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THE EVOLUTION OF THE INFANTRY STATE REGIMENT SYSTEM IN THE ARMY RESERVE

Peter Shaw

Introduction

2010 marks the 50th anniversary of the introduction of the State Regimental system within the Army Reserve component of the Royal Australian Infantry Corps. The State Regiments are now the custodians of honours and traditions originally associated with many of the former militia, AIF and Citizen Military Force infantry units within the respective states.

The CMF Infantry Battalions 1948-1960

With the re-activation of the Citizen Military Forces (CMF) in 1948 a number of the pre-war infantry battalions that existed in the Militia were reformed. Not every pre-war battalion was re-activated and in some cases units were reformed as a linked battalion preserving the identity of two pre-war battalions in the one post-war battalion.

With the exception of The Royal Australian Regiment, raised as Australia's first Regular Army infantry regiment in 1949 consisting initially of three battalions, the concept of a "regiment" within the Australian Militia and CMF infantry structure was different to the British Army tradition.

Within the British Army an infantry regiment associated with a particular county or regional area consisted of a number of battalions. Within war time the number of battalions would expand and in peace time would reduce. Since the 1920s the militia infantry units within the Australian Army were all single numbered infantry battalions, each having a unique number based on the original AIF battalion numbering system as well as also having a regimental title and distinctive regimental badge and having its own set of colours. These were in effect single battalion regiments. (The evolution of this system in Australia will be expanded on in the third Section of the paper). This system continued in use with the post-war CMF infantry units. In addition to these numbered infantry battalions the Royal Australian Infantry Corps also included the various University regiments, although these were training units not part of the operational field force infantry structure. For operational/administrative purposes battalions were grouped within brigades.

Recruiting for the CMF was on a voluntary basis, but a major boost in numbers came through the introduction of National Service training in 1951. Under this scheme, which provided for the compulsory call-up of all males turning 18, trainees underwent a period of continuous training in the Army, Navy or Air Force, followed by a number of years in the respective reserves. Army trainees initially were required to serve 98 days continuous training in one of the specially formed National Service Training Battalions, followed by 78 days part-time training in the CMF over 3 years.

National Service was reduced in 1957 and in November 1959 the Australian Government announced that National Service would be discontinued. This provided a catalyst for the modernising and restructuring of the Australian Army, including the converting of the CMF to a wholly volunteer force.

Organisational Changes 1960 – Introduction of the State Regiment System in the CMF

In order to improve the army's capacity to meet the particular requirements of a war in South-east Asia, a new divisional organisation structure, known as the "pentropic" division, was introduced in 1960. This new structure was aimed at providing increased mobility and flexibility

under tropical conditions and was also designed to enable better integration in operations with Australia's main ally, the United States. It was based on the "Pentomic" divisional structure that had been adopted in the US Army after extensive trials. The name derived from its pentagonal or 'five sided' structure built around five basic battle groups, each consisting of an infantry battalion and supporting units. This replaced the traditional infantry brigade concept with the battle groups controlled directly by divisional headquarters.

Under this proposed restructure the establishment size of an infantry battalion increased to about 1300 all ranks with increased fire power and a battalion was to consist of five rifle companies instead of four. The restructuring of the Army, particularly the CMF infantry battalions, to form the new battle groups, brought about significant changes.

As it was proposed to reduce the number of CMF infantry battalions on the Order of Battle it was decided to introduce a new state regimental system under which the existing CMF infantry battalions within each state would amalgamate to form one state regiment.

This was viewed by some as being a radical reform in which the traditional battalion identities and their historic links and ties with their local communities would disappear. In his book *The once and future army*, which deals with the history of the CMF from 1947 to 1974, author Dayton McCarthy in discussing the impact of the 1960 Pentropic restructure on the CMF comments:

From the outset the CMF was damaged beyond repair as its battalions were downgraded into companies and herded into bland, tradition-less state regiments. As a result one of the CMF's constant and historically valuable assets, the affinity of the local region, was severely damaged.

However, the infantry traditions within each state would not be totally lost, for under the proposed state regimental system it was intended that the new regiments would preserve all the battle honours held by the individual infantry battalions that were merged to create them. It was also intended that the system would enable future battalions of the regiment to be raised or disbanded as required without disturbing the state's infantry traditions inherited by the regiment from its predecessor units. This therefore saw the introduction of a true regimental system for the CMF infantry.

These changes came into effect on 1 July 1960 and the following lists the various infantry battalions that were merged to form the respective state regiments:

The Royal New South Wales Regiment

- 1st Infantry Battalion (Commando) (City of Sydney's Own Regiment)¹
- 2nd Infantry Battalion (The City of Newcastle Regiment)
- 3rd Infantry Battalion (The Werriwa Regiment)
- 4th Infantry Battalion (The Australian Rifles)
- 13th Infantry Battalion (The Macquarie Regiment)
- 17th/18th Infantry Battalion (The North Shore Regiment)
- 30th Infantry Battalion (The New South Wales Scottish Regiment)
- 34th Infantry Battalion (The Illawarra Regiment)
- 45th Infantry Battalion (Machine Gun) (The St. George Regiment)
- 6th New South Wales Mounted Rifles²

¹ The pre-War 1st Battalion (The City of Sydney Regiment) was not reformed as part of the CMF in 1948. In 1955 1st Commando Company was raised in Eastern Command as a special operations unit composed entirely of volunteers. In 1957 it was decided that as this unit already had the designation "1st" within its title it would be a convenient framework on which to reform the old 1st Battalion and hence 1st Commando Company changed its title to this. It was still only at company strength.

The Royal Victoria Regiment

5th Infantry Battalion (The Victorian Scottish Regiment)
 6th Infantry Battalion (The Royal Melbourne Regiment)
 8th/7th Infantry Battalion (The North Western Victorian Regiment)
 38th Infantry Battalion (The Northern Victorian Regiment)
 58th/32nd Infantry Battalion (The City of Essendon Regiment)
 59th Infantry Battalion (The Hume Regiment)

The Royal Queensland Regiment

9th Infantry Battalion (The Moreton Regiment)
 25th Infantry Battalion (The Darling Downs Regiment)
 31st Infantry Battalion (The Kennedy Regiment)
 41st Infantry Battalion (The Bryon Scottish Regiment)
 42nd Infantry Battalion (The Capricornia Regiment)
 47th Infantry Battalion (The Wide Bay Regiment)
 51st Infantry Battalion (The Far North Queensland Regiment)

The Royal South Australia Regiment

10th Infantry Battalion (The Adelaide Rifles)
 27th Infantry Battalion (The South Australian Scottish Regiment)
 43rd / 48th Infantry Battalion (The Hindmarsh Regiment)

The Royal Western Australia Regiment

11th/44th Infantry Battalion (The City of Perth Regiment)
 16th Infantry Battalion (The Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia)
 28th Infantry Battalion (The Swan Regiment)

The Royal Tasmania Regiment

12th Infantry Battalion (The Launceston Regiment)
 40th Infantry Battalion (The Derwent Regiment)

The battalion structure within these newly created regiments is discussed in the final Section of the paper along with subsequent changes.

Regimental Heritage – The Evolution of the Infantry Battalion/Regiment Structure in the Militia and CMF

With the introduction of the new State Regiment System in July 1960 the traditional battalion identities associated with infantry units within each state for many years disappeared from the Order of Battle in the CMF. The State regiments became custodians of the heritage and traditions associated with their respective predecessor units. This section of the paper will look at the evolution of these units.

Many of the CMF Infantry battalions which merged to form these regiments had original links going back to the early Colonial military forces within their various states. At the time of the formation of the Australian Commonwealth in 1901 all state colonial forces came under control of the Commonwealth, but it was not until 1903 that major restructuring of these as part of the Commonwealth Military Forces was completed.

² 6th New South Wales Mounted Rifles was originally a regiment within the Royal Australian Armoured Corps which in July 1956 was converted to an infantry battalion and allotted to the Royal Australian Infantry corps. It continued to carry its armoured unit guidon.

Under the Commonwealth Military Forces structure the militia infantry units consisted of:

- 12 numbered infantry regiments styled for example “4st Australian Infantry Regiment” etc. Some of these also had territorial titles. (Each of these had one battalion, except the 8th Infantry Regiment which had two)
- 12 infantry regiments with territorial titles (for example “The Victorian Rangers”).
- 5 infantry regiments with national style titles (for example “The Victorian Scottish Regiment”, and “The New South Wales Irish Rifle Regiment”)
- The Sydney University Scouts and the Melbourne University Rifles

This system remained in place until 1911 when major restructure was introduced following recommendations made by Field Marshall Viscount Kitchener who had been invited by the Australian Government to visit Australia at the end of 1909 and inspect the military forces. Based on Kitchener’s recommendations the forces were organised into field and garrison troops and a scheme of compulsory part-time military training was introduced in 1911. This scheme, referred to as the Universal Training Scheme, required youths between 12 and 14 to do two years as Junior Cadet training followed by Senior Cadet training then adult training in the Citizen Forces, up to age 26.

As part of the introduction of this system Australia was divided into Military Districts and over 90 training areas as summarised below:

- 1st Military District - Queensland, Northern New South Wales) – Areas 1-12
- 2nd Military District – New South Wales - Areas 13 – 44
- 3rd Military District – Victoria - Areas 45 - 73
- 4th Military District – South Australia - Areas 74 -82
- 5th Military District – Western Australia – Areas 84- 89
- 6th Military District – Tasmania – Areas 90-93

The militia, or Citizen Force infantry units as they became known, were all renumbered to correspond with the new training area numbers; in some cases units would cover up to 4 of these areas. The new renumbering took effect as from 1912 and in some cases territorial titles were also used in addition to the numbers. It is beyond the scope of this paper to list the individual units. Examples of the style of unit titles used:

- 51st (Albert Park) Infantry
- 64th Infantry (City of Melbourne Regiment)

It was decided by the military authorities in August 1918 that to perpetuate their identities and preserve the battle honours gained by the units of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) during the Great War, the designations of the existing Citizen Force units of the Australian Military Forces (AMF) would be changed to conform to the numerical designations of those AIF units that had been raised in the same states and regimental areas.

Under these changes that came into effect on 1 October 1918 the Citizen Force units once more changed their numeric identities. Again, using Victoria as an example, the infantry units that emerged under this scheme included 5th Infantry Regiment, 6th Infantry Regiment etc., perpetuating the 5th and 6th Battalions of the AIF.

Each regimental area was initially proposed to contain three battalions:

- 1st Battalion – Deemed to be the currently serving AIF battalion overseas at the time. It was intended that at the conclusion of the war this battalion was to consist of those AIF personnel who had joined the Australian Army Reserve and those trainees who had completed their compulsory training period and were placed in the Reserve. (This part of the scheme was never implemented)
- 2nd Battalion – replacing the existing Citizen Force unit
- 3rd Battalion – replaced the existing Senior Cadets

As there were more Citizen Force infantry units than there were AIF infantry battalions, it was necessary in a number of cases to allocate the same AIF number to two Citizen Force units. In the cases where this occurred the Citizen Force infantry regiment then included a 4th, 5th and 6th battalion, corresponding to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd battalions respectively. Also some Citizen Force infantry units were converted to pioneer regiments to perpetuate the AIF pioneer battalions.

Therefore, using the above Victorian unit examples, we had 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment and 5th Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment as active Citizen Force units with 3rd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment and 6th Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment being the Senior Cadet units.

Further changes were made in 1921 when the Citizen Forces were organised into a similar divisional structure to that created for the First AIF. Under this restructure the AIF numbering system as introduced in 1918 was retained but many of the numbers were allocated to different regimental areas and various units were combined to form new units. The designations of the infantry units that emerged under these changes were for example just styled “5th Battalion”, “6th Battalion” etc. similar to their AIF counterparts, the title “Battalion” replacing “Regiment”.

Later during the 1920s territorial titles were approved which in many cases provided links with their predecessor units. Examples were:

- 5th Battalion (The Victorian Scottish Regiment)
- 6th Battalion (The City of Melbourne Regiment) etc.

Also during the 1920s the Universal Training Scheme was modified to operate only in the more populous centres and the number of trainees reduced. This saw a number of regional Citizen Force units depleted in strength, some existing on paper only. Finally in November 1929, with a change in Federal Government, compulsory military training was abolished. As from that date the part-time militia forces, as they became known, reverted to voluntary enlistment only.

The overall peace time strength of the Militia was reduced in 1930 and this saw several militia units which were unable to be maintained as separate units become linked. For example, the 37th/52nd Battalion and the 57th/60th Battalion became linked battalions in Victoria. As the strength of the defence forces was increase in the later part of the 1930s many of these units became unlinked and reverted to their separate identities.

By 1939 there had come into existence up to 61 numbered infantry battalions within the militia, some of which over this period had become merged with other battalions as outlined above.

As with the First World War a second AIF expeditionary force was raised for overseas wartime service. The units that were raised as part of this force all had the prefix “2nd” in their titles. (eg. 2nd/6th Infantry Battalion). Many militia personnel enlisted in the second AIF. Also during the Second World War approval was given for certain Militia units, in which 75% of their strength had volunteered for AIF service, to be classified as an AIF unit. A number of these units were deployed for action in the South-West Pacific area. For example Victoria had the 2/7th Infantry Battalion and the 7th Infantry Battalion (ex Militia) both fighting in the South-West Pacific, but in different operational areas.

The above situation certainly created a challenge for military historians in researching various unit histories and for the Military Authorities in how to allocate and record Second World War battle honours some years later.

During the Second World War many Militia units were disbanded, some as early as 1943. Many of those that had converted to AIF and had been deployed overseas in the South-West Pacific Area continued until the end of hostilities before being stood down and disbanded, which in some cases was not until 1946.

Following this there was a dormant period until the re-activation of the Citizen Military Forces in 1948. The period 1948 through to 1960 and the introduction of the State Regiment system have already been discussed in the first parts of the paper.

The State Regiment System – Post -1960

Upon creation in 1960, each of the State regiments had one or more battalions as required, the battalions being numbered consecutively from 1 within each regiment: The battalions within the regiments were:

The Royal New South Wales Regiment – 1 RNSWR (Cdo) – formed direct from 1st Infantry Battalion, 2RNSWR, 3RNSWR
 The Royal Victoria Regiment – 1RVR, 2RVR
 The Royal Queensland Regiment – 1RQR, 2RQR
 The Royal South Australia Regiment – 1RSAR
 The Royal Western Australia Regiment – 1RWAR
 The Royal Tasmania Regiment – 1RTR

Although the original traditional battalion numbers disappeared, some links were maintained with the previous units through a scheme of allocating historic/territorial titles to the various rifle companies, and in some cases the Support companies, within the new battalions of each of the State regiments. For example _A_ Company (The Scottish Company), 1 RVR; _C_ Company (The Melbourne Company), 1RVR, _D_ Company (The Bendigo Company), 2 RVR.

