee entertained the members of the team from the Victorian Mounted Rifles London at the Hotel Metropole in Northumberland Avenue. The function was presided over by the chairman of the committee, Major General Philip Smith. Colonel Onslow in proposing the Toast, "Australia and the Victorian Mounted Rifles", said that in England they must all admire the pluck and courage that the team from the Victorian Mounted Rifles had shown in coming thousands of miles to compete in the Royal Military Tournament with their English cousins. Lieutenant Colonel Price made an excellent speech in reply in which he said that he hoped to see the English team in Melbourne in the following year.

(See "The Age", Saturday 4th July 1891 . p. 14. for an article entitled "The Victorian Mounted Rifles: Cordial Reception in England ". From Our Correspondent in London. Dated London 29th May 1891.)

At this stage the team from the Victorian Mounted Rifles had been in England for about ten days and the tournament was to begin another three days. There was, however, in this interval plenty to do.

On Saturday 23rd May 1891, the Victorian Mounted Rifles team under Lieutenant Colonel Price, marched from the White Hart Hotel in London to the Cavalry Barracks at, probably, Hyde Park.

(There is some doubt about the exact location in London of these barracks. It was probably that of the barracks of the 2nd Grenadier Guards.)

They went through some interesting skirmishing drill there,



in the riding school. Among those present who witnessed this drill were three officers of the 2nd Life Guards, namely, Col. the Earl of Dundonald, Major A.D. Neeld, and Lieut. the Earl of Longford, and an English Volunteer officer, Lt.-Col Thomas Tully.

(See "The Age" Saturday 4th July, 1891, p.14)

The Royal Military Tournament was officially opened at the Royal Agricultural Hall at Islington, on Tuesday 26th. May 1891, by H.R.H. the Duchess of Albany, in the presence of a large and distinguished gathering of people.

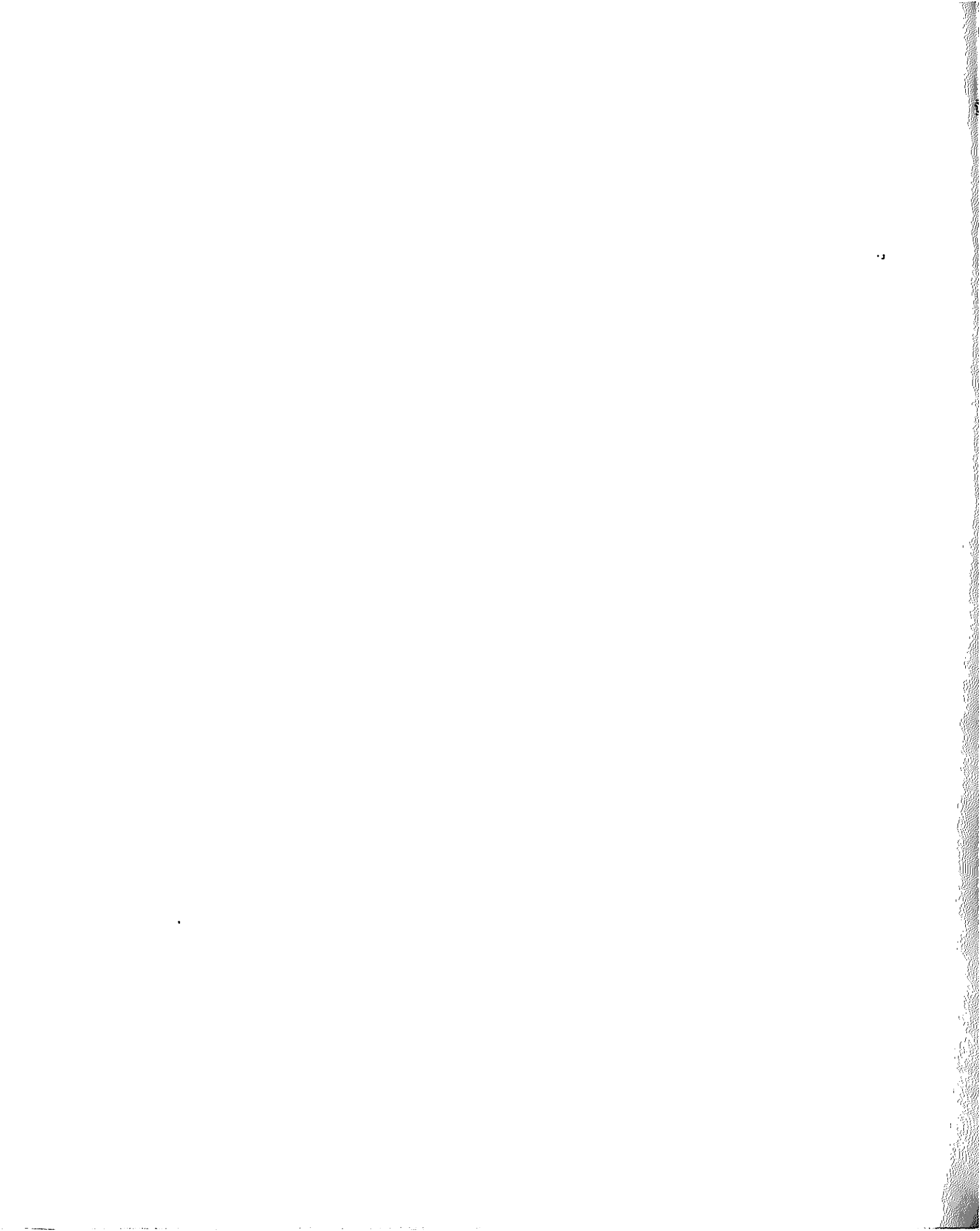
(See "The Times", Wednesday 27th May 1891 p.11.)

At the conclusion of the opening ceremony, Lt. Col. Price was among officers presented to the Duchess of Albany. It was said in "The Times" (ibid p.11), that the Australians from Victoria received an enthusiastic welcome from the whole audience when they rode into the arena--presumably as a part of a general parade--under the command of Lieutenant Bon.

The team had been mounted from the stables of the 14th. Hussars, and these horses, which were trained to the work of light cavalry, were very different from horses which were trained for the work of mounted infantry, and to this extent, the Australians were at a disadvantage at the tournament.

The team was composed of "fine, soldierly-looking young men". The uniform of the team was of a dark brown material, and their equipment throughout was chosen for service, and not for display. Yet it was of traditional colonial pattern, especially the headdress, which was a broad-brimmed soft felt hat. The team came into the arena as an advance party, the arena having been made up to represent bush country. They carried their own baggage, and after a file had searched the front, jumping the bushes in a light easy style, and was able to report "All's clear", a sentry was posted. The squad then "piled arms" hobbled their horses, pitched their tents, lit a fire, boiled their billies, and cooked their damper. Later some shots were fired into the camp at the advance party, who quickly broke up their camp and prepared to move. They then hunted and acted as skirmishers for their own force in searching out the enemy to determine the strength and disposition of his forces. In his work the team exhibited some excellent bits of horsemanship, in the quickness with which the men got out of their saddles and mounted again, and in their ability in jumping the hurdles in the arena.

This performance of the team from the Victorian Mounted Rifles was watched with intense interest by the audience that afternoon, and it was warmly cheered. In the report of this opening day in "The Times", it was said that: "It may be as well to say that the colonists are 'Volunteers' in every sense."



They find their own horses and equipment, and the Government of the Colony of Victoria pays only a small capitation grant- £3 annually - to meet certain charges.

(See "The Victorian Historical Magazine", Melbourne, Vol.29 No. 3 (August 1959) p. 152 for a short comment on "The Victorian Mounted Rifles").

The necessary leave of absence to visit and take part in the Royal Military Tournament was voted by one Government (The Gillies Ministry was in office from 18th Feb. 1886 to 5th Nov. 1890.);

and endorsed by its successor (The Munro Ministry was in office from 5th Nov. 1890 to 16th Feb 1892)., and the unity of action on the part of the Colonial Governments is justified by the reception of the Citizen soldiers of Victoria by all sorts and conditions of people in the Capital of the Empire.

(See "The Times", London Wednesday 27th May 1891. p.11.)

After this exhibition by the team of the Victorian Mounted Rifles the arena was cleared for the Competitions of "Heads and Posts", "Lemon Cutting", "Tilting at the Ring", and "Tent Pegging". At "Heads and Posts", and "Lemon Cutting", the only competitions of the nature in which the Australians took part, they left their mark. Indeed, Private Mawley and Lance Corporal Martin were exceptionally skilful, and their success was hailed with cheers. According to "The Times" it was most evident that the audience from the ground to the boxes, were anxious for the Victorians to win, for when one or two failed to score murmurs of regret were heard through the Hall.

The day competitions commenced each day at 2 p.m. and finished at 5 p.m. The evening competitions commenced at 7 p.m. and finished at 10 p.m. Tickets for numbered and reserved seats were sold at 10/- and 6/- each. Unreserved seats were sold at 5/-, 2/6d and 1/- each.

(See "The Times" London Tuesday 26th May 1891 p.1.)

(Advertisement.)

The programme for the eleven days of the tournament included encounters on horse and foot between the best representatives of Her Majesty's Regular and Auxiliary Forces with Lance, sword and bayonet, tent pegging tilting at the ring, cleaving the Saracen's head, displays by picked teams of cavalry and infantry, driving competitions between horse and Field batteries of the Royal Artillery at the trot and at the gallop, wrestling on horseback, bayonet



exercises; tugs-of-war; and double rides and charges of the Royal Horse Guards.
(See "The Times" London, Tuesday 26th. May, 1891, p.1, advert.)

The appearance of the team from the Victorian Mounted Rifles at the Royal Military Tournament marked the first occasion that an Australian team had competed in it.
(See "The Times" London, Monday 6th. April, 1891, p.10.)

The London correspondent of "The Age" said that:

"The Victorian Mounted Rifles have created an excellent impression, and it is difficult to make the authorities at the Tournament, and the many military men with whom they are brought into contact, believe that they are volunteers. They do everything like regularly trained soldiers, even to the most trifling minutiae such as sighting their rifles in the mimic contests in which they engage. Their physique is as good as their drill, and it speaks volumes for the care taken in the management and administration of the Victorian Defence Force, and the skill and energy of their Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Tom Price, that such an excellent result has been obtained. It is not too much to say that no English Volunteer Mounted Rifles could compare with the detachment from Victoria, which I am assured is not by any means a picked sample of the regiment, but freely represents the bulk of the whole 1,200 men. The Victorians are mounted on horses furnished by the 14th. Hussars, which are about the size and stamp of those to which they have been accustomed, but have softer mouths.
(See "The Age", Melbourne Saturday 4th. July, 1891, p.14.)

The Royal Military Tournament at Islington in 1891 was a most successful one as far as the Executive Committee was concerned.

The Australian team won golden opinions from all sides in England for their discipline, as well as for their skill in the various competitions.
(See "The Times", Monday 1st. June 1891, p.9.)

Sergeant McLaughlin won the First Prize in the competition for Tilting at the ring.
(See "The Argus", Saturday 30th. May 1891, p.9.)

Private Mawley tied for the First Prize in the Tent-pegging competition.
(See "The Argus", Saturday 30th. May 1891, p.9.)



Lance Corporal Martin and Private Mawley tied, with three others, for the 2nd Prize for Lemon Cutting.

(Ibid p.9.)

Private Jefferson won a 1st Prize in a competition for Riding and Jumping.

(See "The Argus", Monday 1st June 1891, p.5.)

In the Officers' Competition for Riding and Jumping, Lieutenant Bon won 2nd Prize and Captain McLeish won the 3rd Prize.

(See "The Argus", Thursday 4th June 1891. p.5.)

A great deal of satisfaction was felt, by all ranks in Victoria of the Victorian Mounted Rifles, at the success which their team was having at the Royal Military Tournament. On Saturday 30th May 1891 the Acting Commanding Officer, Major J.C. Hoad

(See "The Military Life of Major General Sir John Charles Hoad". By Major Warren Perry. Published in "The Victorian Historical Magazine".)

cabled, on behalf of all ranks of the regiment in Victoria, the following congratulatory message to Lieutenant Colonel Price in London:

"Officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the regiment heartily congratulate you and team on results Islington competition and wish you success at Bisley".

(See "The Argus", Monday 1st June 1891. p.5.)

The visit of the team to England was a successful one for the team and the team's good behavior in England gave great satisfaction to the British Military Authorities. The Commandant of the Royal Military Tournament, Colonel Oslow, in a memorandum, dated 5th June 1891 and addressed to Lieutenant Colonel Price, said that:

"As the Tournament of 1891 is very near its close, I consider it my duty to place upon record my very high appreciation of the services rendered by the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the Victorian Mounted Rifles, and which have contributed so materially to the great success which, in every way we have been fortunate enough to achieve this year. I cannot speak too highly of the very favourable impression that your men have made upon all those that have seen them.



I may add that I have been struck by their soldierly bearing, steady conduct, and excellent discipline, and in the qualities I have mentioned it would be impossible for the soldiers of any army to surpass them".

(See General Order (Victoria) no.279. dated 28th July.1891.)

The Secretary of the Royal Military Tournament, Lieutenant Colonel Tully of the 4th Volunteer Battalion of East Surrey Regiment, said in a letter to Lieutenant Colonel Price that:

" I have had exceptional opportunities for observing the men of your detachment from the moment of their arriving at Gravesend to the moment of their leaving the Agricultural Hall. I have been nine years Secretary of the Royal Military Tournament, and in my opinion no more soldierly, well disciplined, or well set up men ever visited the Royal Military Tournament than the Detachment of Victorian Mounted Rifles under your command. It is not alone that there have been no complaints, but, from the attitude of the men on every occasion that they have come under my notices, there has been a resolute determination to uphold the honour of the Colonial Volunteer Forces and to show what Volunteers are capable of under the most searching scrutiny. I beg to add my testimony to that of Colonel Onslow, and beg you to accept the assurance of my strongest admiration of the appearance and conduct of the detachment."

(Ibid.)

England's Royal Military Tournament of 1891 terminated on Saturday 6th June.

(See "The Times" Saturday 6th June 1891. p.1. (Advertisement

iv.

The Team returns to Victoria.

The Officers of the Victorian Mounted Rifles team, Lieutenant Colonel Price, Captain McLeish and Lieutenant Bon, remained in Europe for some months after the conclusion of this tournament.

Captain McLeish and Lieutenant Bon returned home to Australia a short time before Lieutenant Colonel Price. These two officers sailed from London in the R.M.S. "Ballarat", via Suez, to Melbourne where they arrived on Friday 27th November 1891.

(See "The Argus" Saturday 28th November 1891 p.9.)

No information has been discovered with which to describe what kind of person Lieutenant Bon was. At this time he was 23 years of age and had been an Officer in the Victorian Mounted Rifles for about eighteen months.

Captain McLeish was a grazier and the owner of "Murrindindi" Station at Yea in Victoria. The day after his arrival in Melbourne he travelled by train to his home at Yea. He was given an enthusiastic welcome home at Yea when he arrived there at midday on Saturday 28th November 1891. Several hundreds of people, including the President and some of the Councillors of the Shire of Yea, headed by the Yea brass band, assembled at the railway Station to greet Captain McLeish on his return home from England. After shaking hands all round, Captain McLeish thanked the members of the band and all those other people who had come to the railway station that day to welcome him home for their kind reception which he said was altogether unexpected.

(See "The Age", Tuesday 1st December, 1891. p.7.)

Lieutenant Colonel Price returned to Victoria in the S.S. "Britannia", from England and he landed in Melbourne on the 20th December 1891. He resumed duty again in the Victorian Mounted Rifles on that date when he took over its command from Major J.C. Hoad.

In a press interview on the ship on Sunday evening 20th December 1891, Lieutenant Colonel Price touched on many matters connected with his visit overseas. On the question of a comparison between the Victorian Mounted Rifles and the Mounted Infantry as it was then being trained in England, Lieutenant Colonel Price had naturally most to say. His controversial discussions with Colonel E.T.H. Hutton, on that point

(See "Military Reforms of General Sir Edward Hutton in the Commonwealth of Australia, 1902-04" by Major Warren Parry. Published in "THE Victorian Historical Magazine". Vol.29.No.1. February 1959)

were largely on matters of principle. In England the method was to take a thoroughly trained infantryman and make him a fair rider, while the principle followed in Victoria was that of making a first-rate horseman into as good an infantryman as the sporadic training that he got would permit. After studying the English plan in detail Lieutenant Colonel Price said he had returned home more than ever in favour of the methods of training in Victoria. The Victorian companies of Mounted Infantry might not, he said, obey an order, such as "Half right turn", with the same precision as the English Mounted Infantry; but in a hurried dash to a position, the very purpose for which riflemen were mounted, many English soldiers came to grief because they were poor horsemen.

•

English regiments could not show any records to compare with the 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ % of hits obtained in battle-practice by the Victorian Mounted Rifles. Many leading officers in England were convinced that in order to make Mounted Infantry a success in the British Army it would have to be organized and trained in the same way as the Victorian Mounted Rifles. However, Lieutenant Colonel Price found that it was difficult, in many instances, to disposses the minds of Englishmen of the idea that Mounted Infantry were a kind of irregular cavalry.

(See "The Argus", Monday 21st December 1891, p.6. for a report of a press interview with Lieutenant Colonel Price.)

Ten days later, on Wednesday 30th December 1891, the members of the Victorian Mounted Rifles gave a great welcome home in Melbourne to Lieutenant Colonel Price and the team which had competed in the Royal Military Tournament in England earlier that year. The members of the team came, no doubt, from various country centres to Melbourne on that occasion to take part in this celebration in honour of their Commanding Officer and the team which he had captained so ably in England.

The programme began on Wednesday morning 30th December 1891 at the Rifle Range at Williamstown where about 500 members of the Victorian Mounted Rifles carried out musketry practice.

