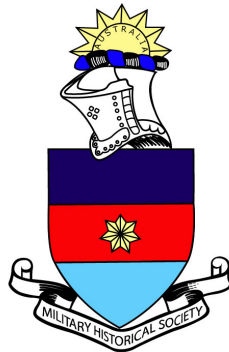


Military Historical Society of Australia
Sabretache



Copyright © 1957-2019 Military Historical Society of Australia on behalf of the Society and its authors who retain copyright of all their published material and articles. All Rights Reserved.

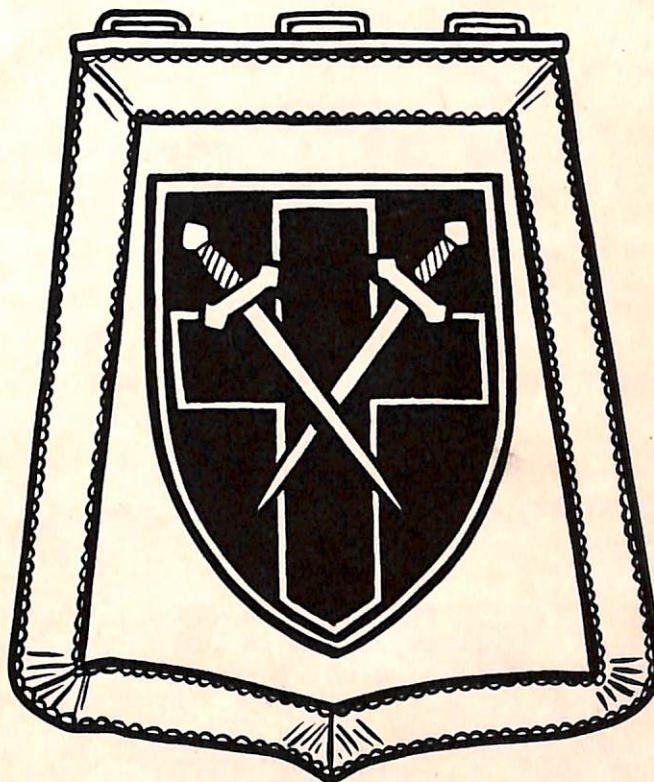
Sabretache policy is that the submission of material gives the Society permission to print your material, to allow the material to be included in digital databases such as the MHSa website, Australian Public Affairs-Full Text, INFORMIT and EBSCO. Reprints to non-profit historical and other societies will be approved provided suitable attribution is included and a copy of the reprint is sent to the author. Copyright remains with the author who may reprint his or her article or material from the article without seeking permission from the Society.

The Society encourages the download and distribution of *Sabretache* for personal use only and *Sabretache* can not be reproduced without the written consent of the Society.

www.mhsa.org.au

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

SABRETACHE



THE JOURNAL OF
THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF AUSTRALIA

VOL. IX

JULY, 1966

No. 1

STRENGTH



THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA.

Founded in Melbourne in 1957.

HONORARY OFFICE BEARERS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE 1967.

FEDERAL COUNCIL

PRESIDENT.

Major E.W.O.Perry, R.L., M.A., B.Ec.

VICE PRESIDENT.

Mr. B.J. Videon, A.A.S.A.

SECRETARY.

Mr. J.K. Lyons
(262 Tucker Road, ORMOND EAST, SE 14, Victoria)

TREASURER.

Lt. P. Lober
(7 Margaret Street, BRIGHTON, S6, Victoria)

COUNCILLORS.

Mr. L. L. Barton,
Mr. A. N. Festberg,
Major J. B. Gale, E.D., M.A.

EDITOR & ACTING LIBRARIAN.

Mr. B.J. Videon
(20 Thomasina Street, EAST BENTLEIGH, SE 15, Vic.)

BRANCHES OF THE SOCIETY

VICTORIA

PRESIDENT.

Mr. A.N.Festberg

SECRETARY.

Mr. B. Hirsh

(186 Kambrook Road, CAULFIELD, SE8, Victoria)

* * * * *

NEW SOUTH WALES

PRESIDENT.

Mr. E. Radke.

SECRETARY.

Mr. D. Kennedy

(13 Woodward Ave., STRATHFIELD, N.S.W.)

* * * * *

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

PRESIDENT.

Mr. N.S. Foldi

SECRETARY.

Mr. K.R. White

(156 Miller St., C'CONNOR, A.C.T.)

* * * * *

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PRESIDENT.

Major H.J. Zwillenberg (Ret'd.)

SECRETARY.

Mr. A. Howlin

(37 Stanlake St., ST. MARY'S, S.A.)

* * * * *

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly meetings are held in Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, and Adelaide.
Details of times, places etc. may be obtained from the Branch Secretaries concerned.

Members travelling Inter-State are welcomed at any meeting of the Branches of the Society. It is recommended that prior to travelling, arrangements be made with the Branch Secretary in the city being visited.

* * * * *

"SABRETACHE"

The views expressed in the articles in this
Journal are those of the authors and not
necessarily those of the Society.

CONTENTS

| | PAGE |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| EDITOR'S NOTES | 1 |
| THE AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS A.N. Festberg | 3 |
| No.100 SQUADRON, R.A.A.F. A.N. Festberg | 4 |
| THE 1st AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY REGIMENT (concludes) | 5 |
| MILITARY MINIATURES R.A. Powell | 12 |
| DESPATCHES | 20 |
| NINTH ANNUAL REPORT BY THE FEDERAL PRESIDENT | 21 |
| BADGES OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN ENGINEERS 1861-1961 Lindsay Noble | 24 |
| FIREARMS USED BY THE 1st AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY REGIMENT E. Radke | 24 |
| THE MINIATURIST'S NOTEBOOK--TANGIER R.A. Powell | 27 |
| MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS | 32 & 34 |
| BOOK REVIEWS A.N. Festberg | 33 |
| RESEARCHERS' CORNER | 35 |
| SOME BADGES OF THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND FORCES IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR | 36 |

PLATES

| | |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|
| BADGES OF THE USSR CIVIL AIR FLEET | Frontispiece |
| MILITARY MINIATURES | Facing Page 12 |
| BADGES OF THE R.C.E. | Facing Page 24 |
| FIREARMS USED BY THE 1st A.I.R. | Facing Page 26 |
| ENGLISH GRENADIER ABOUT 1860 | Facing Page 28 |
| ENGLISH MUSKETEER ABOUT 1860 | Facing Page 30 |
| BADGES OF THE AUSTRALIAN AND N.Z. FORCES | Facing Page 36 |



BADGE OF THE USSR CIVIL AIR FLEET,
"for flying 3,300,000 km", given
to cosmonaut Valery Bykovsky.

Fotokhronika



BADGE OF THE USSR CIVIL AIR FLEET,
"for flying 2,000,000 km", given
cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova.

TASS.

*Photos submitted by
Mr. Tony Gleeson of Tasmania.*

Journal and Proceedings of
THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA.

Vol. 1X

JULY, 1966

No. 1.

Price: Fifty-seven cents.

EDITOR'S NOTES

This is the time of year when members ask themselves, will I renew my subscription? Will I let it go for a while and see whether it is worth renewing? Shall I manage to go to the meetings? Is there anything there to interest ME?

Rightly so---one SHOULD ask ones self whether it is worthwhile, and one should then act accordingly.

By coincidence, two small items have come to hand more or less at the same time, and from different sources.

The first is from the AUSTRALIAN ACCOUNTANT of October 1965, and was intended, of course, to apply to money matters. One may, however, substitute for the word "merchant" any of the following, viz., "member", "collector", "student" or "researcher". One may also think not in terms of money, but of matters of the mind.

Perhaps those of us who amass such information, large collections, etc., and who do not think of the other fellow, may come to the very sticky end foretold by the following author:-

"Many a merchant may think he is rich because he has large assets and does not think of the creditors he has to pay, whether they are more or less than his debtors. Such people fail dishonourably and soon go bankrupt without knowing how, when and where it happened to them."

- Mathaeus Schwarz, Model Accounts, Augsburg, 1516.

The second little piece was turned up by Mr. Robert Gray:-

"Have you an Alibi?

If you know any more than the rest of us,
Come along to Branch meetings and enlighten us.

If you know less,
Come and learn from us.

We need you, or else you need us.
Have you an Alibi?"

- Author unknown.

Corny? Well, perhaps, but it does give us something to think about.

Remember, while we may not be able to help you right at this moment, we may be able to do so at a later stage. We may even need your help!

Are you sufficiently interested to invest "thirty bob" in the next twelve months of the future? Are you sufficiently interested to see whether YOU can offer something, rather than come along and feel misled because you have GAINED nothing?

We naturally want to gain from participation in anything--the degree to which this gain is to be material or spiritual depends entirely on the character of the individual concerned.

B.J. Videon.

* * * * *

DISPLAY OF ARMS FROM AUSTRALIA'S COLONIAL DAYS.

The Antique and Historical Arms Collectors Guild of Victoria, in co-operation with the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) held a successful display of historical arms at Como House from 1st to 3rd April 1966.

The Display was opened by the Deputy Premier of Victoria, The Honourable A.G. Rylah C.M.G., E.D., M.P.

A valuable and wide range of weapons associated with the first 100 years of Australia's development provided a most impressive collection for the delight of all interested in this subject. Civil as well as military arms were shown.

* * * * *



THE AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS.

BADGES:

Hat, Cap and Collar-The Commonwealth Pattern badge of the Australian Army, in bronze.

Shoulder-strap-the curved "AUSTRALIA" title of the Army, surmounted initially by the bronze letters "AFC".

Shoulder- triangular color patch of light blue, with vertical dark blue centre stripe edged in red.

On 22nd October 1912, the Military Board promulgated the following Order:-

M.O. 570/1912:

1. Approval has been granted for the formation of a Flying Corps in Australia.
 2. The Corps will provide one (1) "flight" of an "aeroplane squadron".
 3. (Set out the approved establishment.)
 4. The Corps shall form part of the Citizen Forces and enlistment shall be voluntary, and shall begin on the 1st January 1913.
- etc, etc.

Thus, the 1st January 1913 can be regarded as the birthday of the Australian Flying Corps.

A flying training school was set up at Point Cook, near Melbourne, and the first military flight took place on 1st March 1914, after, as the Press reported, "many delays".

The first Australian flying unit to go overseas left Melbourne on 30th November 1914, with a total strength of 2 officers and 2 aircraft, for service with the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (A.N. & M.E.F.) in German New Guinea. It was to return to Australia without seeing action.

The second unit for active service, and the first contingent of Australian airmen ever to go overseas, left Australia in April 1915, and later became famous under the title "First Australian (Mesopotamia) Half-Flight".

Next to go were Numbers 1, 3 and 4 Squadrons, while Number 2 was formed in the Middle East. Altogether, 2275 all ranks served in the A.F.C. overseas, and of these, 158 were killed. One pilot (later to become Air Vice-Marshal), F.H. McNamara, won the Victoria Cross for rescuing a fellow aviator who had been downed in the desert.

Throughout the war, and until its disbandment in 1919, the A.F.C. remained a part of the Army, and directly under the control of the Military Board, and the Minister of Defence.

Military flying in Australia then ceased until the formation of the "Australian Air Force" as from 31st March 1921 (the title being changed to "Royal Australian Air Force" in July of the same year.

* * * * *

NO. 100 SQUADRON, R.A.A.F.

Neither Badge nor Battle honours awarded.

Number 100 Squadron formed at Richmond on 15th February 1942 out of the remnants of No.100 (Torpedo Bomber) Squadron, R.A.F. which had managed to make its way to Australia after receiving a severe battering from the Japanese.

It was the first squadron to be equipped with the Australian-built Beaufort. By the end of May 1942 it was fully operational, and based at Mareeba.

By the end of June, the squadron was withdrawn to Laverton, from which base it was employed on coastal patrols, while detachments were schooled at Nowra in the art of firing torpedos.

In September of the same year, the squadron moved north, and, early in 1943, it took part in the Bismarck Sea Battle.

As a General Reconnaissance Torpedo Bomber Squadron (R.A.F.), it was adversely criticised for the seemingly apparent failure of its torpedo work. To its credit, it could claim one cruiser definitely sunk, and many damaged.

In its role as a General Reconnaissance Bomber Squadron (R.A.A.F.) close support became its forte. Outstanding results were achieved by this Squadron, with its Australian-built Beauforts, which, by aircraft standards, were already outdated, and reputedly "not the right aircraft" for the job being done.

The Squadron's postwar career was short. Moving from Wewak, where it was represented at the surrender ceremony, to Finschhafen, it spent its time in ferry flights and courier runs, until it was finally disbanded in the field in August 1946.

No.100 (Bomber) Squadron, R.A.F., was formed again at Waltham (Grimsby), Lincolnshire, in England, on 15th December 1942. For a history of that Squadron, see "BOMBER SQUADRONS OF THE RAF" by Philip Moyes.

The Badge of 100 Squadron, R.A.F., is the skull and crossbones, and its motto is "Sarang Tebuan Jangan Dijolok".

* * * * *

THE FIRST AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY REGIMENT
HISTORICAL RECORD AND JUBILEE 1854-1904.

(continued from April edition, Page 11)

THE JUBILEE BANQUET

Held at the Hotel Australia, 3rd September 1904. Report abridged from the "Sydney Morning Herald" and the "Daily Telegraph".

The Jubilee of the First Australian Infantry Regiment was brilliantly celebrated by a banquet at the Hotel Australia on Saturday evening. The function marked a notable event in the history of Australian defence, and it was honoured by a distinguished company, representative not only of the regular and volunteer forces of the Commonwealth, but of the political, professional, and commercial community. Most of those present wore mess uniform, and as the large banqueting hall was beautifully decorated the effect was remarkably gay and attractive.

Shortly after 7 o'clock a Regimental Guard of Honour, under Major Watson and Lieutenants A. J. McDonald and H. N. Russel, paraded in front of the Australia and received their Excellencies the Governor-General, the State Governor, and the Admiral Commander-in-Chief with the usual honours when they arrived; the Regimental Band, under Bandmaster Draper, supplying the music. Inside the banqueting-room the original colours of the regiment were displayed in glass frames, and the present day standards were draped behind the centre table. The scene was a very animated and picturesque one, the bright uniforms of the officers making an effective contrast to the evening dress attire of several of the guests. The tables were laid in splendid style, while the decorations were very artistic, and the whole of the arrangements were carried out with great attention to detail. The String Band of the Royal Australian Artillery was stationed near the doorway, and at intervals added to the general enjoyment by a number of excellently rendered selections.