The Pentropic divisional structure that was introduced in 1960 only continued until 1965 when it was decided to revert back to the original ~~‘tropical’~~ formation structure which had fewer personnel within a battalion and more battalions within a division. This therefore required more infantry battalions to be raised within the CMF within each state.

Around this time, in addition to creating the newly required battalions, it was decided that the various battalions within the State Regiments should be renumbered to bring back some of the pre-1960 battalion numbers and would help forge a closer link with these predecessor units. By this time the system of retaining secondary company titles had mostly been discontinued. Under these changes the following battalion numbers were adopted, effective from 1 July 1965:

The Royal New South Wales Regiment

1RNSWR, 2RNSWR and 3RNSWR – existing numbers retained

4RNSWR, 17RNSWR – newly formed battalions

E Company, 1RQR was redesignated 41RNSWR

(This unit, previously having the company title of E Company (The Byron Scottish Company) and obviously through its territorial location, had close links with the former 41st Infantry Battalion (The Byron Scottish Regiment) which became part of The Royal Queensland Regiment under the amalgamations that occurred in 1960)

The Royal Victoria Regiment

1RVR – split with parts becoming 5RVR and 6RVR, while part of 1RVR continued

2RVR – split with part becoming 1 Independent Rifle Coy, RVR, part continued as 2RVR

The Royal Queensland Regiment

1RQR – split to form 9RQR, 25RQR

2RQR – split to form 31RQR, 42RQR, 51RQR

The Royal South Australia Regiment

1RSAR – split to become 1RSAR and 2RSAR which were subsequently renumbered as 10RSAR and 27RSAR respectively

The Royal Western Australia Regiment

1RWAR – split to form 1RWAR and 2RWAR. On 1 January 1966 1RWAR was renumbered 16RWAR and 2RWAR renumbered as 11RWAR, becoming the senior battalion in the regiment. (This allocation of numbers was mainly because 1RWAR contained the Scottish element with links back to 16th Infantry Battalion (The Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia))

The Royal Tasmania Regiment

1RTR – no change of numbers

Also in 1965, due to the deteriorating world political situation around this time, particularly in South-East Asia, National Service Training was re-introduced. Under this scheme all males of age twenty years were liable for call up for full time service with the ARA for 2 years and conscripts became liable for service overseas. Call up was by a ballot system. Under certain conditions, those eligible for call up could nominate to meet their commitment by doing 6 years part-time service in the CMF rather than the 2 years full time in the Regular Army. However, some of those who elected to do this latter option were precluded from joining or serving effectively in a normal CMF unit due to their place of residence (outback or remote regional areas) or the nature of their employment.

To meet this requirement, AHQ approved in August 1966 the forming of an additional 6 infantry battalions. These would all come within the existing State Regiment structure and battalion numbers chosen to fit within the current numbering scheme, consisting of numbers from previous battalions that had existed within the respective states. (Some of these numbers came from pre-World War Two battalions that had not been reformed post-War). These “remote area” battalions were:

49RQR, 19RNWSR, 22RVR, 43RSAR, 28RWAR, 50RTR

The headquarters of these units and the ARA cadre staff were located in the metropolitan areas.

In 1971 1RNSWR merged with 19RNSWR to form 1/19RNSWR. 1st Commando Company reformed as a separate unit.

National Service ended in 1972 which had a significant effect on the strength of the CMF. The Citizen Military Forces became known as the Army Reserve in 1974 and further changes at the command and operational field force level were implemented throughout the Australian Army.

A number of the existing battalions within several of the state Regiments were reduced to independent rifle companies (IRC) and during the 1980s several of these companies and battalions within various regiments were merged:

- 2RNSWR and 17RNSWR merged to form 2/17 RNSWR
- 5RVR, 6RVR and 1RVR merged to form 5/6 RVR
- 2RVR became 8/7 RVR
- 10RSAR and 27RSAR became 10/27 RSAR
- 11 IRC and 28 IRC, RWAR merged to become 11/28 RWAR
- 12 IRC and 40IRC, RTR merged to form 12/40 RTR

In 1985, 51RQR was separated from The Royal Queensland Regiment to form a new regional force surveillance unit designated as “51st Battalion, Far North Queensland Regiment”, reviving

the former title of the original 51st Infantry Battalion that had merged with the other Queensland CMF battalions in 1960 to form The Royal Queensland Regiment.

From the 1980s onwards there has been further depletion in strength within the Army Reserve and several other mergers have occurred between battalions in both Queensland (25/49 RQR, 31/42 RQR) and New South Wales. (4/3 RNSWR)

The eventual reduction of the number of CMF/ARES infantry battalions on the Order of Battle was inevitable. The reforms that came about in 1960, although radical at the time and admittedly severing many traditional regional connections, at least moved the CMF/ARES infantry to a true regimental system, creating a framework for future expansion or reduction as required but still maintaining the existing infantry battle honours and traditions inherited from predecessor units some 50 years ago.

Note

It is the author's personal view that the re-introduction of the old battalion numbers back into the State Regiments in 1965 was possibly a retrograde decision. This to some extent detracted from fostering a true regimental spirit and introduced an additional complexity for either the expansion or reduction of battalions on as needed basis in accordance with the original state regiment concept. The reintroduction of the former numbers also risks the misconception that the existing battalions were formed directly from the former CMF infantry battalions bearing the same numbers and that the battle honours on the colours of the current battalions are those of the corresponding former battalions, which is not the case.

(The battle honours allocated to the State Regiments were promulgated under Australian Army Order 85/1962 and were a composite set of the battle honours of all the individual infantry battalions merged in July 1960 to form each regiment. All battalions with the regiment carry the same "regimental" battle honours on their colours.)

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A DRIVER MECHANIC AND HIS ROLE IN THE CAPTURE OF GENERAL DE WET IN 1914

William Endley¹

Archibald Frank Thomson was 31 years old when he attested in the South African Service Corps Mechanical Transport and he was destined for service in the former Nyasaland. He listed his trade as a driver/mechanic and was single at the time. His next of kin was his mother and his place of record was in Cape Town.

As a veteran of the Anglo-Boer War, Thompson had served in Driscoll's Scouts and the Second Railway Pioneer Regiment. He was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal with 5 clasps: Cape Colony; Orange Free State; Transvaal; South Africa 1901 and South Africa 1902. The Scouts participated in the guerrilla war and became a five squadron strong force before being disbanded.

Driscoll's Scouts were raised in Aliwal North in March 1900 as a body of scouts. They served with the Colonial Division. Their founder and commander was Captain Dan Driscoll, an Irish Protestant who had paid his own way to South Africa.

The Railway Pioneer Regiment was established to protect and repair railways, bridges, culverts and lines that had been damaged. It was commanded by Major J.E. Capper from the Royal Engineers and was used mainly on the Cape Town to Pretoria railway line and route. The regiment was also used on armoured trains and did very good work during the guerrilla phase of the Anglo-Boer War. Thompson was a trumpeter in his regiment.

After the Anglo Boer War had ended in 1902, the first motor car in Johannesburg was registered in 1904, the first American imports arrived in 1906, and the first motor show was held in 1908. The Transvaal Automobile Club was formed in 1903, just 17 years after the founding of Johannesburg itself, to foster what was then called "automobilism". The club's motoring activities included the compilation of road maps, organizing hill climbs and campaigning against the prevailing speed limit of ten miles an hour within a radius of two miles of the Rissik Street post office in the centre of Johannesburg.

Name <i>Thompson A. F.</i>		No. <i>No 2 Special Motor Coe</i>					
Rank <i>D</i>	At	Regiment <i>Contingent</i>					
Date of Enrolment <i>6-11-14</i>	At	Age	Date				
Transferred to	Regiment	Date					
Transferred to	Regiment	Date					
Next-of-kin <i>Mrs A. Thompson</i>							
Address <i>174 Sir Errol Road, Cape Town</i>							
REPORTED —							
Date	From	Next-of-kin advised	Sick	Wounded, Captured	Returned to Duty	Discharged	Deceased
1. <i>6-11-14</i>	<i>6-11-14</i>	<i>6-11-14</i>					
2.							
3.							
4.							
5.							
6.							
7.							
8.							

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The 1914 Rebellion occurred in South Africa at the start of the First World War when men who supported the recreation of the former Boer Republics rose up against the government of the Union of South Africa. Many members of the government were themselves former Boers who had fought with the rebels against the British in the Anglo Boer, which had ended twelve years earlier. The rebellion failed, and the ringleaders received heavy fines and terms of imprisonment. One of the main leaders was General Christiaan De Wet who was a very well known guerrilla leader in the war. Some major engagements occurred during the rebellion and the official history states that 132 members of the government forces were killed and 242 wounded. Rebel losses were put at 190 killed and between 300 and 350 wounded.

The No 2 Special Motor Car Contingent had been organized by the Transvaal Automobile Club. Thomson enrolled in the contingent on 6 November 1914 as a driver. He was discharged on 17 January 1915, his unit having fulfilled and completed its important role in combating the 1914 rebellion within the Union of South Africa. The motor contingent was active in the rounding up of General Christian De Wet and his followers. By persistent and determined travelling the motor transport corps was able to “capture” De Wet and his men.

The cars or automobiles became an example of mobility combined with firepower. The 110 vehicles were supplied by the Transvaal Automobile Club and cars hired from D.H. Saker and Company of Johannesburg. The contingent, which included one motor-borne machine gun section complete with 16 Rexer light machine guns, was divided into two sections under the command of Captains Bullock and Saker. Although Bullock and Saker harboured intense but petty personal jealousies for each other, the contribution of the two motorized commandos was significant. Cecil Nurcombe, who served with one of these motorized machine-gun detachments, wrote that the conversion of these cars into light armoured units allowed government forces to outmanoeuvre mounted rebel commandos, even in some of the most difficult terrain. The commemorative history of the rebellion that was published by the *Transvaal Leader* in 1915 also noted the contributions made by the motorcar fleet “which harassed the rebels day and night, and which surprised all with its effectiveness over rough country”.

The contingent chased de Wet who was aiming to break through into German South West Africa via Henning’s Vlei in the Vryburg district to link up with the rebel Maritz. De Wet surrendered to Colonel Jordaan after the gruelling cross country chase. General De Wet credited the motor cars for his capture. He also informed his captors that he had not expected the cars to be able to transverse the very arid area in which he had been pursued and captured. He had been able to only rest and remove the saddles from his horses once for a few minutes in 50 miles!

The 1914/15 star was not awarded to members of the Motor Car contingent as these events of the 1914 Rebellion took place within the borders of the Union of South Africa and were regarded an internal South African issue by the Imperial authorities.

After the Rebellion, Thomson re-attested with the South African Service Corps Mechanical Transport for service in Nyasaland from 1 March 1916 and he was promoted to Driver Sergeant, Staff Sergeant, Company Sergeant Major and then 2nd Lieutenant. He returned to the Union on 1 October 1917 on account of ill health which was common to the German East African Campaign during the First World War.

ARTHUR LAWRENCE CARSON DCM MM: DECORATED IN TWO WORLD WARS

Harry Willey



Arthur Carson wearing the ribbons of the DCM (George V), Military Medal (George VI), 1914-1915 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal, 1939-1945 Star, Africa Star, Pacific Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-1945 with MID oak leaf, Australia Service Medal 1939-1945, Efficiency Medal (George VI).

Recommended for the Victoria Cross in 1917, Arthur Lawrence Carson has the distinction of being the only Australian soldier to receive a Distinguished Conduct Medal for his actions during the First World War, then 26 years later receive a Military Medal for his bravery on the Kokoda Trail during the Second World War.

Arthur was born Arthur Lawrence Olsen at Arendal, a picturesque coastal town in the county of Aust-Agder, Southern Norway on 2 May 1893, to a single mother Tomina Juliarne, who later married Carl Henrikson and had two daughters Hedvig & Karoline. Sadly Arthur and his sisters were orphaned at an early age.

Arthur left Norway intent on seeing the world, then choosing Australia ahead of Brazil as his future home. He signed off the Chinese vessel, SS *Changsha* on 14 July 1909 when it berthed in Cairns, North Queensland after sailing from Hong Kong with the 16 year old Arthur as a member of its crew

After signing off this vessel he changed his surname to Carlson, (the son of Carl) before seeking work in Cairns, finding he had to speak English without an accent to get a job he then roamed around the country, working at Port Lincoln in South Australia, Newcastle, New South Wales before finally settling in Balmain, Sydney where he worked as a ship

painter, he was naturalized, by Balmain Justice of the Peace, Robert Mahony on 20 Aug 1914.

On Thursday 29 October, as the first AIF contingent prepared to leave Albany, Western Australia, to fight in the war in Europe, Arthur enlisted at Balmain using the name Arthur Carson and giving his correct age and birthplace. He was recorded as weighing 10½ stone and with a fair complexion, blue eyes and fair hair. He nominated Helen Carson living in Norway as his next of kin and his religious denomination as Church of England when in fact it was Lutheran. Arthur was accepted as 1327 Private Carson and assigned to the 2nd Reinforcements, 2nd Battalion, but for unexplained reason was discharged prior to embarkation.

Four months later on 26 February 1915, Arthur again enlisted, stating his age as 21 year and 9 months, giving his name as Arthur Lawrence Carlson, a labourer, born in Cairns and nominated Mrs P Dummett the owner of a boarding house at 81 College St Balmain as his next of kin. Arthur was accepted and allotted to the 4th Reinforcements, 2nd Battalion which embarked from Sydney onboard A8 His Majesty's Australian Transport (HMAT) *Argyllshire* on 10 April 1915.

Two weeks after disembarking in Egypt and just two months after enlisting Arthur reached Gallipoli on 26 May. Becoming ill with gastritis he was sent to Lemnos and admitted to the 3rd

Australian General Hospital for treatment. It was two months before he was returned to his unit. In November he was hospitalised and isolated on Gallipoli for two weeks with the mumps. Arthur was evacuated from Gallipoli with his battalion on 20 December 1915 onboard SS *Huntsgreen* and disembarked at Alexandria on 28 December. The *Huntsgreen* was the renamed German 9,060 ton liner *Derflinger*, which had been captured by the British at the outbreak of hostilities.

Three months later, 22 March 1916, Arthur embarked from Alexandria for Marseilles onboard *Ivernia*, a former Cunard line ship. In mid July 1916, the 1st Australian Division moved south to the Somme battlefield and on 20 July, the 2nd Battalion entered the line. During the divisional attack that resulted in the capture of Pozieres on 23 July 1916, Arthur received a gunshot wound to the buttock and was evacuated to the No 2 Canadian Hospital. From here he was placed onboard HS *Gloucester Castle* to be returned to England and admitted to the 2nd War Hospital, Birmingham on 3 August. Arthur was declared fit for duty and discharged from hospital 28 October 1916.