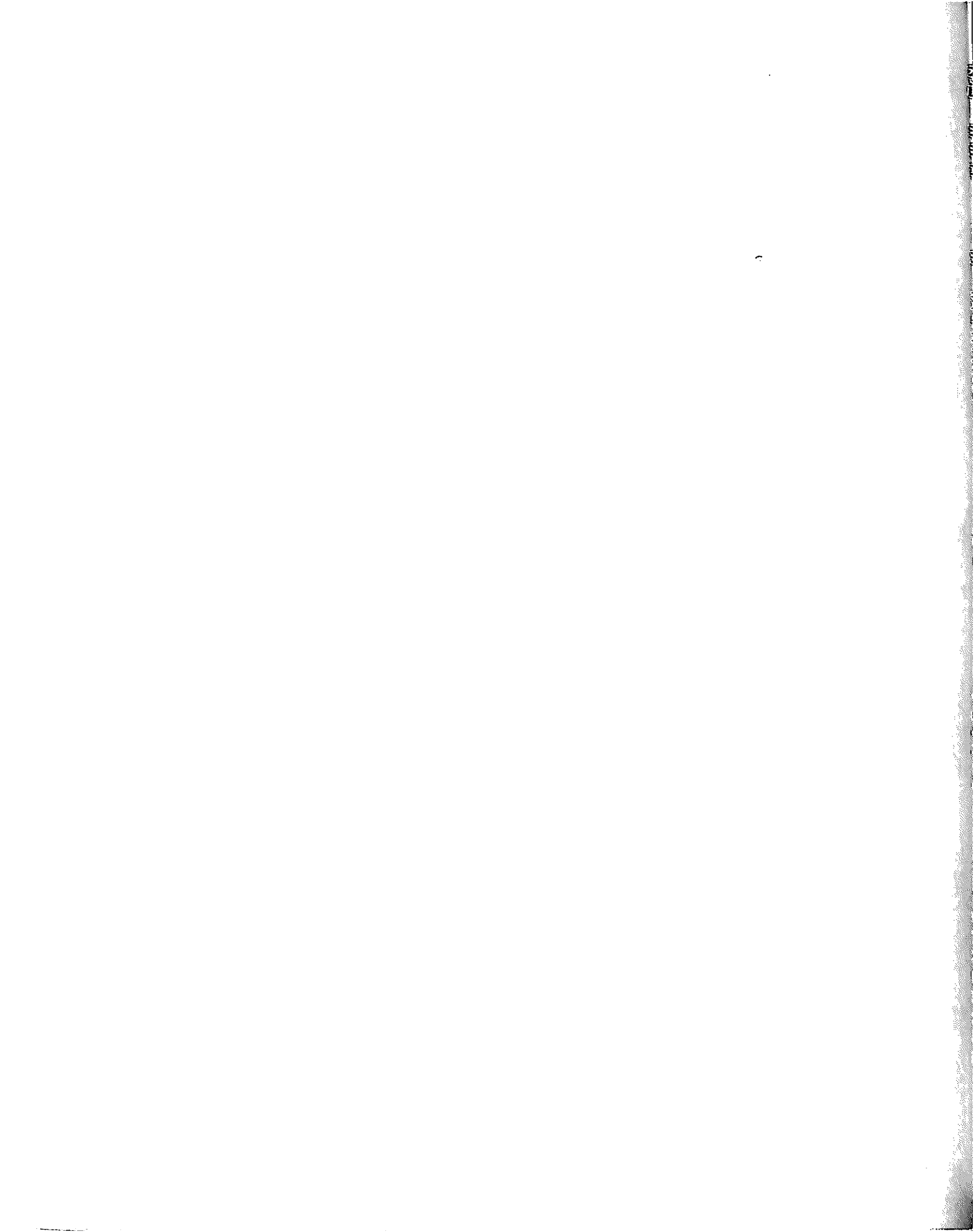
That same evening at 6 p.m. the regiment mustered at Victoria Barracks in St. Kilda Road, Melbourne. From there the regiment marched out into St. Kilda Road, across Prince's Bridge through the City of Melbourne to "The Princess" Theatre in Spring Street. This march was led by the bands of the 1st Victorian Regiment, the 2nd Victorian Regiment and the Victorian Rangers. At this theatre the guests of the evening and their hosts were entertained with a performance of the comic opera "The Merry Monarch". Admission to the theatre that evening was by invitation only. Before the curtain went up for the beginning of the performance one of the regimental bands played the regimental song of the Victorian Mounted Rifles which was known as "The Old Brown Pants".

(See "The Argus", Thursday 31st December 1891.p.6.)

In a press review of this comic opera, "The Merry Monarch", it was said of it that: "In addition to tuneful and pretty music and its amusing situations the opera is produced in a style in which magnificence rivals good taste and artistic efforts.

(See "The Argus " Thursday 31st December 1891 p.8.)
Advertisement.

All branches of the Naval and Military forces of the Colony of Victoria were represented that evening at the performance at "The Princess" Theatre. The Vice-regal box was



occupied by the Naval Commandant, Captain W.F.S. Mann, R.N., and the Military Commandant, Major General A.B. Tulloch of the British Army. The Minister for Defence, Lieutenant Colonel Sir Frederick Sargood, and guests of honour, namely, Lieutenant Colonel Tom Price, Captain Duncan Cleish and Lieutenant Bon as well as the other members of the team were seated in the boxes.

(see "The Argus", Thursday 31st December 1891 p.6.)

During an interval in the performance Lieutenant Colonel Price appeared on the stage and thanked the audience, on behalf of the team, for the great compliment those present had paid to them in the form of his magnificent welcome home. He said that the team had been well received in England, it had been entertained there in a most cordial manner and it had been highly praised by British military authorities for the good conduct and military discipline of its members in England. The team were then brought on to the stage where they were cheered loudly by the audience.

(Ibid, p.6.)

The Chief organisers of this celebration were Major J.C. Road who was the Adjutant of the Victorian Mounted Rifles and Lieutenant W.G. Patterson,

(Later Colonel William George Patterson, Born 2nd September 1862. Appointed to the Permanent Staff of the Military Forces of Victoria on 27th November 1895 as Lieutenant. Retired List 1st May 1916 Died 19th May 1916.)

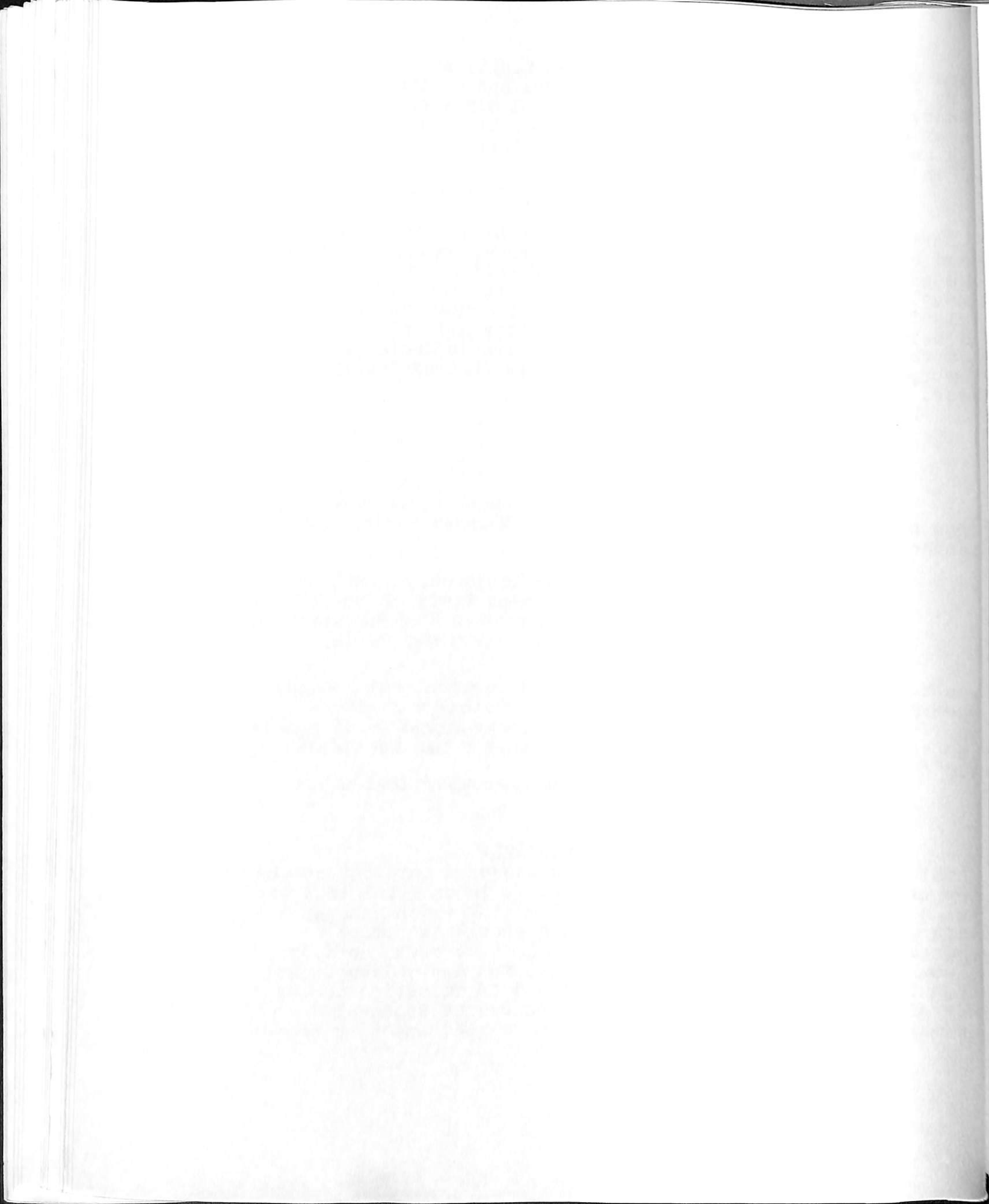
who was one of the junior officers of this regiment and became, four years later, a regular officer of the Colony's military forces. It was said that these two officers deserved great credit for the efficient way in which the arrangements had been drawn up and carried out that day.

(See "The Argus" Thursday 31st December 1891 p.6.)

v.

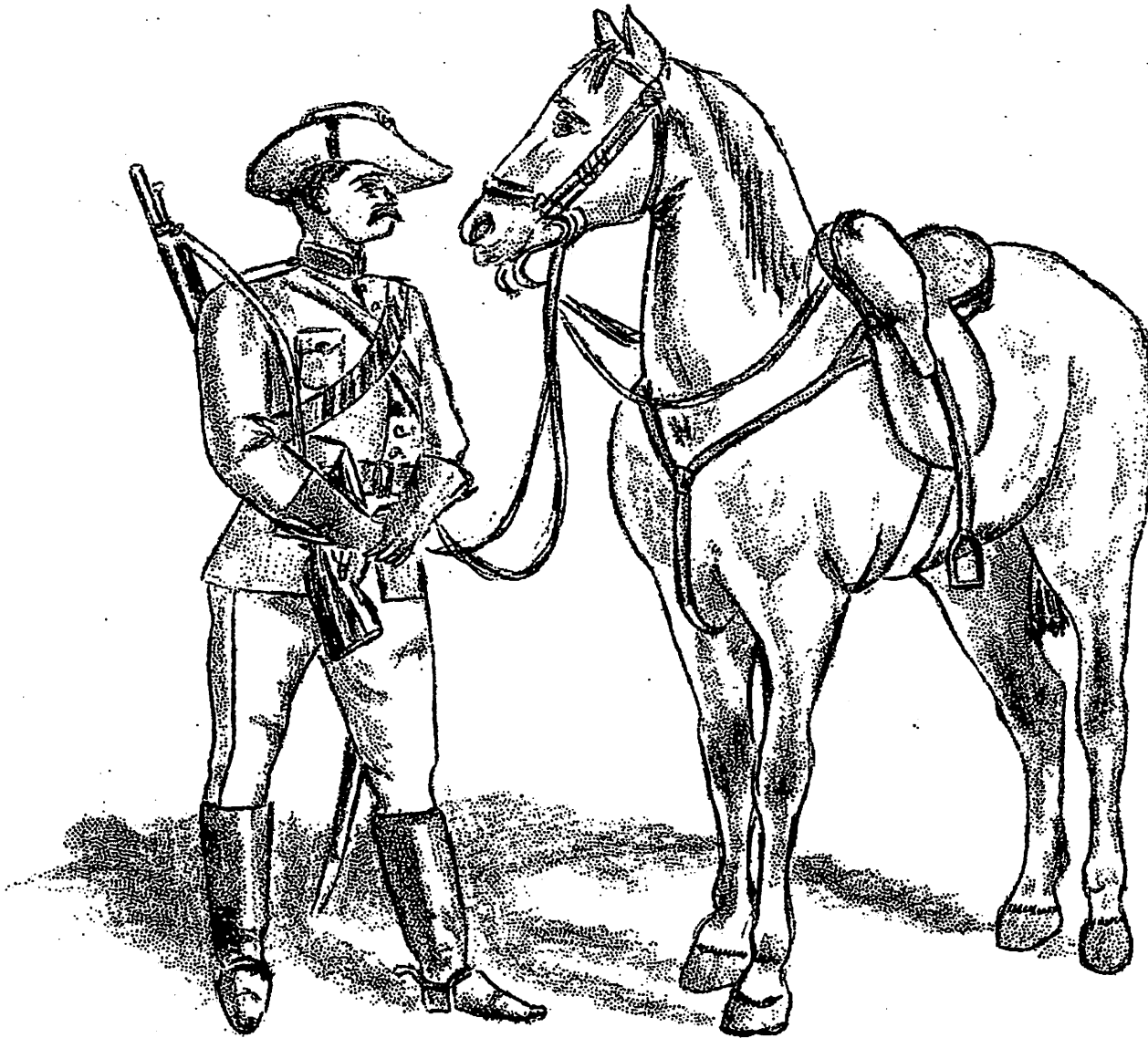
Comments in Conclusion.

This article gives in outline the story of an event in the history of the Victorian Mounted Rifles. It is an event that has long been forgotten, but it is one of the kind which make up the traditions and history of a regiment and should therefore be remembered. Stories such as this one could have been, no doubt, great sources of pride and inspiration to the Australian Light Horsemen in Australia after Federation and in Palestine during the War of 1914-18, if they had been recorded by regimental historians for Australian Light Horsemen to read and to remember.



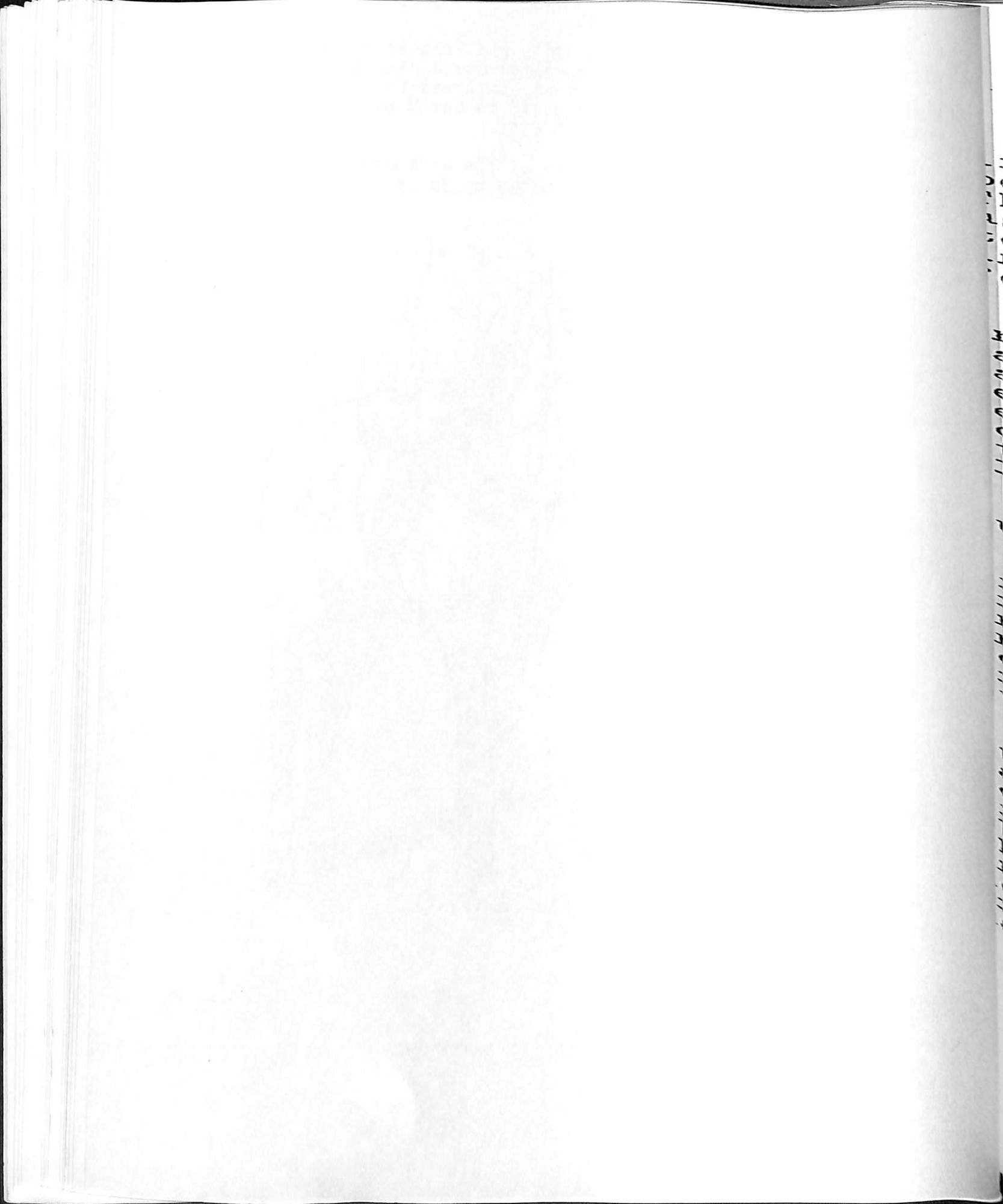
Measured by Australian standards, the Victorian Mounted Rifles was a famous regiment, when its Commanding Officer, Colonel Tom Price, rode at its head, followed by his Adjutant, Major J.C.Hoad, who died "in harness" in October 1911 as Chief of the Australian General Staff.

The deeds of this regiment, and of its officers and men, should not be allowed to fade from the pages of Australia's history.



Melbourne,
22nd. May, 1960.

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THE COLOUR PATCH STORY.

