

Military Historical Society of Australia
Sabretache



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SABRETACHE



THE JOURNAL OF
THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF AUSTRALIA

JANUARY, 1967

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* * * * *

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 interstate 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.

THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Founded in Melbourne in 1957.

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

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"SABRETACHE"

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

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Journal and Proceedings of
THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Vol. IX

JANUARY, 1967

No. 3

PRICE: Fifty-seven cents.

Military General Service Medal 1793-1814 with
FOURTEEN CLASPS

awarded to

Lieut.-Colonel James Campbell late of 45th and 50th Regiments

Located in Australia

This extremely RARE medal was purchased by Capt. R. Clark from a dealer in Melbourne, Australia, who had acquired it from the great grandson of the recipient. The medal, which was framed and in absolutely mint condition, had with it a complete Statement of Service and the original letter sent to the recipient with his medal. Letters and a photo of James Campbell were also with the medal. The price paid for the medal is considered to be a record for this medal.

Its rarity is shown in the following extract of Colonel Campbell's Statement of Service:

"Lieut.-Colonel Campbell's War Medal is different from that conferred by Her Majesty upon any other officer; it is granted to him as "Brigade Major, Right Brigade, 3rd Division". He has also received Fourteen (14) clasps; being one more than any other Officers of the Army have been honored with."

Service Details in the Peninsula War

Lieutenant Campbell was present in the battle of :

<u>Battle</u> (a)	<u>Rank</u> (b)	<u>Remarks</u> (c)
ROLEIA	Lieutenant &	
VIMIERA	Adjutant,	
TALavera	1st Battalion	Engaged both
BUSACO		
FUENTES D'ONOR	45th Regiment	days.

<u>Battle</u> (a)	<u>Rank</u> (b)	<u>Remarks</u> (c)
SIEGE OF CIUDAD RODRIGO	Captain 1st Battalion 45th Regt.	Commanded the Regt. in the assault, and the carrying of the main breach.
Two of the Seiges of BADAJOZ	Brigade-Major, Right Brigade, 3rd Div. In the course of the war Lt.Col. Campbell had the ranks of Major & Lt.Colonel conferred upon him for distin- guished services in the Field.	Acted in the first as Engineer in the storm- ing and the carrying of the Castle. Was thrown from the top of the wall having his leg broken and received other severe injuries. Returned wounded.
Battle of SALAMANCA	"	With 3rd Bde that turned the French left.
VITTORIA	"	With 3rd Bde that defeated French centre.
PYRENEES	"	
NIVELLE	"	
NIVE	"	
ORTHES	"	
TOULOUSE	"	

Lieut.-Colonel Campbell was also present in most of the affairs of importance during the war; these included the Retreat of the French from the Lines of Torres Vedras; Pombal; Redinha; Foze d'Aronce; Guarda; Sabugal; Aldea de Ponte; Fuenti Guinaldo; Retreat of the 3rd Division from El Boden to Guinaldo (during which it was repeatedly charged by Latour Monbourg's Cavalry, but repulsed them in every instance with great loss. To this famous Retreat the Duke of Wellington called, in General Orders, the attention of the Army); capture of the Forts and Reterio at Madrid; Retreat from Madrid into Portugal.

In the Peninsula and France Lt.Col. Campbell was present in upwards of 30 General Actions, Sieges and affairs of importance.

Service Details

Lieut. Campbell was then the youngest man who had that Rank (Major) conferred upon him by purchase or otherwise. Prior to and subsequent to the

war in the Peninsula and France he served as Lieut. and Adjutant, 45th Regiment, in Lord Cathcarts' expedition to the WESER in 1805. In the attack made by General Whitelock on BUENOS AIRES, in SOUTH AMERICA; in which the 45th Regiment greatly distinguished itself; particularly in the capture and holding of the Residentia.

In 1814 in NORTH AMERICA, as Brigade-Major to General Sir Thomas Brisbane's Brigade he was present with it in the affair of Dead Creek, and in the operations at Plattsborg, on Lake Champlaigne.

In 1815 Lt.Col. Campbell returned from Canada to France, attached as Brigade-Major and Senior Officer of the Staff, to the troops under Sir Thomas Brisbane; and though too late for Waterloo, marched with them into Paris a few days after the rest of the army and at once occupied Montmartre. He was strongly recommended by Sir Thomas Brisbane to the Duke of Wellington for his services. He served with the Army of Occupation in France.

In the year 1819 L.Col. Campbell went with his regiment to Ceylon and served there in command of Districts and high civil appointments for a period of about 6 years. During this period he was severely attacked with jungle fever in the operations to conquest the Kandyan Kingdom. Lt.Col. Campbell's health continued to deteriorate in the tropics, so he was returned to England and promoted into the 50th Regiment. His health did not improve so he was forced to take his retirement from the army when his Regiment was posted to the West Indies.

After retirement Lieut.Colonel Campbell committed the unpardonable offence, that of writing a book, "A British Army as it was, is, and Ought to be" - published by Boone, New Bond Street, in 1840. Much of what was recommended in the book was adopted by the British Army but other sections were against the Duke of Wellington's policy. In particular the recommendation to abolish flogging, caused much comment in Parliament and the Army. The publication of the book nearly caused him not to be granted 1,200 acres of land in the Colonies for distinguished service. After Parliamentary discussions Lt.Col. Campbell was granted his land in New Zealand. A branch of his family still has the land in New Zealand and another part of the family live in Australia."

Captain Clark would be most interested to hear from anyone who has a copy of the book written by Lieut.Colonel Campbell, or to hear of any details on him.

* * * *

THE N.S.W. IRISH RIFLES

A few Australian members recently had all too-brief visits from American member Ken Powers. Ken is a specialist in Irish regiments, and, as a result of his interest, we publish the following material from N.S.W. General Orders :-

"G.O.22 of 19th February 1898

His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of the following Regiments and Corps (formed under the 5th Section of the "Volunteer Force Regulation Acts of 1867") serving under the Reserve System, and subject to the above-cited Act and the Regulations made thereunder, to take effect from the date of original formation :-

5th (Union Volunteer) Infantry Regiment	-	30th June 1896
Scottish Rifles	-	23rd September 1885
Irish Rifles	-	25th March 1896

etc.

G.O.222 of 6th November 1896

Attention is directed to the Dress Regulations of Officers of the Irish and St. George's Rifles, issued herewith for the information of the Officers concerned.

Dress Regulations5th Infantry (Union Volunteer) Regiment - Irish Rifles

The following will be added to the Officers' Dress Regulations, 1895, before Army Service Corps, at Page 31.

Field Service Jacket (brown tweed) - As for infantry, with the following exceptions:- Collar and cuffs, emerald green; cuffs with shamrock (as per sealed pattern), of Lincoln green mohair Russia braid; ends of collar ornamented with shamrock of 3/8" silver lace disposed as in sealed pattern. Braid for Field Officers, Lincoln green mohair Russia.

Collar - as for Infantry.