Returning to France from Folkestone onboard SS *Victoria* on 15 February 1917, it was a further ten weeks before he rejoined the 2nd Battalion. Two days later, on 4 May at Bullecourt, during the action against the Hindenburg Line, Arthur watched as two of his fellow stretcher bearers went out into no man's land to bring back a wounded man who they had observed caught up in the enemy's barbed wire. As they were carrying the man back they were fired on by German snipers and machine gunners. One, twenty year old Private Harold Edgar Ringland was killed, leaving the other Corporal Granville Victor Johnson alone with the seriously wounded man.

Leaping from 'pioneer trench' Arthur ran through a constant stream of rifle and machine gun fire to Johnson's side. As they were bringing the wounded man back to safety several wounded men sheltering in a nearby shell hole called on them for help. (The man they were rescuing was a middle aged German soldier, one of a group of prisoners captured the previous day who had been machine-gunned by the Germans as they were being escorted to the Australian line). When Arthur and Vic Johnson got the man to safety, Arthur immediately returned alone into no man's land and brought in one of the wounded men who had sought their help.

After a short rest he returned to no man's land and by vigorously waving a white flag silenced the enemy snipers before he brought the remaining three wounded to safety. Then still showing the white flag he returned looking for more wounded. He was bandaging the wounds of a seriously wounded man when he was joined by Private James Paul a tall Scottish born stretcher bearer from 'D' Company. As they were carrying the wounded man to safety Paul was shot in the head by a sniper and killed. Arthur, once again vigorously waved his white flag till the snipers ceased firing then with the wounded man on his shoulder, he was almost back to his lines when he was shot through the left thigh and fell into a shell hole. When a further display of his white flag silenced the snipers he crawled back to safety dragging the wounded man behind him. Due to the severity of his wounds Arthur was evacuated to a hospital in England for treatment.

The recommendation that Arthur be awarded a Victoria Cross was submitted immediately by the Scottish born Commander of the 2nd Battalion, Lieutenant-Colonel Stanley Lyndall Milligan DSO. It was supported by George Fredrick Brand (7th Light Trench Mortar Battery) and Lieutenant Leslie Wharton ('C' company of the 2nd Battalion). The recommendation was rejected on 16 May 1917 with a notation attached informing Milligan that the VC would not be awarded for lifesaving.

The commander of the 1st Australian Infantry Brigade, Brigadier-General W. B. Lesslie disagreed with the decision and the reason for rejecting the recommendation. He wrote that in his opinion the instructions issued on the subject were not intended to debar a stretcher bearer

from obtaining the Empire's highest reward for valour. He drew attention to the awarding of a VC to Private Christopher Augustus Cox, a stretcher bearer with the 7th Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment, who had received a VC for his rescue of wounded on 13 March 1917 at Achiet-le-Grand.

When this appeal failed, a recommendation for a Distinguished Conduct Medal was submitted on 19 May by Major-General Harold Walker of the 1st Australian Division and signed by Lieutenant-General Sir William Birdwood, Commander, 1st Anzac Corps. The award of the DCM for Arthur Carson was published in the *London Gazette* on 16 August 1917.

Ironically, John William Alexander Jackson VC, of Gunbar near Hay, the youngest Australian to be awarded the Victoria Cross, had been awarded his VC for rescuing wounded men while under heavy fire on the night of 25-26 June 1916.

While in hospital in England, Arthur had fallen in love with Emmie Corbett, the Birmingham born volunteer worker who was caring for him. He returned to France on 28 November but did not rejoin his unit until the 9 June 1918. Wounded in the hand by shrapnel he was again hospitalised 20 June 1918 returning to duty on 13 July. He was promoted to Corporal on the 25 September following the death of Cpl William Fraser.

Following the Armistice he was stationed in England where he sought contact with Emmie. Shortly after Arthur proposed to Emmie and suggested she follow him to Australia where they could be married and start their lives together. On 21 March 1919 Emmie was dockside to farewell Arthur as he and almost five hundred Australian troops boarded H.T. *Kildonan Castle* a former mail ship with the Castle Line, to return to Australia. Arriving in Melbourne on 6 May 1919 he was discharged on 9 July.

On 7 October, Arthur applied to the Army for assistance to bring Emmie to Australia. Arthur and Emmie were married at North Balmain in 1921. With Mrs Dummett's niece who remained a lifelong friend as their bridesmaid.

It was Armistice Day 1929 before Arthur's story was told for the first time by Australian Official Historian Dr C.E.W. Bean, who had also returned to Australia on H.T. *Kildonan Castle* on 6 May 1919. Bean told of Arthur's —~~C~~deliberate and inspiring courage." And unaware that Arthur had been awarded a DCM referred to him as —~~O~~ne of the great undecorated heroes of the war." When reporters from the *Daily Telegraph* —~~P~~ictorial" tracked Arthur to his home he told them. —~~O~~h the wars all over now, all that happened years ago." Arthur then asked the reporters not to make it too hot with what they wrote about him, saying —~~I~~ only did my job the same as the rest of the mob."

Arthur was working as a rigger and painter for the Hunter River Steamship Company and living with Emmie and their two sons and daughter at 5 Napoleon Street Rozelle when now weighing 11½ stone he enlisted in the 55th Battalion of the Militia Forces on 4 February 1936 as 428569 Private Arthur Carlson, once again stating that he had been born in Cairns and understating his age by five years. On his first day on parade an officer recognised him and he was promoted to Corporal. On 1 May, he was further promoted to Lance Sergeant. On 4 February 1939, at the completion of his three year term, Arthur signed up for another three year term with the 55th.

With the advent of the Second World War, Arthur who was then living with his family at 12 Napoleon Street Rozelle enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 3 November 1939 and was assigned to the 2/3rd Battalion, 16th Brigade, 6th Division as NX5027 Acting Corporal Arthur Lawrence Carson. The Commanding Officer of the 2/3rd was Lieutenant Colonel Vivian Theophilus England, a First World War veteran, who had commanded the 55th Battalion in 1939. Ten days later Arthur was promoted to Acting Sergeant.

Arthur took part in a farewell march through the streets of Sydney on 4 January 1940 before embarking for the Middle East on 10 January 1940 with the first troop convoy to leave Australia during the Second World War. Disembarking at El Kantara, on 14 February he entered a training camp at Julis in Palestine where on 6 April he was demoted to the rank of Private by an officer who had whilst on the boat to Palestine approached Arthur & asked him to keep an eye out for other soldiers & to inform him of any misdoings! Arthur refused to do so, in his fellow soldiers, hence his demotion. On 29 June, he was promoted to Lance Sergeant by the now Brigadier Vivian Theophilus England when he heard of the incident.

On 3 January 1941, the 2/3rd Battalion was in action in the capture of Bardia, the Italian's major military outpost in the north of Libya where 40,000 Italian's were captured. The 2/3rd Battalion suffered 57 casualties, seven officers and 50 other ranks.

Advancing to the naval outpost of Tobruk the 16th Brigade attacked at dawn 21 January 1941 with the 2/3rd breaching the Italian defences. Following the capture of the town the following day, the 2/3rd garrisoned Tobruk where they were visited by the Prime Minister of Australia, Robert Menzies.

Menzies was in London in February 1941 when he was consulted on the proposed use of the 6th and 7th Australian Divisions in Greece who were facing the prospect of an invasion by troops from Germany, Italy and Bulgaria. The Greek Army had soundly thrashed the Italians who had invaded Greece in October 1940, but now Germany and Bulgaria were planning to assist the Italians. Menzies said Australia was willing to undertake such a great risk in a good cause, then in the following two weeks before the Australians arrived, the situation in Greece deteriorated to such an extent that Menzies requested a re-examination of the plan. Churchill replied that the Commander in Chief Middle East and Generals Blamey and Freyberg, the Australian and New Zealand commanders were agreeable to the deployment; however neither Blamey nor Freyberg had been consulted.

Arthur left Tobruk with the 2/3rd on 7 March and sailed with his battalion to Greece. On 18 March 1941, deployed north to face the anticipated attack by the German forces they were stationed at Veria. Their first action against the Germans was at Pinios Gorge on 18 April where the 2/3rd and 2/2nd halted the German advance through the Gorge enabling the safe withdrawal of the allied forces to the south. During his time in Greece, Arthur was observed while in full view of the enemy running along the line yelling out to fellow soldiers "come on you sons of Anzacs fight" this and other similar encounters he survived was the reason men of the 2/3rd referred to Arthur as the "Holy Ghost".

First reported wounded in action it was later confirmed that Arthur had been involved in a motor vehicle accident that occurred when the battalion was evacuating from Greece on 19 April. Arthur was in one of the last trucks to leave, when it overturned. With a broken finger on his left hand a nurse advised him to strap the fingers together, following treatment at the 7th British General Hospital Crete he was returned to Egypt. At the end of April, the British forces including the Australians who had suffered nearly 3000 casualties were withdrawn from Greece.

In June and July the 2/3rd saw action in Damascus, Syria and in Lebanon, before the battalion was assigned to garrison Syria. On 4 August, Arthur, suffering diarrhoea, was admitted to the 2/4th Field Ambulance for seven days.

Following the attack by the Japanese on Pearl Harbour, the 6th and 7th Divisions began to leave the Middle East to face the Japanese threat in the Pacific. Arthur embarked with his battalion on 10 March 1942; however 16th and 17th Brigades of the 6th Division were diverted to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). These troops disembarked 27 March and were to defend Ceylon if it was attacked by the Japanese. Colombo was bombed by a Japanese carrier group on 5 April. The

2/3rd manned anti-aircraft station, built defensive positions and in preparation for fighting in the Pacific undertook jungle training while in Ceylon. Arthur was promoted to sergeant, then following the arrival of British Forces from India the 2/3rd left Ceylon on 8 July and arrived in Melbourne on 7 August 1942. Disembarking the following day Arthur was granted two weeks home leave.

Following jungle training on the Atherton Tablelands in Queensland the 2/3rd embarked from Brisbane on 13 September 1942, Arthur now 49 years of age, a veteran of Gallipoli, France, the Middle East and Greece disembarked at Port Moresby and prepared himself for the walk across the Owen Stanley Range on the Kokoda track. While walking the track Arthur not only carried his pack but that of another man who was having difficulties with the climb, many years later, Arthur supported this man when he sought a disability pension.

At Eora Creek the 2/1st Battalion clashed with the Japanese forward of the village on 21 October with the battle escalating on the following morning. Crossing the creek the 2/1st was halted by the intensifying fire from the Japanese and suffered many casualties.

As the heavy Japanese fire stalled the 2/1st advance, the 2/3rd Battalion advanced around the Japanese flanks despite suffering significant casualties. Arthur and his party of bearers who had successfully evacuated several wounded from Eora village while under mortar and machine gun fire from the enemy learnt that volunteers were being sought to evacuate a seriously wounded soldier who required urgent treatment. Despite warnings that the task would be particularly dangerous, Arthur and his party volunteered to evacuate the soldier to the 2/1st Battalion Regimental Aid Post.

The party was continually fired on by the Japanese heavy and light machine guns, which killed one and wounded another of the volunteers. Arthur, now needing more bearers to evacuate the wounded member of his party and the wounded soldier they were taking to the aid post, made his way alone up the steep mountain path while still under heavy fire and organized more carrying parties whom he led back to his men. Arthur then led the party to safety. His courage and coolness under fire was an outstanding example to all who witnessed this action

Ninety-nine Australians were killed in the battle of Eora Creek and another 192 including Arthur were wounded.

The 2/3rd Battalion were then involved in the fighting at Oivi and on the Sanananda Track. In December the 16th Brigade now with less than 1,000 fit men, of which the 2/3rd had only 6 officers and 67 men of other ranks, were relieved by the 30th Brigade. Arthur was placed in charge of supplies especially the "log" at the airstrip at Kokoda. Arthur never drank or smoked.

The 2/3rd Battalion were flown back to Port Moresby on 23 December 1942 and with their sick and wounded comrades were returned to Australia for further treatment and leave. A month later on the Atherton Tablelands it was to be almost a year before all their sick and wounded returned to the battalion and reinforcements brought them back to full strength. Arthur returned to the battalion on 2 March 1943.

In June, Army records started to question if Arthur Carlson/Arthur Carson was the same man and on 7 October transferred Arthur to the 16th Australian Training Battalion. The *London Gazette* of 23 December 1943 revealed Arthur had been Mentioned in Despatches for gallantry and distinguished service in the South West Pacific area. The Military Medal for his action at Eora Creek appeared in the *London Gazette* on 27 April 1944.

On 16 August 1945, Arthur now 51 years of age was transferred to a recruiting depot and discharged two weeks later, he had served in Palestine, North Africa, Greece, Crete and

Australian Territory of Papua. The 2/3rd Battalion was one of only two Australian infantry battalions to fight against the Germans, Italians, Japanese and Vichy French during the war.

The Governor of NSW, Lieutenant General John Northcott CB MVO, presented Arthur with his Military Medal at Government House, Sydney on 26 February 1947.

In August 1951, Arthur returned his 1939-1945 Star, Africa Star and Pacific Star to the army to have them inscribed but the medals were lost in transit. In 1952 he was awarded the Efficiency Medal and then in 1956 his portrait was painted in Sydney by Harold Abbott, the 1940 winner of the Sulman prize and who had been an official war artist between 1943 and 1945.

After the war ended Arthur needed to get back into the workforce and to life in general, he missed the Army life but made the best of what life had to offer. He worked for Atlantic Oil as a painter and often commented that life would have been different if he had been awarded a VC.

When he retired, he purchased a property at Killcare overlooking the Brisbane Waters and with Emmie settled down to enjoy their grandchildren. Memories of the life he had lived and the battles he had been engaged in remained with him and every evening where ever he was he would go for a walk. It was his way to think & reflect on life.

On 17 March 1967, the Australian Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Harold Holt informed the House of Representatives that arrangements for the production of a Anzac Commemorative Medallion which had been first announced by the Minister for Defence in March 1966 had been finalised. On 13 June 1967, while still living at 13 Killcare Road Killcare, near Gosford, Arthur Carson applied for his Gallipoli Medallion and Badge.

Arthur was a keen buyer of lottery tickets and was lucky enough to win twice. After several years he sold Killcare and with Emmie in a nursing home, he was still fit and adventurous enough to want to go home to Norway to see his sister Hedvig, Karoline his younger sister had died during WW2 under suspicious circumstances when Norway was occupied by the Germans.

With the help of his daughter, Joan, who arranged his trips, he returned to Norway twice once in 1969 then again a year later in 1970. He had not seen Hedvig for more than 60 years. Upon receiving news of Hedvig's death in 1979, Joan visited Arthur at the Narrabeen War Veterans Home to tell him his sister had died and hearing that news, Arthur, aged 86 years died shortly after on 26 June 1979, where to the end he was still helping people in need. Arthur was privately cremated at Woronora Crematorium two days later.