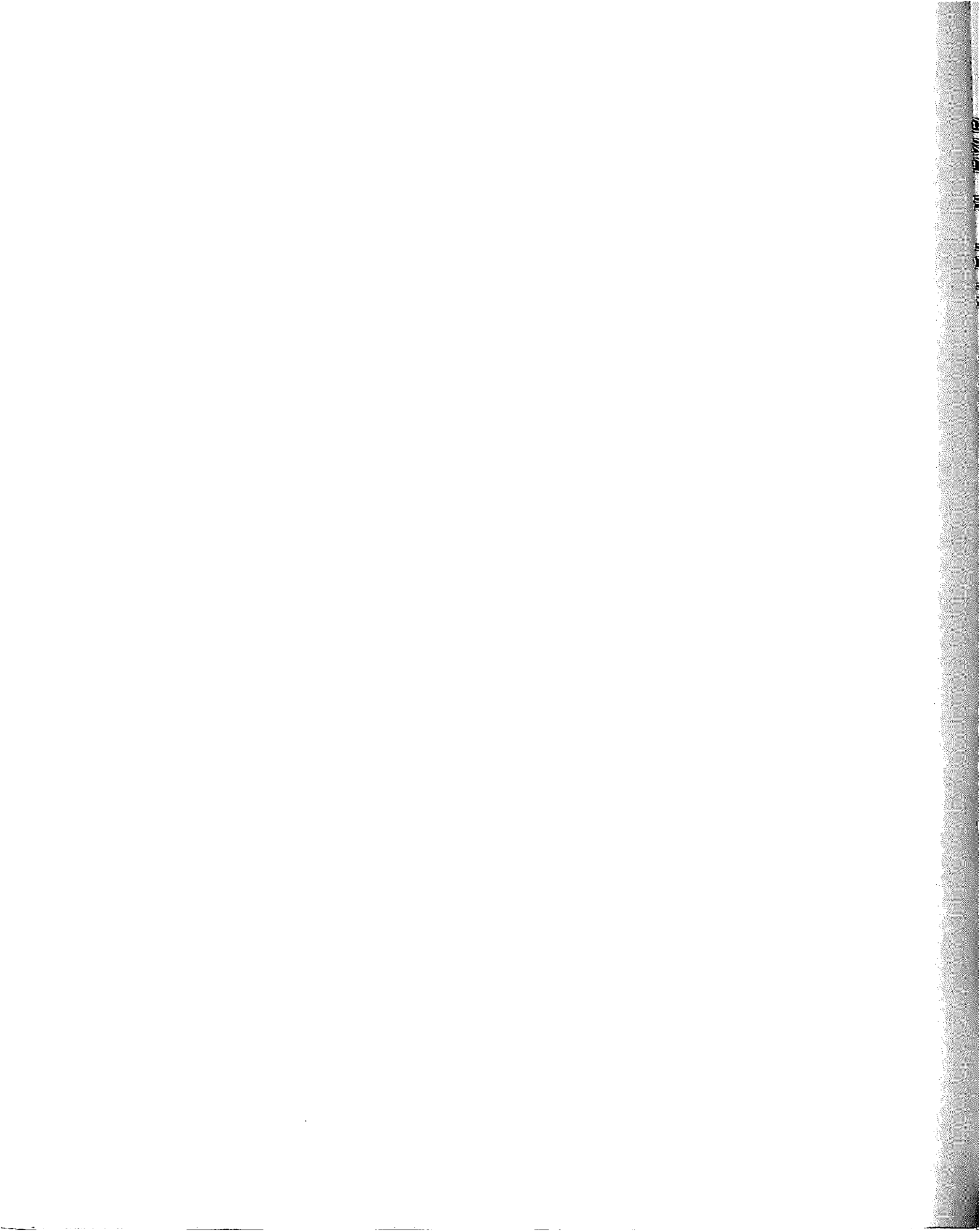
The origin of the colour patch in the Australian Army lies in a system of unit distinguishing flags which was devised before the departure of the first contingent of the A.I.F. in 1914. The scheme, largely attributed to Major General Bridges, was that use of the flags would enable a unit's location in any large camp to be marked, while other likely uses for the device were envisaged in the transport of large bodies of troops by train, or when some form of identification would add to efficiency.

The flags, themselves were made of linen, ~~two~~ ^{three} inches square and a definite system of colours was laid down to indicate the various Arms and Services of the Force. In the case of infantry, each flag was of two colours, divided horizontally, the lower half denoting the brigade, and the upper half the battalion. Thus, members with a knowledge of the simple colour sequence employed could quickly identify a particular battalion, the brigade to which it belonged and its numerical position within the brigade by a glance at the flag.

On 8th March 1915, the flag system was taken a step further by the issue of the following A.I.F. order:

" In order the better to distinguish the several units of the Division, coloured badges of cloth $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide by $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches long will be worn on the sleeves, one inch below the shoulder seam. Except in cases of headquarters of brigades and divisional artillery, the engineers and Army Medical Corps, badges will consist of two colours, the lower indicating the formation, the upper the unit. Light Horse and Artillery badges will be divided diagonally, the other horizontally. "

The new system therefore preserved the idea of the flags, but extended its scope to include each individual member. The patches were a distinctive and easily readable form of identification to which the troops quickly became attached. From a security viewpoint, they made numerals and other forms of identification obsolete by allowing only those familiar with the system to identify the units. It was, in effect, a form of colour code that remained in use in the Australian Army right up to the post 1939-45 era, and, not long after publication of the original order the idea was extended so that troops also wore a patch on the left side of the hat attached to band or pugaree.



When, during 1915 and 1916, Australia formed other divisions the basic shape of the patch was changed for each formation. For the 1st Division the rectangle lying horizontally was retained; and the 2nd Division was allotted a diamond; the 3rd wore an oval lying horizontally; the 4th a circle (with the exception of the 4th brigade which was allowed to retain its 1st Division shape to commemorate its service on Gallipoli as a brigade of the division). The 5th Division shape was a rectangle placed vertically, while the partially formed 6th Division was allotted a vertical oval. Following the formation of the new Divisions, there was, for a time, some variation in the patches because of the inter-divisional transfers of personnel that took place. Eventually however, this position became stabilised and the system served satisfactorily to the end of the war.

Members of the A.I.F., in whatever battalion they may have served later, were also permitted to wear on the colour patch of their unit a small brass letter "A" to indicate service on the Gallipoli Peninsula. In the divisional organisation of the C.M.F. of 1921, during which the divisional structure of the A.I.F. was largely reproduced, C.M.F. battalions were allotted the colour patches of the corresponding A.I.F. Battalions. In 1929, however, when financial difficulties resulted in the "linking" of an active unit with a unit which had ceased to be maintained, some confusion arose as to which colour patch was to be worn by members of the linked unit. The problem was resolved - at least on paper - in August, 1930, by an Army Order which stated that, personnel in such units could continue to wear the regimental badges and colour patches of the unit in which they were serving immediately prior to amalgamation. Thus, in many cases, C.M.F. Battalions exhibited two completely different sets of devices and colour patches! It was a system open to criticism on several counts, but fundamentally it did achieve the main object of keeping alive these traditions of units, which through no fault of their own, were not then functioning. Some of these linkings were maintained permanently from the depression days right through the war period, while others were actually created during this period. In these cases the wearing of both patches was supposed to have been continued, although battalions no longer wore the regimental badges; in addition, reinforcements posted to these battalions drawn from the pre-war territorial areas of either of the original units, were allotted the colour patch of that unit, while personnel from outside these "home" areas were allotted the patches of both units on an equal basis.

With the decision to form the Second A.I.F. in September, 1939, it was decided that the colour patch of each battalion would be identical with that of the equivalent unit of the C.M.F., and the First A.I.F. To distinguish between these patches and the ones currently being worn by C.M.F. Units, the new A.I.F. patches were superimposed upon a background of battleship grey.



Departures from the original scheme and anomalies soon began to appear, however, and as the war progressed the colour patch position became almost hopelessly confused. One of the early mistakes was made in using samples of 1914-18 patches as specifications for the new ones. This led to some variations in colours due to the fading of the original dyes. Then, during 1940-41, the extensive inter-brigade and divisional transfers of units provided the further confusion from which the whole colour patch system never recovered.

The 7th Division, for example, had one brigade which wore a rectangular patch, another wore a diamond (the correct divisional shape) and in the third brigade two battalions and the brigade headquarters wore their patch in the shape of a circle; with the other battalion wearing the correct diamond shape! The position in the 9th Division was much the same until late 1942, when approval was given for a completely new design for the division in the shape of a "T".

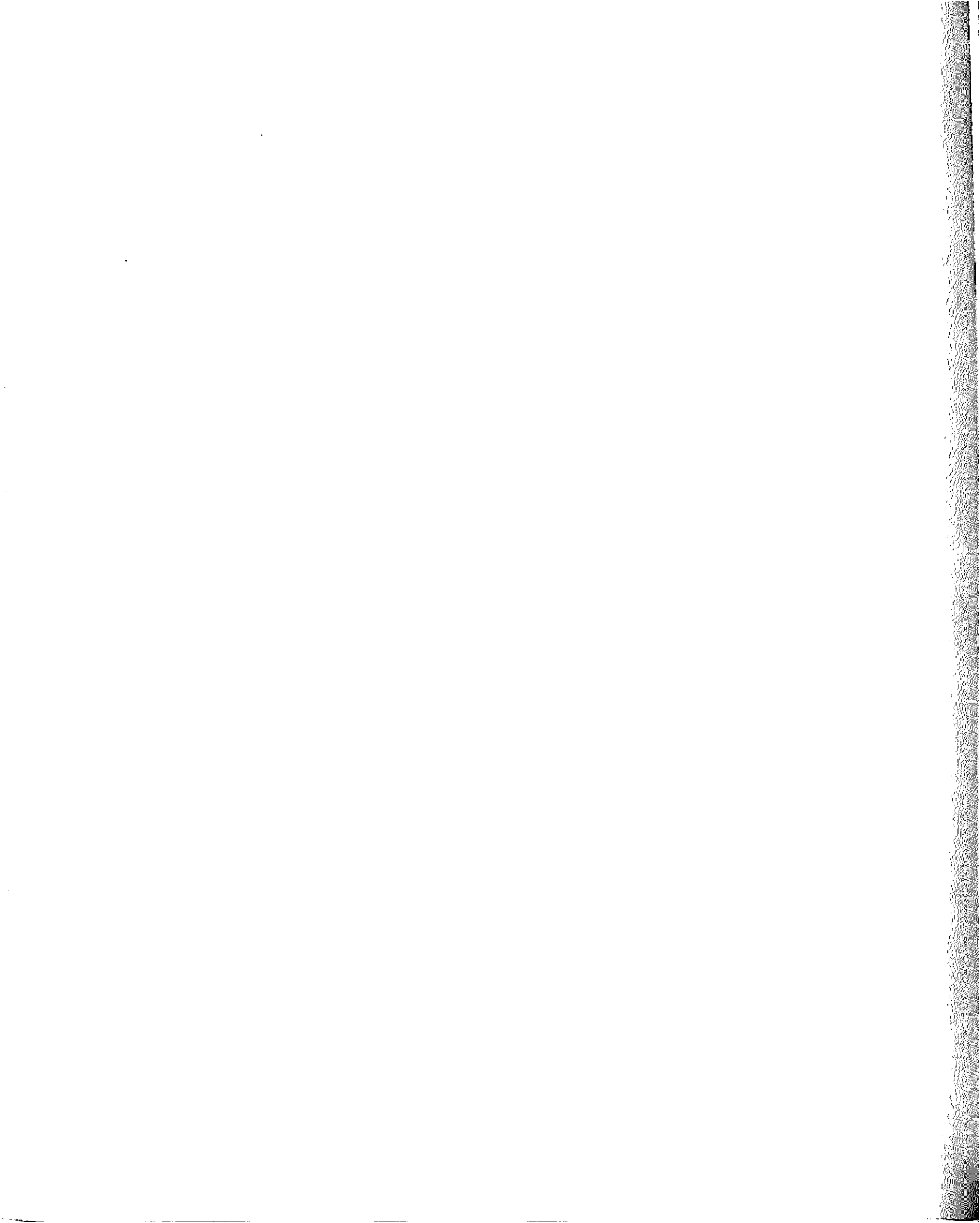
The "T" was decided upon by the G.O.C., General Morshead, to commemorate the division's memorable service in Tobruk during most of 1941. It also appears on the Coat of Arms granted to the Colony of British North Borneo in September, 1947. The incorporation of the "T" in this case commemorates the liberation of Labuan and North Borneo by the 9th Division in its last campaign of the war.

The 6th Division (horizontal rectangle) and the 8th Division (grey oval placed horizontally with small colour patches superimposed centrally) retained their formation shapes without alteration.

On the battalion level, some units had by the end of the Middle East days, been issued with three different patches, while other had worn two.

Another major complication arose as the result of members of the C.M.F. battalions joining the A.I.F. while still serving with their battalions.

One effect of this was that the members concerned could immediately place their colour patches upon the A.I.F. grey background. Indeed, where 75 per cent. of the posted strength of a unit re-attested for the A.I.F. the unit itself became classified as an A.I.F. unit, and added the letters "(A.I.F.)" after its title. Thus, by the time the A.I.F. returned from the Middle East, the grey background as a means of distinguishing between C.M.F. and A.I.F. had lost most of its effectiveness, as identical patches were being worn by A.I.F. members serving with corresponding C.M.F. or former C.M.F. units.



The confusion in colour patches was not only confined to the infantry, although this Arm was most affected. Almost every component of the Army had also been troubled by anomalies and a multiplicity of designs which must have made the designing of new patches most difficult. One estimate stated that almost three thousand different colour patches were actually in use during the period of peak strength in 1944.

This being the case, it is not surprising that in 1945 a new set of designs was approved for all Arms and Services with the exception of infantry, and this had the effect of simplifying the position so far as these units were concerned. The infantry, however carried on to the end with their old patches, except that the three new battalions raised for the occupation of Japan used the new elongated patches.

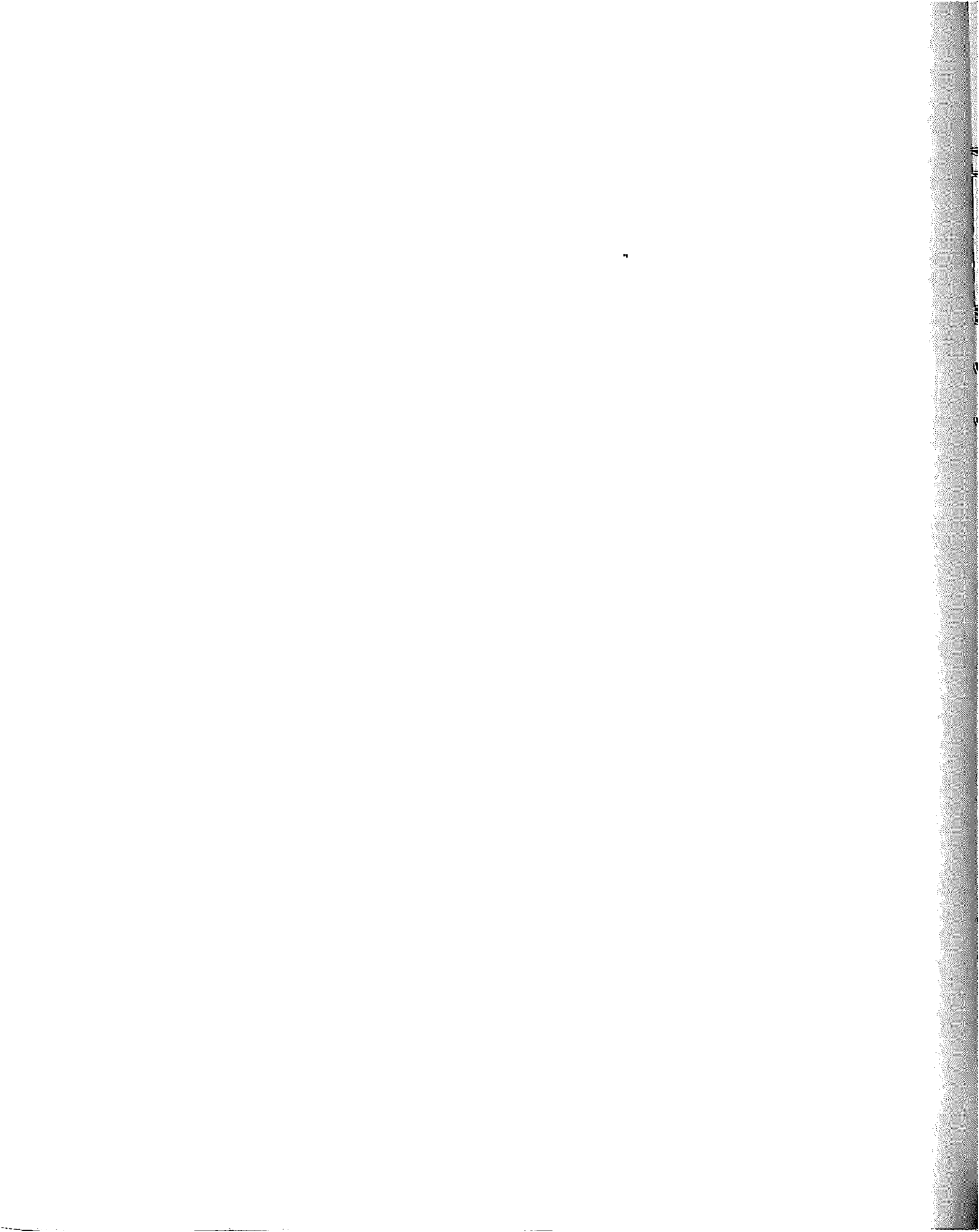
The last chapter in the somewhat confused history of colour patches was written during the creation of the post-war Army in 1949. Staff Officers, and regimental officers with vivid recollections of the confusion of 1939-45 replied overwhelmingly to a questionnaire that they preferred a more positive and simplified form of distinguishing mark. This resulted in the whole colour patch system being replaced by embroidered unit shoulder titles, e.g., "The Werriwa Regiment," worn in the old colour patch position and immediately above special formation signs, which indicate the formation to which units belong.