The card containing the toast list and menu was a characteristic production supplied by the firm of John Sands. On the outside cover was a shield bearing the dates "1854-1904" and above them the badge of the regiment. At the foot was the date of the banquet "3rd Sept.". On the card itself the badge was repeated, and beside it were the colours presented to the regiment by the ladies of Sydney in 1861. At the foot in the corner were two typical figures showing the first and last uniforms of the regiment. On the back was the badge in the centre of the regimental colour; viz., the letters "S.B.V.R.", surmounted by the "Royal Crown of Great Britain", and encircled by a rose, thistle, and shamrock wreath. The whole formed an artistic specimen of colour printing.

In the absence in Japan of Lieutenant-Colonel W.J.N. Oldershaw, V.D., the officer commanding the regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel W. Holmes D.S.O., V.D., presided. Immediately on his right were his Excellency the Governor-General, Major General Sir Edward Hutton and Sir James Fairfax, and on

his left his Excellency the State Governor, Brigadier-General Finn and Mr. E. M. Paul (Consul for Russia). Those present also included the Right Hon. G. H. Reid, P.C. (Prime Minister) and -

| | |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Vice Admiral Fanshawe | Colonel G. W. Waddell, V.D. |
| Colonel C.F. Roberts, C.M.G. | Colonel W.T. Farrell, V.D. |
| Colonel W.H. Holborow, C.M.G. | Right Hon. S.E. Lees (Lord Mayor) |
| Colonel H.B. Lassetter, C.B. | Rev. H. Wallace Mort, V.D. (Senior Chaplain) |
| Lieutenant-Colonel J.W.M. Onslow | Lieutenant-Colonel J.S. Lyster, A.A.G. |
| Lieutenant-Colonel Rancland | Lieutenant-Colonel J.H.A. Lee |
| Lieutenant-Colonel C.F. Bartlett | Lieutenant-Colonel W.L. Vernon |
| Lieutenant-Colonel H.W. Strong, V.D. | Lieutenant-Colonel T. Fiasche, D.S.O. |
| Lieutenant-Colonel C.S. Guest, V.D. | Lieutenant-Colonel P.L. Murray (Ret.R.A.A.) |
| Lieutenant-Colonel S. Mallarky, V.D. | Lieutenant-Colonel J. Stanley R.A.A. |
| Lieutenant-Colonel R.E. Roth, D.S.O. | Lieutenant-Colonel J.C. Neild |
| Lieutenant-Colonel A. Paul, V.D. | Lieutenant-Colonel W.J. Ferris, V.D. |
| Lieutenant-Colonel J.H. Morris V.D. | Lieutenant-Colonel R.M.S. Wells |
| Lieutenant Bedford, R.N. (Flag Lieut.) | Major G. Michaelis, |
| Lieutenant-Colonel C.J. Lester | Major C.A. Wilson |
| Major J.G. Legge, I.S. | Major A.G.H. Morris, D.A.A.G. |
| Major M.A. Hilliard, D.S.O. | Major H. Chapman |
| Major J.M. Smail | Major A. Spain |
| Major G. A. Marshall | Captain R. Selwyn Smith |
| Captain J. E. Guyot | Captain H.C.L. Anderson |
| Vet. Captain A. P. Gribben | Captain J.R. MacDonald |
| Captain J.R. Beauman | Captain W. Foskett, V.D. |
| Captain J.H. Watson | Captain W.J. Hanna |
| Captain J.S. Alexander | Captain R.C. Simpson |
| Lieutenant J.F. Elphinstone | Lieutenant D.P. O'Reilly |
| Lieutenant Leonard Dobbin | Lieutenant Reynolds, A.D.C., the A.D.C. |
| Mr. J. Malbon Thompson, the A.D.C. | to the Governor-General |
| to the State Governor | Mr. E. J. Brown (Chairman National |
| Mr. J. B. Laing (District Paymaster) | Rifle Association |
| Mr. V. LeGay Brereton. | |

The following officers of the regiment attended:-

| | |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Lieutenant-Colonel W. Holmes, D.S.O., V.D. | Major W.W.R. Watson |
| Captain J.W. Croker | Captain L.F. Armstrong |
| Captain P.L. Murray | Captain G.A. Rourke |
| Captain L.E. Tilney | Captain J.F. McManamey |
| Captain P.J. Byrne | Captain J.H. Strong |
| Captain C. Rennard | Captain M.W. Logan (Adjutant) |
| Lieutenant C. Sedgwick | Lieutenant A.J. MacDonald |
| Lieutenant P. McF. Woodhill | Lieutenant D.F. Diamond |
| Lieutenant A. P. Keen | Lieutenant F. Wilkin |
| Lieutenant H. Y. Russell | Lieutenant H.N. Russell |
| Lieutenant R.S. Sands | Lieutenant S.C.E. Herring |
| Lieutenant H.T. Howard | Lieutenant A.C. Vickers |
| Lieutenant H. Dakin. | |

The Company having honoured the loyal toast with enthusiasm,
The Chairman proposed "The Governor-General" (Cheers).

Lord Northcote, in responding, said :- "In thanking you for the manner in which you have received the toast, I should like to reassure you that I shall not be so ungrateful as to inflict a long speech upon you. Since I have been in Australia I have learned at least two things. The one is that, although there is stated to be a deficiency of desirable population in this country, there are two classes of whom there is a sufficiency - one class being clerks and the other public speakers. (Laughter and applause.) I have myself been a clerk, and with advancing years I find myself training into a public speaker. (Laughter.) And unfortunately in neither capacity do I appear to be wanted in Australia. (Laughter.) Therefore, if this were an occasion merely complimentary to myself, I should be satisfied with making a graceful bow to you all. But I hope I may take this opportunity of congratulating the officers and men of the First Australian Regiment upon their long record and distinguished service in so young a country. (Cheers.) I congratulate them also upon the fact that they have given ample proof both inside and outside of Australia of their determination and ability to do their share in the upholding of the honour of the British flag. (Cheers.) Holding my official position it would not be becoming to endeavour to specify what are the particular needs of Australia; and in the matter of offence or defence I feel that if I were to attempt, without expert knowledge, to do so, I should expose the high office of Commander-in-Chief, which I have the honour to hold, to the possible derogation of those distinguished military gentlemen whom I see around me, and who, no doubt, at the present moment recognize all those best in military abilities which necessarily appertain to the position which I occupy. (Laughter.) If, however, it were in my power to express an opinion, as I wish, I might ask Australia to consider certain facts which even the Constitution cannot alter or abridge. Speaking seriously gentlemen, might I remind you that the expenditure of the British Government for home and colonial defence has within the memory of many of us here tonight trebled and quadrupled. Might I remind you that it is, to say the very least, improbable that that expenditure can be expected to be exceeded in ordinary years. In the second place might I remind you that when this regiment originated more than 50 years ago there were only two great maritime Powers in the world - Great Britain and France. (Hear, hear.) Now, we have to recollect the fact that there are great navies belonging to Russia, to Germany, to the United States, and to Japan, and that the possible complications in which the British Empire may be involved are by so much extended. (Hear, hear.) Again, I would suggest to the public of Australia that they should follow the advice of the late Lord Salisbury when some 38 years ago he advised the British public to buy and to study Lloyd's map, and to consider what are the relative distances between the shores of Great Britain and Australia, and between Australia and the other foreign countries of the world. (Applause.) Further I would suggest that 50 years ago the tide of emigration was hardly beginning to flow and that foreign countries were not moved by that "earth-hunger" which comes from the overcrowding of population, and

that there was ample room in the United States and elsewhere for the superfluous population. (Applause.) Those conditions have largely passed away and I think that every patriotic Australian should recall to himself the fact he is a native of a country rich enough in its undeveloped resources to tempt the cupidity of a possible hostile Power. I think he should recall that he is a native of a country which has as yet but a sparse population, with a coast liable to raids from foreign hostile Powers. (Hear, hear.) I know that patriotic Australians of all parties will remember that expenditure on military defence is but in the nature of an insurance for the progress of this country in the affairs of the world; and I am confident that every expenditure which can be shown to be necessary to secure that object is one that Australians will readily bear, confident of the great part which this country is destined to play in the history of the future." (Loud applause.)

The Chairman submitted the toast of "The State Governor". He said that as Sir Harry Rawson had recently accepted the position of Honorary Colonel of the 2nd Australian Infantry Regiment, the Officers of the Military Forces of the Commonwealth now looked up on him as one of themselves. (Cheers.)

Sir Harry Rawson, on rising to respond, was loudly cheered. He thanked them very heartily for the manner in which they had drunk his health, and he felt very highly honoured in being invited to come amongst them to assist in celebrating the jubilee of the First Infantry Regiment. (Hear hear.) After referring to the origin and early history of the regiment, he said he thought they might all feel proud to have so many of their old officers with them that night. (Hear hear.) He felt he was one of them, and he was very proud to think that Australia had honoured him by offering him the position of honorary Colonel of the Second Infantry Regiment. He concluded by wishing the regiment all prosperity.

Major-General Sir Edward Hutton proposed "The Royal Navy". He said it had fallen to his lot to ask them to drink the toast of their comrades in the navy. He desired to convey to the Colonel and the officers and men of the First Infantry Regiment his hearty congratulations. It was the oldest regiment in Australia possessing a connected history, and it was now the premier regiment of the forces of the Commonwealth. (Cheers.) There were two facts which appealed to him with the greatest force in connection with the history of this regiment, and he spoke as an officer who had seen some service for the Empire. (Hear, hear.) In 1885 this regiment contributed one officer and 77 men who went with the New South Wales military expedition to Suakim, and he considered that this State had great reason to feel proud that it was the pioneer of that system of defence in which all portions of the Empire had taken part in the recent campaign in South Africa. (Cheers.) It had also sent 12 officers and 91 non-commissioned officers and men to South Africa and some of these had won much distinction. (Applause.) He hoped that this regiment's prominence in the premier position among the forces of the Commonwealth would be a permanent one. (Hear, hear.) He could not help expressing the belief that in the future, if the opportunity were given, the members of the First Regiment would be ready to respond to the demands which might be made upon it, not only by the Commonwealth, but also in the service of

Imperial defence, of King, and of Empire. (Hear! Hear!) He thought the navy always appealed to the heart of the soldier. They could not be unmindful of the splendid services rendered by the navy in the past and the policy of the navy had always been one of offence rather than defence. The most effective system they could have for the security of Australia was not only one which admitted of passive defence, but one which allowed of a policy of active offence as well. (Applause). The navy and the army, in their relation to one another, were of the nerves and muscles of the human frame. They were co-ordinate branches of the Empire's means of offence and defence. He thought they could not too strongly express their deep interest, sympathy, and regard for their friends of the Royal Navy. (Cheers).

Vice-Admiral Fanshawe, in replying expressed his thanks for the very cordial manner in which the toast had been received. He quite concurred in everything which Sir Edward Hutton had said concerning the Army and the Navy. He felt that perhaps it was not always quite realised that the traditions and glory of the navy were equally the possession and heritage of every patriot of their race, in whatever part his home might be. (Cheers). He observed with pleasure that the old link between the navy and the Governorship of these States, after being suspended from the time of Governors Phillip and King, was being renewed. This was shown by the appointment of Admiral Bedford to be Governor of West Australia and in New South Wales they had Sir Harry Rawson, under whom he had the honour of serving with the Channel Squadron. (Hear, hear). He was deeply interested in the new naval agreement, under which Australians would now be able to take their place at the front in the navy at any place in the eastern seas to which they might be called upon to go. (Hear, hear). This scheme, which provided an excellent training for Australian boys for the navy, had been in existence only a very short time, but it had begun under the happiest auspices, and there was every prospect of it turning out thoroughly successful. He thought they were very much indebted to the officers in this and the other States who had assisted them in the selection of desirable candidates. A feature of the present time, which was a very satisfactory and a very pleasing one, was that of late years a feeling of marked cordiality and good comradeship had grown up between the army and the navy. (Cheers).

Mr. J. Malbon Thompson proposed "The Ministers of State in the Commonwealth of Australia". The reason he had been entrusted with that toast was because he was one of their oldest politicians, and also because he was one of the first members who signed on in the regiment in 1854.

Right Hon. G. H. Reid, who received a splendid reception on rising to speak, made a few humorous references to people whose only qualification to speak authoritatively on a subject was their ignorance regarding it. It should be indeed gratifying to the regiment to find itself honoured by the presence of the distinguished guests he saw around the table that night. The sentiment of Imperial unity was one which it was gratifying to see among the people of their race, and he hoped that the loyalty which was evinced by the people of every part of Australia for the mother country would continue to grow stronger. He felt that this regiment was part of the thin red line which ran around the British Empire. Their files might seem thin, but when a time of danger for the Empire threatened, there were numbers of brave and noble men ready to fill those files. (Hear, hear). He was happy to say

that he could look back to some days of military service at a time when the conditions were different to what they were today. Forty years ago he was a volunteer, and served in the Artillery. In those days they had no horses to draw the cannons, so about 40 men were roped to the guns, and, early in the morning were put through a series of difficult evolutions on the damp grass. After that experience he retired. (Laughter). He came to the conclusion he should have joined the navy. (Loud laughter). During the lifetime of this regiment great events had taken place. Years ago the fortunes of Great Britain were behind the old wooden walls, but now the defence of the Empire was maintained by more improved methods. The Australians had proved their valour and had shown that when called upon were willing and ready to be led anywhere. (Cheers). One thing which occurred to him was this, that the whole of their public expenditure and the whole of the patriotic self sacrifice would be greatly discounted unless their troops were properly equipped and their men trained to the highest point of efficiency. (Hear, Hear). He wished to say to the volunteers and soldiers of Australia that he and his colleagues in the Ministry pledged themselves to lose no time, but would use every effort they were capable of to bring the status of their defence forces and equipment up to the level of efficiency demanded by any emergency. (Loud cheers).