Shoulder Knot - of silver round cord, to have woven into it one silk cord of emerald green.

Sash, Trousers, Breeches, Spurs, Boots, Field Service Hat, Field Service Cap, Forage Cap - as for Infantry, with green welt for Trousers.

Puggaree - Lincoln green silk folded into five pleats, with two lines of Regimental colour 1/4" wide between the first and fourth pleats.

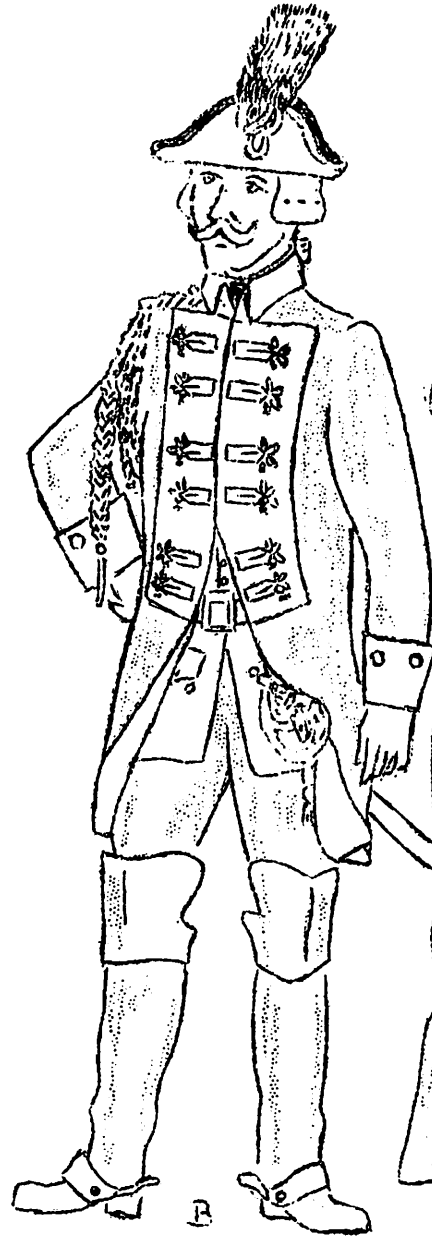
Sword, Scabbard, Sword Knot, Sword Knot (Undress), Sword belts, Patrol Jacket - as for Infantry.

Service Cap - to be worn with patrol jacket. As for Infantry, but blue cloth, with Regimental Badge of silver wire over a rosette of regimental colour.

Undress Trousers - For wear with patrol jacket. Blue cloth with 1/4" scarlet welt down outside leg seams.

Great Coat and Cape, Whistle, Leggings, Haversack - As for Infantry.

Gloves - As per General Instructions, page 2.



Fl
7.

Mess Dress

Mess Jacket, Mess Waistcoat, Lace for full dress trousers (optional) - As for Infantry, with silver braid shamrock on cuffs of mess jacket same design as in F.S. jacket.

Badge - Silver, 2" in height. Device 3/4" high x 3/4" wide, raised and embossed. The remaining portion of the centre of badge to be cut out. The centre to be surrounded by a wreath of waratah leaves embossed, finished at top by two waratah flowers, resting on which is an Imperial Crown. A ribbon joins the two parts of the wreath at its foot, and the motto "READY" is embossed in Roman capitals on it. The whole to be fastened to the hat or cap by two staples."

It would appear then that the Regiment became numbered as the 8th New South Wales Infantry, after the 7th Volunteer Infantry Regiment (St. Georges Rifles), as badges indicating this designation exist in several collections.

From the "AUSTRALIAN ARMY LINEAGE BOOK" we find that, on Federation, the "8th Regiment New South Wales Infantry" became "N.S.W. Irish Rifle Regiment (I.R.R.) (Volunteers)" by virtue of GO 296/1903.

The Regiment appears to have lost its Territorial Title when, as the 55th Battalion (linked with the 53rd), it became part of the A.I.F.

Dress Regulations for the Regiment were promulgated in 1903 and 1905 "Orders for Dress and Clothing".

These Regulations prescribed a green uniform with black braid and scarlet collar; green hat with dark green cock's feathers in a brass socket; Puggaree of seven folds of which four were dark green, 2 light green and one red; and green trousers with red welt. Gloves were dark green doeskin, leather black, mountings white metal.

* * * * *

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS

(at 50 cents each)

AIR FORCE ITEMS WANTED - BY PURCHASE OR EXCHANGE

R.A.F. EAGLE SQUADRON PATCH OF W.W.2.

R.A.A.F. PRE-W.W.2 ITEMS

BALTIC AIR FORCES ITEMS TO W.W.2.

WOMENS AIR FORCES UNIFORM ITEMS

I collect all categories of Air Forces insignia and uniform. Including flying and working headdress, but not flying suits and overalls.

B. J. VIDEON,
20 Thomasina Street,
East Bentleigh, S.E.15,
Victoria, Australia.

THE MINIATURIST'S NOTEBOOK. PART 3.

By R.A. Powell.

Once again Frank Thornborough has prepared a group of drawings for us. This time depicting some of the colourful and lesser known household troops of Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany.

German Army 1900Gala Uniforms - Prussian Palace Guards

- A. 11 Platoon Leib Gendarmerie. Officer.
Head-dress. Black tri-corn hat (front cocked) with silver lace border. Cockade black and silver with silver ornament. White over black feather plume. White peruke, black ribbon.
Coat. White - crimson stand and fall collar, lapels and cuffs. Silver lace, buttons, aigulette and shoulder cord on right shoulder. Shoulder cord had gilded Imperial cypher.
Waistcoat. White with silver buttons.
Breeches. White.
Boots. Black.
Gauntlets. White.
Sash. Silver net having two black stripes - bullion tassels.
Sword. Gilt hilt, silver and black sword knot, brown leather scabbard with brass shoe.
- B. 11 Platoon Leib Gendarmerie. Trooper.
Head-dress. Black tri-corn (front cocked) with black silk border. Cockade Black and with white ornament. White over black woollen plume. White peruke with black ribbon and pigtail.
Coat. White - crimson stand and fall collar, lapels, cuffs and turnbacks. White lace, aigulette and shoulder cord. NCO's and Staff trumpeters arm lace and 'Bird nests' silver and black. NCO's coat lace had black and white cords. White metal buttons.
Waistcoat. White - white metal buttons.
Breeches. White.
Boots. Black.
Gloves. White.
Belt. White with white metal buckle.
Sabre. Brass hilt, white sword knot (NCO's black and white) brown leather scabbard with brass shoe.