Thus did the small patch, which provided the only splash of colour to the often criticised drabness of Australian Service Dress, pass comparatively unmourned from the Standing Orders for Dress of the A.M.F.

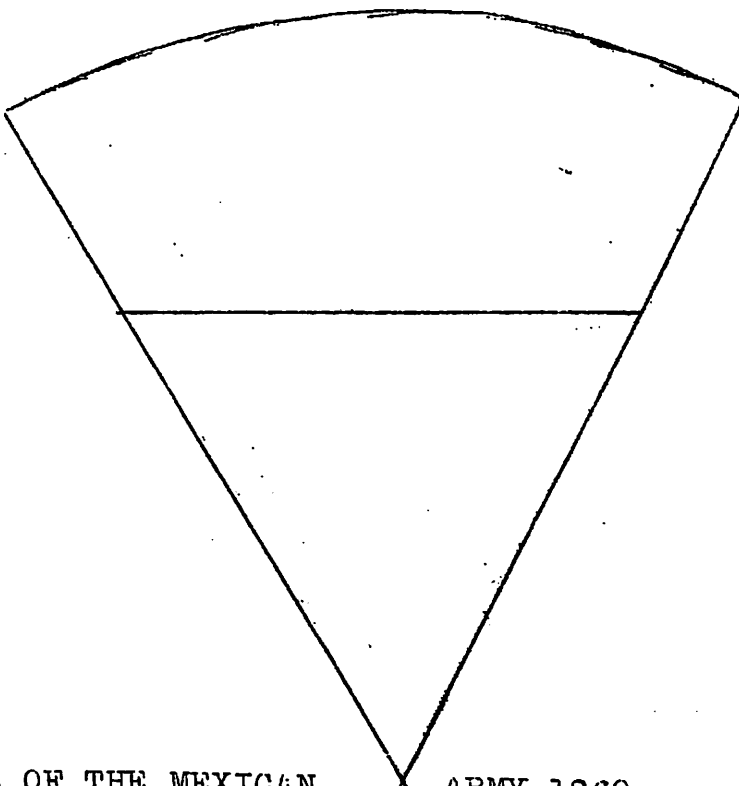
by Alfred Bruce
"Reveille"
January 1st. 1960.
(Submitted by Col Vernon.)

Coloured illustrations of Australian Army colour patches have been published from time to time for the information of the general public. Some instances were:-
"COLOUR PATCHES OF THE AUSTRALIAN FORCES, 1914-1918" (the Australian War Memorial); "AUSTRALIAN ARMY COLOUR PATCHES" ("The Sun", Melbourne); "TOBRUK" (Gavin Long); and many different kinds of calendars, etc, issued by patriotic concerns during wartime. It is a pity that the majority of these charts, etc, are no longer available.--Ed.

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MEXICO.



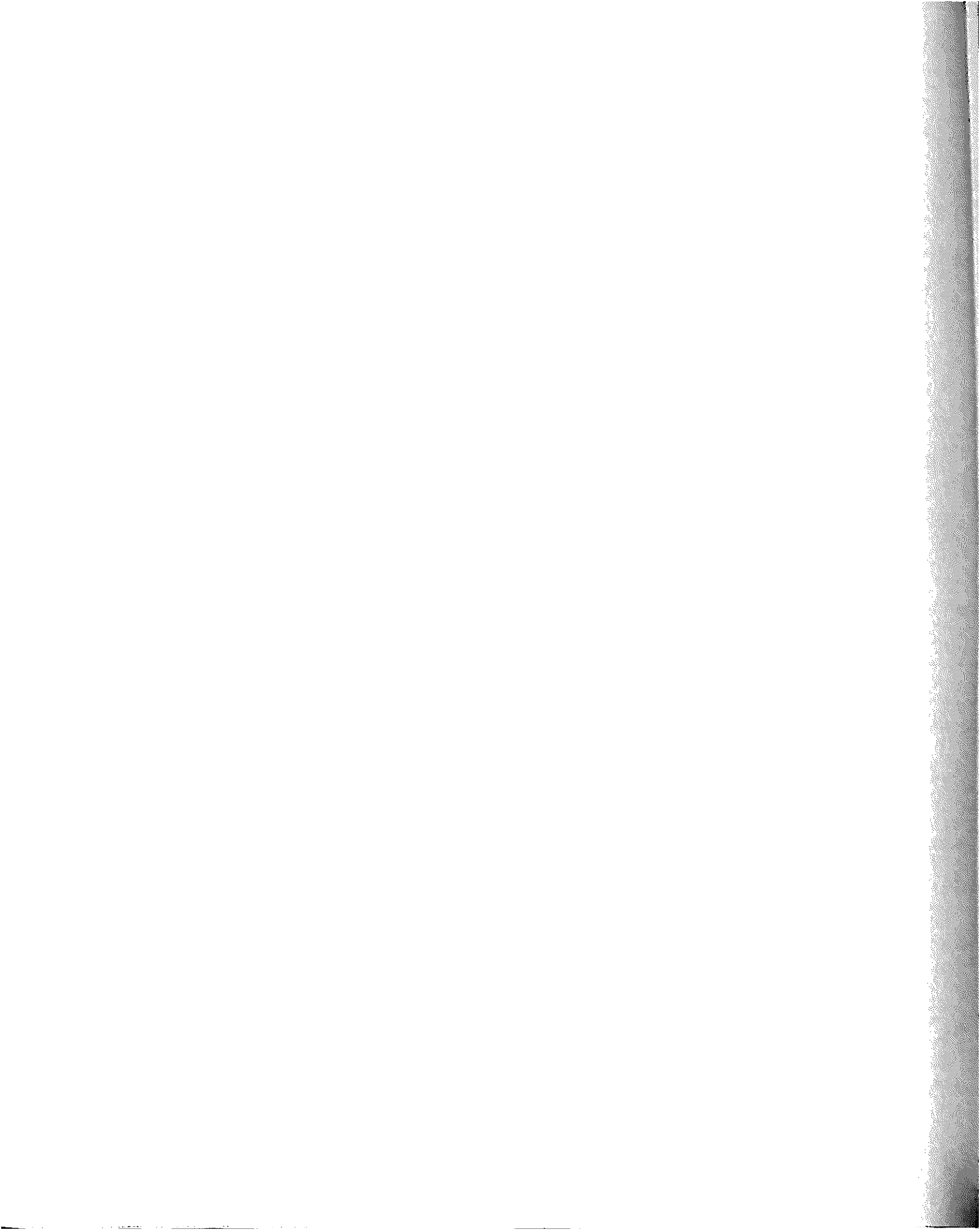
TYPICAL SHOULDER PATCHES OF THE MEXICAN ARMY, 1960.

The patches, worn on the sleeves just below the shoulders seams, are called ESCUDO, and come in two shapes; shield and wedge.

The shield is worn by specialised and non-combatant units; the wedge by all combatant units. Shields come in a great variety of designs and colours; the wedges are all red-and-white, with some minor exceptions.

The shield illustrated above is for the enlisted men of the Presidential Guard. It is manufactured of suede cloth, with the design stencilled on in paint. Description is: a background shield of black (or near-black), with, applied onto it a smaller shield; the top portion of dark blue, with the lettering in yellow paint; the lower portion of cherry, with a yellow line curving across just beneath the top line of cherry, and below it an eight pointed star stencilled in yellow, similar to the points of a compass, with the "Cardinal" points crossed by lines, and alternate points blocked in, in the circular central portion the well-known eagle and serpent emblem of Mexico. Officers badges are embroidered in yellow silk.

The wedge-shaped patch is the standard pattern. Unit designations are stencilled in black on both fields. For example, 24 above and 2 below means the 24th. Infantry Battalion, 2nd. Company. A Roman IX above and 3 below means 9th Military



Zone, 3rd. Divisional Unit (which may mean 3rd. Infantry, or 3rd. Cavalry, etc.

Emblems also are used, for example: crossed cannon above and 1 below means 1st. Artillery Brigade; a machine gun above and 24 below means Machine Gun Company of the 24th. Infantry Battalion, etc., etc.

These patches are well and strongly made, and appear to be reasonably costly

RANK MARKS.

Grade ribbon is used to denote non-commissioned ranks. The ribbon is of a "Service" colour (e.g. red for Infantry; light blue for Cavalry; dark blue for Engineers; yellow for Sanitation; brown for Administration; Crimson for Artillery; lavender for Aviation, etc).

On the ribbon there appear lines in black to denote the grade of N.C.O., viz. 3 black stripes for First Sergeant, 2 for Second Sergeant, and one for Corporal. The ribbon is worn horizontally across both shoulder straps. On headress, it is worn diagonally from lower right to upper left across the front of the barracks cap; and all round the band on the vizored cap. In size and quality, it is comparable with medal suspension ribbon.

Information by courtesy
Mr. J. Hefter.

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SWEDEN.

Mr. Eric Kjellberg advises that the Swedish Army is in the process of acquiring new pattern 1960 uniforms, in which attention is being paid to the patterns of the buttons. It appears that the Swedes are trying to reproduce for these new uniforms, patterns of their earliest buttons for the various units. This sounds an excellent idea, and should stimulate some interest in army circles.

This Society recently suggested a similar idea to the Australian Army, namely, that the new regiments of Militia in each state could possibly adopt the badges of the old pre-Federation State Forces in each case. This was not (apparently) of interest, and it is understood that the new units (pentropic) will have badges based on five-sided figures, to symbolise PENTropic. Ed.

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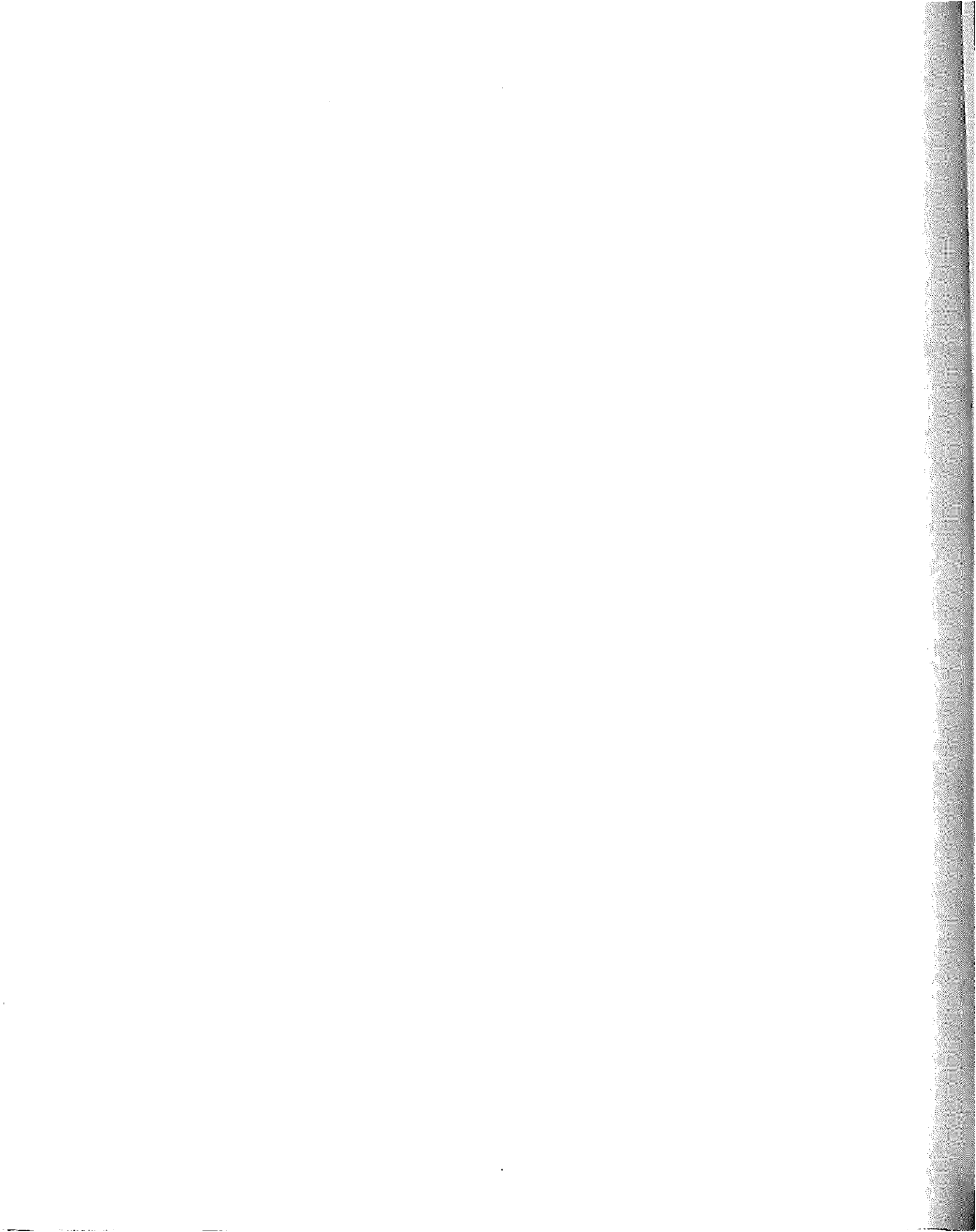


THE NEW GEORGE WIECK GALLERYWESTERN AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

The Museum of Western Australia now has a gallery entirely devoted to Arms and Armour. The gallery, known as The George Wieck Gallery. Historical Arms., is named after Colonel G.F. Wieck, formerly Director of the United Services Institution Museum in Perth, and was officially opened by the State Governor, Sir Charles Gairdner, on the 21st of April 1960.

In 1957 the United Services Museum was asked to vacate their accommodation in Swan Barracks. A vast amount of material covering many aspects of Australian military history had been accumulated over the years at the museum, which was founded in 1939. The council of the United Services Institution of Western Australia made an approach through their secretary, Lieutenant Colonel Garner to the Trustees of the State Museum, with a view to handing over the whole collection to the State. Mr. Justice (now Sir Robert) Wolff who was President of the Board of Trustees of the Museum, accepted this generous offer on behalf of the Trustees of the Western Australian Museum. Plans were drawn up for a new modern gallery and a storeroom to be built. Work on this project began late in 1957 and the building including the most modern display cases and especially designed storage cabinets was completed in March 1960.

Today, thanks to the United Services Institution of Western Australia, the State Museum can boast of what is probably the most comprehensive collection of historical weapons in Australia. The extremely wide range of the material speaking both from a geographical point of view and from the historical angle is due to the merging with the United Services collection of the State Museum's own collection which, though small itself, contains a number of extremely interesting specimens, including three suits of Japanese armour dating from the late 18th or early 19th centuries. Among some of the fine pieces in the Museum collection are a pair of very serviceable-looking battle-axes from North Western India, which show the exquisite workmanship and artistry characteristic of the Indo-Asian School of Armourers; while weapons representative of the East Indian Archipelago include a comprehensive range of Javanese Keris, Parangs and Krises from the Philippines as well as African and Indian swords. A few highlights of the United Services collection are a rare Japanese matchlock musket converted to the percussion system of early 19th century vintage, some pieces of armour from the Cromwellian period, including a pikeman's helmet or pot, breast-plate and tassets.



Also, there are many examples of swords, British and foreign, as well as numerous flint-lock pistols, revolvers and automatics.

Colonel Wieck as Director of the United Services Museum (1939-1958) built up a fine collection of long-arms, representing almost the complete range of British-Australian service muskets and rifles. Also represented in the rifle collection are examples of Japanese Arisaka rifles, American service arms, Russian, German and Turkish rifles; among the latter are specimens of the famous Martini-Peabody, which was a deciding factor in the epoch-making battle of Plevna in 1877.

An excellent collection of Australian military uniforms was also accumulated by Colonel Wieck and this collection has been added to, through generous donations from the Historical Society of Western Australia.

The first exhibition in the New gallery illustrates the different types of weapons used in Western Australia and by men from the Western State in many theatres of war, divided into four periods, namely, the Dutch, Colonial, Federal and Modern. This first display, in popularity, augers well for the future of the George Wieck Gallery of Historical Arms.

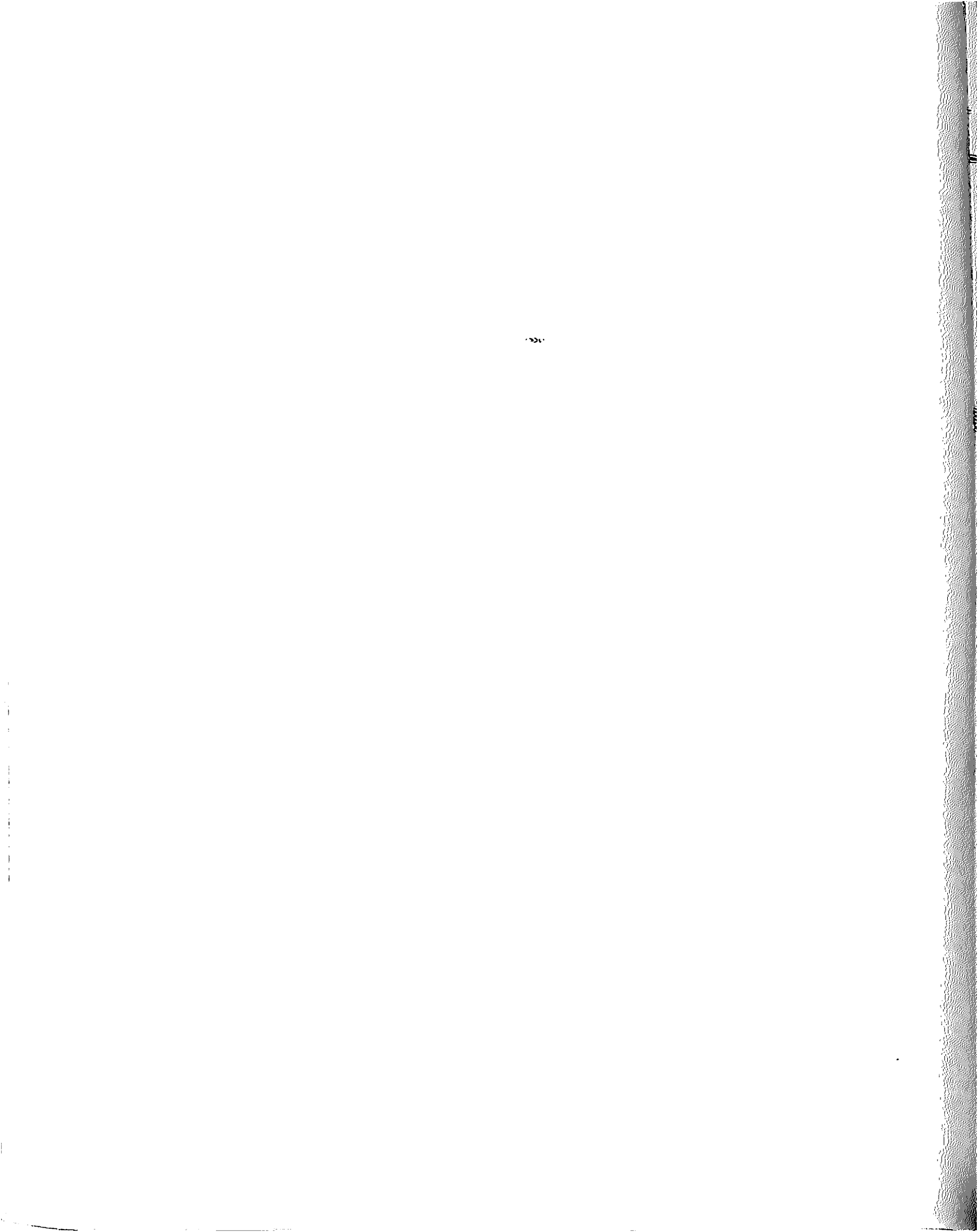
By: C. HALLS.
Museum Assistant in Charge
of the George Wieck Gallery
of Historical Weapons.