The Lord Mayor of Sydney (Alderman S. E. Lees) proposed "The State Parliament". He thought that the new State Parliament belonged peculiarly to the new Ministry because it had been elected on the platform of the present Ministers and their supporters. (Hear, hear).

Mr. John Hughes M.L.C. Vice President of the Executive Council responded. Without anticipating his chief he could mention one thing the Government hoped to do. They would not merely talk of what they owed the soldiers of New South Wales, but would try to pay it. (Cheers). Some time ago it was fashionable to send away volunteers for the defence of the Empire with a great flourish of trumpets and with many promises. He did hope that as far as this Ministry was concerned it would redeem its own promises and those of its predecessors in any cases where they had been overlooked. (Applause).

"THE DAY WE CELEBRATE."

The Chairman proposed "The Day We Celebrate." He pointed out that this was not only the Jubilee of the First Regiment, but also the Jubilee of the Military Forces of Australia. The company included four of the officers who were originally with the regiment in 1854. (Hear, hear). He read a list of those who had at times filled prominent positions with the regiment, and showed that many of the leading men of New South Wales had been associated with it. He hoped that the G.O.C. would consider the unique career of the regiment when the time came for the distribution of the colours granted to Australia by the King in recognition of the South African War. (Hear, hear). Many of those who had been connected with the regiment had won considerable distinction in South Africa, and they were all particularly proud of Major Watson having been chosen to demand the surrender of Pretoria - (Cheers) - and of Captain Dufroyer who gained one of the four scarfs worked by the late Queen for distribution amongst men who displayed conspicuous bravery. (Cheers). He commended to the motto of the regiment, which translated, was "Let the First be First, Not Only in Name." (Cheers).

JUBILEE SMOKE CONCERT

The Jubilee Smoke Concert in connection with the First Australian Infantry Regiment took place on Wednesday, 7th September, at the Drill Hall, Moore Park Road, Paddington. The Social Club of the regiment, under Quarter Master Avis, had the hall decorated with flags and other emblems to a detail. "1854-1904" were years which stood out prominently beneath the two framed regimental colours, which had fluttered in the breeze at the regiment's initiation. Lieutenant Colonel Holmes, D.S.O., and all the officers were in attendance; and the men from the eight Sydney and suburban companies, numbering close upon 500, were also present. Invitations had been sent out to a large number of the old non-commissioned officers, and about 50 of the veterans responded, and received a hearty welcome. Amongst those invited were :- Lieutenant-Colonel Mallarky and Captain M'Glynn, Second Regiment; Captain Beauman, A.S.C.; Lieutenant L. Dobbin, A.S.C.; Warrant Officers Muckleston, Shipley and Davidson; Regimental Sergeant Major Paine; Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant Hines; Staff Sergeants Jenner, Belton, Gilmour, Chedghey and Foley; Warrant Officer Marshall; Colour Sergeants Bragg and Chapman; Sergeants Hobbs, Russell, Wallace, Newman, Long, Baggott, Roberts, Iredale, Ludlam, H. O'Rourke and Anderson; Warrant Officer Liggins; Staff Sergeant Marston; Sergeants Hill, Moore, Wining and Keevers; Orderly Room Sergeant Shearston; Warrant Officer Brady; Quartermaster Sergeant De Witt; Sergeants Fowler and Reeves; Colour Sergeant Rottenbury; Sergeants Kiskey, Albone, R. W. Guille and Croker.

The Regimental Band, under Bandmaster Draper, was very much in evidence during the evening; rendering selections at intervals. Mr. Edward Sykes was accompanist to the musical portion of the programme, filled by the following artists :- Messrs. H. Reeves, The Pierrots, A. Bruce, P. Denston, Bobby Watson and Alberto.

The bringing together of the various regimental units proved a most enjoyable event, and great credit was due to the Committee (consisting of Major Watson, Captain Strong and Lieutenants R. S. Sands and H. Y. Russel) for their exertions to make the gathering the splendid success it undoubtedly was.

* * * * *

APOLOGY

In SABRETACHE of April 1966 (Page 21) we stated that Mr. K. White had donated several sets of Golden Fleece cards to the Society for sale to overseas members.

This was not strictly accurate. The cards in hand were donated by Major J. B. Gale, and we thank him for them. Mr. White has, however, kindly offered to provide some additional cards if the Society's supply for the overseas members should run short.

Overseas members requiring these cards should write to the undersigned. The price per set is \$2 Australian currency, plus postage. Odd cards are 5 cents each.

J. K. LYONS, Federal Secretary.

MILITARY MINIATURES.

By R. A. Powell,
11 Daff Ave., Moorabbin, Victoria.

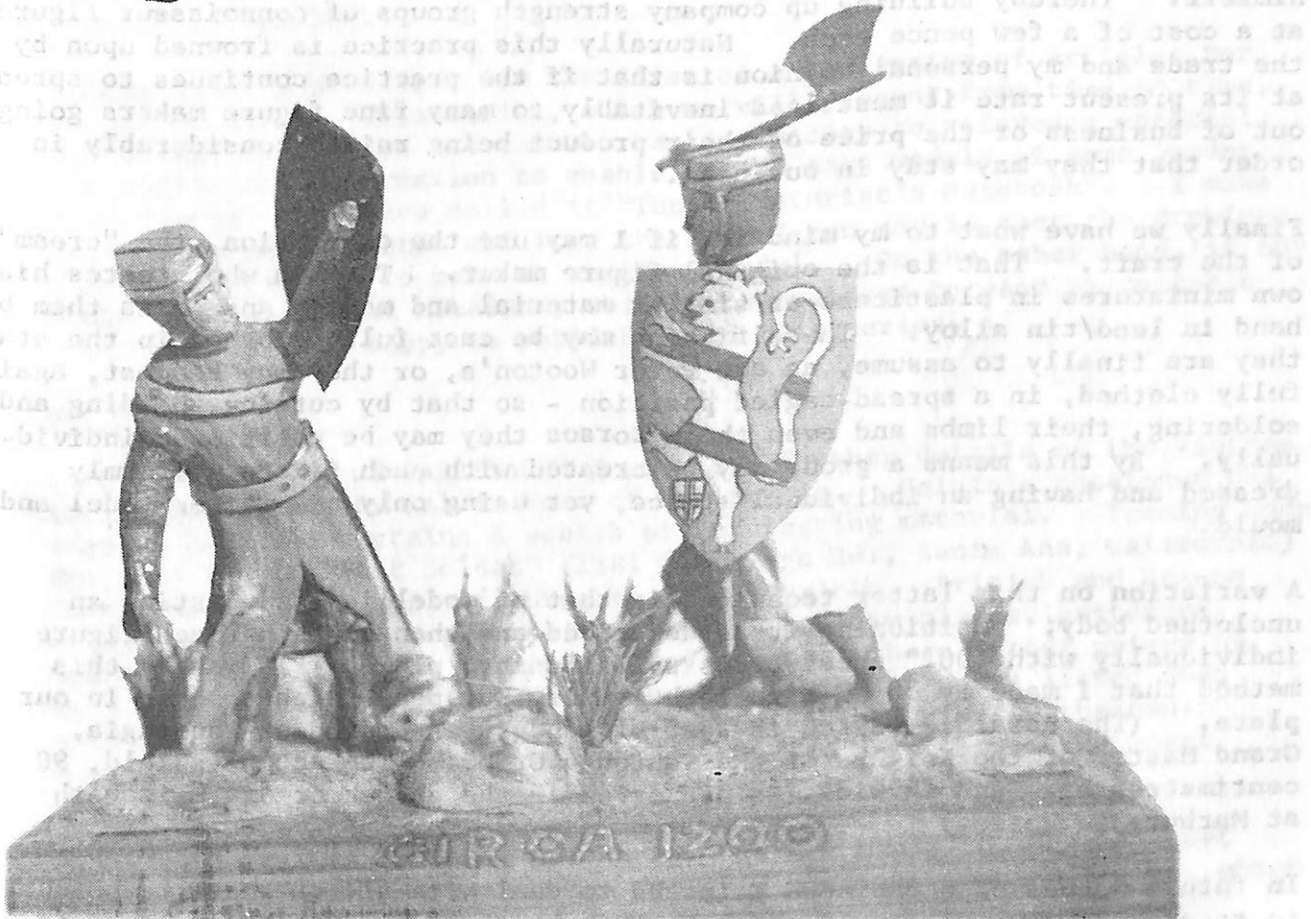
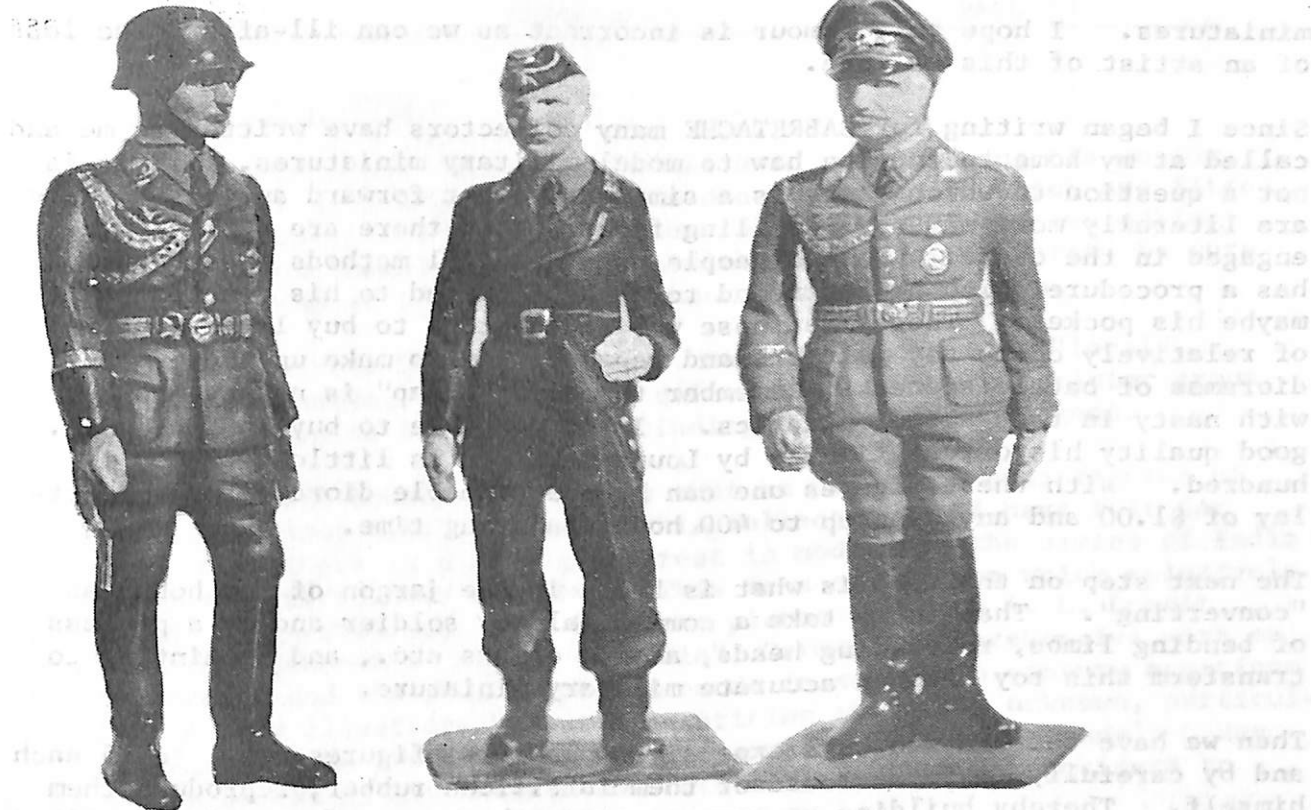
The illustrations accompanying my article in SABRETACHE for April showed with one exception the work of professional model makers - products of the commercial world, backed by capital and all it implies. By contrast, the accompanying illustrations are of "kitchen table" models - made by amateurs in this country. In all cases the figures are 54 to 59 MM. in size, so that the illustrations show them approximately double the true size.

Many miniaturists are familiar with the work of Peter Wooton of Sydney and his models have found their way into most Australian collections. I have his figure of the famous Victorian bushranger Ned Kelly clad in the bush-blacksmith made armour in which he and his gang fought their last fight with the troopers at Glenrowan pub. I think three of the gang were clad in armour for that fight - all three suits still exist in various collections and were brought together recently at a function in Melbourne. Controversy has raged for as long as I can remember over who of the gang wore which armour, but a friend of mine, who has made quite a study of Kelly lore and whose knowledge I respect, assures me that Ned Kelly's armour is in a private collection and that the armour modelled by Peter Wooton is Steve Hart's. One thing is certain, contemporary drawings by eye witnesses all depict Ned as wearing a heavy overcoat over his armour during the battle, leaving the helmet as the only plate visible. But whether it be Ned or Dan Kelly or Steve Hart, Peter's figure was a good job. Likewise his trooper of N.S.W. Lancers in full dress about 1900 and his German artillery officer WW 2.

These earlier figures were all scaled to suit the smaller commercial figures produced by Britain's Ltd. But as the professional model makers, led by Charles Stadden, increased the size and bulk of their figures to about 59 mm. overall height, Peter, like most others, appreciated the improvement to the appearance of the model given by this slight increase in size, and followed suit. The result was a series of really first class miniatures, three of which are shown in our plate.

The figure on the left is that of German general of Luftwaffe World War two in parade dress. I painted this figure from a plate in Erlam's Ranks and Uniforms of the German Army, Navy and Airforce. Unfortunately I did not realise until later that the wearing of the ceremonial sword was obligatory in this order of dress. The middle figure is an officer of an "SS" Panzer division. The left cuff band, which cannot be seen here, bears the inscription "WIKING". With field glasses in hand and dressed in the distinctive black uniform of the panzer troops, this, in my opinion, is the best of Peter's figures. The third figure is a pilot officer, First Parachute Regiment, in parade dress. For these Luftwaffe Figures, Peter made a selection of heads with caps, bareheads, helmets and field caps. Thus many different units could be represented using the one basic figure.