OFFICER'S LACE



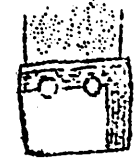
TROOPER'S LACE



OFFICER'S DRESS
SWORD & KNOT



NCO'S LACE



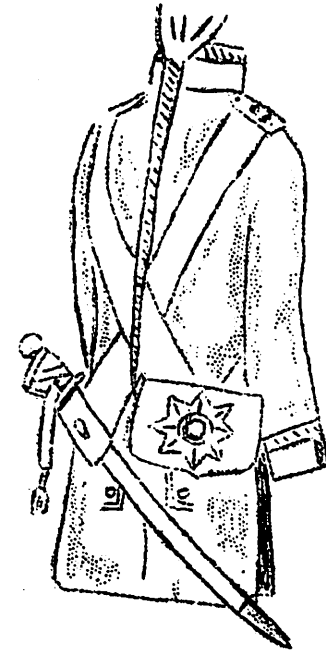
NCO'S CUFF



OR'S SABRE
HILT

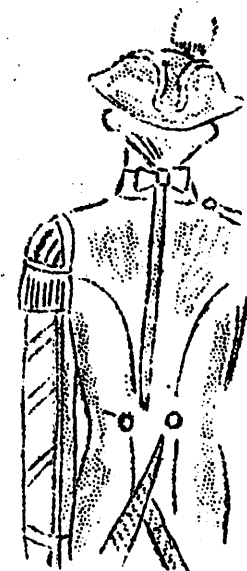


OFFICER'S CUFF



REAR.
C

A



REAR OR'S
TUNIC WITH,
TRUMPETERS
LACE

B

C. Palace Guard Company. O.R.

Head-dress. Mitre cap, white metal front and back plates, red crown with white lace. Pom-pom white with black centre. White peruke with black pig-tail.

Coat. Dark blue with scarlet collar and cuffs - white lace - silver braid on collar and cuffs. White metal buttons. White shoulder straps with brass Imperial cypher.

Cross Belts. White - black cartouch box with white metal guard star.

Sword. Brass hilt white knot. Scabbard dark brown with brass shoe.

Spatter dashes. Black.

Boots. Black.

* * * * *

THE CORPS COLOUR OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY

Prepared by the Directorate of Infantry,
(from the "Infantry Bulletin" Vol. XII,
No. 3 of December, 1966. By courtesy of
Lt. Col. R. P. Richardson).

Introduction

The question has been asked, why is the colour of the lanyard of the Royal Australian Infantry Corps scarlet? To fully answer this question, it is first necessary to ascertain what is the Infantry colour. On reading through past documents, some misconception has occurred over what is actually the Infantry colour. Investigation proved fruitless in all avenues of search as to the actual reasons why the colour, whichever one, was chosen for the Infantry Corps. It is a pity that there are no documents, of a Hansard nature, that would give the reasons why. An examination of the facts can only give us the period of a particular colour adoption, and not the reasons why.

The first mention of an Infantry Corps colour was found in General Order No. 109 of 1903. This order originated at Defence Headquarters, MELBOURNE, and governed the Military Forces of the Commonwealth (Australian). In this order, the orders of dress were examined for the Australian Forces. These were in effect, Australia's first Standing Orders for Dress. Whistles were to be carried by Officers and NCOs to whom issued, and were to be attached to a silk lanyard of the same colour of the Service Uniform. The uniform was of khaki-coloured serge. However, these uniforms had collar gorget patches, and the colour for Infantry, both Militia and volunteer, was dark-green. The piping on the trousers was different however, the Infantry (Militia) having red piping and the Infantry (Volunteer) having dark-green piping. For officers in both the Militia and Volunteer Infantry, their breast-lines and cord

shoulder-pads were dark-green. The Militia having the distinction of a red thread on the shoulder-pads. The persons who were then able to carry whistles were able to attach them to a lanyard coloured khaki, red or dark-green, according to the splash of colour which their respective uniform displayed.

In the Standing Orders for Dress, 1935, it is found that whistles are to be carried by officers and NCOs to whom issued, and attached to a lanyard of the colour of the Service Dress. There was still no specific colour for the lanyard, as the gorget patches of green or scarlet were still in vogue. Caps, forage were introduced, and for officers, below the rank of Lt. Col., the colour of the band was green. The colour of the band on the Caps, forage for other ranks was scarlet or green. Kamberbands were introduced for mess dress, and were to be of the Corps colour. The Infantry kamberband was green, the Infantry mess jacket was scarlet. The trousers, blue cloth for officers, were introduced and Infantry were to have a scarlet stripe $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide, down the seam. A conglomeration of colours, and individuals were left to choose what was their Corp's colour. The Standing Orders for Dress 1935, in relation to the Infantry OR Militia uniform, reads that Infantry of the 3rd Division and of field troops, fourth and fifth military districts will wear scarlet facings. Infantry of all other formations will wear green facings.

In July, 1949, the Military Board discussed ways to distinguish between corps. Lanyards were considered, but the idea was not endorsed as it was felt that the uniform already had excess embellishment. Titles embroidered were introduced in MBI 167/48, and the Royal Australian Infantry given white lettering on a scarlet background. Lanyards however, were being worn regularly by all ranks of the three battalions of the RAR. With the Battalions serving in one locality, it was difficult to differentiate between the battalion members, particularly when on leave. The colours were 1 RAR - blue; 2 RAR - red; 3 RAR - green. This was an internal custom, and not authorized by Standing Orders for Dress. The colour of 2 RAR was subsequently changed to black.

Standing Orders for Dress 1951 (Provisional) were printed and examined in Military Board Agendum item 4 of Jan. 1952. The orders stated that lanyards were to be worn by officers and NCOs to whom were issued whistles. The colour of this lanyard was to be khaki. The Board approved of the Standing Orders but with a couple of reservations. One of their recommendations was that the lanyard be various colours, according to Corps, and not all lanyards to be khaki. This was subsequently agreed, as in MBI 86/52 dated May '52. The Standing Orders for Dress were promulgated. The colour of the Infantry Corps lanyard was scarlet. In MBI 73/55, the wearing of lanyards was not restricted, and all ranks were able to wear them, the colour worn applicable to their respective corps.

Conclusions

The avenues chosen for the research were:

- a. The files in the Directorate of Infantry.

- b. Military Board Instructions and Army Orders found in the Military Secretary's archives.
- c. Past agendum Items for Military Board meetings, and the minutes from past AHQ Dress Committee meetings.
- d. Australian War Museum, Canberra.

Apart from the above, many persons were approached for their personal knowledge. Their reasons for Infantry wearing scarlet varied only slightly. The overriding reason was that scarlet was a carry-over from the Foot Regiments of England of preceding centuries. For these Regiments, termed the 'Red Coats' wore scarlet jackets, the purpose being to hide the nerve-wracking sight of blood. On Federation, and Australia having her own Military Forces, the colour of scarlet was carried over in a small way to preserve the traditional background of English Infantry. However, the same could be said for green. For this also was adopted on Federation, and is a traditional colour in English Rifle Regiments.

No documents were located referring to this period between January 1952 and May 1952. In this period, the decision that the Infantry colour would be scarlet would probably have been decided upon. No reference to lanyards for this period was found in old files held in the Directorate of Infantry, nor from other sources. The decision for the distinctive colour for each Corps could have been decided on by the respective Corps Directorates, or by the Dress Committee. The decision of what colour Infantry was to have could have been verbal, but this is most unlikely. However, no documentation for this period can be found.