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70TH ANNIVERSARY BATTLE OF BRITAIN COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY

Kristen Alexander

Canberra's commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain was conducted in the Western Courtyard of the Australian War Memorial on 15 September 2010: Battle of Britain Day. It was a perfect Canberra spring morning. Although seventy years after the Battle of Britain and under southern skies half a world away, it was easy to visualise the white contrails of dogfighting Spitfires and Hurricanes against our brilliant azure sky. The Hall of Memory's dome formed a backdrop to the speakers and dignitaries. Nothing could have been more apt when we recall the dome's mosaic of the souls of the dead rising from the earth towards their spiritual home.¹ The RAF and RAAF ensigns and the Australian flag were flanked by two mighty trees. They appeared bare, without leaves, but a closer look revealed budding spring growth in abundance. As we commemorated victory over apparently insurmountable odds, those trees symbolised the triumph of new life over death.

For many years, Canberra had hosted the Battle's national commemoration but, some time ago, Hobart became its home. Three years ago, however, as a result of the endeavours of Lieutenant Colonel Paddy Mahony (Retd) Chairman of the ACT & Region Battle of Britain Commemoration Sub-Committee, and Air Vice Marshal Desmond Hall CB CBE AFC RAF (Retd), Patron of the Sub-Committee, a small group once again gathered in the shadow of Australia's national war memorial to remember those who had fought and died in the Battle of Britain.² Each year, the numbers increased and about a 150 people attended the most recent ceremony. Among the youngest was an RAAF officer cadet aged 20 and guests ranged in age from those in their 40s and 50s, through to veterans of Vietnam and Korea in their 70s, and veterans of the Second World War in their 80s and 90s.



¹ <http://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/hall/>

² Conversations Air Vice Marshal Desmond Hall CB CBE AFC RAF (Retd)/Alexander 22 September 2010; Lieutenant Colonel Paddy Mahony (Retd)/Alexander 22 September 2010

Of the 2936 airmen entitled to the Battle of Britain clasp, signifying that they are members of 'The Few', the Battle of Britain Historical Society and the Battle of Britain Monument recognise 32 Australians. One of those airmen was Desmond Sheen who grew up in Canberra. Desmond survived the Battle, and indeed the war, going on to enjoy a successful career in the post-war RAF. But thirteen Australians were among the 544 who died for Britain, Empire and western civilisation and by war's end, another five had died. None of the 32 Australian airmen are alive now but four members of the RAF have made Australia their home, and one of them lives in Canberra. Air Commodore James Coward AFC (Retd), now 95 years of age, flew with 19 Squadron RAF during the Battle until he was shot down during an attack by Dornier Do 17s on 31 August 1940. He was badly wounded and bailed out. He landed safely but his left leg was later amputated below the knee. Air Commodore Coward is staunchly committed to remembering those who fought and died in the Battle and has attended the Canberra ceremony since it was 'resurrected'. Sadly, he had been ill for some time and was unable to attend but sent a message via those who stood in his stead on this important day of remembrance, wishing us a 'happy ceremony'.

Air Commodore Coward's absence may have left the Canberra commemoration without a direct link to 'The Few', but Jennifer Gorzula, daughter of Pilot Officer Mieczyslaw 'Mike' Gorzula,³ was present. Gorzula joined 607 Squadron during the dying days of the Battle, and was one of the 145 Polish pilots who flew with the RAF during the Battle. Also present were three who watched the Battle rage above their heads: Major, the Reverend Joe Mullins MC OAM (Retd), who led the Prayer of Remembrance and the Closing Prayers, was a cadet at Sandhurst during the Battle;⁴ Paddy Mahony was a young boy during the Battle and, in the Blitz that followed, his home was bombed and the fire brigade rescued him from his wrecked bedroom;⁵ and Desmond Hall pedalled through many daylight bombing raids on Portsmouth when he upped his age to sign on as a messenger.⁶

We sang the national anthem that day, and at first thought, with its call to rejoice and celebrate the bounties of our land, it seemed to fit oddly in a ceremony where battle and sacrifice are commemorated but, on analysis, it is strangely appropriate. Australia has many riches and Australians enjoy great freedoms and if the outcome of that long ago battle had been different, we might not now be enjoying and celebrating Australia's bounty. As Senator Humphries, who presented the Commemorative Address, noted 'the importance of halting the inexorable progress of the Nazi war machine for the first time cannot be overstated'.⁷ In the words of the Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, patron of the Battle of Britain Fighter Association from 1977 until her death, 'without their courage, skill and determination in the face of fearful odds, who can tell what the final outcome of the War might have been'.⁸

Unconsciously reflecting the Queen Mother's words, Senator Humphries pointed out that the Battle has resonance for us today because it was 'a signal reaffirmation of the value of individual courage, initiative and skill in battle' and went on to note that the RAF's changing tactics from rigid formation flying prevalent in interwar training regimes to one-on-one engagement which was akin to an 'almost' return 'to the values of medieval warfare, where

³ Battle of Britain rank

⁴ Conversation Major, the Reverend Joe Mullins MC OAM (Retd)/Alexander 15 September 2010

⁵ *The Canberra Times* 12 September 2010

⁶ Conversation Air Vice Marshal Desmond Hall CB CBE AFC RAF (Retd)/Alexander 22 September 2010

⁷ My thanks to Senator Humphries for providing his speech notes, via Anthony Staunton email 12 October 2010

⁸ Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother's foreword to Wynn, *Men of the Battle of Britain. A biographical directory of „The Few“*, CCB Associates, Selsdon, South Croydon, 1999, p. VII ©Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

knightly valour was the defining element of many conflicts'.⁹ And indeed, the Battle of Britain saw many chivalric actions, including one by Pilot Officer William Millington, who grew up in Edwardstown, South Australia, which earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross. On 31 August 1940, while flying as No 2 of his section as aerodrome guard, he:

Was engaged by three Me 109s and succeeded in damaging one and shaking off the other two. He was then alone but again attacked the bombers. Whilst doing so he was beset by two Me 109s, he shook one off and shot the other down. In so doing he was attacked by an Me 109 and received some cannon shells in the engine which started to burn. Despite the fact that he was wounded by cannon shrapnel in the left thigh, Millington chose to make a crash landing rather than abandon his aircraft and let it fall in flames into a village which was in front of him.

As well as the thigh injury, Millington was badly burned, but he was able to climb out of his aircraft before the tanks exploded.¹⁰ In recognising the chivalric aspects of air combat, Senator Humphries made an unconscious link to the symbolism of the Australian War Memorial. The fifteen stained glass windows in the Australian War Memorial's Hall of Memory represent the defining qualities of Australian servicemen and women. They feature those who served in the Great War, and Chivalry is represented by an airman.¹¹



Cadet Officer Brett Harris, Lance Halvorson MBE, Anthony Staunton, Cadet Officer Oliver Kersnovski

⁹ Senator Humphries' speech notes 15 September 2010

¹⁰ See DFC Recommendation and Ogle, *Biggin on the Bump, The most famous fighter station in the world*, Froglets Publications, Brasted Chart, Westerham, Kent, 1990, p. 63

¹¹ Napier Waller was first asked to consider ideas for the Hall of Memory in 1937 his images are based on Great War servicemen and women. He was contracted in 1945 and by 1947 had made great progress in his designs for the stained glass windows. They were installed in 1950 and the Hall of Memory was opened in May 1959. McKernan, *Here is Their Spirit. A History of the Australian War Memorial 1917–1990*, University of Queensland Press, St Lucia, 1991, chapter seven

Only a handful of those gathered in the Western Courtyard had been personally touched by the Battle of Britain. For the majority who had not lived through those days, Senator Humphries aptly noted that we can only struggle to imagine the strange circumstance of battle in the air, of the close embrace of man and machine'.¹² This was, indeed, warfare at its most surreal; murderous encounters in the beautiful summer skies over England' where the serious wounding of either pilot or his aircraft would lead to a fiery and certain death on the ground. The odds against survival were tremendous',¹³ and those Australians who embraced death in flames and water, or suffered bodies broken by bullet fire or parachute which failed to cushion a hasty jump from plummeting machine, had willingly accepted those odds. But the odds were high and the cost was great, even if they survived. Desmond Sheen was injured after his second testing of the silk; Desmond Fopp from Cuddly Creek, South Australia, was hospitalised for three months after suffering burns when he bailed out of his blazing Hurricane; John Cock, from Renmark, South Australia, was shot at by the enemy as he descended; Dick Glyde of Perth, Western Australia, plunged, unwitnessed, to a watery grave; and John Kennedy, of Sydney, NSW, the first Australian to die in the Battle of Britain, died in flames when his Hurricane crashed into a hillside.

As the last strains of the air force anthem faded, Officer Cadet Oliver Kersnovski of the Australian Defence Force Academy, took the podium to read, High Flight'. The author, Pilot Officer John Gillespie Magee Jr., a Shanghai-born, Rugby-educated American who joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in October 1939 was only nineteen when he wrote the sonnet which became the fighter pilots' anthem and indeed sums up the thrill, the excitement and sheer joy of flying for all pilots. On 11 December 1941, soon after penning his inspired and inspiring words, he was killed in a mid-air collision over Lincolnshire. Ten days later, his parents allowed High Flight' to be published in their church bulletin. The original was put on display in the Library of Congress and copies of a poster depicting Spitfire, Gillespie and his soon-to-be immortalised words were sent to every airfield in the British Empire.¹⁴ The words inspired many pilots of the Second World War, including Clive Caldwell, Australia's highest scoring ace during that conflict, who was known to climb on to the mess table and recite it to those gathered about, and all his life kept a copy in his private papers. The words are known to and remembered by many and at least one veteran spoke them in unison with Officer Cadet Kersnovski and more than one eye glistened with tears. Gennifer Gorzula who had attended other Battle of Britain commemorations with her father was particularly moved by Officer Cadet Kersnovski's rendition, as she had read the sonnet at his funeral in December 2005.¹⁵

Sometimes, there is a real sense of nature reflecting the emotion of an event. The wind features in Magee's account of the joys of flight—he chased the shouting wind along' and topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace'—and it made its presence felt on that glorious morning. It rustled through the bare tree branches as Senator Humphries spoke and it whipped around the ensigns so that Officer Cadet Brett Harris, the flag orderly, had to catch and reposition one.

High Flight' continues to have meaning. Officer Cadet Kersnovski is a first year cadet at the Australian Defence Force Academy and is not much older than John Gillespie. He was a civil pilot before taking up his cadetship and this sonnet sums up his experience and emotions of flight. He is studying history and is particularly aware of the historical links between past and present; how this amazing conflict' is part of the historical arc. He was moved by the commemoration of a Battle that reached its peak seventy years previously and recognised the continuing links of past to present when he heard a jet flying above during a key part of the ceremony, as well as the sound of the children's

12 Senator Humphries' speech notes 15 September 2010

13 Senator Humphries' speech notes 15 September 2010

14 Details of Gillespie from Granfield, *High Flight. A Story of World War II*, Tundra Books, NY, 1999

15 Conversation Gennifer Gorzula/Alexander 15 September 2010

voices in the distance. He also noted the links between air power strategy now and then especially the concept of more effect/success with little resources; the few against the might of the Luftwaffe.¹⁶

Officer Cadet Harris was also stirred by Magee's words and the significance of the Battle of Britain commemoration. He is 20 years old and was surprised when I mentioned that he was the same age as Sergeant Kenneth Holland of Sydney, NSW, the youngest Australian to die in the Battle. He will serve as a navigator in the RAAF at the end of his cadetship and was moved by the thought that someone as young as he, seventy years ago, fought for nation and empire in the blue skies above Britain and sacrificed his life during that battle.¹⁷

Over the years, there has been criticism that commemorative ceremonies, such as the Anzac Day Dawn Service held at the Australian War Memorial, have a religious element. This certainly did: an RAAF chaplain spoke the opening prayers; the air force anthem is the Hymn 'God is our strength and refuge' (based on Psalm 46, known more popularly as the 'Dambusters' March'); the prayer of remembrance and closing prayers were spoken by Reverend Mullins, who, as we honoured the memory of those who had fought in Britain's great air battle, entreated God to: 'teach us to renew the dedication of our lives to your service, and always to use our freedom for your glory';¹⁸ and after the final hymn, 'O valiant hearts', the air force chaplain gave the final blessing. Faith, religion and God permeated this ceremony and yet it was entirely appropriate. When Dowding farewelled his 'dear Fighter Boys' when he retired as C-in-C Fighter Command, his final words were 'good bye to you and God bless you all'. Pilot Officer Magee put out his hand 'and touched the face of God' and Winston Churchill frequently referred to God and Christendom. He stated that it was Britain's policy to 'wage war, by sea, land and air, with all our might and all the strength God can give us';¹⁹ he called Britons to arms and to prepare for conflict on Trinity Sunday;²⁰ and in his 'Finest Hour' speech when it was clear that France was out of the fight and Britain now stood alone, he stated that 'the survival of Christian civilisation' depended on the outcome of the Battle of Britain.²¹

After the ceremony, Chaplain Knight spoke to me of *anamnesis*. It is a Greek word meaning recollection, reminiscence and the act of remembering in order to bring the past into the present.²² Officer Cadet Kersnovski recognised the historical arc and appreciated the links of the Battle with current air power practice. Senator Humphries reminded us that the Battle of Britain's 'legacy of courage needs to be remembered.'²³ War will always be with us, but those who fight against oppression, who sacrifice their lives for a better world, who suffer loss and are bereaved, will not be forgotten. Their past, their memory, will always be in our present.

High Flight

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
of sun-split clouds,—and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of—wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air....

Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or even eagle flew—
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

John Gillespie Magee, Jr.

¹⁶ Conversation Cadet Officer Oliver Kersnovski/Alexander 15 September 2010

¹⁷ Conversation Cadet Officer Brett Harris/Alexander 15 September 2010

¹⁸ My thanks to Reverend Mullins for providing a copy of his prayers.

¹⁹ 13 May 1940

²⁰ 19 May 1940

²¹ 18 June 1940

²² The concept is found in philosophy, medicine, and in religion where it relates particularly to the Eucharist. Conversation Chaplain Andrew Knight/Alexander 15 September 2010

²³ My thanks to Senator Humphries for providing his speech notes, via Anthony Staunton email 12 October 2010

70TH ANNIVERSARY BATTLE OF BRITAIN COMMEMORATIVE ADDRESS

Senator Gary Humphries

The laying of wreaths to commemorate the sacrifice and service of those who took part in the Battle of Britain was held on Wednesday, 15 September 2010 at the Inauguration Stone in the Western Courtyard at the Australian War Memorial. Senator Gary Humphries gave the following address.

On this day we mark the extraordinary campaign fought in the skies above Britain over four months in 1940. This titanic struggle between the RAF and the Luftwaffe marked a key moment in the history of the Second World War.