Peter has made many other equally fine figures, K.A.R., SS Major in camouflaged smock, Highlander of Boer War and, a favourite of mine, a British Grenadier of about 1790 in fur cap. I have had no news of Peter for many months, other than a rumour that he was no longer modelling



A variation on the latter... unattached body... individually with... method that I... place... Grand... contact... at... in... to a... of... with... of my... those... who... have... that... some... that... less... than... an... on... the... reply... to... their... letters... asking... "What... is... the... fundamental...?"

miniatures. I hope this rumour is incorrect as we can ill-afford the loss of an artist of this calibre.

Since I began writing for SABRETACHE many collectors have written to me and called at my home to enquire how to model military miniatures. This is not a question to which there is a simple straight forward answer. There are literally more ways of modelling figures than there are men and women engaged in the craft. No two people use identical methods - each worker has a procedure which he has found to be best suited to his own needs and maybe his pocket. There are those who are content to buy large numbers of relatively cheap toy soldiers and repaint them to make up groups and dioramas of battle scenes. Remember the word "cheap" is not synonymous with nasty in this age of plastics. It is possible to buy in the U.S.A. good quality historical figures by Louis Marx for as little as \$1.00 a hundred. With these figures one can have a sizeable diorama for the outlay of \$1.00 and anything up to 400 hours painting time.

The next step on the road is what is known in the jargon of the hobby as "converting". That is to take a commercial toy soldier and by a process of bending limbs, rebuilding heads, adding cloaks etc., and repainting to transform this toy into an accurate military miniature.

Then we have the man who buys expensive connoisseur figures at £1 to £5 each and by carefully making a mould of them in silicon rubber, reproduce them himself. Thereby building up company strength groups of connoisseur figures at a cost of a few pence each. Naturally this practice is frowned upon by the trade and my personal opinion is that if the practice continues to spread at its present rate it must lead inevitably to many fine figure makers going out of business or the price of their product being raised considerably in order that they may stay in business.

Finally we have what to my mind is, if I may use the expression, the "cream" of the craft. That is the original figure maker. The man who creates his own miniatures in plasticene or similar material and moulds and casts them by hand in lead/tin alloy. These figures may be cast fully clothed in the stance they are finally to assume, as are Peter Wooton's, or they may be cast, again fully clothed, in a spread-eagled position - so that by cutting, bending and soldering, their limbs and even their torsos they may be positioned individually. By this means a group may be created with each figure uniformly dressed and having an individual stance, yet using only one master model and mould.

A variation on this latter technique is that of modelling and casting an unclothed body; positioning it as described and then clothing each figure individually with .002" sheet brass soldered into place. It was by this method that I made my 30 MM high 13th century European knights shown in our plate. (The heraldic device is that of Landgrave Konrad of Thuringia, Grand Master of the Knights of the Teutonic Order. The actual shield, 90 centimetres high and 74 wide, is preserved in the church of St. Elizabeth at Marburg in Hesse.)

In future issues of SABRETACHE I intend to deal with all of these techniques in greater detail. Meanwhile I hope this brief explanation will serve to restore me to a state of grace with those of my correspondents who have received something less than an unequivocal reply to their letters asking baldly "How do I make miniatures?".

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE.

Tony Turner writes from Perth that he has been refurbishing his museum. Tony's museum is a tastefully decorated den the walls of which are fitted with shelves holding literally thousands of figures of his own making. Should anyone interested in military miniatures travel to Perth, be sure of looking Tony up at the Australian Broadcasting Commission.

I regard the Reverend Edwards of R.A.F. Base Singapore as a "local" collector. He writes that there is quite an active model soldier group amongst servicemen in Singapore - including our own Clem Sargent.

Frank Thornborough mentioned recently that he had added some figures of British Indian Army cavalry types to his collection. I have felt for some time that there is a strong interest in models of the armies of India among the members of this society. This is a subject on which relatively little has been published. We have the plates of Major A. L. Lovett, Major Donovan Jackson's "Armies of India", Carman's comprehensive work on Indian cavalry and the photographic records in such 19th century magazines as "Navy & Army Illustrated", but a surprising amount is unknown, particularly concerning the pre 1890 era and the armies of 'John Company'. Has any reader access to any material on this subject that he considers to be worth publishing?

In this issue I have included the first of a new series of articles for the miniaturist. This series, which we will present from time to time, is intended to furnish the man who has not access to reference material with sufficient information to enable him to make models of some lesser known troops. We have called it "The Miniaturist's Notebook". I make no claim to any artistic ability, the best I can say is that the drawings will be good enough to make an accurate model. On the other hand, if any reader possessing the necessary ability is prepared to send me suitable material I will be happy to publish it in this series.

NEW FIGURES.

In the last issue of SABRETACHE I promised further details of the Vietnam War series issued by Calvin Hurd of California. Calvin's catalogue has come to hand and contains a wealth of interesting material. Trading under the name of "Le Petit Soldat" (1181 Huntridge Rd., Santa Ana, California) Calvin is able to supply figures by most American, British and French makers as well as a comprehensive range of uniform plates, postcards, books and even Imperial German cavalry helmets, these latter priced as from US.\$90 to \$120. It is only in the American figures listed that collectors in this country will be interested. Obviously the non-American figures can be purchased more cheaply direct from the maker than through America. Here are a few items in this category :

Black Eagle Figures - quote Mr. Hurd - "We are happy to announce that micro-sculpter, Peter Kramer, has designed a set of figures for us, which we are calling the Black Eagle series. We have selected the subject matter for its interest and each figure is a unique sculpter to itself.

These figures will be sold disassembled and unpainted at U.S.\$2.25 each. New figures will be added constantly to the line. We will have the first figures available on 15th May and hope to add about ten figures every quarter. Ready are :-

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| E 1 Norman knight in chain mail. | E 8 Capt. Rickenbacker 1917 |
| E 2 R.C.M.P. service dress 1880. | E 9 British pilot 1917. |
| E 3 U.S. 7th Cav. off. 1876. | E10 German pilot 1917. |
| E 4 'Old Abe' battle-eagle and bearer 1862. | E11 German U Boat Captain 1917. |
| E 5 English officer Sudan 1896. | E12 Russian private 1943. |
| E 6 U.S. Inf. off. Mexican War. | E13 Cuban pte. 1898. |
| E 7 U.S. Inf. O.R. Mexican War. | E14 Japanese private 1941. |
| | E15 U.S. naval officer 1862." |

No scale is mentioned for these figures but I presume them to be 54 mm. having regard for the price.

Boutet Miniatures. These figures are the Vietnam War series. 54 mm scale, they come unassembled and unpainted with printing instructions at US.\$1.50 each or \$7.00 for any selection of 6. So far the following are available - U.S. Special Forces, Air Commando, Vietnam Ranger, U.S. Marine, Air Cavalry, Viet Cong, U.S. Helicopter pilot, U.S. Helicopter gunner, montagnard tribesman, U.S. general officer, U.S. M.P., Premier Ky (\$2.00), Captain Donlon (\$2.00).

It seems to me there is an obvious omission from this series - perhaps our army P.R. boys are not doing their job in the States.

General Ky is in flying suit with insignia of 518th Group. Captain Donlon was the first U.S. Congressional Medal of Honour winner in Vietnam.

New figures by Tom Duffy. I quote Mr. Hurd again. "Another designer has appeared on the military collecting field this time with a charming series of figures of the court of Frederick the Great. I believe that Tom makes the finest female figures in the world. Available are :-

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Frederick the Great seated on log with stick | US.\$3.00 |
| Piano group, girl playing - man listening | \$8.00 |
| Lady and child | \$3.50 |
| Lady and gentleman | \$4.50 |
| Lady curtsying | \$2.50 |
| Gentleman bowing | \$2.50 |
| Musician playing mandolin or piccolo | \$2.50 |
| Complete set | \$27.00 " |

H.R. Miniatures. Has announced a series of model machine guns of World War I. Each gun is an accurate model of the weapon. These are scaled to the new Stadden figures and are intended to be used with them. Now available:-

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------|
| German Maxim on back pack mount | \$1-00 |
| US Browning 30. cal water cooled | \$1-00 |
| French Hotchkiss on anti - aircraft mount | -75 |
| British Vickers maxim on Mk 11 tripod | -50 |
| British Lewis gun | -25 |
| German Maxim "parabellum" bipod mount | -25 |
| French Chaucet automatic rifle | -25 |
| U. S. B. A. R. | -25 |
| Doughboy firing Lewis gun from wagon wheel mount | \$3-00 |

20 mm. Figures by SILVANO. Mr. Hurd states that these figures compare favourably with any other figures made in this scale. Prices are 12 cents for infantry, and cavalry (without horses), 24 cents for standards, 20 cents for horses. The range is too large to detail here - it covers the French - Indian Wars, and American Revolution (including a comprehensive range of German troops). Any reader desirous of having further details may obtain them by sending me a S.A.E.

Arrington Miniatures. This maker offers a range in 54 mm. scale of Custer's forces at Little Big Horn. There are half-dozen types including Custer at US.\$1-50.

Murray Miniatures. Have issued a series of 8 types of the Roman Army. These too are available from 'Le Petit Soldat' at US.\$1-50.

A catalogue has been received from C. H. Johnson, "Leisure Time Activities", P.O. Box 281 Asbury Park N.J. U.S.A. Mr. Johnson offers a wide range of 30 mm. plastic miniatures (maker not stated) sold in sets at what amounts to 3 cents U.S. a figure. The range covers Napoleonic, 7 Years War, US Civil War and modern. Further details may be had by S.A.E.

This same dealer offers a series of 20 mm. metal US Civil War figures, priced at 10 cents a foot figure (unpainted) and 20-25 cents a mounted figure. Undoubtedly the most interesting aspect of this range are the pieces of ordnance, limbers and field forges etc. These finely detailed metal castings look really well in the catalogue photos.

The well known Imrie/Risley 54 mm. range is still increasing. Latest are:- regular American infantry War of 1812, American paratrooper 1944, regular American infantry Cuba 1898, regular US infantry Mexican War 1846-8, WWI doughboy, sapeur of Grenadiers of Napoleon's Guard. These

figures are priced at \$2-00 each and from personal experience, I can assure anyone contemplating a purchase, they are well worth it. Each model comes complete with colouring guide and the photographs I have of these new additions are proof that they are the equal of earlier types in the series. These figures are available from most US dealers including Messrs. Johnson & Hurd.

Edward Suren. In company with so many makers, this English artist has issued a series of figures in connection with the 900th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings. The half-dozen or so figures includes one of a Saxon housecarl with axe - this should be a most impressive model.

I have had a report that Britain's Ltd. have released a set of K.A.R. and Zulus in plastic. These could be very interesting figures and I hope to have more details available next issue; also by next issue I should be in a position to review the new Gamage catalogue.

BOOKS, CARDS, ETC.

The quantity of new books and plates dealing with military uniforms that is being published overseas these days is staggering. The collector can now be more discriminating in his choice - and financial considerations will almost certainly bring about a greater degree of specialisation than hitherto. Whether or not this increasing tendency towards specialisation is a desirable thing from the point of view of our hobby generally is open to argument.

I have received my copy of vol. 4 of C.C.P. Lawson's 'Uniforms of the British Army'. Continuing in the same scholarly style as vols. 1 - 3, this fine book takes the uniforms into the opening years of the Napoleonic Wars. The chapter on the troops of Hanover was as welcome as unexpected, as were the pages of detailed drawings of ordnance, waggons, pontoons etc. On the other hand I consider the 50 pages devoted solely to French emigres troops to be out of all proportion to their interest. Disappointing also was the fact that the publisher has again used that "rough surfaced" paper on which volume 3 was printed as opposed to the glazed paper of the reprinting of vols. 1 & 2.

Vol. No. 1 of the "Journal of the Society Napoleonic" (secretary Mr. R. Leighton, 4 Colville Rd., London, Ell. Sub. £1.10. E.C. per annum) was published in early April.

This recently formed society, the executive of which includes many names well known in the military miniature field, aims to bring together people interested in the armies and personages of the Napoleonic era, with a view to fostering a free interchange of ideas.

Faced with a problem common to all small societies with limited finances, this group has chosen to begin with a small magazine of 10 pages only, but a really first class production, presumably this was chosen as an alternative to a larger one run out on a roneo process. The paper is good, with stiff cover; the printing is professionally done and included

loose is a printed outline, hand coloured, plate of three figures illustrating the uniforms of Napoleon's army 1804. Articles included are on french firearms, modelling figures and the development of the Napoleonic infantry. Publication is quarterly and the editor very reasonably asks the membership to stick by the executive in their early days and by 1967 they expect to run to 30 or 40 pages an edition. I have expressed my confidence by sending my subscription for the 1967 already and urge all others interested in the history of the Napoleonic Wars to do likewise. This group has begun on the right foot.

For the past 6 months or so my young son has been a devotee of an English boys magazine 'Ranger' (price 15 cents weekly). Since the first number, this paper has been running an illustrated series entitled 'The Story of The Soldier'. Beginning with warrior types of the ancient world it has progressed week by week, until the latest issue I have, dated 19/3/66, is devoted to the armies of the English Civil War. I mention this now because, clearly this series is about to enter the era of true uniforms and since each weekly number includes an accurately and artistically drawn 10" x 12" coloured page of a group of figures with text, it is well worth having at the price. My newsagent must think it odd that one household has two copies of this paper delivered each week.

"The Imperial Russian Army 1805 - 1815" by William H. Murray".

A fine little book 7" x 8" in format and of 52 pages with line drawings. This book, probably the only work on the subject ever printed in the English language, will undoubtedly become a standard reference for the miniaturist. It is concise and as readable as a mere relation of uniform development can be. The line drawings are quite adequate, the eleven pages devoted to flags and standards is particularly valuable.

I consider myself fortunate in having in my library the 'L'armee Russe sous le Tsar Alexandre 1' by Gayda & Krijitsky, one of the few works dealing with the subject - but I have no hesitation in saying that with Mr. Murray's little book at US\$3-00 on your bookshelf you can stop looking for a copy of Gayda & Krijitsky. This first volume covers infantry and Russo-German Legion. I understand cavalry is to follow.

Back in 1958 collectors were pleasantly surprised by the publication of a little book on the Mexican army of 1837-47, by Joe Hefter. Many will be interested to learn that a set of postage stamps recently issued by Mexico depicting the uniforms of that country's army from 1810 to date was designed by Mr. Hefter. Incidentally the set of stamps is good value at US\$3-00 for 50.