Scarlet, however, was not secure as the Infantry colour. In 1954, the Directorate of Infantry recommended to the AHQ Dress Committee that Caps, forage up to the rank of Lt. Col. be replaced in the Royal Australian Infantry Corps by green berets, the traditional Corps colour. The recommendation was not approved.

It would seem therefore that scarlet remains the official colour of the Royal Australian Infantry Corps. It is interesting, however, to note that the Infantry tie is basically green as are the regimental colours of CMF Regiments (that of the Royal Australian Regiment is blue).

Addendum

Any reader who can contribute anything further to this research is requested to write to the Editor, SABRETACHE.

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MILITARY MINIATURES

By R. A. POWELL

SOME PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH CASTING MODEL FIGURES IN LEAD ALLOY

In the previous number of SABRETACHE we outlined the most common of the techniques used in moulding figures in silicon rubber. Having completed your mould and allowed it a week or so in which to cure, you are ready to begin casting. Your figures will be cast in a lead/tin alloy having a melting point of approx. 380° - or perhaps a little higher as the tin content is increased. Most workers have their favoured alloys, but at least 50% tin is desirable, for anything less will result in too malleable a metal. My own practice is to purchase printer's type metal from a scrap merchant, from whom I can buy a pound of metal for 35¢. I am unsure of the exact content of this alloy, but it contains several metals other than lead and tin and is made to give fine detail castings of printed type. It is therefore ideal for reproducing finely detailed model castings. Another advantage of type metal is its comparatively low lead content.

Lead is an insidious poison, a fact of which the worker in this metal must be constantly conscious. I say insidious because the effect of lead on the body is cumulative, that is to say small quantities of lead may be taken into the body without (to the lay-man at least) any apparent ill effects until the critical level is reached, by which time the damage is done. This process may be prolonged over a number of years.

Set yourself a set of safety rules when working with lead castings and stick to them - my own, practised for many years, are - Do not smoke while working with lead; do not eat any Chocolates, biscuits, afternoon tea etc.; do all your work in the one workshop and warn children not to touch any tools or work surfaces; do not inhale fumes from molten lead - above all scrub your hands thoroughly immediately you finish work. If you have any fears at all in this connection - see your Doctor and ask him to arrange a blood test. I did some years back and felt much happier as a result. Health authorities in the State of Victoria demonstrated their awareness of this danger several years ago when they legislated against the sale of toys containing more than 5% lead, thereby sounding the death knell of the Britain's figure in our local stores.

As well as the injurious effect it may have on the human worker, lead is not an ideal medium in which to cast figures that are later to be painted. Members of the British Model Soldier Society will have read, in recent bulletins of that Society, of the difficulties experienced by English collectors as a result of the chemical reaction between lead castings and oil paint. A reaction which results in the paint flaking from the model after a year or so. Over the last 20 years I have cast figures in metal, the alloy of which varied from pure lead to type metal having an extremely low lead content and painted them with most paints in common use, including plastic house paint, artists oil and Gamage water paint. Yet I have never experienced any trouble in this respect. On the other hand several other collectors in Melbourne have had a number of figures lose their paint and develop a coating of white powder.

Recently I consulted a chemist specialising in paint technology at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology on this problem and he stated that any paint having an oil base, whether animal, vegetable or mineral, will eventually degenerate and its oil content become acid. When the paint is in contact with lead the result is the formation of a microscopic layer of lead salts between paint and metal which could cause the paint to be divorced from the metal. The formation of lead salts would be hastened by the presence of moisture, which could be the explanation of the prevalence of this trouble in England, as opposed drier climates. In conjunction with this Society I have placed this problem before a number of Paint manufacturers in this country and overseas. Perhaps when the replies are received we may be in a position to make a positive recommendation to our readers on the treatment of castings before painting.

Reduced to its fundamentals the problem seems to be that of insulating the oil in the paint from the lead by means of an absolutely impervious and chemically inert sheathing - a sheathing which must be bonded perfectly with the casting surface and sufficiently thin to minimise the obscuring of detail. The chemist to whom I spoke suggested one of the several industrial etch primers now marketed. These are sprayed on in coatings less than .001" thick and leave the metal grinning through. I have not yet found any source of supply for such a primer in small quantities.

In recent months, upon the recommendation of several industrial chemists experienced in the plastics field, I have sprayed a number of castings with pure acrylic and found this takes paint quite satisfactorily. Of course, without building an artificially controlled atmosphere, it is impossible to determine the long term effect of any treatment adopted.

By now I feel that I have almost certainly killed any inclination the reader may have had to try his hand at casting his own figures, and those who are still with me are pondering the feasibility of casting figures in the home workshop in plastic. However, to the best of my knowledge, this cannot be done. Whilst a number of the epoxy group of resins are readily available, their cost is prohibitive. Also they are all of a very high viscosity and could only be cast by high pressure injection. I feel that until a low viscosity, high density plastic is developed we must remain with the metal casting.

The casting in silicon moulds is quite straight forward. To obtain a smooth-surfaced casting and assist the metal to flow, I dust the inside of the mould with graphite from a plastic hand dispenser. Heat your metal to melting point in a small steel ladle, grip the mould firmly between two wooden blocks (but do not squeeze too tightly or the mould will be deformed) and pour steadily into the mould until filled.

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FIGURE NEWS

Rose Miniatures, 45 Sundorne Road, Charlton, London, S.E.7, have published their Autumn 1966 catalogue supplement. In my opinion, Mr. Gamage's models have improved markedly in the course of the past year or so. His recent Indian Army range contained some particularly good models, and the photographs in this supplement show that the high standard has been maintained. Four new mounted figures are included :- two French heavy cavalrymen of about 1754, and the well known Napoleonic cavalrymen Murat and Lasalle! The remainder of the new figures are mainly dismounted French Napoleonic Dragoons, Hussars and Chasseurs a Cheval, of which the dragoon holding his saddle and shabraque, all ready to harness up, is the most noteworthy. Figures of Napoleon, Josephine in soiree dress, and Marie Louise in court dress complete the 54 mm range. Josephine is particularly attractive - quite the nicest figure in the catalogue.

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STROMBECKER (54mm).

This famous U.S. model car manufacturer has come up with the biggest break through the model soldier world has experienced since the advent of the studio-produced model outmoded the toy soldier. The company has marketed a range of four sets each containing 4 or 5 54 mm die cast figures and priced at the unbelievable price of a dollar a set. The range is :-

- Set 1505 U.S. Revolutionary Artillery - 4 gunners and field pieces.
- " 1510 World War I Germans - 3 officers at a map table and 2 infantrymen.
- " 1515 U.S. Civil War - 3 infantry and mounted officer.
- " 1520 U.S. W.W.2 Marines - 5 riflemen.

Of this range I have purchased the first two sets. The field piece is a very finely detailed model and it alone is worth more than a dollar - the gunners too are excellent. The World War I Germans, I consider less convincing. Although they too are finely produced the eagle topped helmet and great coat slung across the chest evoke an atmosphere more reminiscent of 1876 than 1914. I have not yet had an opportunity to look at the remainder of the range.