Hitler's forces had rolled with invincible might in every direction from September 1939 until mid-1940. Germany's enemies were scattered or crushed on all fronts. France had fallen; the British had retreated in disarray from Dunkirk. The Thousand Year Reich looked poised to bring the 300 year old British Empire to an end.

Hitler saw the invasion of Britain as the necessary and inevitable last step in the conquest of western Europe. But to achieve this goal he needed to overcome the superiority of the Royal Navy on the seas around Britain. He believed that any deficit on the water could be offset by mastery of the air—hence his determination to conquer the airspace above Britain as the prelude to Operation Sea Lion—the invasion of Britain.

The Battle of Britain began asymmetrically in July 1940: the Luftwaffe bombing Britain airfields, ports and eventually cities, the RAF engaging with enemy aircraft in skirmishes and dogfights to harry the bombing program. Although hampered initially by unsuitable tactics and a shortage of pilots, the RAF eventually gained the upper hand. The RAF's Spitfires and Hurricanes inflicted heavy losses, particularly on the German bombers. The enormous numbers of casualties on the ground which the bombing raids inflicted—though devastating—did little to undercut the RAF's capacity in the air. Hitler's hope that a terrorised British population would come to terms with Germany failed to materialize; on the contrary, for the first time the German war machine had been checked, and some mythology about how wars could be won solely through strategic bombing was debunked.

The Battle was truly a turning point in the war. The disproportionately higher losses by the Luftwaffe led to Hitler postponing, and then cancelling, his invasion. And the psychological importance to an isolated United Kingdom of Hitler's and Goering's failure can't be exaggerated; the spirit of Londoners during the dark days of the Blitz is now the stuff of legend.

The Battle of Britain was exceptional and unprecedented in several ways:

The battlefield was enormous—the length and breadth of the British Isles. No battle had been fought on this scale before.

The Battle was one of the longest in history. When Churchill dubbed it 'The Battle of Britain' in a speech in June 1940, before the battle actually began, he may not have anticipated it would last at least 3½ months.

It was one of the first battles in history fought in plain sight of the population. Although some battles in the past had attracted audiences, this battle was observed daily by millions of Britons.

Despite the epic length and scale of the battle, there were in fact relatively few direct participants. On the allied side, fewer than 3000 pilots fought during the entire encounter,

including 595 pilots from other nations. Casualties, though a high proportion of the participants, were small in total number compared say, with the great battles of the First World War. On the British side 544 aircrew were killed, 422 were wounded and 1547 aircraft were destroyed. The Luftwaffe lost 2698 aircrew killed, 967 captured, 638 missing bodies (identified by British authorities) and 1887 aircraft destroyed. It needs to be remembered (again a departure from the norms of war) however, that the greatest loss of life in this battle occurred among the civilian population: 23,000 died and over 32,000 were wounded in the British Isles.

The enormous reliance for victory on the relatively small number of combatants of course gave rise to Churchill's famous observation that *'never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few'*. It is worth remembering that *'the Few'* were a truly international force: 145 Poles, 127 New Zealanders, 112 Canadians, as well as Belgians, South Africans, French, Irish and 32 Australians, of whom 13 died.

What resonance does the Battle of Britain have for us today? Why should we continue to mark this day?

Firstly, the importance of halting the inexorable progress of the Nazi war machine for the first time cannot be overstated. Today we characterise Britain's resolve to fight Hitler by the stance and oratory of Winston Churchill, but it needs to be remembered that many in Britain wanted to come to terms with Germany—including Churchill's foreign secretary, Lord Halifax. Had the hand of the appeasers been strengthened by a win for the Luftwaffe, the course of the Second World War would have been very different.

Secondly, the Battle of Britain was a signal reaffirmation of the value of individual courage, initiative and skill in battle. The strict aerial formations which characterised the early tactics of the RAF soon gave way to more one-on-one engagement where the qualities and skills of individual airmen counted for much. This was a return (almost) to the values of medieval warfare, where knightly valour was the defining element of many conflicts.

Those of us who were not there can only struggle to imagine the strange circumstance of battle in the air, of the close embrace of man and machine. This was warfare at its most surreal, murderous encounters in the beautiful summer skies over England. The serious wounding of either pilot or his aircraft would lead to a fiery and certain death on the ground. The odds against survival were tremendous, but so too was the spirit of those who fought to defend their homeland and their freedoms.

Truly, Britain's back was against the wall. For 900 years no invader had succeeded in the conquest of Britain. Many, including the US Ambassador, Joe Kennedy, thought that Britain would fall to German might. They were wrong. A spirit imbued the pilots and air crew during those fateful weeks which was to characterise British and Allied spirit for much of the remainder of the war. It was the spirit of freedom.

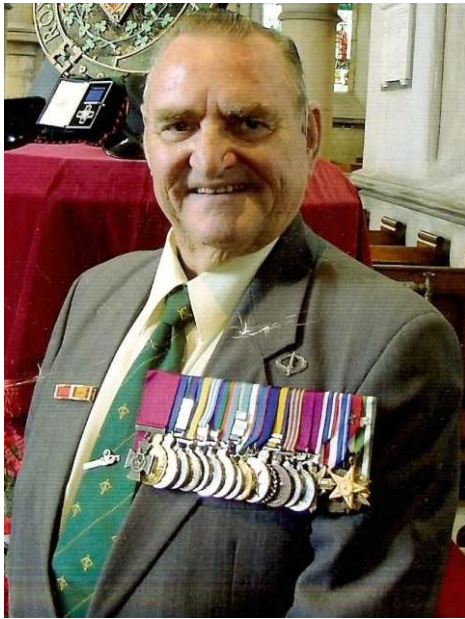
Today, millions of people are the beneficiaries of their heroism. That summer, the fate of the world hung in the balance as indeed did the fate of civil society and democratic institutions. Considering how much was at stake, the legacy of their win is enormous and we are all beneficiaries. For these reasons a celebration of their heroism, even today, is more than warranted.



MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY of AUSTRALIA

Queensland Branch
P.O. Box 743
Maryborough, Qld. 4650

Keith Payne VC OAM



The Queensland Branch of MHSA is honoured and privileged to have Keith Payne VC OAM accept Honorary Membership of the Branch. His distinguished military career is a significant example of military history.

Keith joined the army in August 1951 and was posted to the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment in September the following year, serving with his unit in Korea between April 1952 and March 1953. He was promoted to corporal and joined the 3rd Battalion in February 1960. He served in Malaya with this unit and in 1965, now a sergeant, he joined the 5th Battalion. His next posting was as a WO2 to the Field Training Wing of the Officer Training Unit at Scheyville, NSW. In February 1967 Keith was posted to Papua New Guinea where he served with the 2nd Pacific Islands Regiment. He returned to Brisbane in March 1968 and in February 1969 was appointed to the Australian Army Training Team in Vietnam.

In May 1969 he was in command of the 212th Company of the 1st Mobile Strike Force Battalion when attacked by a strong North Vietnamese force. Although wounded, Keith organised his troops into a defensive perimeter and then found isolated and wounded soldiers, rescuing some and organising the rescue of others. Keith's action that night earned him the Victoria Cross, which he received from the Queen aboard the Royal Yacht *Britannia* in Brisbane. He received the Distinguished Service Cross and the Silver Star from the United States and the Republic of Vietnam awarded him the Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star.

In January 1970 he was posted to the Royal Military College Duntroon as an instructor. He retired from the army in 1975, but saw further action as a captain with the Army of the Sultan of Oman in the Dhofar War. On return to Australia, Keith became active in the veteran community, particularly in counselling sufferers of post-traumatic stress disorder. This earned him the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2006.

He now lives in retirement in Mackay with his wife Flo. Keith and Flo have five sons.

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ORDERS, DECORATIONS AND MEDALS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES: Part 3: World War 2 Campaign Medals

Paul A Rosenzweig¹

Philippine decorations and medals may not figure prominently in many collections, but there are a few Australian connections that make them an interesting series to consider. Australia played a significant role in the liberation of the Philippines in 1944-45, with several Australian naval and air force personnel being awarded the Philippine Liberation Medal. In more recent years, Filipinos and Australians have served side-by-side on military and peace-keeping operations, and some 500 Filipinos earned the INTERFET Medal, the first operational medal within the Australian Honours System to be issued to foreign nations. This paper reviews the campaign medals available to members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and allied forces for service during World War 2.

Prelude to War

Some three centuries of Spanish domination from 1565 ended after a revolution against Spanish rule in 1898 leading to independence. From this time, the Philippines experienced almost a half century of American occupation until the Philippine Islands (as it was known during the American colonial period) gained its independence.

The Spanish-American War of 1898 was fought to expand American colonialism, through the conquest of Cuba and the Philippines. Following the rebellion by the Cubans against Spanish rule and the explosion of the American battleship USS *Maine* in Havana, on 11 April 1898 President McKinley asked Congress to declare war on Spain, and the war commenced on 22 April; in turn, Spain declared war on the United States on 24 April. American ships under Commodore George E Dewey sank the Spanish Fleet in Manila Bay on the morning of 1 May 1898. The Spanish-American War technically ended on 10 December 1898 with the Treaty of Paris, seeing the United States as a global colonial power, holding former Spanish territories in Latin America, the Pacific Ocean and eastern Asia, as well as the formerly independent nation of Hawaii.

On 12 June 1898, General Emilio Aguinaldo proclaimed Philippine independence from Spain, and Aguinaldo was sworn in as President of the First Philippines Republic in early 1899. Meanwhile, US military forces landed at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba on 6 June, invaded Puerto Rico on 25 July, and captured Manila in the Philippines on 13 August 1898. On 4 February 1899, America launched a protracted 'pacification' campaign against the Filipino guerrillas and freedom fighters. General Aguinaldo was captured in 1901 and America established an occupation government, with General Arthur MacArthur as Military Governor of the Philippines. President Roosevelt declared the Philippines pacified in 1902. On 25 September 1903 the last of the Filipino Generals, General Simeon Ola, surrendered to the Americans, but the campaign actually lasted until 1906 costing the lives of over 4,000 US and 16,000 Filipino troops. The Philippine Islands was then administered by the US Bureau of Insular Affairs for the next four decades.

¹ Paul Rosenzweig is a medal collector and non-professional military historian and biographer. He has contributed to *Sabretache* and various other historical journals and Defence publications on a voluntary basis regularly over the last twenty-five years. He is a Life Member of the Philippine Australian Defence Scholar's Association Incorporated (PADSA), and a Life Member of the RSL (Angeles City Sub-Branch).

The Philippine Department was formally organised in 1913, to defend the Philippine Islands and train the Philippine Army. Its headquarters was at Fort Santiago, Manila, beside the walled city of Intramuros, now a significant tourist destination. The Department and its sub-units were predominantly under the command of American officers, with the majority of the troops being enlisted Filipinos, known as ‘_Philippine Scouts’. Major-General Douglas MacArthur commanded the Philippine Department in 1928-30. The shoulder insignia of the Philippine Department was a blue embroidered oval, with a white embroidered Sea Lion holding a sword (derived from the coat of arms of Manila).

The Philippine Islands became the ‘_Commonwealth of the Philippines’ in 1935, with Manuel L. Quezon as the first President². Quezon was a Filipino patriot, a *Katipunero* (member of Andres Bonifacio’s *Katipunan* founded in 1892) and had fought beside General Aguinaldo to resist both the Spanish colonists and then the American invaders. Nevertheless, Quezon was later selected as the Philippine Resident Commissioner in Washington (1909-16), returning to Manila as President of the Senate – perfect grooming for an eventual presidential role. Quezon’s concerns about a military threat from Japan saw him personally invite the soon-to-retire General Douglas MacArthur to come to the Philippines as a military strategist (Roosevelt titled him ‘_Military Adviser to the Commonwealth’; Quezon acceded to MacArthur’s request and titled him ‘_Field Marshal of the Philippines’). Through the *National Defense Act* of 1935, Quezon created the Philippine Army, with the Off-Shore Patrol and Army Air Corps as its major components; the Philippine Constabulary existed under the Department of Interior. The Philippine Army adopted an insignia based on the badge of the United States Army, and this insignia was still used long after the Philippine Army was reorganised following World War 2.

Japanese forces occupied the naval and air bases of southern Indochina on 22 July 1941, leaving the Philippine Islands almost completely surrounded. Reinforcements for the Philippines could not be provided by the US at this time for fear of leaving the United States in a position of great peril should there be a break in the defence of Great Britain. On 25 July 1941, US Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson requested that US President Franklin D. Roosevelt issue orders calling the military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines into active service for the United States. The following day, President Roosevelt froze all Japanese assets within the United States and issued the orders to absorb the forces of the Philippine Army, and the War Department created the US Army Forces in the Far East (USAFFE) command, to absorb the Philippine Department and the forces of the Philippine Army. USAFFE was given jurisdiction over the Philippine Department and all military forces of the Commonwealth, which included the Philippine Army and the Philippine Scouts. General Douglas MacArthur was recalled to active duty and designated as Commander of USAFFE, and he was informed that it was now the policy of the United States to defend the Philippines.

USAFFE comprised the US 31st Infantry Regiment, the 50th Coast Artillery Regiment, 59th Coast Artillery Regiment, 60th Coast Artillery (Anti-aircraft) Regiment, the 515th Coastal Artillery Regiment, and the 808th Military Police Company. Its headquarters was at Fort William McKinley in south Manila. Elements of ten Filipino reserve divisions were called into the service of the US Army by 15 December, drawn from the pre-war 4th Military District (which was responsible for the provinces of Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Rizal, Mindoro, Palawan and the City of Manila). To each of these divisions, forty US Army officers and twenty American or Philippine Scout non-commissioned officers were assigned as instructors. In addition to the infantry divisions and their organic infantry and signal regiments and engineer battalions, USAFFE included a Cavalry Regiment and Philippine Coast Artillery Regiments and Field Artillery Regiments, all designated ‘_PS’ (‘_Philippine Scouts’). The Philippine Army Air Corps

2 President Manuel L. Quezon, first President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines (15 Nov 35 to 1 Aug 44).

comprised the 6th Pursuit Squadron, 9th Observation Squadron and the 10th Fighter-Bomber Squadron.

The reinforcement of USAFFE was expected to be completed by April 1942 and the reinforcement of Filipino troops was to be completed by July. Mobilisation and assimilation of Filipino forces into the US Army was incomplete by the time of the Japanese invasion in December, and none of the anti-tank battalions were ever organised, however a force of 100,000+ Filipinos was raised.

MacArthur ordered the mobilisation of the Philippine Army on 1 September 1941. During September and October 1941, the Philippines was reinforced with the 200th Coast Artillery Regiment (Anti-aircraft), the 192nd Tank Battalion, the 194th Tank Battalion (less Company B), a company of the 17th Ordnance Battalion, 75 self-propelled 75 mm gun mounts, supporting light artillery (130 75 mm guns) and 72 x 155 mm howitzers. MacArthur's plan was to use the Philippine Scouts for Harbour Defences, to complement the forces at Forts McKinley and Stotsenburg, and to give USAFFE control of two American combat teams. He intended forming four tactical commands, each of corps level.