The re-publication of the famous Knotel plates continues in Germany. Latest are of Prussian troops of "Freedom War" 1813 - some dozen plates at DM 2-30 (approx. 50 cents Aust.) each.

The "Scale Modeller" is a new American publication devoted to military modelling generally - mostly aircraft and A.F.V. But each of the first

three numbers has contained two or three pages and a colour plate devoted to military miniatures. Copies are available at Ajay's Book Shop, 380 Flinders Street, Melbourne at \$A.1-25.

'Le Petit Soldat' is publishing a new series of uncoloured plates (with colouring instructions) in sets of six plates for \$3-00. Sets available so far are infantry of Napoleon's Guard, tory troops of the American Revolution and Prussian cavalry of the Napoleonic Wars. The one plate I have seen depicts 2 figures of Napoleon's Guard. Very well drawn - but at 50 cents a little highly priced by the purchasing power of our dollar.

* * * * *

DESPATCHES.

Comments, queries and notes from readers.

To the Editor.....

10th June 1966.

Sir,
Readers may be interested in the following facts which were recently brought to my attention.

The death occurred last year of Mr. E.C.Seager, of Kingscote, Kangaroo Island, South Australia. Mr. Seager enlisted in the 4th Light Horse Regiment on the day after the outbreak of the First World War as a private, and after seeing service on the Gallipoli Peninsula, served in the Middle East, taking part in the famous cavalry charge on Beersheba in 1917.

During the course of the war he was awarded the D.C.M. and was twice mentioned in despatches, rising to the rank of Warrant Officer.

But what is even more interesting is that Mr. Seager's Grandfather, Edward Seager, while serving as a Lieutenant with the 8th (King's Royal Irish) Hussars, took part in the even more famous Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava. Lieutenant Seager later became General Edward Seager, C.B. I was also told (but have so far been unable to verify) that both the above-mentioned gentlemen had each led sections of their units out of the battle after the charge due to the deaths of superior officers.

I am sure that most will consider this a very interesting coincidence. Should this article be printed, I would like it to be a small written tribute to the late Mr. E. C. Seager.

Yours faithfully,

M.L. Golder, Kingscote, K.I.

* * * * *

THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
FEDERAL COUNCIL

THE NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FEDERAL COUNCIL, FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30th June 1966.

GENERAL

1. Although this is the ninth Annual Report of the Federal Council, it is its First under the Society's new Constitution, adopted on 9th July 1965, whereby Branches of the Society became responsible for publishing their own Branch Annual Reports.
2. The year under review has been a busy one for the Federal Council. There are important new achievements to be recorded, and existing activities have been continued, and, in some instances, expanded. The last twelve months have seen the development of certain policies which are detailed below.
3. The total membership of the Society for the year ended 30th June 1966 is 170. This number is the highest ever achieved, and the Society looks forward to an increase in this number during the year 1966/1967.
4. The Government Departments and Libraries, etc., were requested during the year to pay for the issues of the Journal sent to them. The majority have since paid the required subscription, and these subscriptions will assist in paying the publishing costs. Those institutions which did not agree to pay were removed from the mailing list, because of the heavy costs of the printing and postage involved.
5. It has been decided by the Council to make an Annual Award to the Contributor of the best articles to the Society's journal SABRETACHE, commencing from 1st July 1966.
6. The matter of a new Society badge deferred pending the adoption of a suitable design and the availability of funds to have the required number made.
7. A number of books surplus to the Society's Central Library requirements were offered for sale by tender to Society members, and the money received was paid to the Federal Council's funds.
8. A new consolidated Directory of Members was published and mailed to members with the April 1966 edition of the Journal.
9. It was decided that a Budget for the conduct of the Society's business be prepared each year. For the purpose, the retiring Federal Council shall ensure that adequate draft estimates are prepared for submission to the final Federal Council meeting in its term of office, in order to assist the incoming Federal Council to prepare its Budget.

10. A system for the control of expenditure by the Federal Council was introduced during the year. Under this system the approval of the Federal President, Secretary or Treasurer, depending on the nature of the expenditure involved, is necessary before the Council's funds are committed. A voucher is prepared for each item of expenditure, and bears the signature of the approving officer.

MEETINGS OF THE FEDERAL COUNCIL

11. Four meetings of the Federal Council were held in Melbourne during the year 1965/66, on 10th September, 3rd December, 25th March and 17th June.

The elected and ex-officio members of the Federal Council for the year 1965/66 were:-

Mr. A.N.Festberg, Federal Councillor and President of the Victorian Branch,
Major J.B.Gale, E.D., M.A., Federal Councillor,
Lt. P. Lober, Federal Treasurer,
Mr. J.K. Lyons, Federal Secretary,
Major E.W.O. Perry, R.L., M.A., B.Ec., Federal President,
Lt.Col.P.V. Vernon, E.D., Federal Councillor,
Mr. B. J. Videon, A.A.S.A., Vice President.

BRANCH MATTERS

12. During a visit to Adelaide in January 1966, the Vice President, Mr. B.J.Videon, took the opportunity to call a meeting of interested persons, and to arrange for the formation of the South Australian Branch of the Society. It was subsequently formed at a meeting on 14th January 1966, under the Presidency of Capt. J.J.Frewen, R.A.A.M.C.

RESEARCH

13. There were no research projects undertaken during the year, under the auspices of the Federal Council. However, the first edition of THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY LINEAGE BOOK By Mr. A.N.Festberg, was published and distributed by the Victorian Branch.

PUBLICATIONS

14. A booklet entitled "AN ENQUIRY CONCERNING THE CODES T.P.P.H. AND T.S.P. USED IN CONNECTION WITH ENGLISH PROOF-TESTING GUNPOWDER" by Mr. A.G. Harrison, a member of the Society residing in India, was published in 1965.

CONCLUSION

15. The Federal President thanks the Federal Secretary (Mr. Lyons), the Federal Treasurer (Lt. Lober), the Federal Librarian (Mr.Videon) and the Branch Presidents and their Committees for their co-operation and assistance during the past year, without which the progress we have made would not have been possible. A special mark of appreciation is also recorded of the good work that the Editor (Mr. Barry Videon) has done in producing on time each issue of

SABRETACHE. He does a lot of good work for the Society unobtrusively in his various capacities of Federal Vice President, Acting Federal Librarian and Editor.

Warren Perry,
FEDERAL PRESIDENT.

Federal Headquarters,
262 Tucker Road,
ORMOND EAST, SE 14,
Victoria, Australia.
17th June, 1966.

* * * * *

ANNUAL ELECTION OF FEDERAL COUNCIL, 1966/67

The result of the elections for the Federal Council are as follows:-

PRESIDENT: Major W. Perry, R.L., M.A., B.Ec.
VICE PRESIDENT: Mr. B. J. Videon
SECRETARY: Mr. J. K. Lyons
TREASURER: Lt. P. Lober
COUNCILLORS: Mr. L. L. Barton
Mr. A. N. Festberg
Major J. B. Gale, E.D., M.A.

W.M. CHAMBERLAIN,
Returning Officer.

* * * * *

ENQUIRY FROM CANADA

The following letter from a collector in Canada, received indirectly per favour of the U.S.I., is published in the hope that Members may be able to assist:

"I collect British and Commonwealth Medals and would like to exchange a Canadian Volunteer Service Medal 1939-1945, for an Australian Service Medal 1939-1945. I would also be interested in exchanging or buying other medals."

Any member interested should communicate direct with: Mr. L.K. Donaldson, Box 343, Haliburton, Ontario, Canada.

* * * * *

BADGES OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN ENGINEERS

1861 - 1961

By Lindsay Noble

The Canadian Engineers were formed in 1861 and adopted the cap badge (1) and title badge (A) and also collar badges, which were the same design as the cap badge but smaller. They were worn in pairs, beavers facing inwards. All the badges were brass.

The Canadian Engineers (Permanent Corps) came into being in 1903. On the 1st of February, 1904, King Edward VII granted the Corps the "Royal" title, this was the institution of the present Corps of Royal Canadian Engineers.

The "Permanent Corps" adopted a silver cap badge with the Royal Cypher (2) and a brass title (B). The Officers and Warrant Officers Class 1 wore the brass grenade collar badge (C) until 1931, when the brass grenade collar badge (D) was adopted.

The Canadian Engineers (Non-permanent Active Militia) continued to wear the 1861 badges until 1931 when they adopted the Royal Canadian Engineers badges.

The cap badges (3), (4) and (5) were worn during the reign of each succeeding sovereign the first two being brass and the latter, bi-metal.

The present day insignia for the Royal Canadian Engineers of both the Regular and Militia armies are as follows:-

Cap badge Number 5.

Officers and W.O. Class 1 wear the grenade (D) on Service Dress and No. 1 Dress uniforms.

All ranks wear the blue and red felt flash on battledress.

The brass title badge (B) is worn by all ranks on Summer and No. 1 Dress uniforms and also on the Service Dress uniform by Officers and W.O. Class 1.

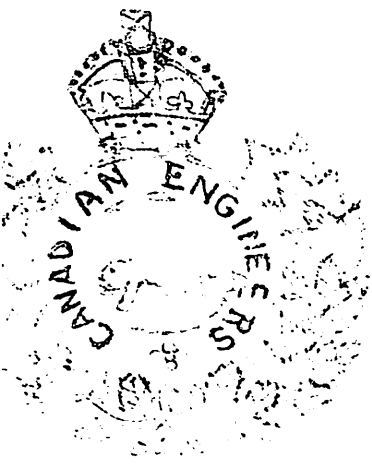
* * * * *

FIREARMS USED BY THE 1st AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY REGIMENT

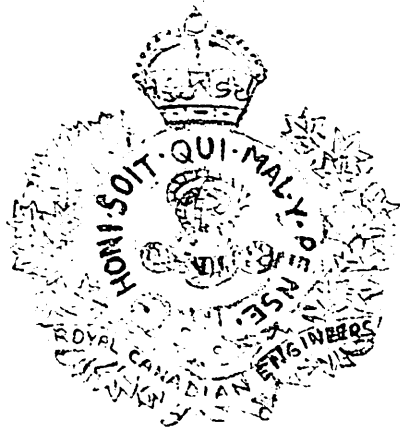
By E. Radke.

In recent issues of SABRETACHE I noted the article on the 1st Australian Infantry Regiment submitted by Mr. A.S. Cansdell, and in it there were references to the various rifles with which the Regiment was armed.

In case it may be of interest to readers, I have a specimen of each, and I have pleasure in submitting illustrations of these weapons, together with a short description of each. I have not included Lee Enfield, as I feel sure that everyone will be conversant with it. It would of course be the early Long Lee Enfield.



1



2



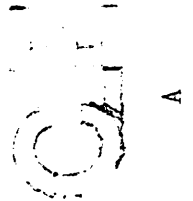
3



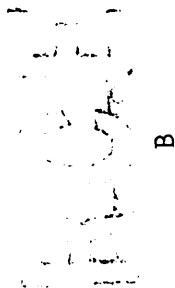
4



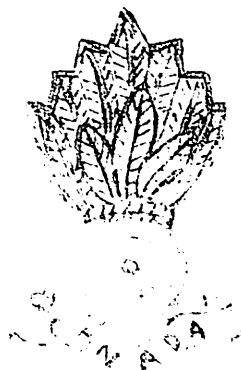
5



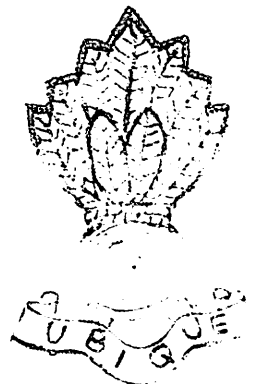
6



7



8



9



1. BRUNSWICK RIFLE

In 1835 a rifle was submitted to the Board of Ordnance and was tested by Geo. Lovell who proceeded to modify and improve it to produce the 1836 pattern of Lovell's Improved Brunswick Rifle. Cal. .654", 2 groove rifling. In 1837 the bore was altered to .704". The rifle was put into production and became the service arm for certain regular troops. In 1841 the back action lock was replaced by a side action lock and some small modification to the bayonet fitting. This was the type of rifle issued to the 1st. Aust. Regt. Commencing in 1851 the Brunswick was, for regular troops, progressively superseded by the Minnie or 1851 pattern rifled musket.

The Brunswick was the first percussion rifle to be adopted by the British service. As a service weapon it was anything but satisfactory. After a few shots the fouling was such as to render it impossible to load with the specialised ammunition provided. In order that the soldier should not be completely out of action, he was issued with a small quantity of conventional ammunition, i.e. ball thus the rifle could be used as a musket.

The Brunswick bullet was a round ball having a raised section or belt around it which fitted into the two groove rifling. The rifle was sighted to 300 yards and was equipped with a brass hilted sword bayonet.

This rifle was just another example of the many and varied attempts by designers to overcome a basic fault in all muzzle loading rifles, the great difficulty in loading a bullet into a fouled rifle so that the rifling would still act on it to preserve accuracy. The solution to the problem lay in designing a suitable bullet but this was overlooked until Minnie produced a bullet which expanded when the rifle was fired. This was later improved upon by Pritchett. This type of bullet was used in the Enfield rifle and was successful. In use the bullet would slide readily down a fouled barrel, the explosion of the powder would expand the hollow base of the bullet causing it to fit tightly into the rifling.

2. HAY RIFLE

This rifle was designed by Col. (later Gen.) Hay. It is almost an exact replica of the 1858 model of the 1853 pattern Enfield long rifle. The major differences being: The barrel is 3" shorter with a corresponding shortening of the forend and placing of the bands; the rear sight is located further from the lock than the Enfield; it weighs a few ounces lighter. Otherwise it is the same rifle, using the same ammunition and bayonet. It is difficult to find any advantage it may have possessed over the Enfield rifle. The possible instance may be in the rear sight being further from the shooter's eye, thus a clearer definition may have been obtained. Few if any of these rifles were made by Ordnance. They were contract manufactured. They were used by volunteers and militia and were not issued to regular troops.