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BOOKS

"Her Majesty's Army" by W. Richards.

It has often been my experience that rare books, when they come to light, do so in quantity. Such was the case this week when I found 4 vols of this much sought-after work in the second hand section of Ajay's bookshop in Flinders Street, Melbourne. When I commented on the comparative scarcity of this work the proprietor stated that he had a second set in store.

The following day I received the book list of A.A. Johnston of England and listed therein also was another complete set. Any collector wanting these books should try these dealers. Prices are \$A38 for each of the first mentioned sets and £8.8.0, for the last. The colour plates by H. Bunnett from this work have been republished in England and are on sale at Robertson and Mullens, Melbourne (Map Dept.). Mounted in heavy grey surround and ready for framing at \$6.50 each. The two plates on pre-federation Victorian State Forces and Indian Cavalry would look well on any den wall. These are from the "Empire Forces" volume which was published later than the 4 vols on sale mentioned above.

"Uniforms of the Royal Navy during the Napoleonic Wars" by John Mollo.

10½" x 15½".

20 colour and 18 black and white illustrations at £3.3.0.

"Plastic Model Cars" by Cecil Gibson.

110 pages. 8½" x 5½" 59 half tone illustrations.

Collectors who make military vehicles from plastic kits, and particularly those who refashion stock kits to their own requirements, will find much useful information in this, the first ever "How to do it" book on the subject.

Available from the publishers Model Aeronautical Press Ltd.,
38 Clarendon Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, England at 10/6 E.c.

Whilst on the subject of model vehicles, those of you who would like to obtain some of the very fine kits by continental makers whose products are not available in this country may do so by contacting Charlier - Niset S.A. 7 Rue du Che, in de Fer, Wavre, Belgium. This company distributes a list in the English language.

Incidentally, for the newcomer to automobile kits the scale you work in for 54 mm figures is 1/32nd scale. Standard size figures are "1" gauge railway size or 10 mm to foot, which is exactly 1/30th scale, but 1/32nd is the nearest model scale and quite acceptable. 40 mm figures are "0" gauge or 7 mm to foot which is 1/43 scale. To my knowledge there are no kits made in this scale, but most of the metal die cast cars are in this size such as, Corgi "Classics", some of the Lesney "Models of Yesteryear", and Rami, Ziss Dugu and Rio amongst the continental makers of vintage cars. On the subject of military automobiles - a recent issue of "Model Cars" magazine, either November or December, contains a most valuable article on the various makes and models of cars and trucks used by the British Army in France during World War I.

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NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

During the several weeks over Christmas, activity in the modelling field always slackens, and this year was no exception. However, during November and early December two keen interstate collectors passed through Melbourne in great haste, each en route to Sydney. In November Tony Turner arrived on an early Saturday morning train from Perth, and was swiftly transported to my den in Moorabbin where, with the company of fellow collector Ted Tomlin, who travelled up from Seaford to meet Tony, we spent an all-too-short day immersed in Prints, books, castings and all three talking at once. Hustled on the evening train for Sydney at the close of a memorable day, Tony had his suitcase further weighed down with silicon moulds and castings.

Before a month had passed Geoff Barnes, who now resides in Adelaide, but until recently was the second of the only two figure collectors in Perth, passed through to Sydney under similar circumstances. Once again a week of talking and viewing of figures was squeezed into one day. A letter received from Geoff since his return home tells that whilst in Sydney he met the man and wife team of keen Napoleonic figure modellers, Bill and Robyn Fraser.

Incidentally, Melbourne modellers can look forward to an early visit soon from Bill and Robyn of whose work we have heard much. Their figures have been used in an 'A La France' television commercial for Huntsman cigarettes - so keep your eye on that box for Huntsman now, as well as Grenadier and the Trumpeters of the household cavalry performing for Escort.

WANTED

Can any reader tell me where I may obtain any of the "Paramount" plastic kits of coaches and horse drawn vehicles either new or second hand.

POSTSCRIPT

Mr. Edward Mayhew, Turramurra, Aldeburgh Road, Aldrengam, Leiston, Suffolk, England, has issued a series of 54 mm figures which consists mainly of troops of the British Empire. Of particular interest is an "Adelaide Lancer" at 8/- unpainted. Presumably the figure, which is the first pre-federation from an overseas maker, is based on the Golden Fleece card. Writing in the 'Despatch' Ian Hamilton says, "These figures are not up to the standard of the best of Gamage and Stadden, but then the price does not compare either. Mr. Mayhew has got away from the standard works and deserves every encouragement. I can strongly recommend his figures".

Any Australian reader desirous of purchasing this figure may send a remittance of \$1.20 to the Editor, before the end of February, when all orders will be despatched in bulk to the maker. The Australian price given includes 2/- towards postage and remittance costs, and any adjustment can be made on delivery.

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AIR FORCES NEWSBy B. J. Videon.

Insignia of Apprentices in the R.A.A.F.

Following the conclusion of the Second World War, the R.A.A.F. lost the majority of its skilled tradesmen through their discharge and return to civilian employment.

The Interim Air Force came into being in 1943, and postwar reconstruction required a source of trained technicians and tradesmen to deal with the many technical services of the increasingly complex machines brought into being by the march of progress.

In order to provide these technicians and tradesmen, the R.A.A.F. formed an Apprentice Training School in 1948. This was located at Wagga, a well established base in New South Wales. Other units now exist.

R.A.A.F. Apprentices could be distinguished by the following insignia :

1. A pale blue flannel band around the peaked cap or hat, approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in width.
2. A circular disc of similar material and colour, 2" in diameter, on which was mounted the normal "R.A.A.F." cap badge, superimposed in the front centre of the hat band. The Warrant Officer cap badge also came to be worn in the same fashion.
3. An equilateral triangle of blue felt of the same shade, sides measuring 2" each, worn 1" below the top of each sleeve as a shoulder patch.

About 1962 a new shoulder badge was introduced to replace the triangular patch. This was an oval of R.A.A.F. blue measuring approximately 3½" wide x 1-7/8" high, on which were woven (not embroidered) in light blue the wording "R.A.A.F. APPRENTICE" over an eagle. This badge was edged all around by machine stitching to prevent fraying.

For summer shirts a similar badge on a washable drab ground was made, with the design in blue.*

No doubt the Australian wedge-tailed eagle mentioned in the previous edition of SABRETACHE will soon be incorporated into this badge.

"Rank" badges are the normal R.A.A.F. type, although the ranks are local appointments only, and unpaid.

(*NOTE: The writer is almost certain that the design on the summer badge was originally brown, in accordance with earlier practice in the R.A.A.F., and would appreciate comment on this point).

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NEW R.A.A.F. UNIT BADGES

Vastly improved unit badges for wear on working and/or flying clothing are being introduced now by the R.A.A.F.