The United States Navy's Asiatic Fleet was stationed at Cavite Naval Base, in Manila Bay, as also was the Offshore Patrol. Aviation assets included the 28th Bomber Squadron, 4th Chemical Company (Aviation), 4th Composite Group and 20th Air Base Group (attached to the Philippine Army Air Corps).

PHILIPPINE CAMPAIGN MEDALS

Philippine military doctrine states that "awards and decorations are tangible proofs of meritorious service and achievement, heroic acts, display of skills and efficiency, competence and excellence. They serve as memorabilia and inspiration to the recipients". Three awards were established by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines to reward World War 2 service:

- Philippines Defense Ribbon/Medal
- Philippines Liberation Ribbon/Medal
- Philippine Independence Ribbon/Medal

These campaign medals could be awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the US Armed Forces³ and civilian members of recognised guerrilla units⁴.

Philippines Defense Medal

On 8 December 1941, Japanese military aircraft attacked airfields in the Philippine Islands. The attacks on Clark Field north of Manila wiped out practically all USAFFE aircraft despite the valiant efforts of Captain Jesus Villamor and his 6th Pursuit Squadron, Philippine Army Air Corps. On 10 December, the Japanese landed troops on Northern Luzon, and on 22 December the main Japanese invasion forces landed at Lingayen Gulf. On 24 December, General MacArthur ordered the US and Philippine Army forces of USAFFE to withdraw from northern Luzon and Manila to the Bataan Peninsula. Meanwhile, the Japanese occupied Manila on 2

3 Acceptance of these Philippines medals by US forces was authorised by the US in accordance with the provisions of Public Law 80-314, which authorised the acceptance of foreign awards and decorations during World War 2 for the period of 7 December 1941 to 24 July 1948.

4 In addition, the Resistance Medal was established on 26 September 1945 for award to Philippine civilians or civilians of other nations, not belonging to the Armed Forces of the Philippines or a recognised guerrilla unit, who actively participated for a period of at least three months in the resistance movement against the Japanese occupation during the Second World War.

January 1942. The USAFFE forces on the Bataan Peninsula prevented the early fall of Bataan, thereby upsetting the Japanese timetable for the conquest of Southeast Asia. On 24 January, USAFFE forces withdrew to the reserve battle position on Bataan Peninsula, the Pilar-Bagac Line.

MacArthur's headquarters was located in the fortress that had been progressively constructed on Corregidor Island⁵, the largest of the five islands strategically located in the entrance to Manila Bay from the South China Sea. It was formerly a huge volcano that erupted on one side and gradually eroded to disappear partially beneath the sea, leaving behind the remains of a crater. In pre-hispanic times, Corregidor was a base for pirates who could easily launch an attack against any vessel entering Manila Bay. The Spanish variously used the island as a defence fortress, a penal institution (*El Corregidor*, meaning 'corrector'), a signal outpost to alert Manila of a home-coming galleon, and as a Customs inspection station (*Isla del Corregidor*, 'Island of the Correction'). After Spain ceded the Philippines to America in 1898, Corregidor Island was organised as an American Military Reservation. A Regular Army post was formally established in 1908 ('Fort Mills') and construction of bomb-proof shelters, concrete gun emplacements and barracks buildings commenced the following year. In 1922, construction began on a massive underground bunker complex, later named the 'Malinta Tunnel', comprising a series of lateral branches⁶. Because of the fortifications and rocky landscape, Corregidor was also known as 'the Rock' or the 'Gibraltar of the East'.

From 24 December 1941 until 19 February 1942, Fort Mills was also the temporary location of the government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines. Japanese military aircraft attacked Corregidor Island on 29 December 1941, and this was followed by four months of continuous artillery and aerial bombardments. On 30 December, outside the Malinta Tunnel, President Manuel L Quezon and Vice-President Sergio Osmeña Sr were inaugurated for a second term. With his family and staff, President Quezon departed Corregidor Island on 20 February 1942 aboard the submarine USS *Swordfish* under the command of Commander Chester C Smith USN.

On 11 March 1942, General Douglas MacArthur left Corregidor onboard PT Boat 41 under the command of Lieutenant John Bulkeley USN, which took him to Misamis Oriental, from where he later proceeded to Australia by aircraft. A larger-than-life statue of General MacArthur stands at Lorcha Dock on the north coast of Corregidor Island, marking the point from which he departed the Philippines. MacArthur left behind Major-General Jonathan M ('Skinny') Wainwright IV in command, with USAFFE redesignated as 'US Forces in the Philippines' (USFIP). At the Pilar-Bagac Line, the USFIP forces made their last stand, resisting and repeatedly denying ground to superior enemy forces until the order to surrender was given on 9 April 1942. At noon on 6 May 1942, Major-General Wainwright surrendered the island fortress of Corregidor and all US forces in the entire Philippines to Lieutenant-General Homma Masaharu of the Imperial Japanese Army. All US and Filipino military personnel were taken by Japanese transport ship to Manila on 24 May, and forced to march to Bilibid Prison. They were later transferred north to a prisoner-of-war camp at Cabanatuan, and some were sent to Japan. Most officers were shipped to Japan but few survived the 'hell ships' and the prisoner-of-war camps: of the 49 officers assigned to the 91st Coast Artillery Regiment when it surrendered, for example, only about 13 survived the war.

⁵ Refer Aluit, A J (2003) Corregidor. Galleon Publications, Manila.

⁶ The third lateral (north side) from the east entrance served as MacArthur's USAFFE headquarters. In the south side, the first lateral from the east entrance served as headquarters of the Harbor Defense Command of Major-General George F Moore. President Quezon and his family occupied a lateral beside the first lateral from the east entrance from 29 December 1941 to 20 February 1942.

The Philippines Defense Ribbon was established by Army Headquarters, Commonwealth of the Philippines on 22 December 1944. A medal to accompany the ribbon was instituted by Army Headquarters on 22 July 1945. The medal rewarded members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the US Armed Forces and recognised guerrilla units for at least 30 days' service, or service in any combat operation, between 8 December 1941 and 15 June 1942. A commemorative panel at the Pacific War Memorial on Corregidor Island lists the campaigns which comprised the 'Defense of the Philippines', and the American Military Cemetery at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City in Manila contains murals depicting these various defensive operations.



Philippines Defense Medal

The Philippines Defense Medal is struck as a bronze disc with a scalloped outer edge. The obverse depicts a female Filipina figure in native costume within a green laurel wreath, holding a traditional Igorot shield and Moro kris (knife). Within the wreath are the Philippine sun and a map of Corregidor and Bataan; above the figure's head are three stars, representing the three major island groups of the archipelagic nation – Luzon in the north, the Visayas in the centre, and Mindanao in the south.

On the reverse is the inscription 'FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE PHILIPPINES' in four straight lines. The suspension ribbon is red with two narrow white stripes, with three five-pointed stars in white (again representing the three major island groups) arranged symmetrically as an equilateral triangle in the centre. When just the service ribbon is worn, the white stars are arranged in an isosceles triangle pattern.

Eligibility for this medal included participation in the initial resistance against Japanese invasion, covering the period from the Japanese military air attacks on Philippine airfields on 8 December 1941, to the Japanese occupation of Manila on 2 January 1942, and until after General Wainwright's surrender of Corregidor and all US forces in the entire Philippines on 6 May 1942. Eligibility also includes participation in the campaigns on Bataan Peninsula, Mindanao and the Visayan Islands.

Philippines Liberation Medal

Collectively known as the 'Battle of Leyte Gulf', three battles took place during the period 20 to 25 October 1944: Surigao Strait, Samar and Cape Engano. The Battle of Leyte Gulf involved the landing at Leyte of General Douglas MacArthur on 20 October 1944, fulfilling his famous 'I Shall Return' promise to the Philippines first made in the railway township of Terowie in South Australia three years earlier.

The Allied force at Leyte, comprising over 800 ships, included the US 7th Fleet (directly supporting the landings at Leyte) and the US 3rd Fleet (to oppose any challenge by the Japanese Navy). Included in this force was Task Force 74, composed of ships of the Royal Australian Navy: the cruisers HMAS *Australia* (complement of 963 all ranks) and HMAS *Shropshire* (900 all ranks), and the destroyers HMAS *Arunta* (299 all ranks) and HMAS *Warramunga* (260 all ranks). As part of the force covering the landings in Leyte Gulf, HMAS *Australia* received the first Japanese kamikaze attack of the war. On 21 October 1944, HMAS *Australia* was hit was by an A6M5 Zero-Sen Fighter fitted with a 200 kilogram bomb. The impact killed thirty men (including Captain Dechaineaux DSC RAN) and wounded 64 (including the Commander of the Australian Squadron, Commodore Collins CB RAN – subsequently Chief of Naval Staff for seven years).

In addition to Task Force 74, other Australian Navy units were in supporting actions, including HMA Ships *Warrego* (174 all ranks), *Manoora* (323 all ranks), *Westralia* (320 all ranks) and *Kanimbla* (330 all ranks). The frigate HMAS *Gascoyne* (150 all ranks) and HDML 1074 (10 all ranks) were part of the minesweeping and hydrographic group. HMA Ships *Bishopdale*, *Poyang*, *Yunnan* and *Merkur* were part of the service force and, as part of a diversionary operation, the destroyers *Quiberon* and *Norman* bombarded targets on Car Nicobar in the Bay of Bengal.

A significant memorial in the MacArthur Landing Memorial National Park in Palo, south of Tacloban in Leyte Province commemorates the Battle of Leyte Gulf and the historic landing of Douglas MacArthur on 20 October 1944. This memorial features golden life-sized statues of MacArthur and his party, which includes among them the Filipino compatriot of Aguinaldo and Quezon – Sergio Osmeña Sr. The current Governor's Hall in Tacloban City was MacArthur's headquarters after coming ashore; today a large mural on its facade commemorates MacArthur's landing at Palo. On the steps of this building on 23 October 1944, the former *Katipunihero* Sergio Osmeña was formally installed by MacArthur as President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines⁷; this building then served as the Capitol Building of the Philippines until 27 February 1945. MacArthur is widely honoured here, in some quite bizarre ways – a park, resort and cafe are among many facilities named in his memory; the MacArthur Park Beach Resort has the famous profile of the General worked into the wrought-iron frames which support the air-conditioners of the rooms, and the door key-tags are in the form of wooden corn-cob pipes. The Governor of Leyte Province promotes these and other attractions with the expression, "Once you see Leyte, you shall return".

In the night surface battle off Surigao Strait on 24/25 October 1944, which resulted in the destruction of Japan's Southern Force, HMAS *Shropshire* engaged the Japanese battleship *Yamashiro* with gunfire. As an indication of the intensity of operations at this time, in the week commencing 20 October HMAS *Shropshire's* ships company was at their action stations for 146 hours out of a total of 168. HMAS *Arunta*, as part of US Task Group 77.3, carried out a torpedo attack at the northern entrance to the Strait (four torpedos fired at 0321 at a range of 7,200 yards). A memorial has been erected near the Lipata Ferry Terminal Complex in Surigao City, in northeastern Mindanao, to commemorate the Battle of Surigao Strait. It is in the form of a giant 'T' to represent the "crossing the T" manoeuvre which was executed that night.

Despite the heavy damage sustained at Leyte in support of the landing operations, HMA Ships *Australia*, *Shropshire*, *Arunta*, *Warramunga*, *Gascoyne* and *Warrego* went on to participate in the Lingayen Gulf landings in Northern Luzon on 9 January 1945. At 0930, some 68,000 men of the US Sixth Army under General Krueger went ashore at Lingayen Gulf, spear-heading a southward drive to Manila. During this operation, HMAS *Australia* was hit by four Japanese Kamikaze aircraft, killing 44 members of her crew. Despite this, HMAS *Australia* managed to complete her bombardment tasks.

Much of the Royal Australian Air Force contribution to the liberation of the Philippines came from operational forces which were not physically based in the Philippines, principally No.10 Group RAAF. RAAF Command, operating from Morotai, played a supporting role. Some 600 members of No.3 Airfield Construction Squadron operated in Leyte from 24 November to 11 December 1944, and then at San Jose in Mindoro from 15 December 1944 until 19 June 1945. The Squadron constructed four airstrips (Hill, Elmore Maguire Fields and Murtha Drome) which were used by US C-47s and fighter aircraft. The Squadron also ran and maintained the San Jose railway yards, maintained over 30 miles of roads, built hospitals and store houses, and

7 President Sergio Osmeña Sr, second President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines (1 Aug 44 to 28 May 46); Manuel A Roxas, third and last President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines (28 May to 4 Jul 46).

maintained the electrical service and water supply. A detachment of No.61 Airfield Construction Wing was also based at Leyte, from 24 November 1944 to 2 January 1945.

Catalinas of No.76 Wing Headquarters Detachment were based at Leyte in December 1944, and again in March-April 1945, conducting mining operations. They were supported by Mines Maintenance Section of No.9 Replenishing Centre Detachment (April 1945). Pacific Echelon was based in Leyte from 29 January to 14 April 1945, and then in Manila until 5 September 1945. A detachment of No.11 Postal Unit operated in Leyte and San Miguel, Luzon from 27 April to 8 October 1945.

RAAF aircraft operated from Sanga-Sanga aerodrome on Tawi-Tawi Island in the Sulu Archipelago of the southern Philippines: a detachment of Kittyhawks from No.76 Squadron RAAF commenced operations on 17 May 1945, and detachments of Beaufighters from No.77 wing (22, 30 and 31 Squadrons) commenced operations on 3 June 1945. These operations from Sanga-Sanga aerodrome ceased in mid-June 1945, but Beauforts operated from Sanga-Sanga from 11 June to 1 July 1945, to permit a detachment of No.9 Local Air Supply Unit to carry out DDT spraying of invasion areas as a malaria-prevention operation.

The RAAF also played a vital role in signal intelligence during the war against Japan. General MacArthur ordered a detachment of 24 men from the RAAF No.1 Wireless Unit in Biak to join the invasion force bound for Leyte. Their mission was to intercept Japanese messages during the voyage as protection for the convoy and, after the invasion, to continue their work in the Philippines. At dawn on Friday 20 October, an American craft containing six Australian radio interceptors anchored behind HMA Ships *Australia* and *Shropshire*. On the 21st, interceptors went ashore and took up position at the Tacloban cemetery. Later, they were joined by another party of Australian interceptors. The Australians were attached to the US Army, however, they retained their Australian identity and continued to wear their slouch hats. The Japanese were well aware of the presence of this Australian group: 'Tokyo Rose' welcomed them all by name in her newscasts. The decoding of Japanese signals was vital to the Philippine operation and played a significant part in the successful retaking of the Philippines. Three other RAAF Wireless Units served in the Philippines in 1944-45: No.4 (San Miguel, Luzon, 2 July to 8 October 1945); No.5 (Manila, 1 August to 9 October 1945) and No.6 (Leyte, 9 October 1944 to 9 October 1945).