3. SNIDER RIFLE

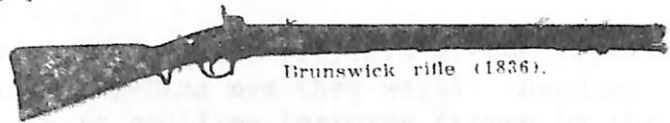
To give it its correct title the Snider Enfield Rifle was the first breach loading rifle, using a cartridge, used in the British service. It was a conversion from the 1853 Enfield muzzle loading rifle. Jacob Snider (an American) submitted the conversion design which was accepted from about fifty other competitors. The rifle itself at first was quite satisfactory but the cartridge not so. This problem was solved by Col. Boxer of the Royal Laboratory who produced the Boxer cartridge. The combination provided the British serviceman with, at that time, an efficient rifle. After the original conversions, Snider rifles were made up from existing Enfield parts and later made outright. They did not enjoy a long official life and could be considered as a stop-gap. Four years after their adoption in 1867 they were superseded by the Martini Henry rifle in 1871. However they and the carbine version were used by secondary troops up to the Boer War.

4. HENRY RIFLE

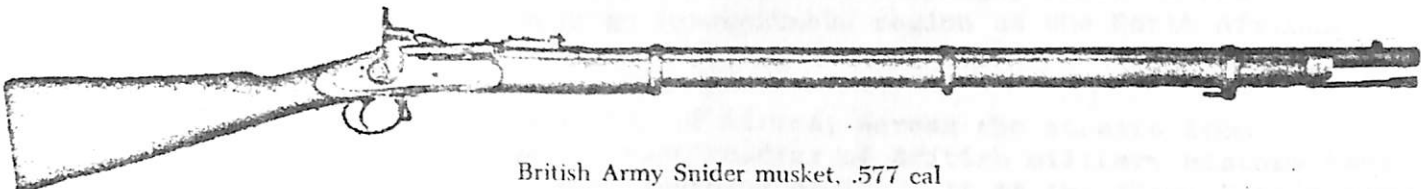
Not to be confused with the American Henry rifle, the forerunner of the famous Winchester, this rifle was invented by Alexander Henry. It was a vertically falling breach block, under lever type, single shot rifle, equipped with the lock and hammer on the left side. It used the same ammunition as the Martini Henry -- 577/450. The action being somewhat slower than the Martini, they were not adopted for use by regular troops. This rifle was sighted to 1000 yards and was equipped with a sword bayonet. The barrel was rifled with Henry's patent rifling, this being a 7 groove rifling of a form specially designed to resist fouling from the black powder and soft lead bullet. There were 5 different models of the rifle and 2 carbines. The only difference between the rifles was in the length of barrels. To date no information is available as to the reason for these various models. Henry rifles were contract made. Few, if any, were made by Ordnance.

5. MARTINI HENRY RIFLE

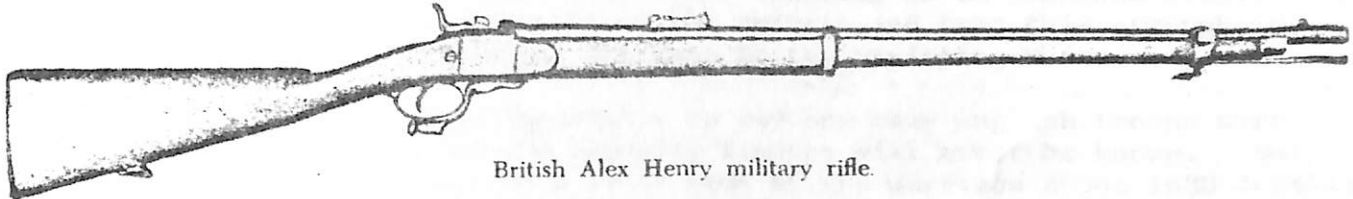
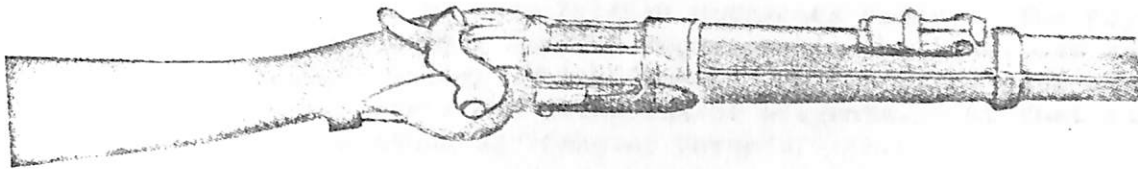
This rifle is claimed to be the invention of one Martini (a Swiss), but American interests claim that it is only a modification of the American Peabody rifle. The action is similar except that the Peabody employs an external hammer which must be cocked separately while the Martini uses an enclosed hammer which is operated automatically with the opening of the breach. The fact remains that the Martini action is probably the most robust, simple and certainly the fastest single shot action, even today. It is still used by some sporting shooters. The action consists of a hinged falling block, lever operated. The barrel is rifled with Henry's patent rifling, hence the name Martini Henry. This rifle was adopted for regular troops in 1871, having been selected from some 50 other designs submitted. In various forms and modifications it was used up to and during W.W.I. There were four main models - Marks I, II, III and IV in the rifle and 2 carbines. The Mark IV rifle only showed any marked difference from the others. The Martini Henry was superseded in 1889 by the Lee Metford magazine rifle for regular troops. The bayonet used was either a sword or socket type according to the arm of the service using it. The range was 1400 yards.



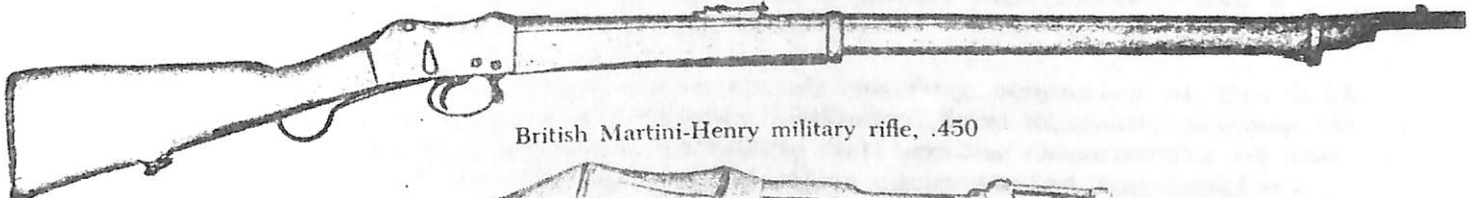
Brunswick rifle (1836).



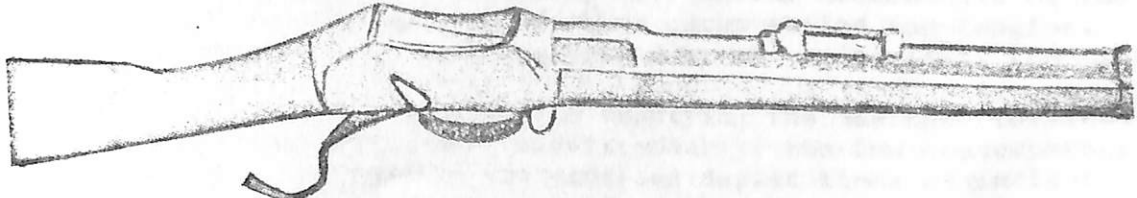
British Army Snider musket, .577 cal

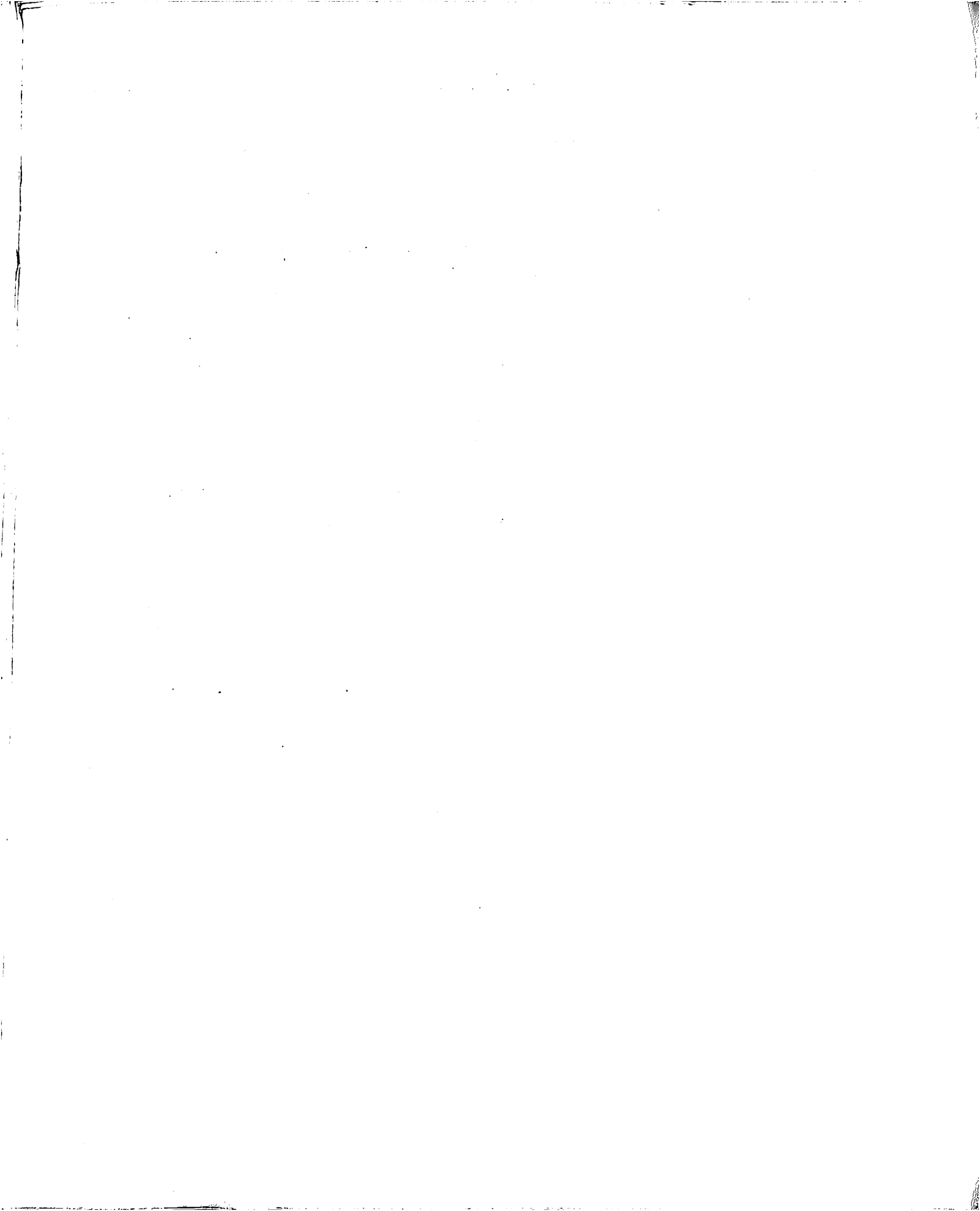


British Alex Henry military rifle.



British Martini-Henry military rifle, .450





THE MINIATURIST'S NOTEBOOKBy R. A. PowellPART 1. TANGIER

Have you ever looked at portraits of English officers of the Restoration period and wondered what sort of fighting men they were? Dandies in lace cravats and silken hose, their aquiline features framed by the tumbling masses of shoulder length perukes; it is difficult to imagine them living the hard life of a soldier on campaign, least of all a campaign fought in such an inhospitable region as the North African desert.

On the extreme north west tip of Africa, across the straits from Gibraltar, lies Tangier. Most readers of British military history have heard the name but few know anything of it. It is the first battle honour on the colours carried by many British regiments today. The Royal Dragoons, one of the oldest cavalry regiments in the line, was raised in 1661 to garrison Tangier, which came to Charles II as part of the dowry of his Portuguese bride Catherine of Braganza. At that time the Royal Dragoons were known as "Tangier Horse".

From 1661 to 1683 English and Scottish troops fought a terrible war to maintain their hold on Tangier against the relentless attacks of the Moors who resented the intrusion of European infidels on their soil. Tangier castle, a grim medieval keep, standing on an eminence overlooking the town, was the cornerstone of the defence and from this stronghold sallies were made to destroy the saps of the besieging Moors.

It is almost certainly impossible to say how many English troops were engaged at Tangier and the casualty figures will never be known. But a contemporary account of a sally made by the garrison about 1680 details the force taking part as follows - four troops of Edward Viscount Cornbury's English Horse (later 1st Dragoons), three troops of Spanish Horse, a mixed battalion composed of the two regiments of English guards, Dumbarton's Regiment (later Royal Scots), the Earl of Inchiquin's Tangier Regiment (later Queens Royal Regiment West Surrey) and a battalion of English seamen and marines,

It is recorded that four companies of the four companies of the full twenty one of Dumbarton's Regiment embarked from Kinsale, Ireland on 4th April, 1680 and in the following July strong detachments of the Coldstream and English Guards and other corps sailed for Tangier. Clearly this was a large scale operation by the criteria of the times.

The logistical problems involved in supplying the besieged fortress must have been formidable and, understandably, the few contemporary paintings we have of life in the garrison depict lines of fatigue parties carrying arms and stores up from the ships. The fighting was brutal and seems to have had something of the atmosphere of the crusades about it.

We read of the Moors rushing the English trenches on horse and foot "with wild and diabolical yells" to "slay hew and decapitate"; mutilation of the dead was common and contemporary accounts give us a picture of companies of English pikemen doing great execution with their weapons. During the year 1664 alone the Moors killed in action General Rutherford, the Scottish Earl of Teviot and 19 other officers whose names are, for the most part, unknown. More than one garrison commander died during the campaign and many Scottish Officers who found any unmarked grave in the town were veterans of the army of Gustavue Adolphus.

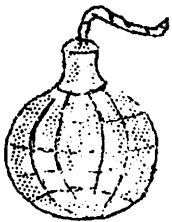
John Churchill, later Duke of Marlborough, saw his first active service at Tangiers in 1666 as a newly commissioned officer in the Guards. Lord Wolsley, in his Life of Marlborough, described Tangier as a drill ground for practical soldiering.

In a democracy military operations will ever be the football of political opportunities and in 1683 the English Commons, in ill humour with the King, refused to grant the necessary supply and Tangier was evacuated.