Readers of SABRETACHE would welcome similar descriptions of any other Museums of military or para-military interest from any potential contributor. Ed.

MEMBERSHIP

We are anxious to hear from anyone who is seriously interested in some branch of military research or collecting, and who is sufficiently "sociable" to consider he or she will derive some benefit from membership of a Society such as ours.

Many members, supporting us with annual subscriptions, attendance at meetings, and participation in our correspondence and SABRETACHE, will help to make a strong Society, which will achieve even more than has been possible up to the present time.



DESPATCHES.

1. From Capt. Pilkington.—I found SABRETACHE 9 a very interesting issue. Was specially interested in the article on Shingunto. (To means "swords" in Japanese, so "Shingunto Swords" is redundant.) I have three earlier Samurai swords, of Tokugawa Shogunate period. The things to note on the antique swords are (1) Wavy line on blade caused by hard metal edge joined to softer metal backing, preventing blade from being too brittle; (2) the TSHIBA or guard, often very artistically carved in iron, sometimes damascened; (3) the NETSUKE, a carved metal ornament or charm, strapped to the hilt, usually a work of art; and (4) the MON, or heraldic device appearing in the ornamentation. These are often lacking in the army types.

2. From Mr. Robert Gray.—In what year was the position of the anchor altered on buttons of the R.A.N.? (Readers doubtless will know that the earlier buttons were of the "sleepy" anchor type; while the later, and present, types have the upright anchor, somewhat similar to the R.N.).

Did the following units ever visit England? Victorian Mtd. Rifles, Victorian Horse Artillery? If so, in what years?

3. From Mr. John Kendall.—The motto "AUT PACE AUT BELLO" appears in the Victorian Defence Forces List for April 1st. 1892. In the same Lists for January 1st, 1893, the motto is altered to "PRO DEO ET PATRIA". The actual date of the change is recorded in the Victorian Govt. Gazette of August 18th., 1892, and is August 1st., 1892, when new regulations for the Victorian Military Forces were promulgated under the Defence and Discipline Act, 1890.

4. From Mr. Robert Gray.—Can any member give me details of the types of waist belt clasps worn by the Tasmanian, Queensland and Western Australian Forces prior to 1903?

Can any member provide any information concerning the unit wearing a metal shoulder title

VH
AUSTRALIAN (curved)?

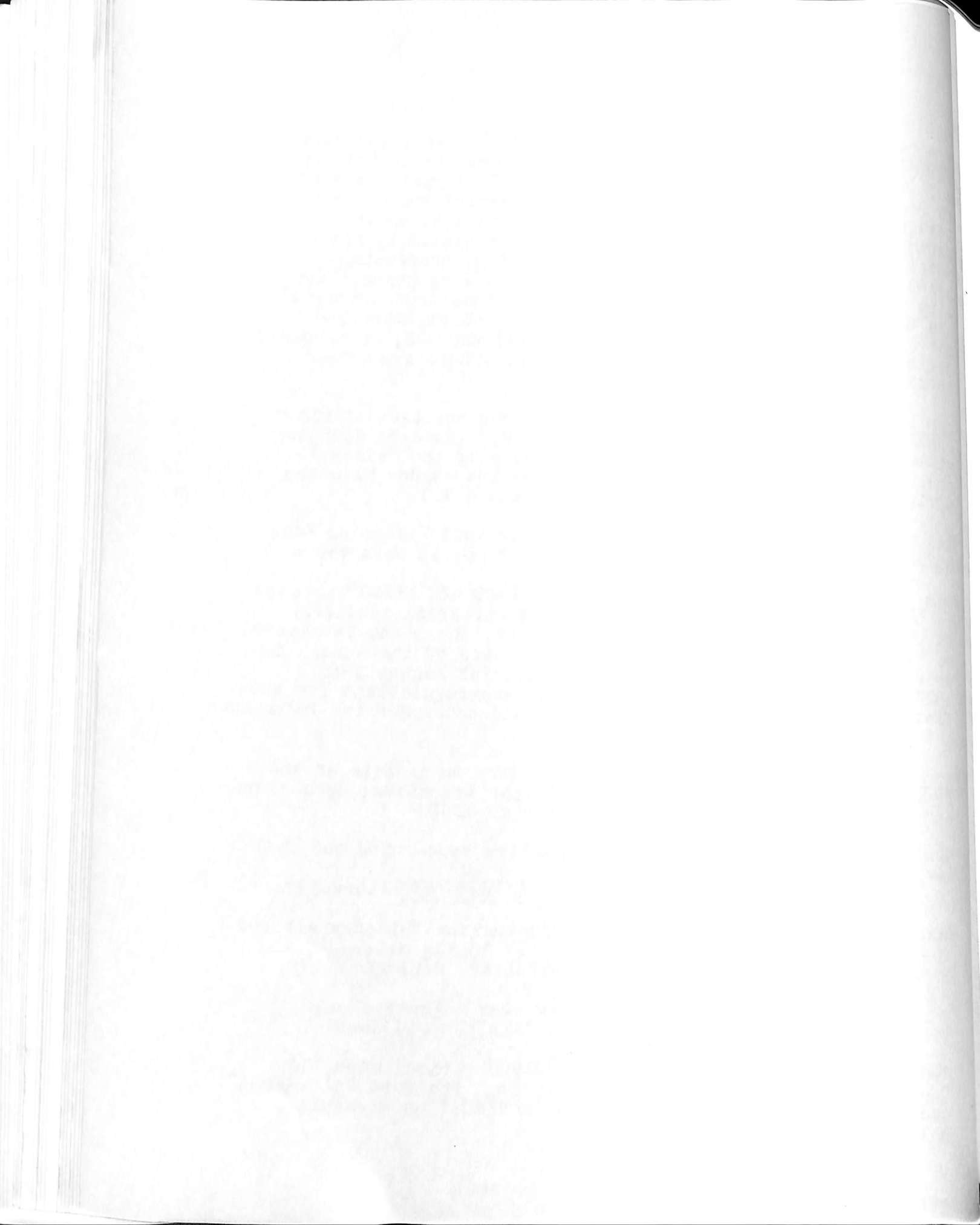
Can any member say when the 3rd. Australian Infantry altered its shoulder title from a number "3" in the centre of an oval formed by the words

AUSTRALIAN (curved down)

3
INFANTRY (curved up),

to a number "3" over the letters "AIR" (Curved down)?

Who wore a white metal badge pre-1903 period, with old Queen's crown over a wreath enclosing the word "ILLAWARRA" over a tree, and with the motto "ADVANCE" on a scroll below, and when?



DESPATCHES, Continued.

5. From Capt. F.C. Pilkington.— Mr. H.G. Harper suggests (SABRE-TACHE 8), that the Society choose an emblem with a more Australian flavour.

May I suggest that the present device be modified by adding a five- (six- or eight-)pointed star to each arm of the St. George's Cross to represent the Southern Cross as in early Australian badges?

The revised blazon could be:—"Azure, a St. George's cross gules fimbriated or, on each arm thereof a mullet of the third, and charged overall with two cross-hilted broadswords of the last crossed per saltire at the nombril point, hilts to chief. All within an orle of the same".

If the charge were cross gules on an argent field, fimbriation would not be necessary, but orle could be changed to gules or azure.

6. From Captain F.C. Pilkington.— "CANADIAN SERVICES COLLEGES". With reference to items in SABRETACHE 8 on the Canadian Services Colleges, perhaps it should be mentioned that uniforms, badges, and coats of arms are identical for the three institutions, except that the motto is "TRUTH, DUTY, VALOUR" for Kingston and Royal Roads, with the French equivalent "VERITE, DEVOIR, VAILLANCE" for Saint Jean.

Dress Regulations do not give justice to the Canadian climate, as no mention is made of summer uniforms. The Canadian summer months are hot, with the thermometer hitting the eighties and nineties, and summer-weight and tropical kit is worn (in drill and tropical worsted) by service personnel. The cadets follow the order of dress prescribed by the units to which they are attached.

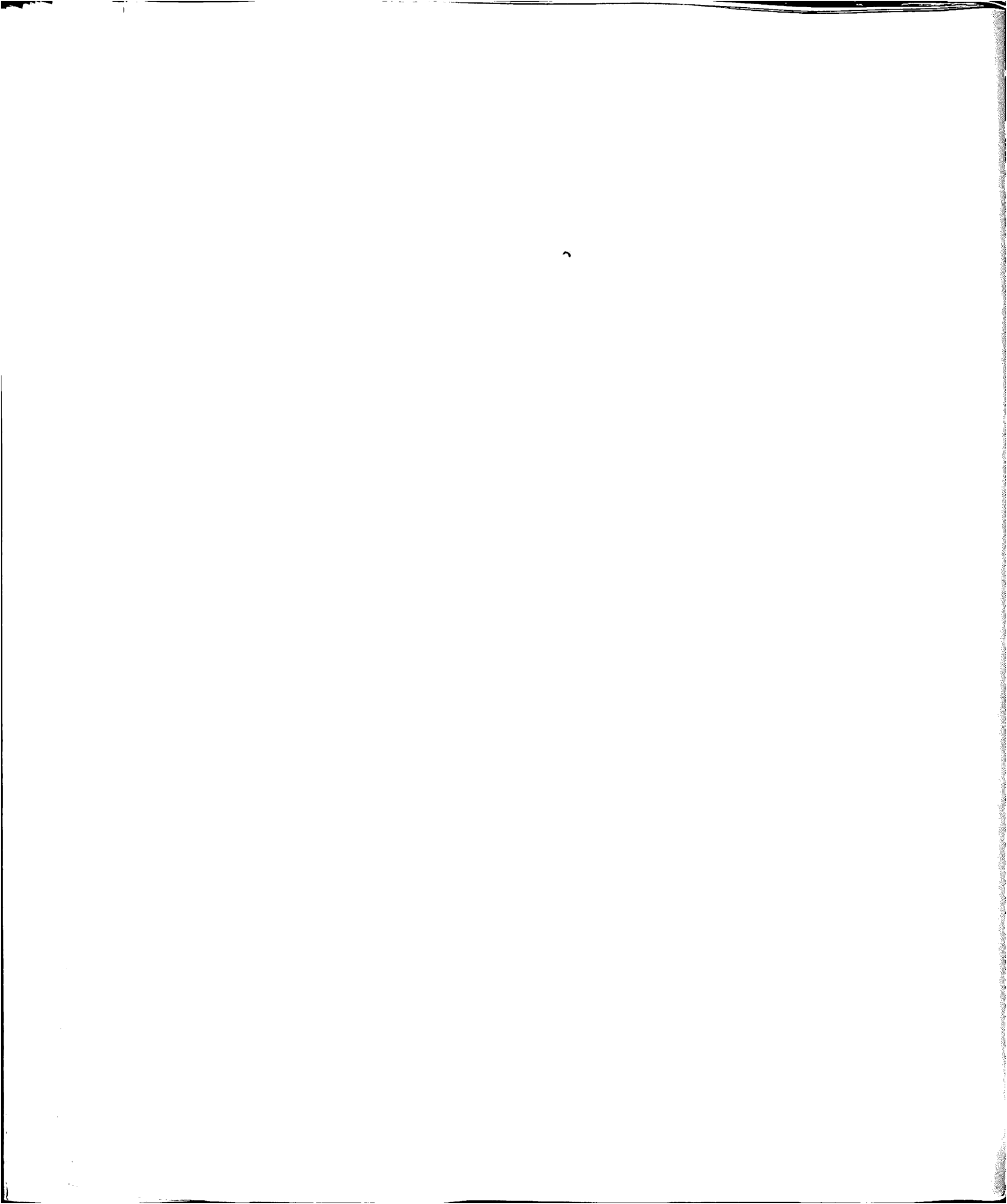
7. From Captain F.C. Pilkington.— 11th. Regt. The IRISH FUSILIERS OF CANADA.

In the list of Lt. Col. R.S. Von Schrittz's prints of "Regiments of the World 1880-1914", plate 4 is described as "11th. Irish Fusiliers of Canada 1911-14". The first date is incorrect, as this regiment was first authorised with effect 15th. August 1913.

The print purports to show "Officer and Fusilier". The rank "Fusilier", however, dates only from after World War I, to succeed that of "Private" in Fusilier Regiments.

8. From Captain F.C. Pilkington.— WAR MEDALS: PRIVATE ISSUE.

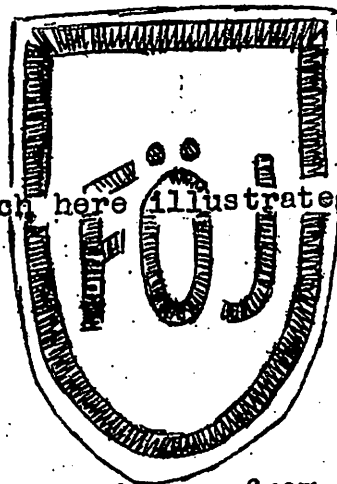
The New Zealand Cross. The Queen was not amused." Evidently the New Zealand bravery award made Victoria cross!



DESPATCHES continued.

9. From Mr. B. J. Videon. - ANY CLUES?

Does any member know the shoulder patch here illustrated?
 Background colour red.
 Lettering and border
 are pale greyish
 colour. The material
 of the shield is a
 light-weight cotton.
 Size actual from tracing.



From Mr. Robert Gray. - An interesting coat of arms from South Australia, appeared on the front cover of "HOWELL'S DIRECTORY FOR THE CITY AND PORT OF ADELAIDE, and SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ALMANAC FOR THE YEAR 1858". This comprises the shield of the State of South Australia, with a rising sun as a crest, emu and kangaroo as supporters, and the motto beneath, "ADVANCE AUSTRALIA". The shield is quartered by a cross bearing the five stars of the Southern Cross, and in the first quarter is a sheep supported by a sling; in the second a sailing ship; in the third an anchor and spear crossed; and in the fourth quarter a sheaf of wheat.
 (The motto "ADVANCE AUSTRALIA" was also used in the badge of the N.S.W. Army Service Corps just prior to Federation. - Ed.)

From Mr. F. Ollenschlager, Germany. - More information on Death's Head badges. One illustration sent shows the head of a soldier labelled "Belling-Husar unter Friedrich II", and the headdress is a tall peak-less shako bearing on the front a device of a complete skeleton, which can only be described as "lolling obscenely", and brandishing a scythe! This is a most effective interpretation of this type of badge.
 Mr. Ollenschlager has sent other death's heads also, but these have yet to be compared against those already described in earlier editions of SABRETACHE.

From Capt. F. C. Pilkington. - YET ANOTHER DEATH'S HEAD BADGE.

The Royal Victoria Rifle Club, founded in London, England, in 1835, was an early Volunteer organisation that wore a uniform of rifle regiment type and carried regimental colours. The earliest badge of this unit on record was worn on the shako and consisted of "a small death's head etc. on a silk rosette with a crown, and the letters "RVR" underneath, all in silver or white metal."

The Royal Victoria Rifle Club became the Royal Victoria Rifle Corps (1853), the 1st. Middlesex Rifle Corps (Victoria Rifles) (1859), and eventually the 9th. London Regiment (Queen Victoria's Rifles) T.F. (1908).

In 1949 it was designated the 7th. Bn. The King's Royal Rifle Corps (Queen Victoria's Rifles).

(Ref: CE. J. Martin. article. M.H.S. "Bulletin". Vol. VI. 21 Aug 1955).