One in the possession of this writer is from the ENGINE REPAIR SQUADRON of No.1 Aircraft Depot. This is a circular woven badge, and the design is so clearly and beautifully depicted that in comparison with the earlier embroidered badges, it really revolutionises cloth badge production.

The material seems to be nylon; and the basic patch is a pleasing shade of pale blue with a red circle set inside the bound edge, bearing in yellow the words "ENGINE REPAIR SQUADRON" above, and "No.1 A.D." below the central design, which is a golden wedge-tailed eagle carrying in its talons a black jet aero engine.

New badges for flying squadrons are said to be in the course of production, and it is understood that, in place of the previous cartoon-like subjects, those units which possess a heraldic badge of the approved R.A.A.F. pattern, will display from it the central device, surrounded by the Squadron name, as a working dress badge.

POSTWAR R.A.A.F. FLYING BADGES

The following flying badges are now in existence with the St. Edward's Crown :-

Pilot - double wing with central device "R.A.A.F."

Other Aircrew Categories - single wing, with the following devices :

Navigator - letter "N"
Signaller - letter "S"
Flight Engineer - letter "E"
Gunner - letter "G"
Loadmaster - letter "L"
Air Electronics - letters "A.E."
Radar Operator - letters "R.O."
Qualified Parachutist - a parachute
Crewman - letter "C"

These exist in white silk embroidery for wear on blue battledress; gold and silver wire embroidery for wear on No.1 Dress; in miniature in gold and silver wire for Mess Dress; and as silver brooches for Summer Dress.

The badges for Loadmaster, Air Electronics, Radar Operator and Crewman did not exist before the introduction of the St. Edward's Crown following Queen Elizabeth's coronation.

The Qualified Parachutist badge was earlier known as the Parachute Training Instructor badge, and, prior to the adoption of the St. Edward's Crown, had no crown above the parachute.

The Pilot badge in existence prior to the St. Edward's Crown was, in its silk form, the same badge used during the Second World War.

The remaining postwar Aircrew badges were the same as the present ones, with the exception that the Imperial Crown was used.

EARLIER R.A.A.F. FLYING BADGES

The first flying badges of the R.A.A.F. were those for Pilot, Observer, and Air Gunner.

The Pilot badge was based on the designs used by the Royal Flying Corps, the Australian Flying Corps, and the Royal Air Force, except that the wreath was embroidered in blue rather in a brown toning.

The central device in the Pilot badge was the letters "R.A.A.F.", and varying forms of lettering were used, possibly due to manufacturers' whims. Gold wire badges were used in No.1 and in Full Dress.

The original Observer badge may have been similar to the double-winged "O" of the A.F.C., but well before the Second World War, a large "O" with an upswept wing attached, was in use.

Following, probably, hard upon the R.A.F.'s introduction of a badge for Air Gunners in 1923, the R.A.A.F. adopted the same badge, a brass, winged bullet, for wear on the upper arm of the tunics of the relatively few aircraftmen who qualified as gunners.

When the Second World War broke out, this Gunner's badge was still in use, and, in common with most metal badges in Australia in wartime, it was blackened and then made in an oxidised finish.

Shortly, however, the R.A.A.F. followed the lead of the R.A.F. and scrapped the winged bullet sleeve badge for a half wing including the letters "A.G." in a blue wreath.

During the War, additional wings were introduced for

Navigator, Bombers or Air Bombers - "B"
 Flight Engineers - "E"
 and Signallers - "S",

and in view of the similarity of design between these and the Air Gunner's wing, the Observer badge was re-designed to incorporate a small "O" in a wreath, to bring it into line with all the rest.

The Observer wing gave way during the War to that of Navigator. The writer's method of remembering all the wings was to use the word "Bonesag", i.e. B, O, N, E, S, AG.

The writer has in his possession a manual for A.T.C. Cadets which mentions a halfwing with the letter "W" in a wreath, for Navigator Wireless, but has never seen this wing.

To complete the wartime list it may be mentioned the Aircrew Trainees; during the war, wore a white flannel peak at the front of their field caps, as a distinguishing mark. Wireless Operators who were also Air Gunners wore the Wireless Operator badge on the sleeve, and the Air Gunner Wing on the breast.

Unlike Canada, NO W.A.G. badge was officially used in the R.A.A.F.

FLYING BADGES OF THE AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS

Australia was interested in military aviation as early as 1909, but it was not until 1911 that applications for an aerial service were called for.

In September 1912, an Air Flight was established, and a School of Aviation Instruction. In February 1914, the Australian Aviation Instructional Staff were under canvas at Point Cook, and on March 1st, the first flight was made.

It appears that flying badges were not originally available, as it was not until late 1915 that M.O. No.801 approved a Pilot badge comprising the letters "A.M.F." in a wreath between outspread wings, surmounted by a crown. The letters stood for "Australian Military Forces". The crown, oddly enough, was St.Edward's, or similar.

The same order introduced a badge for Observers comprising the letter "O" between outspread wings without a crown.

In 1916, M.O. No.85 altered the Pilot badge by removing the crown (was it because the A.F.C. was not "Royal"?).

In 1918, M.O. No.68 altered the Pilot badge again by reintroducing the crown, and substituting the letters "A.F.C." for "A.M.F." The crown was the Imperial crown. All the foregoing were drab silk on dark cloth.

As far as is known, no other flying badges were used until the A.F.C.'s disbandment at the close of the War. Several manufacturers' variations exist in these old A.F.C. wings, probably due to being manufactured in different places and probably by military outfitters.

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IN THE NEWS

By B. J. VIDEON

Federal Matches

About 3 years ago, the Federal Match Company, Sydney, N.S.W., issued a useful set of labels showing badges of the Australian Army. These are still being sold on matchboxes in Sydney, and can not be obtained by writing to the company.

An excellent series of cartoons, however, may be had from the company for \$1.00 (Australian). Each cartoon has a label from the set in one corner, and shows troops of the unit in question. Excellent value for the collector!

It is understood that a series showing ships badges of the R.A.N. will soon follow, so, collectors, throw away your lighters and use more matches!

Special Air Service Regt.

The Australian Special Air Service Regiment uses the S.A.S. wings of its British namesake. In summer clothing, however, a summer weight badge is used. It is a well made badge, comprising the white parachute flanked by the distinctive wings in dark and light blue, woven into a strip of light drab material. Overall measurement $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x $1\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Integration of Medical Services Stores

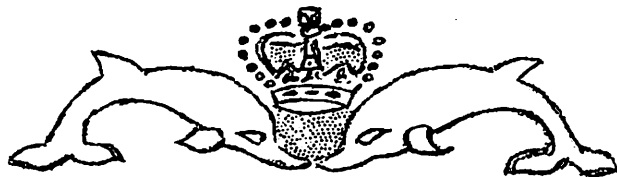
In January the responsibility for the procurement, custody and issue of medical and dental stores for the Australian Army, the R.A.N. and the R.A.A.F. passed to the Director General of Medical Services, A.M.F.