We do not have a detailed knowledge of the dress of the army at this time and can speak only in general terms. C.C.P. Lawson in his "History of Uniforms of the British Army" appears to rely for his knowledge of dress of the Tangier garrison largely on the paintings of Hollar, which were done from personal observation during a visit to the town. Of these Lawson says - "Hollar in his sketches shows the coat as a frock like garment, hanging loosely and without being shaped to the waist, with a single row of buttons down the front. Later on it seems to have a more shaped appearance, but this may be due to the introduction of the waist belt about 1680".

And again "Although many regiments wore red coats this was by no means universal, as many corps wore gray and others blue. The Lord High Admiral's Regiment, a forerunner of the Royal Marines, wore yellow coats faced with red and red breeches and stockings. The frequent use of grey was no doubt due to the facility of procuring homespun. One must remember that at this time there was nothing in the nature of dress regulations or Government Clothing Stores. Colonels were responsible for the clothing of their men and took a good deal of licence in their view of the matter. They made agreements personally with the tailors for the supply of all garments, hence the considerable variations of uniform between different regiments".

The sketches show troops as they appeared after the introduction of the waistbelt. The musketeer wears a black beaver hat and has a white neck cloth knotted about his neck. The lining and cuffs of his coat were of regimental facing color. His sword and plug bayonet are suspended from his waistbelt. Woollen stockings are tied beneath the knee with cloth garters often of facing color and black leather shoes have ornamental bows, again usually of regimental color. Armed with the clumsy matchlock this soldier carries a yard long length of match in his hand and across his chest he wears the bandoleer from which are suspended a dozen or so wooden cartridges each containing one charge of powder. A ball pouch is also attached to the bandoleer. Prior to the introduction of the

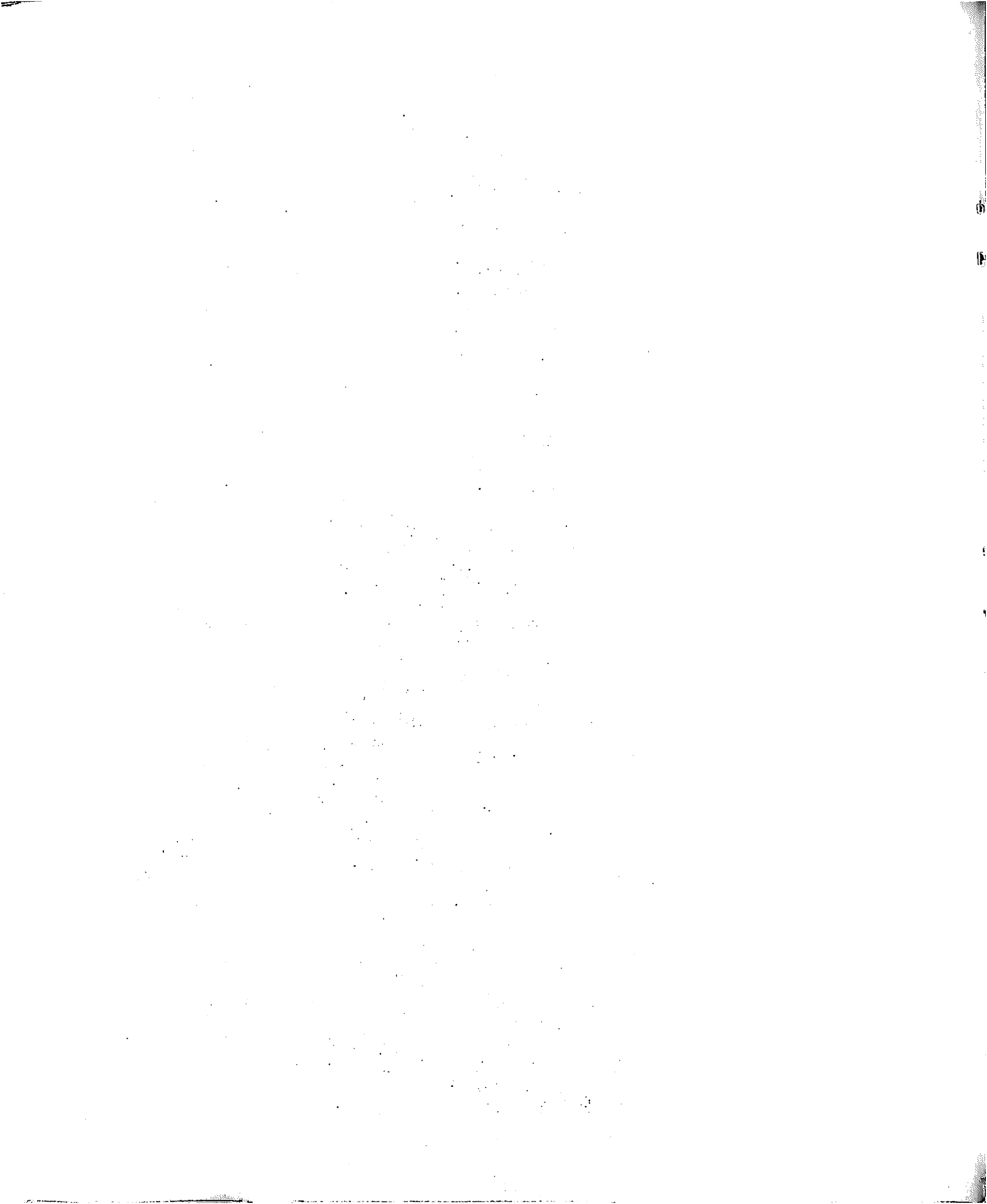


Grenade.



Grenadier's
hatchet.

ENGLISH GRENADE
about 1680.



waistbelt our man would have appeared very much the same except a second baldric was worn over the right shoulder from which was suspended the sword. The use of the bayonet in the British Army is mentioned in a Royal Warrant of 1672 and it seems reasonable to assume that it was the necessity of carrying this weapon that led to the introduction of the waist belt.

We know that the Tangiers or Queen's Regiment wore red frock coats with light green facings, full green breeches, white stockings and hats looped up on one side. In this dress they appear in the Carreras cigarette card set "A History of Army Uniforms".

Dumbarton's Regiment wore red coats faced in white with grey breeches and stockings. Grenadier caps were red with front piece in white and lion's face proper crowned. Grenadiers lace loops white, edged blue (Lawson). An interesting card signed "R.J.M. 1932" put out by the regiment illustrates this dress.

Duchess of York and Albany's Regiment (4th Foot). Lawson quotes one authority as stating yellow facings and the magnificent illustration of the grenadier of 1680 in the aforementioned cigarette card set is probably based on the same authority.

A change from the red coat was the Earl of Bath's Regiment (10th Foot). Raised in 1685 it was clothed in butchers blue with red facings, stockings and breeches. I mention this unit purely because of the interest of its uniform - there being no connection with Tangier.

About 1667 the French had re-introduced into their army the use of the hand grenade, a 16th century invention.

Presumably after experiencing the effects of this weapon in the hands of French grenadiers the English adopted the idea and in 1678 a company of grenadiers was added to each battalion of infantry. They wore fur caps instead of beaver hats and each carried slung across his body a large leather pouch filled with grenades, the wick of which he lit from a length of slow burning match carried in the hand. These men were chosen for their strength for the nature of their duties carried them to the forefront of the fighting and often they had to hew down fascines and pallisades with the heavy hand axe they carried for this purpose. When not in use, the axe was carried in a sling behind the grenade pouch and only the handle can be seen in my drawing. However when the pouch flap was closed the axe head was visible above and behind the pouch.

The grenadier was armed with the newly introduced flintlock, fitted with a sling, as opposed to the musketeer who continued to use the matchlock for some years. The original grenadier caps took many shapes, but all appear to have been basically a cloth cap with a red bag hanging down behind. The edging was a low band of fur, but in the course of a year or so this gave place to the stiffened cloth front bearing a regimental device as shown in my drawing.

Grenadiers were distinguished by having their coats, cuffs and pockets laced in the regimental facing colour; often with tassels on the outermost end of the lace bar. All the coats of this era were divided at the rear to about waist belt height and when laced in front would probably have had one or two lacebars on the back below the waist.

* * * * *

DESPATCHES (CONTINUED)

Sir,

The following item, called from the Brisbane (Queensland) Legacy Bulletin may be of interest to members:

"FINE YOUNG MEN 1845

This is for Gunners.

Fine young men of respectable parents and good character, have an opportunity if not married or apprentices of joining the Royal Artillery. In which Superior Service they will be made gentlemen of and treated accordingly.

They must measure 5 foot 8 inches in height and between eighteen and twenty-two years of age. Growing lads of not more than seventeen may be admitted. They will all receive the same liberal bounty of five pounds fifteen shillings and sixpence.

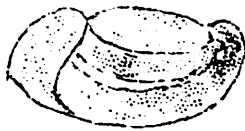
On their arrival at Headquarters they will be taught the art of Riding, Driving, Fencing, Gunnery and Mechanics, the making and use of gunpowder, Sky Rockets and Fireworks and by the power of the lever to move 42 pounder Battering Gun with the same facility as a Penny Whistle.

The cannon used in the Field are called "Flying Artillery" from the astonishing rapidity of their movements. The gunners (for so are Artillery men so called) wear a "Splendid uniform" and are well mounted when taking the field.

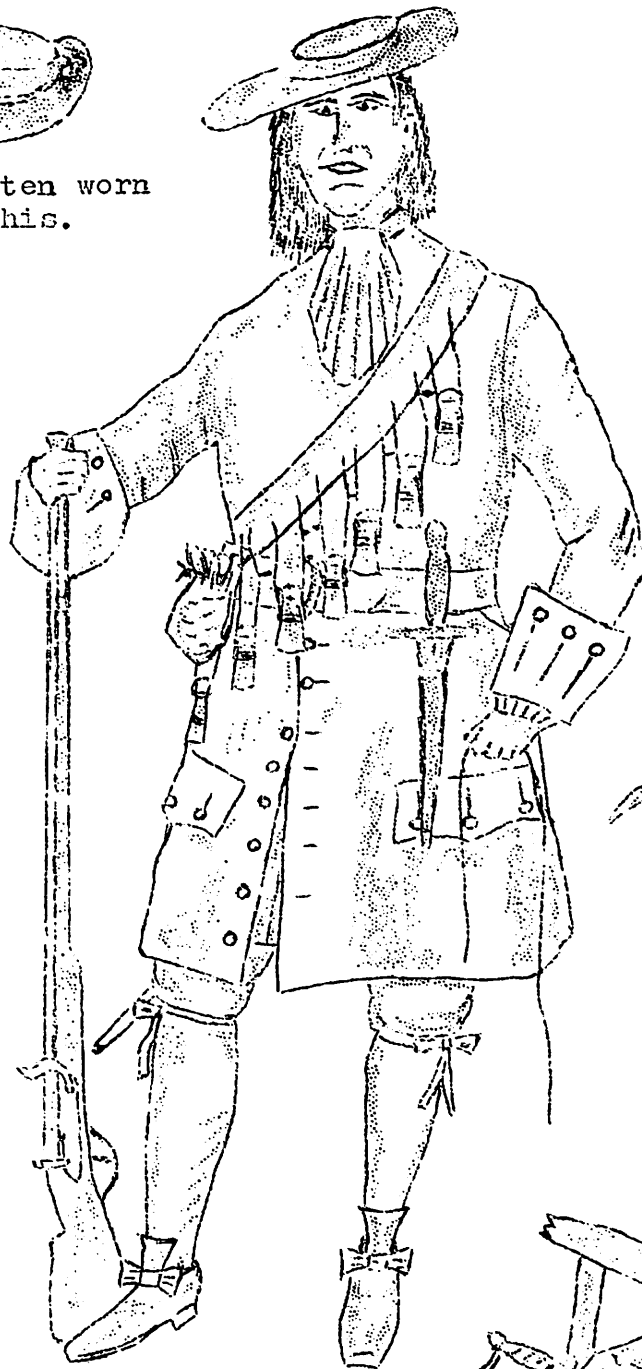
They are lodged in the finest barracks in the world. They have light work and good pay, the best beef that Kent can afford, and a comfortable place in the Barracks called The Canteen set apart for them to see their friends in and take a cheerful glass.

Also a splendid library and reading room, a park and pleasure grounds with a select number of horses for their instruction and amusement. After their education is completed they will have the opportunity afforded to them to travel to Foreign Countries where they may drink their wine for twopence per bottle, by the new Tariff.

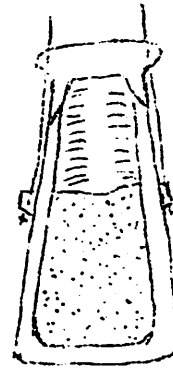
If well conducted they will be promoted to Non-Commissioned Officers from whom the Quarter Masters are selected, who are best paid in the Army, and return to their friends with money, manners and experience. Apply to



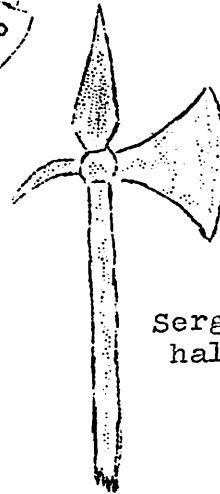
Beaver often worn
like this.



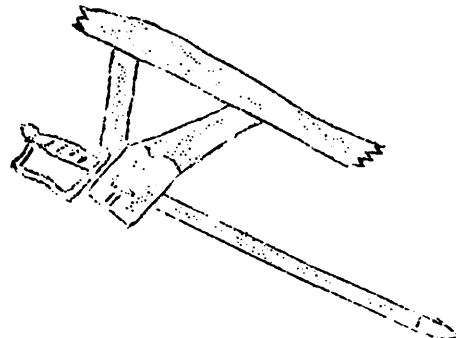
AN ENGLISH MUSKETEER
about 1680.



cross-section
of a cartridge.



Sergeant's
halberd.



Faint, illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.



Recruiting Sergeant of the Battalion at Woolwich, Kent. God Save the Queen.

"Fine Young Men" appeared as a parchment-like recruiting poster for the Royal Artillery in 1845 and from this interesting article some conclusions can be drawn :-

1. That the advertising game hasn't changed much.
2. That conditions in the Royal Artillery (Australian Sub-Branch) must have deteriorated considerably in 100 years."