After a series of successful operations, Manila was liberated on 3 February 1945. Around 100,000 non-combatant civilians perished in the 28 day Battle for Manila, as well as the 16,000 strong Japanese garrison and about 1,000 Americans. Manila was the only Allied capital city in the Pacific to be destroyed, and is recognised as being second only to Warsaw in terms of the scale of devastation (although Warsaw was destroyed by an urban uprising and German reprisals). A commemorative marker was installed in Manila City to honour the Allied forces involved in the liberation of Manila, and a commemorative service is held there each year on 3 February. On 27 February 1945 at the Presidential Palace, Malacañang, General Douglas MacArthur re-installed Manila as the capital of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, with Sergio Osmeña Sr as President.

The Philippines Liberation Ribbon was established by Army Headquarters, Commonwealth of the Philippines General Order Number 6 dated 22 December 1944. A medal to accompany the ribbon was instituted by Army Headquarters on 22 July 1945. The medal rewarded members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the US Armed Forces and recognised guerrilla units for at least 30 days' service between 17 October 1944 and 3 September 1945. Among many commemorative plaques and memorials throughout the country, a commemorative panel at the Pacific War Memorial on Corregidor Island lists the campaigns which comprised the Liberation

of the Philippines', and the American Military Cemetery at Fort Bonifacio contains murals depicting the landings at Leyte and Lingayen Gulf.



Philippines Liberation Medal

The medal, designed by Juan Nakpil, was struck in bronze in the form of a Filipino war shield flanked by the wings of victory. The obverse comprises a shield with vertical panels of blue, white and red enamel (representing the Filipino flag); superimposed on the central panel is a tabak (bolo knife), and above are three five-pointed stars (representing the three major island groups of the Philippines). Above the vertical panels is a band containing the inscription 'LIBERTY' in raised letters. The reverse of the medal bears the inscription (in four lines) 'FOR THE / LIBERATION / OF THE / PHILIPPINES'. Three different suspension devices were used. The first type is an inverted triangle that is fixed to a post at the top of the medal. The second type uses a fixed ring instead of the triangle. The third type consists of a

ribbon suspension ring that is connected by a link ring to the eyelet at the top of the medal. The suspension ribbon is a field of red with two stripes, one blue and one white, in the centre, with the blue to the wearer's right.

Eligibility for the Philippines Liberation Medal included participation in the initial landing operation at Leyte and adjoining islands (17-20 October 1944), participation in any engagement against Japanese forces during the Philippine Liberation Campaign, or at least 30 days' service in the Philippine Islands or in ships in Philippine waters during the period 17 October 1944 to 3 September 1945. This includes the actions at Leyte, Leyte Gulf, Ormok, Mindanao, Luzon, the liberation of Corregidor (2 March 1945) and the Battle for Manila. This medal may be awarded with three-sixteenth-inch diameter bronze service stars: individuals eligible under any two of the provisions are authorised to wear one bronze star on the ribbon; personnel eligible under all three provisions may wear two bronze stars.

The Philippine Liberation Medal was also made available to some Australians, as an unofficial commemorative award. It was awarded to members of the crews of HMA Ships *Arunta*, *Australia*, *Shropshire* and *Warramunga*, and to some RAAF airfield engineers. It was also awarded to members of crews operating with the US 7th Fleet under the War Shipping Administration who served in Philippines waters for not less than 30 days between 17 October 1944 and 3 September 1945. The Philippine Ambassador to Australia, Delia D Albert, personally awarded the Philippine Liberation Medal to some 4,000 Australian ex-servicemen.



The 60th anniversary of the various events which led to the liberation of the Philippines was commemorated throughout the country in 2004-05, under the title —'A Salute to Valour'. A series of fourteen commemorative badges was created, for presentation to veterans and dignitaries attending key ceremonies. Among these events was the commemoration of

This series of commemorative badges was created to recognise the fourteen key events which led to the liberation of the Philippines, the 60th anniversary of which was commemorated during 2004-05 under the title of —'A Salute to Valour'. This badge was issued to veterans and dignitaries who attended the ceremony to mark the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Cabanatuan POW Camp on 30 January 2005.

the successful liberation of the Cabanatuan POW Camp north of Manila in January 1945 which rescued 513 prisoners, among them some of the few survivors of the 237-kilometre Bataan Death March. This operation was subsequently portrayed in the book *Ghost Soldiers* (by Hampton Sides)⁸, and in the movie *The Great Raid* (by Bill Breuer) which was partly filmed in Australia. The Cabanatuan Memorial was erected by the American Battle Monuments Commission on the site of the former Japanese prisoner-of-war camp in the province of Nueva Ecija north of Manila, dedicated on 12 April 1982.

Philippine Independence Medal

The US granted independence to the ‘Commonwealth of the Philippines’ on 4 July 1946.⁹ The Philippines Independence Ribbon was established by an Army Headquarters, Commonwealth of the Philippines General Order dated 3 July 1946, to recognise members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the US Armed Forces and recognised guerrilla units for participation in various military operations during World War 2.

A medal to accompany the ribbon was subsequently instituted in 1968 by Ferdinand Marcos soon after assuming the Presidency¹⁰. This is not surprising given that Marcos was himself a veteran, and the second recipient of the Medal for Valor for “extraordinary gallantry and intrepidity” in supporting the withdrawal of USAFFE forces which delayed the inevitable fall of Bataan Peninsula. To be awarded the Philippine Independence Medal, a person must have previously received both the Philippine Defense Medal and the Philippine Liberation Medal, and must have been serving on active military duty in the Philippines on and after 4 July 1946.

Of interest, the Philippines subsequently adopted 12 June as its Independence Day, being the date in 1898 on which independence from Spain was proclaimed by General Aguinaldo – the modern Republic of the Philippines choosing to celebrate its independence on the day a Filipino declared it, rather than on the day it was imposed upon them by the Americans.

AMERICAN MEDALS FOR CAMPAIGN SERVICE

A series of medals was established by the United States Government for service during World War 2, some of which could be awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and recognised guerrilla units.

American Defense Service Medal 1941

This medal was authorised on 28 June 1941 for service during the ‘limited national emergency period’ between 8 September 1939 and 26 May 1941, or during the ‘unlimited national emergency period’ between 27 May 1941 and 7 December 1941. This medal could be awarded to military personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines for service with the United States Armed Forces in the Far East (USAFFE) between 1939 and 1941.

Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal 1941-1946

This medal was authorised by Executive Order on 6 November 1942, and could be awarded to US and Philippine military personnel for service within the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre of Operations between 7 December 1941 and 2 March 1946. The eligibility criteria was at least 30 consecutive days’ service, 60 non-consecutive days’ service, or receipt of any combat decoration. The medal could be awarded with three-sixteenth-inch diameter bronze service stars

⁸ Sides, H (2001) *Ghost Soldiers*. Anchor Books, NY.

⁹ Manuel A Roxas, first President of the Republic of the Philippines (4 Jul 46 to 15 Apr 48).

¹⁰ Ferdinand E Marcos, sixth President of the Republic of the Philippines (30 Dec 65 to 25 Feb 86); refer Hamilton-Paterson, J (1998) *America’s Boy*. Granta Publications, London.



Victory Medal 1941-1946: this example was struck in the Philippines after the end of the war – an identical copy of the US version of the medal but with a ribbon comprising vertical cotton threads.

(to denote specific combat operations), silver stars (representing five bronze stars) or bronze arrowheads (amphibious landings).

Victory Medal 1941-1946

The Victory Medal was authorised on 6 July 1945, and could be awarded to US and Philippine military personnel for active duty within the Philippines during World War 2 between 7 December 1941 and 31 December 1946, both dates inclusive.

CONNECTIONS AND COMMEMORATION

Within the city of Manila there were two cemeteries established for

American war dead during World War 2. They were officially titled “United States Armed Forces Cemetery Manila No.1” and “United States Armed Forces Cemetery No.2”, although they were more commonly referred to as just “Manila No.1”¹¹ and “Manila No.2”¹². Both sites were undeveloped grassy slopes, with numerous trees throughout. Immediately after the war, and during the greater part of 1947, the Memorial Division of the US Army Quarter-Master Corps favoured Manila No.2 as the proposed site for a permanent American War Cemetery. When the decision was made to not have a permanent US War Cemetery on Guam, it was realised that Manila No.2 did not have the capacity for the anticipated burials. Instead, the Post Cemetery beside the Chapel within Fort William McKinley was accepted for use. The transfer of remains to the Manila Mausoleum began on 22 September 1947; all the dead at Manila No.1 were disinterred by 29 October 1947, and Manila No.2 had all remains disinterred and transferred to the Manila Mausoleum by late 1948¹³. Both sites were closed and the ground was levelled by bulldozers. The remains were stored in caskets within above-ground mausoleums inside the hangers at Nichols Air Base (today’s Ninoy Aquino International Airport), and were processed either for eventual return to the United States or for burial in the Fort McKinley American Cemetery. This was later formally titled the ‘American Military War Cemetery’ and today forms part of the Fort Bonifacio precinct in Taguig City, Manila.

Although no Australian is buried or commemorated here, there is a special connection to Australia nonetheless. A visit to the American War Cemetery in Manila reveals that there are three United States soldiers listed there whose headstones and records state that they entered the Service “from Australia”:

- Private First Class Steven G Parkinson, 47th Squadron, 8th Air Service Group United States Army Air Forces (buried Plot D Row 2 Grave 79).
- Private Wilburt T Wiley, 316th Quartermaster Boat Company, United States Army (buried Plot D Row 7 Grave 70).

11 Manila Number 1 was opened in February 1945 in Balintawak Estate Subdivision, just north of the modern EDSA (Epifanio De Los Santos Avenue), between the entrance to the North Luzon Expressway and the Bonifacio Monument. A total of 1,481 Americans, 84 Filipinos, 2 British and 68 Japanese deceased were buried there.

12 Manila No.2 was the larger of the two cemeteries, and opened in April 1945 as the fighting went into the mountains east of Manila and the Manila No.1 site did not have the capacity for the required scale of burials. The site was located in the Kaingin area north of the San Francisco del Monte district, just south of Calle Road and west of the Daria River.

13 Japanese war dead were removed during August 1947 to the Prisoner of War Cemetery Canlubang No.1, located 35 miles south of Manila.

- Technical Sergeant Donald D J Lauricella, 3rd Rescue Squadron, United States Army (listed on the Wall of Missing).

PFC Parkinson entered the United States Army Air Forces from Australia, but he was not an Australian¹⁴. Parkinson died in a Douglas C-47B crash at Kerowagi in New Guinea on 11 December 1944. His remains were interred at the US Air Force Cemetery #1 at Lae, and on 8 May 1945 were transferred to US Air Force Cemetery #2 at Finschhafen. His recorded next of kin, his 'foster mother' Mrs Hazel Cape from Pennant Hills in Sydney, NSW, advised US authorities on 25 July 1945 that Mr Parkinson had resided —in our house for several years as an adopted son" although he was not legally adopted; she understood he had no living relatives. Because the US authorities were unable to identify a surviving blood relative, or locate any legal adoption papers, in 1949 his remains were interred at the US Military Cemetery at Fort McKinley in Manila.

Private Wiley also entered the United States Army from Australia, and he too was not an Australian¹⁵. His Service number 10641086 is an early number, suggesting an enlistment in 1942¹⁶. He was assigned to the 316th Quartermaster Boat Company; these boat companies were usually organic to the Engineer Special Brigades (amphibious engineers and landing craft drivers). The first units of the Engineer Special Brigades saw action in autumn 1943 at Oro Bay, New Guinea; Private Wiley was killed on 11 April 1943, so it is possible that he was killed during a Japanese bombing in the Buna-Gona area or at Milne Bay. He was awarded the Purple Heart — most likely this was a posthumous award indicating that he was killed in action¹⁷. His remains were first interred at the Temporary Cemetery 6911 (US Air Force Cemetery #2 at Finschhafen — the same cemetery in which the remains of PFC Parkinson were interred). Subsequently, his remains were interred at the US Military Cemetery at Fort McKinley in Manila.

Technical Sergeant Lauricella also entered the United States Army from Australia, and was also not an Australian¹⁸. National Archives records reveal that Donald Joseph Lauricella applied for alien residence in Australia in 1939: he was born on 3 September 1917 in New York State, he entered Australia in 1923 per SS *Orvieto* which berthed in Melbourne; he resided at 1041 Mount Alexander Road in Essendon, Victoria; and he was employed as a radio technician at 1037 Mount Alexander Road. He applied for alien residence in Australia on 29 September 1939, but he was not naturalised. He served with the 3rd Rescue Squadron, which operated as a component of the 5th and 13th US Air Forces, and was among the first US units to operate helicopters. He was reported as missing-in-action presumed killed on 7 March 1946 — this could refer to the date he was formally listed as 'presumed killed'; he may have gone missing at an earlier date. He was awarded the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters (denoting a total of four awards of the Air

14 The American Battle Monuments Commission database shows that he entered the Service from Australia; the American War Cemetery Manila Interment Record shows his 'home state' as —Australia", and his next of kin as a Mrs Cape from Pennant Hills in Sydney, NSW. His Individual Deceased Personnel File clearly shows his 'home address' as —Sydney, New South Wales".

15 The American Battle Monuments Commission database and Wiley's American War Cemetery Manila Interment Record show that he entered the Service from Australia. His Interment Record shows his next-of-kin to be his brother James A Wiley from 106 West Belle Fountaine in Pasadena, California.

16 From 1941, US Army enlistees were given serial numbers beginning with the numeral '1': this Service number indicates that Private Wiley enlisted (ie: he was not drafted or inducted as a member of the National Guard).

17 The WW2 Memorial www.wwiimemorial.com has a death certificate that gives his cause of death as killed-in-action.

18 The American Battle Monuments Commission database shows that he entered the Service from Australia. The American War Cemetery Manila do not hold any Interment Record for Lauricella, as he is not buried there but is listed among those recorded as 'missing'.

Medal), which suggests he was significantly involved in flying operations with the 3rd Rescue Squadron and was probably lost in an aircraft incident. He was also awarded the Purple Heart – again, most likely a posthumous award relating to his disappearance/death. His name was listed on the Wall of Missing at the US Military Cemetery at Fort McKinley in Manila.