In future, the R.A.N. and R.A.A.F. will draw these stores from Army, thus reducing the burden of management. Could this be a step towards further integration?

Submarine Service Badge

In January 1967, the Minister for the Navy (Mr. Chipp) announced the introduction of a distinctive badge for officers and sailors of the Royal Australian Navy who are trained for submarine service.

Unlike other distinctive badges of the R.A.N. which are worn on the sleeve, the Submarine Service badge is worn on the left breast of the uniform coat or jacket.



The gilt badge is a pleasing one, depicting two dolphins, nose to nose, supporting a crown.

In this writer's opinion, it is a relief to see that this promising design has not been spoiled by being made in metal thread, which is costly, indistinct, and tarnishes easily.

R.A.N. Will Fly Own Flag

CANBERRA. - The Australian Navy is to have a new flag, to be called the Australian White Ensign. The Prime Minister (Mr. Holt) said recently the flag would replace the White Ensign, the flag of the Royal Navy, flown by Australian ships since the R.A.N. was formed in 1910.

"Australians have been proud to serve under the same ensign as the Royal Navy for more than half a century," Mr. Holt said. "But we have come to feel that it is now appropriate to adopt a flag which, while indicating our allegiance to the Crown, is distinctively the flag of the Royal Australian Navy. I am confident that the high and honorable traditions associated with the White Ensign will be maintained by the Royal Australian Navy under its new flag."

The flag will be white and continue to show the Union Jack in the top left-hand corner. In place of the red cross of St. George, it will have the six blue Australian stars on a white background, placed in the same way as the stars on the national flag.

The Minister for the Navy (Mr. Chipp) said the flag would be flown in all Australian Navy ships from May 1, 1967.

(From the Melbourne "Age").

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DESPATCHES

Editor, SABRETACHE.

Dear Sir,

Attached are two copies of letters written by a Trooper in the 3rd N.S.W. Mounted Rifles whilst serving in South Africa during the Boer War. They are in the form of newspaper clippings (no paper or date shown) which were shown to me by his daughter.

Perhaps you could advise me if the Unit could have actually been the 3rd N.S.W. Mounted Rifles as I can only find reference to 3rd Commonwealth Horse serving in South Africa. It may be an error in the title made by the newspaper concerned.

These letters may be of interest to other readers.

Yours faithfully,

J.R.S. THOMPSON.

Trooper G. Cleary, No.3150 of the 3rd N.S.W. Mounted Rifles, writing to his mother at Armidale N.S.W., from Standerton, South Africa, under the date of October 6th 1901, states that he was then in good health although having a pretty rough time of it, owing to marches night after night. He says: "This week we have had four night marches, and the consequence is we have both men and horses all knocked up. We were after a Boer convoy, 13 of whom were captured yesterday, including 2,000 head of cattle; they had five killed; our horses were too knocked up to make any attempt to capture any more so we brought the prisoners along to Standerton last night. We had three men wounded coming in and were unlucky in losing three of our chaps. Near Kroonstadt a comrade named Wilson was shot in the breast by the Boers. About a week ago we lost two more - Mason and O'Keefe - when out on a night march. They must have stayed behind to fix up their saddles and missed us, and then got lost, for they were not seen again for several days afterwards when their bodies were found stripped of every bit of clothing and riddled with bullets.

We had a big river to cross which could only be forded at one place for miles either way, and it is supposed they were making for the place and were caught and killed for spite, because we burnt all the waggons and left the women and children out on the veldt with nothing but what they stood upright in. We had to burn forty or fifty waggons as we couldn't get them across the river and we had to get back to our camp that night.

If you were to see us now you would be surprised as we are all in rags and tatters, some of us without shirts, some without soles to their boots and all dirty and knocked up.

At the last camp we were in I managed to get time to wash my clothes, but had to stand up to my neck in the water till they got dry and the water wasn't so warm as it might be either, anyway I don't think I will take the contract of fighting the Boers on again.

On one of our night marches, or just at dawn, we got in sight of a Boer convoy escaping for dear life, but our horses were too knocked up to follow them. The Dragoons took one Boer who was seen in the act of catching his horse and as he refused to walk they put a rope around his neck and he was compelled to follow. In about an hour he expressed his willingness to walk without any further persuasion.

The other night our General received information that De Wet was at a certain place, forty odd miles off, and at 6 p.m. we saddled up and at about an hour before daylight we reached the place where he was supposed to be. We dismounted and surrounded the place quietly, and when the cry "Hands up" was raised there was no De Wet there, but we got five of his favourite scouts from whom we could get no information. One of the scouts had some soft nosed Mauser bullets on him and has, I believe, been sentenced to death. We learned that De Wet had been ill in the house we had surrounded but had been taken away the day before we came.

I was doing some bush felling up a tree, a few days ago, with a small rusty saw - not an easy job with a blunt saw and standing on an insecure place - when I was the subject of a snap-shot by the General and one of his staff, who laughed and said that they were going to send the picture home to show how we improved the Boer farms. If you see the photo of a soldier 'up a tree', by the side of an old ruined farmhouse, well that's me.

Remember me to all my old friends in Armidale."

Further extracts from a letter written by Trooper G. Cleary, No.3150

From Heilbron, South Africa, under date of 4th Dec. 1901, to his mother at Armidale, N.S.W.

"We had quite a warm time of it since I wrote to you from Greyling-stad. You may remember me saying that we were going after Grobler; well the tables turned and De Wet came after us, and gave us quite a merry time of it. We left Greyling-stad eleven days ago, and are camped today at Heilbron, after a very eventful trip. We have had our convoy attacked and a night attack on our camp have had to retreat from the Boers, and have had no rest for ten nights. But we are having a rest here for two or three days, and then off after De Wet - that is, if we can find him.

Well I'll go back to the beginning, and tell you the events of each day from the day we crossed the Vaal on the Punt. It was about 11 o'clock before we had crossed and cut the punt adrift. We continued on till about three in the morning - halted, fed our horses, and had a bit of sleep. Reveille at five, moved off at seven, heard heavy firing at eleven, and had a couple of hours galloping - hoping to be up in time to catch some Boers on the flank of another column, but didn't do any good.

Continued on to Frankfort, started off at nine again, halted at three, reveille at half past five, didn't shift till nine at night. Halted at daylight, stayed in a park all day where we couldn't be seen, and started on again at dark. Continued going till daylight to where Colonel Wilson's Column were camped, planted in the bushes and orchard of a farm house. They say this farm was once the property of De Wet.

On again that night at dark, Colonel Wilson's column coming with us. Heavy clouds came up, and with it heavy thunder and lightning, but no rain to speak of. The troops left the convoy at daylight, our squadron and a couple of squadrons of Inniskillings being detailed as convoy guard.

At about twelve the Boers started firing on us, increasing the fire every minute. At last they beat the rear guard into within a few hundred yards of the convoy. The fifteen pounder commenced firing and forced the Boers at the rear to retire, and that gave the rear guard a chance of recovering and occupying a position, which they did, and succeeded in holding it.