Yours faithfully,

J.R.S. Thompson, Quirindi, N.S.W.

* * * * *

'Sir,

THE MELBOURNE CAVALRY

I was interested in the article regarding the above regiment that appeared in the April 1966 issue of "Sabretache". I can add the following particulars:-

"The Melbourne Cavalry was raised about November 1901 by a Lieut. Alexander Rushall whose date of commission is 24/11/1901 (1). He was absorbed into the 10th Australian Light Horse Regiment Victorian Mounted Rifles in 1903 as a Lieutenant with No. 6 Squadron dated 1/7/1903 (2). This squadron consisted of men from the Melbourne Cavalry. He was appointed Captain with this squadron in 1/1/1905.(3). (4) He was in command of No. 1 Squadron Mounted Cadets which was raised on 1/7/1908 and consisted of four troops located at Melbourne. The squadron was disbanded in 1911 when compulsory military service was brought in for the cadets. Their badge was modelled on the old Melbourne Cavalry badge.

The strength of the Melbourne Cavalry was 45 all ranks. On December 10th 1901 the regiment was selected to escort the new Governor of Victoria Sir George Sydenham Clarke on his arrival in Victoria.

- References:
- (1) The Military Forces List. Dated 30/6/1910.
 - (2) As above.
 - (3) As above.
 - (4) On 1st July 1908, M.O.224/1908 set out:
Commonwealth Military Cadet Corps.
Mounted Cadets-- Captain A.Rushall, 10th A.L.H. Regt.
(V.M.R.) to be Captain"

The Melbourne Cavalry is not mentioned in any of the Commonwealth Military Forces Lists. I have no doubt that there would be many references to the Regiment in Victorian Government Gazettes issued during the period of its existence.

Yours faithfully,
Robert Gray, Glengowrie, South Australia.'

DESPATCHES (CONTINUED)

'Sir,

ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES LANCERS MEMORIAL MUSEUM

The museum building, the former 'Linden House', has been partially re-erected, as planned. The exterior walls of sandstone are up and the interior walls of sandstock brick, the roof is on, windows glazed and Ground Floor fully usable.

At a short ceremony on 6th March, 1966, the G.O.C. Eastern Command formally opened the Ground Floor in the presence of a large crowd. The whole design of the building and the quality of the stonemasons' work made a very good impression on the many visitors on that day and since. Inside, the display of items from the museum collection, to which curator Norman Grinyer had given much thought, was very pleasing. In the hectic days preceding the Opening, valuable assistance was received from some members of the Military Historical Society who joined working bees.

The entrance hall contained a small but colourful selection. In one of the only two rooms on the floor were relics of the period from the Soudan War to 1913; there was a fair amount of colour here, what with a Soudan War scarlet tunic, two dummies in the full dress uniform of the N.S.W. Lancers, others in mess dress, and a magnificent pair of Lancer drum banners displayed on cavalry kettle drums. The other room was devoted to a range of items from the Great War to the present day, one of the latest acquisitions being a Vietcong flag. The Curator intends to periodically change the displays.

To complete the building a considerable sum of money is still required. When it has been completed it will be dedicated as a regimental war memorial of the Royal New South Wales Lancers. In the meantime, the museum is being opened to the public, at a nominal charge, on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. When a larger panel of voluntary helpers has been built up, it will be opened for inspections on Fridays also. Interstate Society members wishing to inspect on other than regular days might telephone the Honorary Curator, 632-7688, as it may be possible to meet their convenience on some other day or night.

Yours faithfully,
P.V. Vernon, Linfield, N.S.W. '

* * * * *

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS (50¢ per advert.)

WANTED: For specialist collection of air forces insignia -
R.A.A.F. Reserve lapel badge WW2
Women's A.T.C. badges (Winged map of Australia)
A.T.C. arm band white with badge and title WW2 as issued prior to uniforms
R.A.A.F. Officer's cap badge with Southern Cross & Wattle Wreath hat badge
of C.F.S. (WW1 AFC)
Silver metal wing badges 1st pattern post WW2 items listed in previous
SABRETACHE.

B. J. Videon,
20 Thomasina St., EAST BENTLEIGH.

* * * * *

BOOK REVIEWS

by A. N. Festberg

'ARMS AND ARMOUR by Vesey Norman

The Science of Heraldry, or, more correctly, Armory, does not only concern itself with Coats of Arms, but also with its armour, weapons, costumes etc.

Mr. Norman is Assistant to the Director of the Wallace Collection, London, where he specializes in arms and armour. As such he is an expert in this field.

He explains how armour and weapons were made, the changes which led from one design to another, and the tournaments and melees which were dress-rehearsals for war. He discusses the great armourers of Augsburg, Nuremberg and Milan who were the master craftsmen, and who dominated the field in much the same way as the fashion designers of Paris now dominate and dictate fashion all over the world.

The reader is taken through all the stages of development from mail to the full suit; from the simple spear to the lance, halberd and partizan; and from the broadsword to the rapier.

Mr. Norman illustrates his text with 32 pages in colour and 100 black and white pictures.

Military Historians will equally welcome this fine book, for these armours and weapons were used in some of the most famous battles and it is well to remember that to-day's cuirass and sabre are direct descendants of these very armours and swords.

This book, published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London, is part of their series entitled "Pleasures and Treasures". In this series military historians also find "Model Soldiers" by Henry Harris and "Firearms" by Howard Ricketts, (both not yet reviewed).

Considering the quality of this book it is reasonably priced at \$4.60 and well within the means of the student as well as the serious collector.

Model soldier collectors would also find it useful, and some very fine models could be made from the beautiful and detailed illustrations provided.'

* * * * *

'THE SWORD IN THE AGE OF CHIVALRY

by R. Ewart Oakeshott

Published by Lutterworth Press, London.

Mr. Oakeshott's contribution to history was not only in writing this most learned and authoritative book but in devising a workable typology.

Now historians and collectors have a basis for classifying weapons.

This classification and detailed study is the outcome of twentyfive years' research.

Mr. Oakeshott refutes the common belief that "the medieval sword was a weapon of unvarying form, a crude chopping instrument intolerably heavy and clumsy...".

The period covered by this book is the Age of Chivalry, roughly 1100 to 1500. During this time many famous battles were fought as well as the Crusades. To the Knight his sword was just as important as the sabre was to a Dragoon or Cuirassier. It would be of great advantage to study this weapon more closely.

The development of the sword is shown in 48 black and white plates and 134 drawings.

Whilst it would be very expensive to acquire a good sword (and which collector would not like to own one or two?), this book might possibly console him.'

Priced at \$8.90 at any Bookshop.

* * * * *

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS (50¢ per Advert.)

LEW'S ARMY & NAVY SURPLUS STORES

(COLLECTORS' DIVISION)

37 Cowper St., HOVE 3, Sussex, U.K.

We welcome all enquiries for:

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Cap badges | Collar badges |
| Formation signs | Buttons |
| R.A.F. insignia | Naval insignia |

and

indeed, everything else for the Collector!

LISTS SENT ON REQUEST.

* * * * *

RESEARCHERS' CORNER

1. Mr. Robert Gray would like to hear whether mottoes were allotted for the following units. Can any member(s) please advise through the medium of this column? :-

Papua & New Guinea Volunteer Rifles
Royal Australian Survey Corps
Women's Royal Aust. Army Corps
Royal Australian Educational Corps
Australian Army Apprentice School
Royal Australian Army Dental Corps
Royal Australian Army Provost Corps
Australian Press Correspondents
Royal Australian Army Pay Corps
Royal Australian Armoured Corps
Australian Army Catering Corps
Recruit Training Battalions
Australian Army Psychology Corps
56 Reconnaissance Batt. (the Riverina Regt.)
Royal Australian E.M.E.
12/40 Tasmania Regt.
Australian Intelligence Corps.

2. Mr. Gray would also like an identification of the following badge:-

A large kangaroo standing erect, facing to the viewers left and standing on a curved scroll bearing the motto "AMATOS FUNDIT". Can any reader help?

The Editor invites further queries of this nature for inclusion and answer through this column. One request though ---- PLEASE KEEP IT SHORT AND TO THE POINT !

* * * * *

SOME BADGES OF THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND FORCES IN THE
FIRST WORLD WAR

Your Editor has, for some years, regretted the fact that illustrations of Australian badges have not been available in a fashion suitable for reproduction in SABRETACHE. Many badges are in existence, and many illustrations, but the former are usually in personal collections and mounted in ways that do not lend themselves to easy photography, whilst the latter are either printed in colour, indistinctly, or too large for reproduction in the limited space in these pages.

Recently, however, one of our members in Melbourne acquired a set of books which carried a series of plates showing badges used in the First World War by Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, and some of the smaller countries of the Empire. As one has come to expect, the coverage of Australian badges is quite small, five only badges being shown. As the First A.I.F. was not officially supplied with regimental badges, but was supposed to use the Commonwealth Pattern Badge (so-called "rising sun"), we have done better than might have been expected.

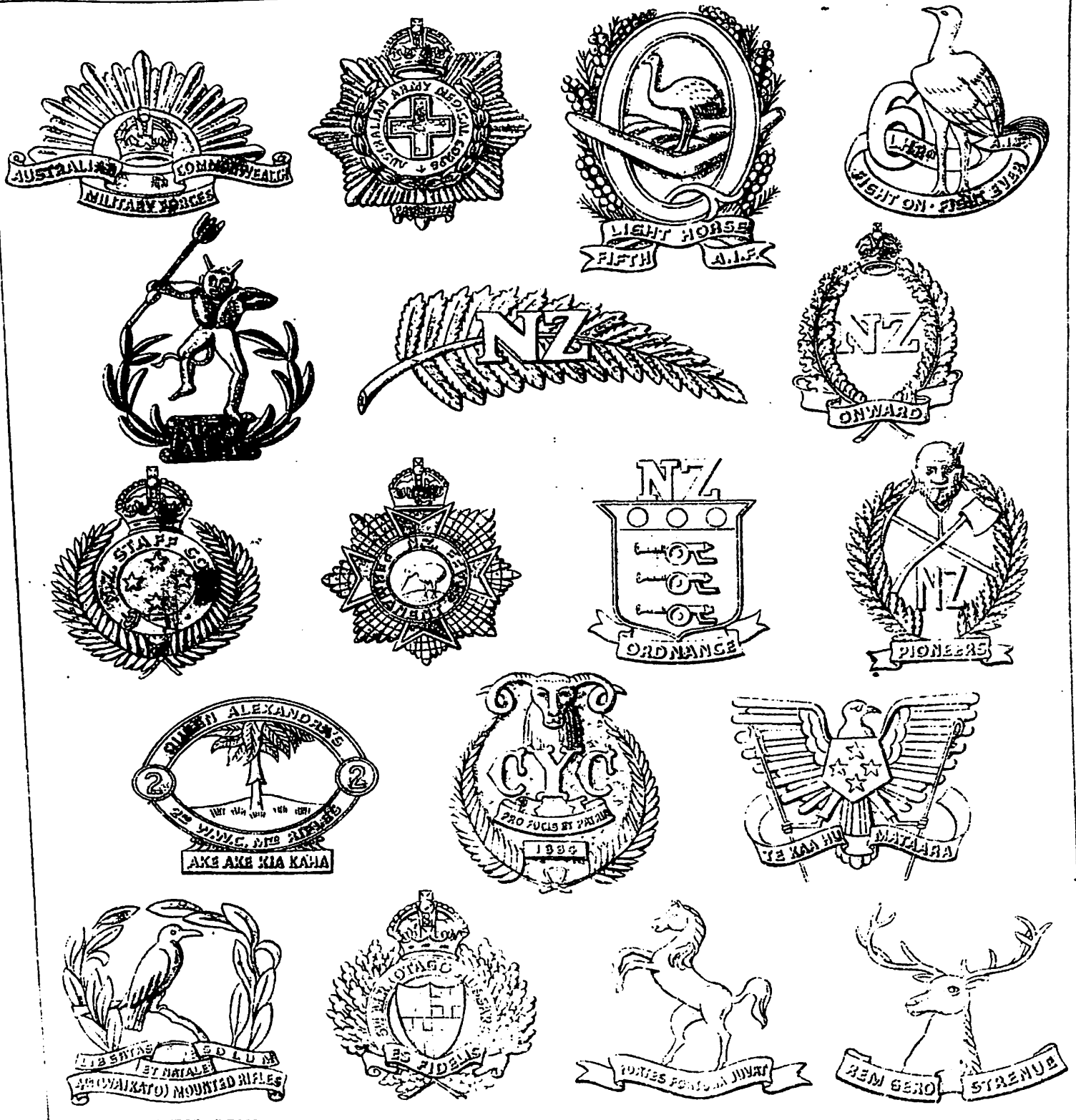
One of these plates is accordingly reproduced here, in the hope that it will be of interest at least to some of our overseas collector-members who may not be aware of the period of some of these badges that may be in their possession. It is proposed to carry on and to present the remainder of the series, except for the British (and, possibly, the Canadian), which have been covered elsewhere with commendable zeal.

It is to be hoped that it will not be too long before we shall be in a position to present plates of more badges of the Australian Forces, an aim that has been with us for the majority of our existence. Any help in this regard would be appreciated.

NOTE: Early subscribers to THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY LINEAGE BOOK have been fortunate in obtaining plates showing badges of the Australian army as approved at the present time. Not all of these badges have been struck at the time of writing.

B. J. Videon.

* * * * *



OVERSEAS BADGES SIXTH SERIES

The badges shown in this plate are those of Australian and New Zealand formations. From left to right, the top row first: 1. Australian General Service. 2. Aus. Army Medical Corps. 3. 5th Aus. Light Horse. 4. 6th Aus. Light Horse. 5. 13th Aus. Light Horse. 6. New Zealand General Service. 7. Ditto. 8. N.Z. Staff Corps. 9. N.Z. Permanent Staff. 10. N.Z. Army Ordnance Corps. 11. N.Z. Pioneers. 12. 2nd Queen Alexandra's West Coast Mounted Rifles. 13. Canterbury Yeomanry Cavalry. 14. Auckland Mounted Rifles. 15. 4th Waikato Mounted Rifles. 16. 5th M.R. Otago Hussars. 17. Wellington East Coast Mounted Rifles. 18. Nelson Marlborough Mounted Rifles.