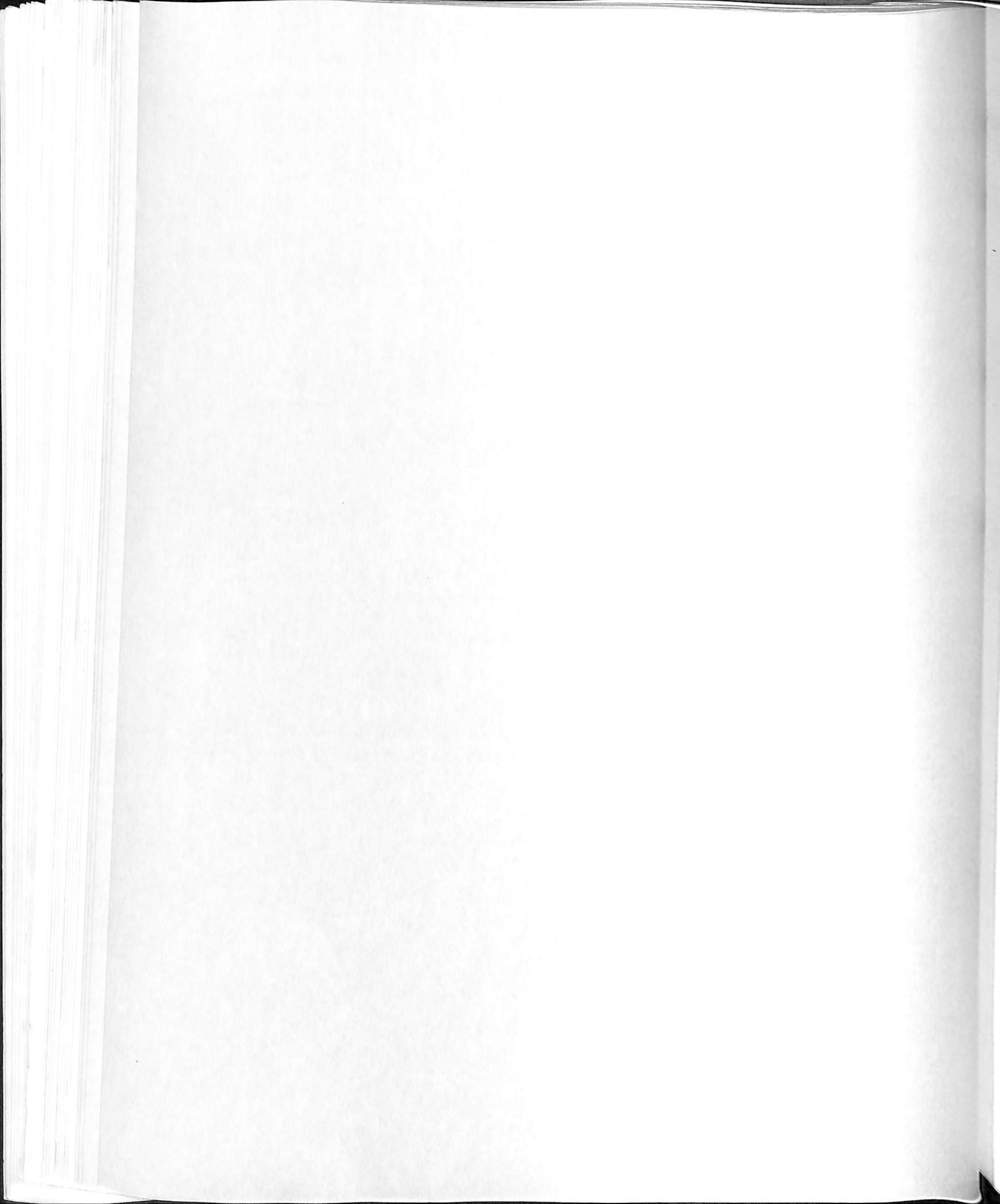
MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED:

Australian cap badges of period up to 1903,1911,1941 required by English collector, and for friend collecting badges worn in WW2, including those worn in Militia units up to 1941. Can offer large selection of British cap badges for exchange, and an assortment of Commonwealth cap badges besides. In addition, would like Australian and New Zealand helmet plates and glengarry badges of late Victorian period, and pre-WWI, and can offer similar items of British Army in exchange if desired. All letters welcomed, and answered by Air letter post.

H.L.King,
3 South St., FARNHAM, Surrey, UK.

.....



HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1959/60

MEMBERSHIP: There appears to be a growing interest in matters military, both here and abroad, as during the year we enrolled 27 new members. Our membership is now 103 and we are affiliated with 16 Societies.

"SABRETACHE": Approximately 700 copies were published during the year. In addition to the distribution to Society members, "SABRETACHE" has been forwarded to Libraries both here and abroad, and to various Australian Government Departments which are thought to be interested in publications of this kind.
There is a growing tendency on the part of Units of the Australian Forces to be interested in military history etc., and "SABRETACHE" is finding its way into these worthwhile places.

MEETING PLACE: Due to the increase in membership it is becoming increasingly difficult to hold meetings in members' homes, and we have therefore arranged for alternate meetings to be held at the Melbourne Public Library Theatrette. If this arrangement appears to be very satisfactory, the possibility of holding the majority of meetings in these premises will be examined. Lt. Col. P. Kaye has kindly offered to grant, on indefinite loan, a sum sufficient to cover the cost of hiring the Theatrette.

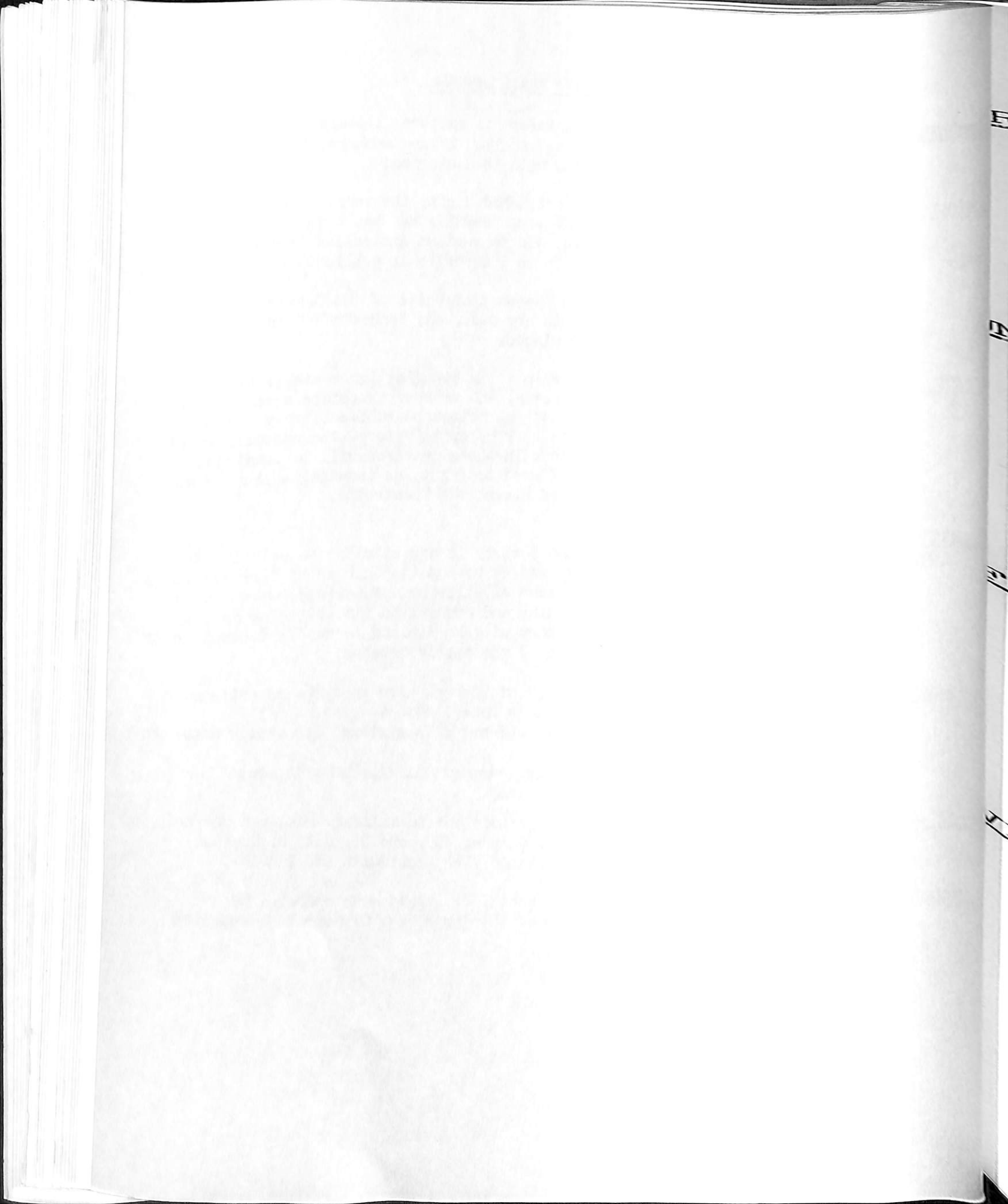
ADVERTISING:

Advertising the Society: The work of the Society is now starting to gain impetus. In order to further its aims, and to better its chances of disseminating information to the ever-avid band of military enthusiasts, we would like members to try and bring our aims and Journal to the notice of as many people as possible. The Secretary will be pleased to supply a sample copy of "SABRETACHE" to any interested prospective member.

Members and Trade Advertisements: A number of members have used the advertisement section of the Journal with, it is hoped, some success. Correspondence between members, and mutual assistance are vastly important in this type of Society.
The Committee desires to encourage the use of the "Advertisement" and "Despatches" sections of the Journal.

VICE PRESIDENTS: In recognition of their contributions to military research and help to the Society, Lt. Col. P. V. Vernon, E.D. and Lt. Col. D. S. Von Schrittz, U.S. Army, were appointed Vice Presidents for 1960/61.

LIBRARY: A Library accession list will shortly be supplied to members. We are indebted to the many generous and thoughtful members who have supplied so many publications.



RESEARCH: It is pleasing to note the interest of some of the members in Research, whether into history or dress. Lt. Col. Von Schrilitz has published 20 excellent plates with colouring instructions. Messrs. Gale and Fostberg have made considerable progress in the compilation of material for books on Australian V.C. Winners and a Lineage of the Australian Military Forces. Mr. B. J. Videon, as a result of correspondence with a member, Capt. B. L. Davies, R.E., has compiled a wealth of information on the Royal Australian Engineers and their predecessors. Many worthwhile contributions to the Journal supplement the work of these researchers.

MUSEUM PRESENTATIONS: The aim of forming a museum, despite present accommodation difficulties, has never been neglected by the Committee. Whilst, in general, bulky items have not been sought, opportunities to acquire available Australian uniforms have been seized. We have in storage one scarlet jacket of the now obsolescent band of the Royal Melbourne Regiment, donated by the Regiment, and a uniform of a R.A.A.F. officer of WW2, donated by Ince Bros. An obsolete Royal Marines type R.A.N. band uniform is being sought from the Navy. The Consul for Western Germany has supplied a set of insignia of the West German Forces, and the Consul General for the Netherlands supplied 2 large wall charts of naval insignia. A British Line Officers helmet, the gift of Mr. B. Louth, and sundry smaller items are included in the nucleus collection.

MANUFACTURERS and SUPPLIERS:

The Committee has taken the initiative in trying to locate for members, sources of supply of badges, model soldiers and books.

In the pursuit of this aim, manufacturers, outfitters, publishers, etc. have been contacted.

Two consignments of model soldiers were ordered and several varieties of badges and written material were procured.

Members interested in this aspect of our activities are invited to inform the Secretary whether they would be interested in purchasing items such as mentioned above, and the nature and limits of their requirements.

It is regretted that no promises can be made, beyond that every effort will be made to help any member.

TELEVISION SHOWS: The Society was able to be of assistance to a Melbourne television station in the presentation of 2 of its shows.

The first production dealt with the attempt on Hitler's life. Some of the members rallied round and lent medals, badges, and uniform trimmings.

The second production had a "Man in Space" theme, and we were able to supply Air Force uniform details.



ANNUAL MEETING and COMPETITIONS: The Annual Meeting was held at the home of the President on 12th. December, 1959.

Although only 23 persons attended, this was considered to be the best held to date. In addition to the interest in the competitions, much enjoyable discussion took place on all aspects of military interest.

The results of the competitions are listed below:

Competition for a Painted Model Figure- won by Lt. Col. Kaye's entry, a French Marine de la Garde 1812.

The trophy, an engraved cup, is Col. Kaye's third for competitions involving model figures.

Competition for a collection of Badges: This competition was for "A collection of badges of the British Army, the collection to illustrate or follow the history and development of a Regiment, Department or Corps" Only two entries were submitted, the trophy being won by Mr. B. J. Vidcon's entry "The Royal Marines".

Competition for a converted Figure: This competition attracted a record number of entries. We were particularly pleased to receive entries from Major John Gorman, of Queanbeyan, N.S.W.. Up to the present time Major Gorman has been a "lone wolf" model painter and converter, and has developed some interesting techniques to a marked degree.

Judging in this section again proved to be difficult, and the trophy was awarded to Col. Kaye's 21st. Lancer Officer, 1914.

This competition shows promise of developing into a most interesting and hotly contested one.

Mr. Ken Pryor is to be commended on the method of presentation and display of his many fine entries.

The Committee earnestly urges members to try to make a showing in the Annual Competitions.

By these means at least two objects are attained--the improvement consequent upon continued striving, and the enlightenment of the remainder of the members.

8th. July, 1960

J. K. Lyons,
Hon. Secretary.



SOCIETY NOTES.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

As a result of the recent annual elections, we have pleasure in welcoming to the Committee the following new officers:-

Mr. Paul Lober, as Treasurer, and

Cpl. Mick Youl, as Librarian.

Both these gentlemen have army connections, and are keen members of the Society.

Major J. B. Gale has retired from the Committee, due to an impending transfer to another State.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

With this issue, our Secretary, Mr. J. K. Lyons, has issued a report setting out the activities etc of the past year. It is hoped that this will be able to be supplemented by our usual Treasurer's Report.

ANNUAL COMPETITIONS FOR 1960.

It is hoped that this year's December meeting will be the best ever. It is possible that an exhibition may be able to be held in conjunction with an Army display at one of the local Army Depots. To investigate this matter, a Sub-Committee comprising Messrs. Ken Pryor, Mick Youl, and Barry Videon, has been appointed. A notice concerning details etc, of the meeting and competitions will be circulated as soon as possible.

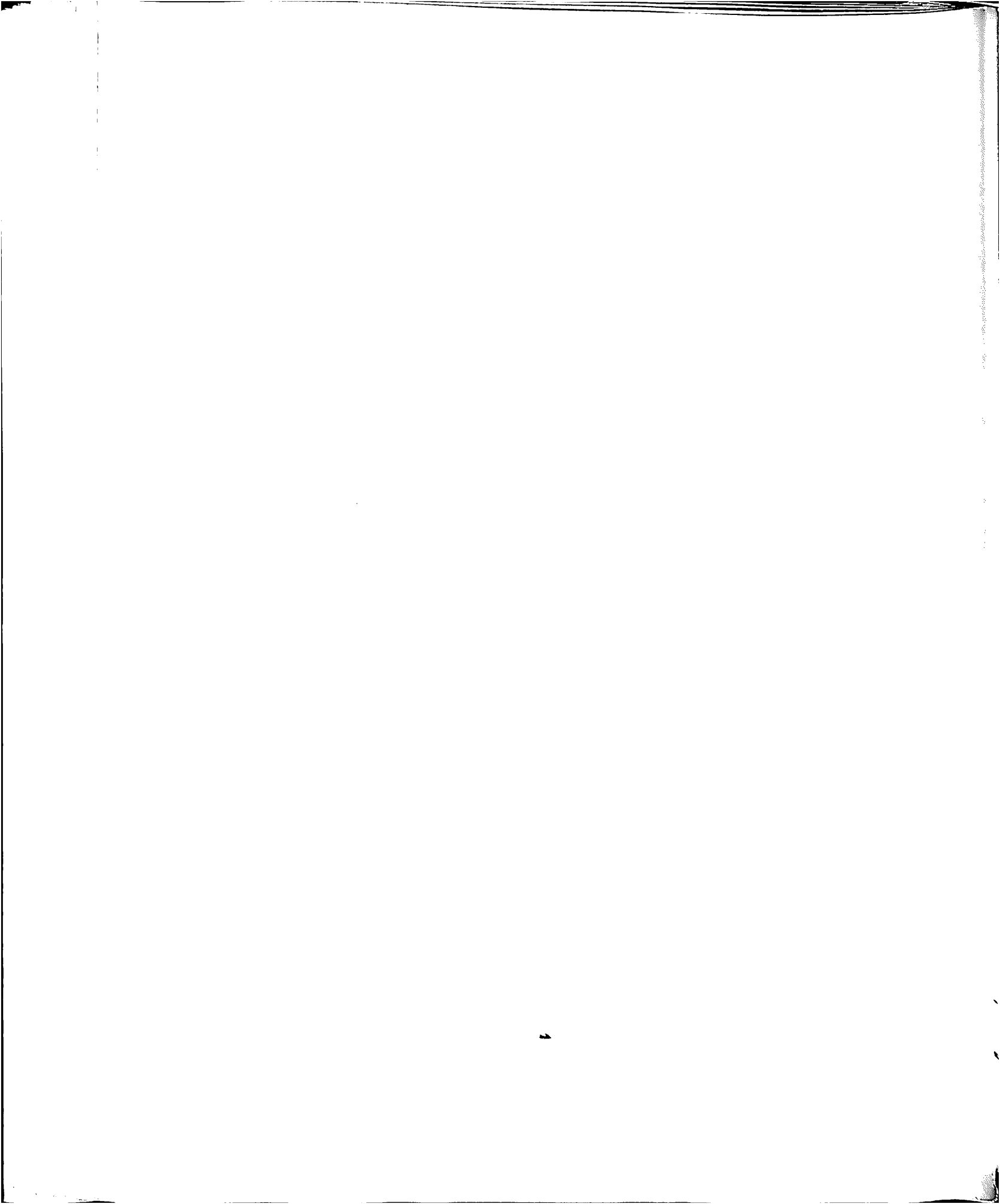
ARTICLES FOR SABRETACHE.

We are still keen to receive articles for SABRETACHE. Some contributors have submitted some very excellent material which has not so far been used, due to various reasons, but this is not a bad thing, and these useful articles have not been disregarded.

It will have been remarked that we sometimes have difficulty in reproducing illustrations, and, in many cases, this has delayed the use of some of these articles. In other cases, it has been thought better to publish certain articles in conjunction with others which are coming in concerning a particular subject, or group of subjects; or, perhaps, we are waiting for charts showing certain insignia. So, please, keep sending in your material, and it will not be wasted.

OFFICE MACHINERY.

We at present own an antiquated typewriter, and an even more antiquated rotary duplicator. Whilst these have helped us to reproduce SABRETACHE, it has been necessary to call on the services of some pretty inexperienced typists to help us to achieve something near our "deadlines" for each issue.



This is not as successful as we would wish. About all that can be said is that we do produce the information. It is thought that we might endeavour to procure a "FORDIGRAPH" type duplicator, which we understand, is rather more economical to operate than are the ink type duplicators. This will be examined by the Committee, and, subject to the ever present problem of money, it may be decided to purchase one of these machines on a hire purchase plan.