We were down in a kind of a basin, and the Boers were all around us on the high ground. There was only one gun left with us and about three hundred men, and it was only by using the greatest care that we were able to keep the Boers out of range of the convoy. It was a continuous roar of rifles from both sides, with the ping-pong of the fifteen pounder from beginning to end. Things were looking very serious. The ammunition was running short - only a couple of boxes left, and only a few rounds of fifteen pounder ammunition left, and news came in from the left flank of a big body of Boers coming over the skyline. They gave them a couple of shells, but they fell short, and a good thing too, for it was our own troops returning, and we failed to make the signals out, there being no sun to heliograph. It was an hour or so before we were able to dislodge the Boers sufficiently to move the convoy.

It came on to rain just as the convoy was about to move, and I can honestly say that I never saw such a storm before, the lightning was terrible, the thunder and lightning almost simultaneous.

Our casualties were not heavy - two killed and two or three wounded. The Boers suffered more severely, as we saw seven dead and the Boer Doctor that came into the camp that night for medicine said that they had sixty casualties. A couple of troops of the Inniskilling Dragoons made a charge with drawn swords to try and capture a kopje during the day. The Boers allowed them to get within a few hundred yards of them and then fired volleys. Talk about bullets, they came in hundreds, knocking the dust up all around in sheets. It was more like a dust storm than anything else. We thought every man would be killed, but they only lost two men, the officer and a private. It was a very rash act on the officer's part, attempting to charge the kopje. However, he was a young officer, and, I suppose, must have thought he was doing right. It cost him his life anyway. He and the trooper were riddled with bullets.

We drew into camp that afternoon in the pouring rain, the Boers still firing on us, and they kept it up till dark, and we were not sorry that night had put an end to it as we were quite worn out for the want of rest.

There was a patrol to go out that night, but I had the good fortune to be off it, and so I made preparations to have a sleep. The water was lying about three inches deep, so I rolled three stones together and laid down. Of course we had no chance to get our quarts boiled and we had to be content with a biscuit for supper. I suppose that I had about an hour's sleep when the corporal of the picket woke me and told me to get up, as we were going to move. It's no good arguing the point in a case of this kind.

The General came round a few minutes later and said, "Come along, saddle up quick boys?" "Yes Sir." "That's right, get your rifle and bandoliers on first, and then you know where you are." "Hurry up lads, no time to be lost!" I thought things must have been serious then, and they were. The Boers intended to attack the camp, and we were short of ammunition. Only seven rounds of big gun and a couple of boxes of rifle ammunition, and over four thousand Boers within a radius of ten miles. What a time we would have had.

We left tents standing and waggons in the camp to delude the Boers, and left as quick as possible. The ground was boggy and to get the waggons along they were compelled to leave flour, cheese, biscuits, jam and various other things in the camps, along the road. We had the good luck to get away without being discovered, and we captured the Boer outpost at daylight - thirteen men.

The next night we expected to get a good night's rest. We were all of that mind, and made ourselves as comfortable as possible. I think we were all asleep, excepting the picket, when a volley woke us all up again. "Stand to arms!" was the cry everywhere, and I rose my head to get up. Such a shower of bullets came round me that I was compelled to lie down on the ground as flat as ever I could. There was a couple of fires in our lines and that gave them something to fire at, and they took advantage of it.

I hope that I am not under as heavy a fire again as I was that night. They were cheering down the other end of the line, and the General was encouraging them. Fancy the beggars cheering and two hundred Boers firing into the camp; that's Australia for you. "Give them another cheer, lads," said the General. He knew it was the best thing that could have happened. Instead of confusion every man was ready - and that cheering did more than bullets. The Boers cleared and didn't fire again that night.

There is a German who joined us in Sydney charged with being a spy, and I believe that he has been sentenced to death tonight."

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In answer to Mr. Thompson's query in his covering letter, Mr. Max Chamberlain writes :-

"The N.S.W. Unit designations are confusing, as there were several prefixed by "3rd", viz. :

- 3rd N.S.W. Mounted Rifles
- 3rd N.S.W. Imperial Bushmen
- 3rd Australian Commonwealth Horse.

The last-named included some Queenslanders and Tasmanians.

New South Wales differed from the other colonies, which numbered their successive contingents in order, irrespective of type, e.g., 1st Victorian Mounted Rifles; 2nd Victorian Mounted Rifles; 3rd Victorian Bushmen; 4th Victorian Imperial Bushmen; and then the 5th and 6th V.M.R. (later combined and known as the 5th V.M.R.)

At the time the 3rd N.S.W.M.R. were despatched, the six colonies had federated, and the 3rd was the last unit sent from N.S.W. prior to the formation of the Australian Commonwealth Horse."

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First A.I.F.

Extracted from Rockhampton "Morning Bulletin" - October 14th, 1966.

By A. S. CANSDELL

Research on the social background of the first A.I.F. is being undertaken by Dr. L.L. Robson, Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Melbourne, who has written saying he wants to hear from ex-soldiers about the circumstances under which they joined up.

He is seeking short memoirs from the 1914-18 veterans about their lives before they enlisted and their motives for enlisting.

Dr. Robson's address is : University of Melbourne,
 Department of History,
 Parkville, N.2. Victoria.

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A Flag From Gallipoli.

By A. S. CANSDELL

In St. Barnabas' Church of England, Fairfield, N.S.W. is a normal issue army Union Jack. In the centre of it is, on a dark background, a full circle wreath of green leaves edged with yellow thread, inside the wreath is G.V.R., the G.R. being intertwined all in yellow thread. This is surmounted by a crown also in yellow thread. The flag is in good condition.

There is a plaque with it, it is worded thus :

"This flag was recovered from General Birdwood's Headquarters by Cpl. A.H. Thomas, 12th Australian Light Horse, at the evacuation of Gallipoli on the 18th December, 1915, and presented to St. Barnabas' Church of England, Fairfield, as a memorial 23.7.62."

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Militiary Miniature Co.,
James J. Parcella,
68 Warren Street,
Arlington, Mass. 02174, U.S.A.

Dear Sir,

I am writing you, because I feel that you and the society to which you belong will be very interested in my company's services. The company offers to the collector a service which up to now has been almost completely neglected, the obtaining of uniform information.

This company is the first of its kind in the world, and our uniform information is the most extensive and accurate. The company also offers painted and unpainted Imrie-Risley and Gammage figures. We also have Jurgen Olmes plates, and Reusellot plates will soon be obtainable. We can also obtain reference books and publications, should anyone want them. In time it is hoped that we can supply the collector of military miniatures with models from every major producer in the world.

I hope that you will refer us to your members, or them to us.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES J. PARCELLA.

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OUR NEW COVER

Mr. Robert Gray has drawn our attention to the fact that the comment that the Light Horseman is shown in the gear of W.W.I. is not strictly correct. The general appearance is the same, except that the sword was not on general issue to Light Horse until after W.W.I. The drawing in fact portrays a Light Horseman of about 1930, before the introduction of the Militia pattern uniform.

Editor.

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