Advantages which would be expected are:- economy of operation, speedier preparation, easier reproduction of sketches, and cleaner storage of master sheets in case more copies might be needed later. Up to the present time, it has not been possible to preserve stencils for further use.

BADGE COLLECTION.

The possibility of forming a collection of badges of Australian Militia Infantry cap badges as at the date of the recent reorganisation, has been suggested. We would try to obtain one of each badge for mounting in logical order as a Society collection, preparatory to doing the same thing with the new badges of the State Regiments when they become available in a couple of years' time.

If any member would be willing to donate badges to such a collection, it will be appreciated if he will write to the Secretary, and suggest the badge or badges that he could spare.

It is emphasised that, at the present time, it would only be badges in use as at 30th. June 1960 that would be wanted for this purpose. Please do not send badges until you hear from the Secretary in reply to your offer, as the possibility of sending duplications must be considered. And addresses badges only.

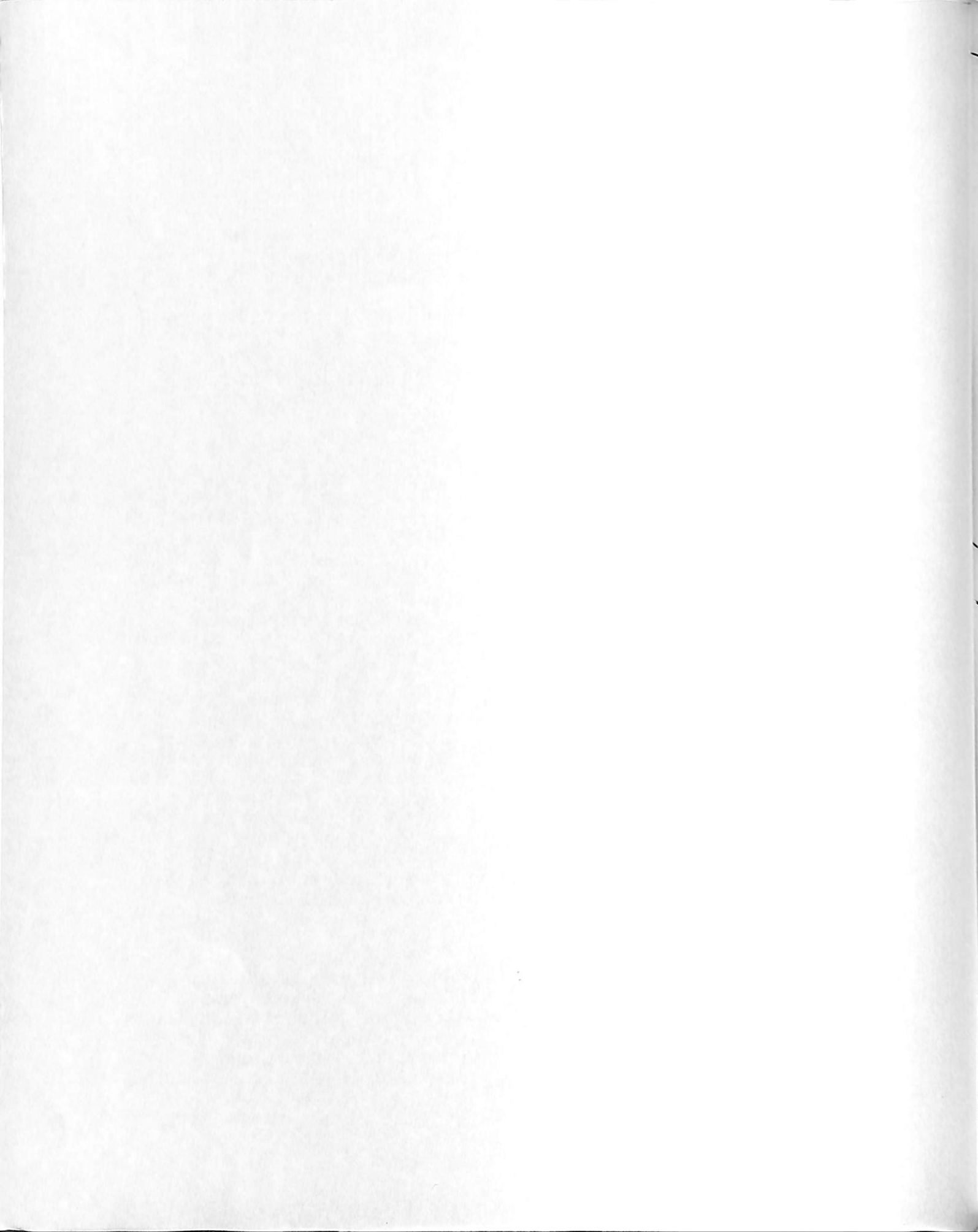
If it should prove impossible to procure the necessary badges for this purpose, then it may be decided to ask you for photos.

It should be mentioned here, that photographs of ANY Aust. badges will always be welcomed by us for our Library.

MEETINGS.

We are keen to improve the attendances at our meetings, now that we have been able to arrange to hold alternate monthly meetings at the Theatre of the Melbourne Public Library. At these evenings, it is planned to have either films or organised lectures, in addition to the usual business matters, exhibiting of recent work and acquisitions, etc.

Please try to attend, and when you come along, please try to PARTICIPATE.



R.A.A.F. BADGES WANTED:-

I am anxious to acquire any or all of the following insignia for my collection of R.A.A.F. items

AIRCREW WING BADGES

Pilot "AMF" Pilot "AFC"
Post-ww2 crowned half-wings for all musterings,
with either old or new crowns.

SHOULDER TITLES, etc

Metal shoulder title "AFC"
pre-ww2 triangular shoulder patch for Citizen
Air Force (similar to AFC patch).
Apprentices blue triangle badge
Cadets white triangle badge
Officer type shoulder slides with letters "RAAF"
in either blue or red.
2" white shoulder tape with blue bars for cadets.
2" white shoulder tape with blue chevron braid.

HEADRESS BADGES

Officer cap badge c.1920's with Southern Cross
behind eagle in a wreath, on a dark ground.
Later type badge similar design on a pale ground.
WAAAF small blue embroidered cap badge for cap,
field service post-ww2, (letters "RAAF").
WRAAF similar type badge, but with letters "WRAAF"
as worn before introduction of gilt metal badge.
Possible "first-type" RAAF badge for men c.1920's.

SLEEVE BADGES

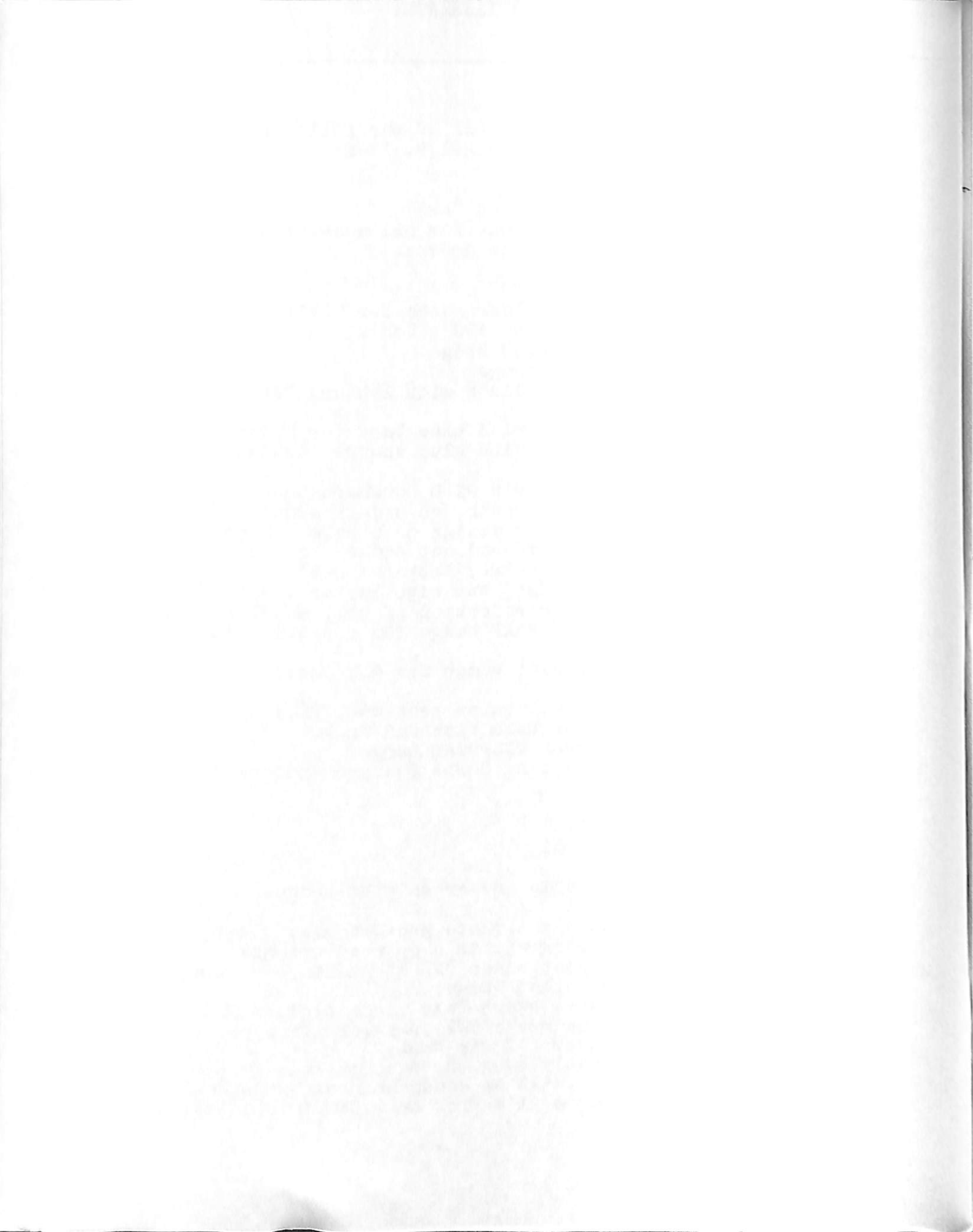
4-bladed metal propellor badge for Flt.Sgts., etc.,
pre-ww2.
Rank badges for N.C.O. Aircrew post-ww2, P(1) to
P(4), and Master. Both blue and drab.
Possible WW2 type BOMB DISPOSAL badge.
Arm band for Air Training Corps (before uniforms).

COLLAR BADGES

Education Branch,
Dental Branch, gilt,
Padre, gilt and enamel,
Camouflage Branch,
RAAF Band present eagle and crown gilt badge.

OTHER ITEMS

Officers swordbelt waist plate pre-WW2, rising sun,
eagle and lettering within a crowned wreath;
O/R's ceremonial waist clasp "RAAF" within a crowned
wreath similar to hat badge;
Present type officers sword-belt plate similar RAF.
Lapel badge RAAF Reserve c. WW2 brass, civilian wear.
Piped cap for Officers of Air Rank.
Condition should preferably be good, but, in cases where
only otherwise available, will be acceptable and welcome.
B.J. Videon, 1 Harper Ave., BENTLEIGH, Victoria.



MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.
cont.

Mr. B. J. Videon wishes to thank his many friends overseas for their continued correspondence and trading; and to advise them that, for the time being, requirements as to space, etc. force him to limit his collecting to items of naval and air force interest only. It is hoped that this will not be a continuing condition.

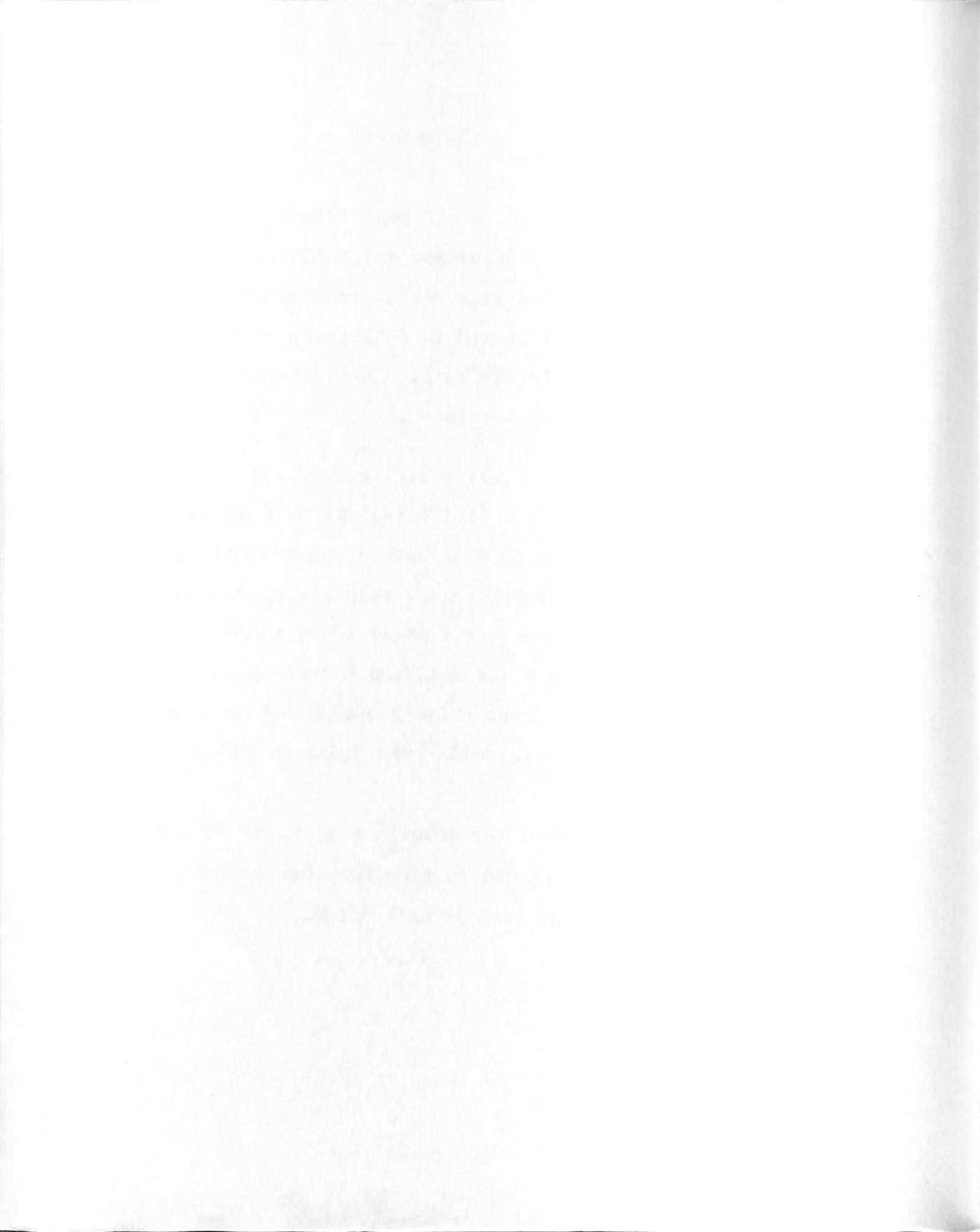
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The Society has for sale a limited supply of Australian badges, for prices ranging from between approximately 2/- each for collar badges, to 4/- each for headdress badges. Most are of recent vintage---some older.

In addition, there are a few R.A.N. Band insignia from the Royal-Marine-type dress which recently became obsolete. These latter include cap, collar and metal shoulder insignia.

Please write to Hon. Sec. for details and prices AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. There should be time for some overseas members to avail themselves of this offer.

.....



FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO MAKE A NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING MEETING DATES.

REMEMBER, THE MEETING NIGHT IS NOW THE SECOND FRIDAY IN EACH MONTH.

AUGUST MEETING: Host, Mr.M.Youl, 7 Maggs St., Croydon.
12/8/60.
SEPTEMBER : At the Public Library Theatrette.
9/9/60.
OCTOBER : Host, Mr.P.Lober, 7 Margaret St., E.Brighton.
14/10/60.
NOVEMBER : At the Public Library Theatrette.
11/11/60.
DECEMBER : At a time and place to be notified, possibly
?/12/60. at an army depot. This will be the
annual meeting with competitions, and
will be held on a SATURDAY.

Meetings at the Theatrette will usually feature either films, or a lecture with exhibits, whichever is available.

Meetings open at 8p.m. unless advised otherwise.

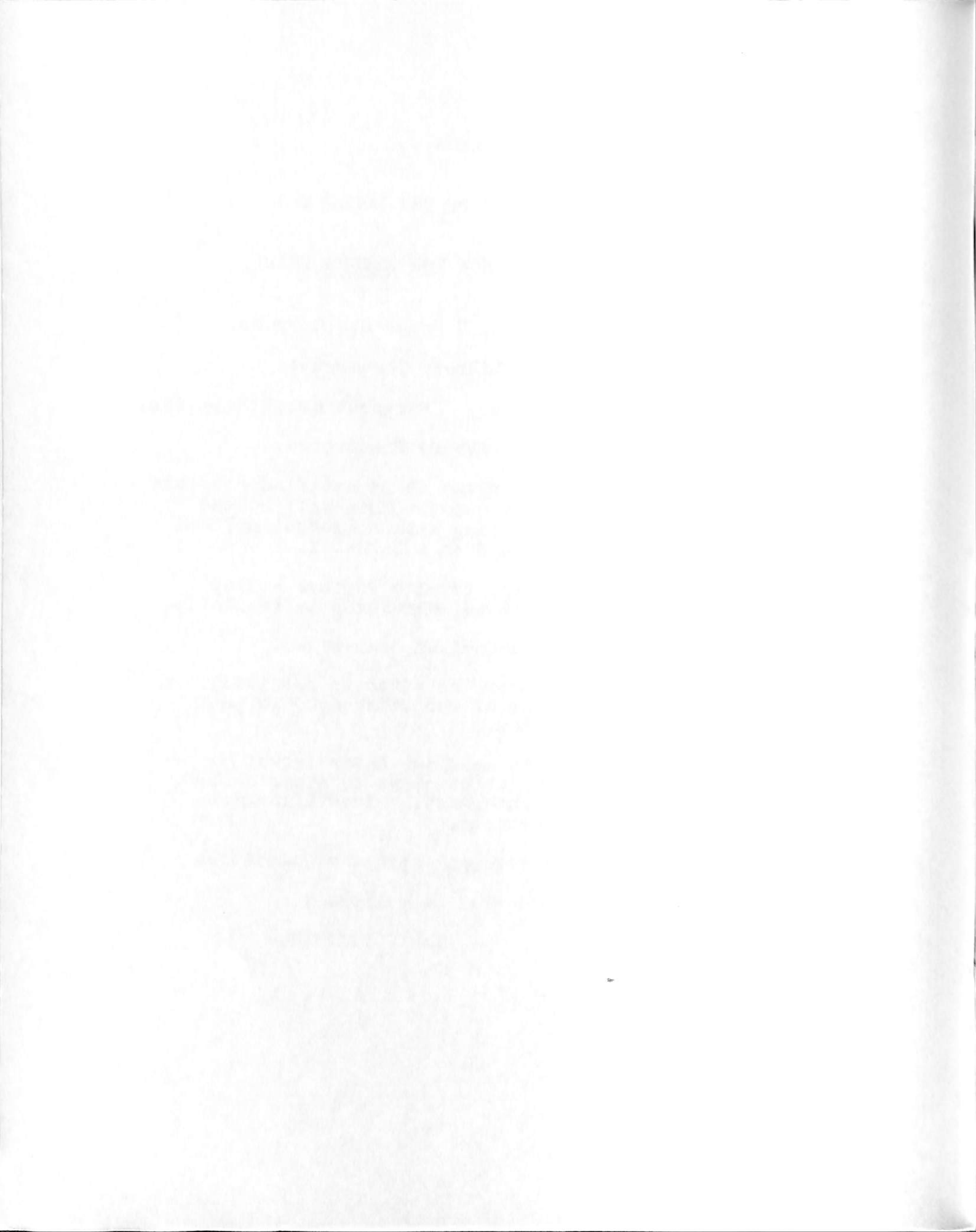
We wish to see our local members as often as possible, and will be very glad to meet any of our other members when this may be convenient to them.

Members are asked to bring to meetings their latest acquisitions or work, which can be shown to other members for their interest and enlightenment. Identifications may be possible at these meetings.

Visitors may be invited as arranged with the Committee.

Suggestions for agenda items will be welcomed.

THE COMMITTEE.



NOTICE TO BADGE COLLECTORS.

Elsewhere with this edition of SABRETACHE, mention has been made of badges which are available for sale.

This can now be elaborated somewhat. The badges in stock are:-

- 10 only Hunter River Lancers Collar badges @ 2/- ea;
- 22 only Launceston Regiment hat badges @ 4/- ea;
- 20 only R.A.Nursing Corps badges (hat, beret & brooch)all @ 4/- ea;
- 10 only S.A.Mounted Rifles hat badges @ 4/- ea;
- 12 only Wide Bay Regt. collar badges @ 2/- ea;
- 20 only Wide Bay hat badges @ 4/- ea;
- 11 only W.R.A.A.C. beret or collar badges @ 4/- ea;
- 10 only R.E.Engineers hat badges @ 4/- ea;

All are Queen's crown badges except for 6 WRAAC k/c.

The following badges can be obtained locally:-

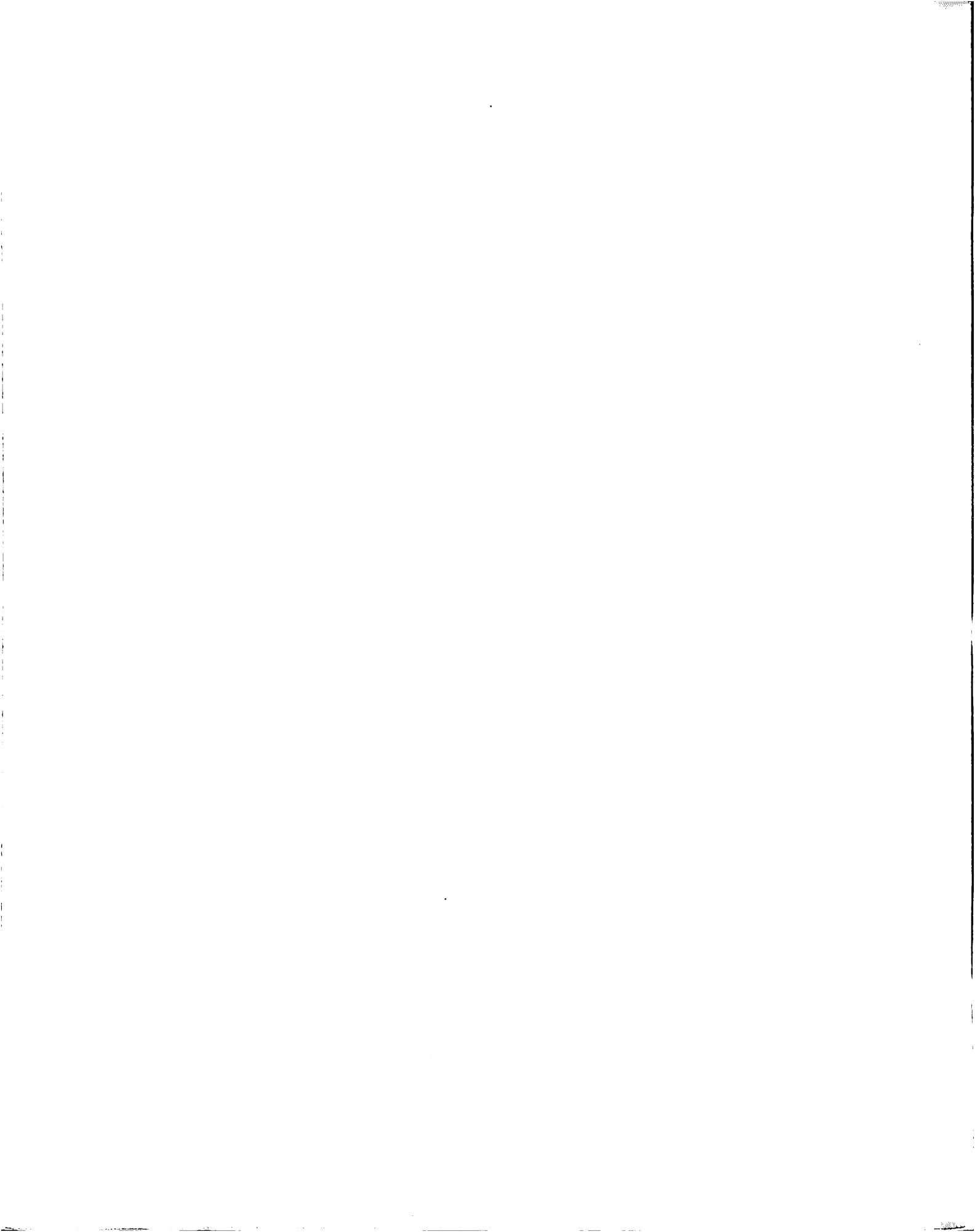
Army Service Corps hat and collar badges black WW2; @ 3/6 & 2/- ea;
metal shoulder titles few WW2 corps @ 1/- ea;
army WW2 metal trade etc. badges for sleeves, black---
Driver, Armourer, Tank radio-op.; army band; sigs. flags;
five-pointed stars for grade;
and also RAAF wireless Operator "sparks".
plus few odd hat badges WW2 Sigs Corps, etc.
These badges should be ordered through the Secretary.

There probably will be a few of the following R.A.Naval Band badges available after satisfying orders:-

Star-shaped cap badges;	2/6 ea.
lyre collar badges;	2/6 ea.
metal shoulder titles "RAN";	1/- ea.
brass bandsmens buttons.	5d. ea.

We would be pleased to receive any orders for these badges, in particular those in stock, and the naval items, as we are keen to be able to quit stocks and receive cash as quickly as possible, in order that we may be in a sufficiently sound financial position to be able to buy up any other small lots that might become available. It has taken us a long, long while to get the confidence of the various manufacturers and others concerned, and we want to be able to keep it by re-ordering when badges are offered. So, please consider buying a couple of spares for exchanges! The prices of any badges in stock are low, otherwise we would not be handling them. Expensive badges can be obtained from other sources.

AND PLEASE LEAVE YOUR NAMES WITH US IF YOU WANT TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN OUR NEXT LOT OF BADGES COMES IN!



ADDITIONAL DIRECTORY AMENDMENTS.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

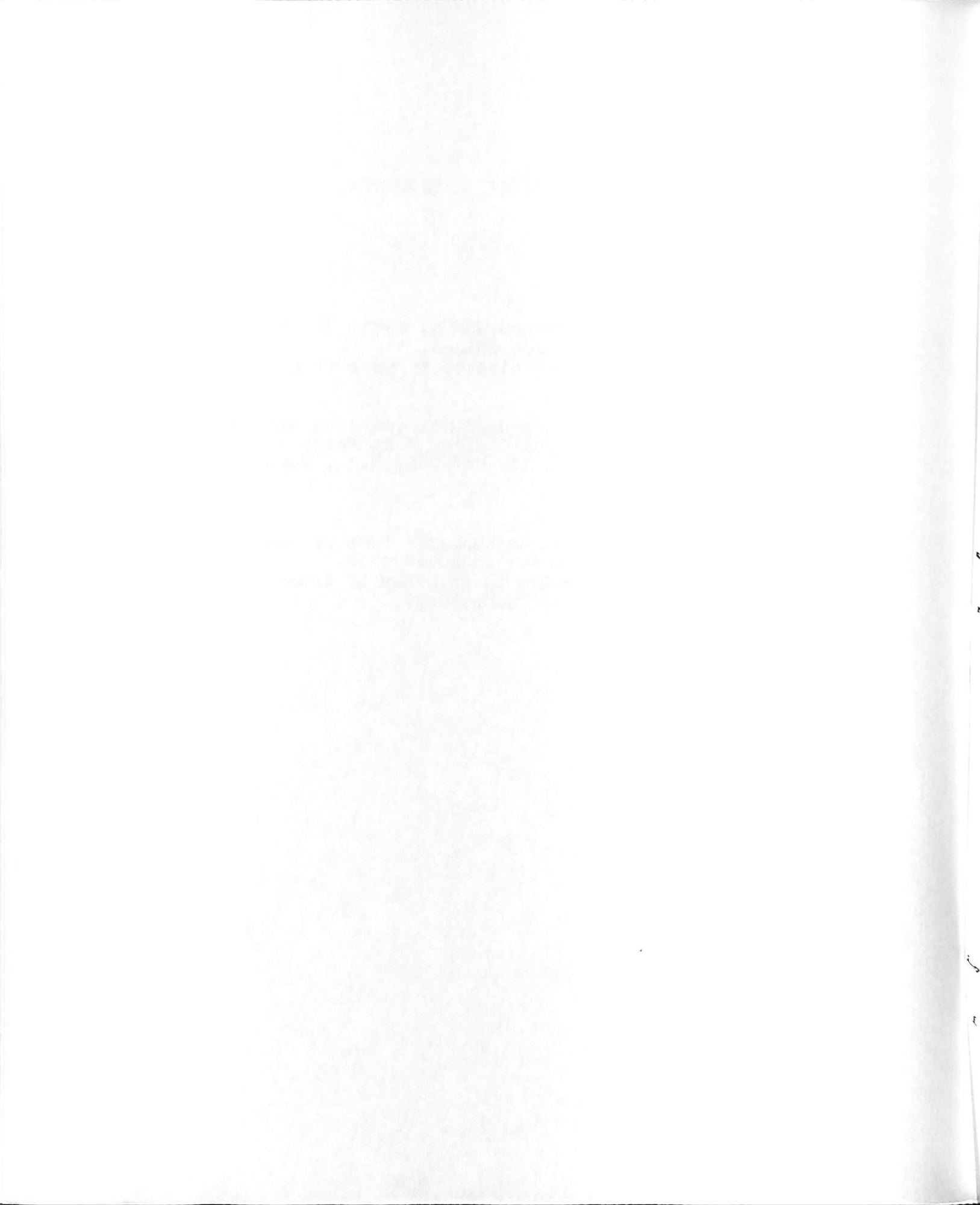
Lt. John J. Frewen, to :
Govt. S/S. Branch, WEWAK, Sepik District,
New Guinea.

NOTE: John would be pleased to hear from members.

Mr. Elton M. Manuel has changed his address, but will
retain his Post Office Box, which is:
P.O. Box 14, NEWPORT, R.I., U.S.A.

EXCHANGE OF JOURNALS.

The Committee is pleased to announce that an exchange of
journals has been proposed and accepted with
The United Service Institution of India,
(Lt. Col. Pyara Lal, Secretary),
Kashmir House,
NEW DELHI 11,
India.



NEW APPLICATIONS.

The following new applicants are welcomed:-

Lt. Col. T. B. Fischer, E.D., of 10, Tilden Street, GRASSMERE,
(Plympton P.O.), South Australia.

Subscriber to SABRETACHE--military history.

Apprentice J. Peel, 2/43149, 5 Platoon, B Company, Army
Apprentices School, BALCOMBE, Victoria.

Formation signs and rank badges, Australia.

Mr. M. Protopopov, of 66 Zetland St., MONT ALBERT, Victoria.
Collects medals.

Capt. B. L. Davies, of 47 (HQ) Survey Sqn., R.E., B.F.P.O. 53.
General interest in British Army--particular interest
Badges, Uniforms, etc of Engineer Units of the British
Commonwealth.

Mr. J. G. Truskett, of 97 Grampton St., WAGGA, N.S.W.
Collects military weapons.

Mr. B. Crow, of 45 Nab Wood Crescent, SHIPLEY, Yorks., U.K.
Collects headdress badges, all countries.

Mr. B. Hirsh, of 186 Cambrook Rd., CAULFIELD SE8, Victoria.
Collects medals and Ribbons of Britain, France & U.S.A.

In terms of Para. 13d. of our Constitution and Rules, these
a plications are provisional for a period of three calendar
months.

APPLICATIONS APPROVED:

All applicants advertised in the April 1960 Amendment sheet
are approved for admission, and cordially welcomed.

DELETIONS:

Please delete the following from the Directory:

Mr. C. R. MURRAY, of Footscray, Vic.--deceased.

Lt. Col. C. T. BAUER, of U.S.A.--resigned.

THE MELBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL CADET UNIT--
unfinancial.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

Lt. Col. J. F. GREENE, Jr., to U.S. Army ROTC Instructor Group,
Canisius College, 2001 Main St.,
BUFFALO 8, N.Y., U.S.A.

Lt. Col. Dick S. Von Schrittz, to G3 Division, 3rd. Logistical
Command, APO 58, PM, NEW YORK, N.Y., USA.



(LATE) MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

NOW! TO MEMBERS OF THIS SOCIETY!

GUNS

VINTAGE AND MODERN CARS
MILITARY EQUIPMENT
HISTORICAL FIGURES

ETC.,

available in plastic kit form, or fully assembled
for display purposes.

Please contact:

K.W.Pryor,
28 Jersey St.,
BALWYN ES, Vic.

.....

MEETINGS.

Please watch for the dates and places of our meetings.
Try to attend. Remember that meetings give you the
opportunity to meet friends, and to talk over your
latest activities. Help to make them a success.
And watch for further details of our December Meeting!
It should be a big show.

.....

WANTED! W.W.1 AUSTRALIAN BADGES LISTED BELOW.

Headdress and collar badges, gilding metal
or oxidised,
letters "CFS" in a crowned wreath, and the
metal shoulder title "CFS" to match.

These may have been used as late as 1920, by the
members of the Central Flying School at Point Cook.

Information concerning these badges would be welcomed
from anyone who knows of their having been used.

B.J.Videon, 1 Harper Ave., BENTLEIGH, SE15, Vic.



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Military and Historical Models designed by Marcus Hinton for the Connoisseur

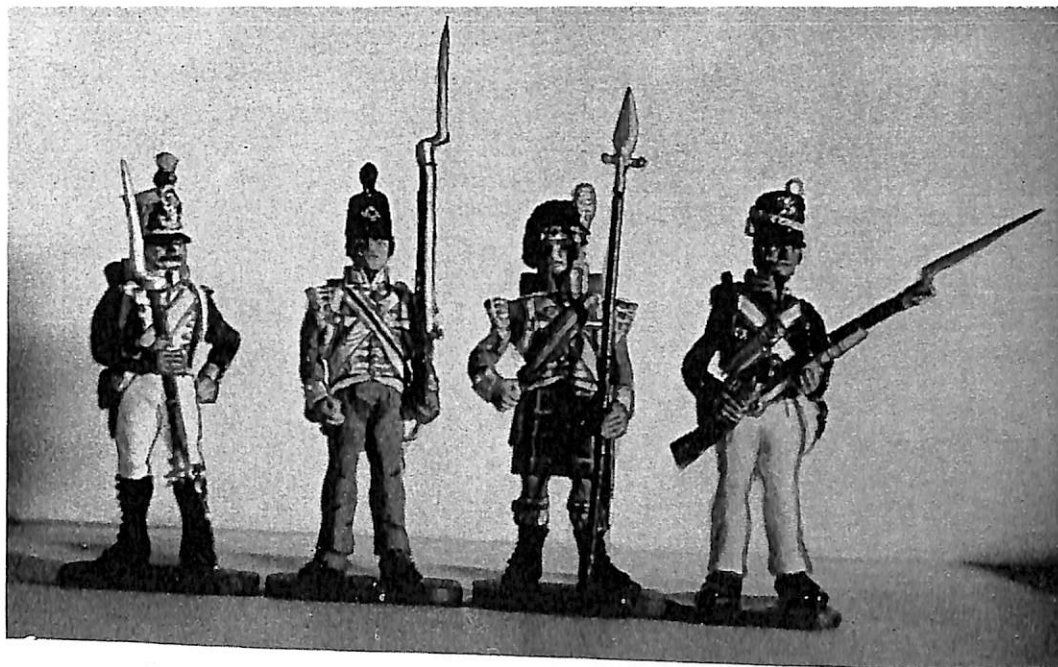


S107

S31

S97

S99



S47

S25

S105

S194

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HINTON HUNT FIGURES, Rowsley, River Road, Taplow, Bucks, England.
Telephone: Maidenhead 1399

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