There were 76 members of the RAN, RANR and RANVR who were buried at sea or were recorded as missing:

- 7 officers and 23 men of HMAS *Australia* were buried ~~at~~ sea in position” in Leyte Gulf, including Captain E F V Dechaineaux, RAN.
- 2 officers and 25 men of HMAS *Australia* were buried ~~at~~ sea in position” in Lingayen Gulf, including one designated ~~position~~ unknown”.
- 2 men of HMAS *Arunta* were buried ~~at~~ sea in position” in Lingayen Gulf.
- 1 officer and 16 men of HMAS *Australia* were recorded as ~~missing~~ presumed killed”.

There were twelve members of the RAAF who went missing or were killed in ~~the~~ Philippines area”, although none are buried in the Philippines:

- Warrant Officer Hayden Rawson (~~accidental~~” death at Leyte, 13 November 1945) was buried in the Sai Wan War Cemetery, Hong Kong.
- Flight Sergeant John Pflaum (~~accidental~~” death, 15 November 1945) and Leading Aircraftman William Barham (No.3 Airfield Construction Squadron; killed in ~~ground~~ battle” on Mindoro, 16 December 1944) were buried in the Labuan War Cemetery, Malaysia.
- Nine members are commemorated on the Labuan Memorial to the Missing.

No Australian Army personnel died in the Philippines whilst serving with the liberation forces, but two Australian Army personnel are known to have died in the Philippines during the war. They were escaped prisoners who joined the guerrilla force in the southern Philippines (the 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment)¹⁹:

Lieutenant Charles Arthur Wagner DCM²⁰, ex-2/18th Australian Infantry Battalion: transferred from Changi with a work party to Berhala Island, North Borneo; commenced an escape in a party of eight on 4 June 1943²¹; fled Berhala in a party of five on 26 June 1943 and reached Tawi-Tawi Island in the Sulu Archipelago ten days later. Participated in operations against pro-Japanese Moro tribesmen on Tawi-Tawi and, from October 1943, on Mindanao. Killed-in-action by a sniper during a Japanese attack at Liangan, Lanao Province, Mindanao on 21 December 1943²².

Sergeant Rex Nelson Butler²³, ex-8th Division Ammunition Sub Park: escaped from Sandakan to Berhala Island, North Borneo and fled Berhala in a party of three on 4 June 1943²⁴ for Tawi-Tawi

19 A party of 8 men participated in operations with the 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment (commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Suarez) against pro-Japanese Moro tribesmen on Tawi-tawi and, from October 1943, on Mindanao. Three of the survivors were extracted by US Submarine to Darwin in March 1944; the remaining three stayed in Mindanao until the end of the war. Refer Nelson, H. *Prisoners of War: Australians under Nippon*, pp. 110-117.

20 Awarded the DCM posthumously for ~~coolness, courage & devotion on 27th Jan 1942~~” *London Gazette* 10 Jan 46, p.380; *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* 31 Oct 46, p.3047) and a posthumous MID for ~~Distinguished service in South-west Pacific area~~” (*London Gazette* 14 Feb 46, p.947; *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* 21 Feb 46, p.408).

21 Escaped with Captain Ray Steele (2/15th Field Regiment) and Lieutenant Rex Blow and Miles Gillon (2/10th Field Regiment) also originally from Changi; Walter Wallace (the survivor of a three-man escape attempt from Sandakan); Private Jock McLaren, Sapper Jim Kennedy and Rex Butler (an independently prepared escape team from Sandakan).

22 Sai Wan War Cemetery, Hong Kong (I.B.6).

23 Awarded the MID posthumously for ~~Distinguished service in South-west Pacific area~~” (*London Gazette* 14 Feb 46, p.947; *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* 21 Feb 46, p.408).

24 Escaped with Private Jock McLaren and Sapper Jim Kennedy of ‘EForce’ from Sandakan.

Island. Participated in operations against pro-Japanese Moro tribesmen on Tawi-Tawi and was killed in action during an attack at Dungan River on 18 August 1943²⁵.

A significant number of Australians died when the *Montevideo Maru* was sunk by a US submarine northwest of the northern tip of Luzon. The 7,267 ton SS *Montevideo Maru* was a former passenger cargo freighter which had been chartered by the Imperial Japanese Navy as a naval auxiliary. She departed Rabaul on 22 June 1942 carrying 1,053 prisoners – members of Lark Force (the 2/22nd Battalion Group AIF) plus 133 Australian soldiers of the 1st Independent Company, 30 Scandinavian seamen from the MV *Herstein* and 208 civilians and missionaries – for transfer to another Prisoner-of-War Camp on Hainan Island, off the South China Coast²⁶. On 1 July 1942, as the *Montevideo Maru* passed 70 nautical miles northwest of Cape Bojeadó at the northernmost tip of the Philippine island of Luzon, she was struck by two torpedoes on her starboard quarter, fired by the American submarine USS *Sturgeon* (SS187) operating out of Fremantle, Western Australia. There were no survivors: all prisoners died at sea, locked in the hold of the cargo ship. The incident was recorded in the Log Book of USS *Sturgeon*, although the fact that the *Montevideo Maru* was carrying Allied prisoners was apparently not known at that time. The Japanese Navy Department reported the sinking to the Prisoner of War Information Bureau in Japan on 6 January 1943 and provided a complete nominal roll of those onboard – but this roll received no attention until it was discovered by Australian officer in the files of the Bureau in September 1945. Its existence was officially reported on 6 October and telegrams notifying families were sent immediately after.

Angeles City north of Manila dates back to a small village established in 1796, which in 1829 was designated as a municipality, named *El Pueblo de los Angeles* (“the Town of Angels”). Angeles was the home of Aguinaldo’s government in 1899, and the Old Pamintuan Residence was used as a headquarters by both General Emilio Aguinaldo and General Arthur MacArthur. The town prospered under American patronage, with both an air base and a naval base at nearby Subic Bay. Following World War 2, the US was granted territorial integrity over both Clark Field and the Subic Bay naval base which it retained for over four decades. The city of Angeles, with its long association with Clark Field in particular, has become home for a variety of veterans’ associations who are active in both commemoration and welfare. The American Legion has two posts in Angeles (Post 10 and Post 123), and the Veterans of Foreign Wars has VFW Post 2485 located in Angeles and VFW Post 11447 located at Matain in Subic. Retirees Activities Offices in Angeles and Subic provide outpost services for the US Embassy in Manila, with a US Embassy Field Warden resident in Angeles. Angeles City Sub-Branch of the Returned & Services League is one of the very few accredited sub-branches outside of Australia, and among its members are several Consular Wardens appointed by the Australian Embassy in Manila.

Given the vast number of Japanese troops stationed in the Philippines during the occupation period, three circumstances should present as no surprise: that many fathered children during their occupation duty, that strong bonds of friendship within the community were established, and that many veterans remained in the Philippines after the surrender.

These circumstances came to popular attention again in 2005, when one resident of Cabanglasan town in Mindanao in the southern Philippines showed the media a Japanese flag bearing the names of more than 30 soldiers which had been stationed in the area during the war²⁷. The granddaughter of a Japanese soldier who still carries the family name of Nagaki, she said she

25 Sai Wan War Cemetery, Hong Kong (II.B.5). His father had been a soldier during the Boer War, and he had six uncles serve during World War 2.

26 Refer: “Rabaul 1942: the Sacrifice of John Eshott Carr (1922-1942)”. *Sabretache*, XLV (April-June 2004): 11-18.

27 *The Manila Times*, 1 June 2005.

was given the flag in 2002 by a Japanese veteran who had stayed behind after the surrender and lived within the local community. A local Filipino truck driver in General Santos City, Alberto Lorenzo, recalled meeting on Mount Matutum in the mid-1990s an elderly man who looked Japanese, widely reputed within the B'laan tribal community as former Japanese soldier²⁸. He had small Japanese flag tattooed on his right shoulder, and in 1996 when he took some elderly Japanese tourists to meet the man, they freely conversed in Japanese.

Similarly, Zagu Kawari of the Imperial Japanese Army was a member of the occupation army on Mindanao during the war²⁹. He remained in Mindanao after the war and married a girl from Malapatan, a member of the B'laan mountain tribe, one of the indigenous peoples of Southern Mindanao who were originally concentrated in Davao del Sur and South Cotabato. Zagu and his bride Tameng Kawari raised a family in Sarangani near General Santos City. When he died, the veteran soldier Zagu Kawari was buried in the yard of the family home but sadly the wooden name-marker is long gone, and his uniform and accoutrements repose in his grand-daughters' memories only. His family, through his son, still bears his name today, and his genes live on in his great-granddaughter whose distinctively asiatic face has earned her the family nickname –Baby Japanese”.

In 2005 it was reported that the 78 year old tribal chief Tanao Bantilan Tao from Glan in South Cotabato, also of the B'laan tribe in Mindanao, was the son of a Japanese soldier named Hiyoiko Tao³⁰. His father had actually migrated to Mindanao in the 1920s, as did many Japanese, to work as a labourer on a plantation run by the US Commonwealth Government. Hiyoiko Tao married a B'laan woman and settled as a farmer in Glan. With the coming of war, Hiyoiko Tao was conscripted into the Imperial Japanese Army as an interpreter for the occupation force in Glan. Many Filipinos suspected that the Japanese workers who had come out in the 1920s were infiltrators, and Tao was subsequently captured by Filipino guerrillas. Despite having lived in the Philippines for twenty years and having an established family, at the end of the war he was forcibly deported to Japan where he worked as a farmer until dying of cancer in 1956. His son, Tanao Bantilan Tao, learned of his father's death in 1974 from a Japanese television crew. He subsequently became head of the Philippine Nikkeijinkai, an association formed in 1968 for the descendants of the Japanese. In this capacity, he searched for Japanese military stragglers throughout Mindanao in 1998 but found none.

Modesto Hiroshi was the son of a Japanese-Filipino father, whose father had settled in the southern Philippines in 1930³¹. Hiroshi claimed his grandfather was an Imperial Army Colonel who worked with six other Japanese officers as carpenters, pre-positioned prior to the invasion; his grandfather was subsequently executed by Filipino guerrillas.

Similar to Hiyoiko Tao's tale is the story of the Japanese trader Zenjiro Takahashi and his B'laan wife, who was among the first to clear virgin land and plant crops in what is now South Cotabato Province. By 1940, land in this area was being distributed by the Philippines Commonwealth government to Christian settlers who were brought by boat from Luzon and the Visayas, establishing the settlement known as Polomolok. There were so many Japanese plantations labourers in the early 20th century that Davao for example, gained the title *Ko Nippon Koku* [–Little Japan”]. The Japanese connection with Mindanao is strong today, with two Japanese-aided schools being established in Davao, the –Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai International School” and the –Mindanao Kokusai Daigaku” (Mindanao International College).

28 <http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20050531f1.html>, 31 May 2005.

29 Ms Monica Kawari, Manila: pers comm, 03-09 May 2010. Ironically, –Kawari” means –ehange” in Japanese.

30 Mynardo Macaraig, AFP, 4 June 2005; *The Sunday Times* (Philippines), 5 June 2005.

31 <http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20050531f1.html>, 31 May 2005.

Like many Filipino residents – Daniel Dizon, a descendent of the first land-owner in Angeles and the first Mayor of Angeles City – established strong bonds of friendship with the Japanese forces. As a young boy in 1944, Dizon spent much time interacting with the members of the *kamikaze* (Divine Wind) squadrons based at the former Clark Field north of Manila³². The first Special Attack Force [*Tokko-tai*] was raised by Vice-Admiral Takijiro Onishi in the Mabalacat area of Pampanga, northern Luzon, on 20 October 1944. The first to volunteer were 23 fliers of the 201st Air Group of the First Air Fleet, Imperial Japanese Navy [*Nihon Kaigun*], who were at that time stationed at Mabalacat under Captain Sakae Yamamoto. This first *kamikaze* group was called the Shimpu Special Attack Corps, and was commanded by Lieutenant Yukio Seiki³³. They operated from a number of airfields around the Clark/Pampanga area: Kamikaze East Airfield (Barangay Cacutud, Mabalacat); Kamikaze West Airfield (Mabalacat); Kamikaze South Airfield and Kamikaze North Airfield (vicinity of Angeles City, Pampanga). These airfields closed on 10 January 1945, when *kamikaze* operations were transferred to Taiwan; American liberation forces captured the airfields on 28 January 1945. The young Dizon developed strong bonds of friendship with the aviators and ground crew, and watched them take-off on every mission, and then expectantly await their return. In his later life, as a graduate of a Fine Arts Academy, among various artworks he produced portraits from memory of members of the *Shikishima* Unit of the *Shimpu* Special Attack Corps.

As recently as 2005, strong claims were made of two elderly Japanese veterans from the 30th (Panther) Division still living in remote mountains of Mindanao near General Santos City³⁴. The media quoted Goichi Ichikawa, aged 89 and a veteran of the 30th Division as knowing of at least three former Japanese soldiers still living in Mindanao. Japan's Army Ministry records were quoted as indicating that only 3,000 of an original force of 12,000 in the 30th Division returned home – 80% were listed as dead or missing. A Japanese timber businessman in Mindanao known as Asano claimed he had heard, third-hand, of two veteran soldiers still living in the area but no-one in this chain of reporting had actually met or seen them. The Japanese media went as far as naming the two alleged stragglers. They had apparently become separated from the main body of their force in 1945 and feared facing a court-martial if they presented themselves, so they had settled within the communities of mountainous Mindanao. However no documents or photographs were presented, the stragglers were never seen, and the Japanese Embassy in Manila eventually down-played the suggestion. Although based on historical reality, the story was ultimately denounced as a hoax by the Japanese government.

The last verified soldier to emerge from the Philippine jungle was Lieutenant Hiroo Onoda, a former intelligence officer, who continued to live in a cave on Snake Mountain on Lubang Island, Occidental Mindoro until he emerged on 10 March 1974³⁵. The garrison on Lubang, southwest of Manila in the channel between Luzon and Mindoro, vigorously opposed the American landings on 28 February 1945. Onoda had been ordered to stay behind to spy on the American liberation forces, and to avoid capture at all costs. After the American withdrawal, there were four Japanese remaining on Lubang who survived by living off the land and raiding farms: one surrendered to the local police in January 1950, one was shot dead in 1954 by police attempting to arrest him, and the third was killed by police in October 1972.

32 Mr Daniel Dizon, Angeles City: pers comm, 6 January 2007.

33 The *Shimpu* Special Attack Corps was divided into four units: the *Shikishima* Unit, the *Yamato* Unit, the *Asahi* Unit and the *Yamazakura* Unit.

34 *The Manila Times*, 28 May 2005; *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, 28 May 2005, 29 May 2005; *The Philippine Star*, 28 May 2005, 29 May 2005, 31 May 2005; *The Sunday Times* (Philippines), 29 May 2005; www.SikhSpectrum.com Quarterly Issue No.21, August 2005.

35 *Philippines Daily Express*, 11 Mar 74, 12 Mar 74.



The Philippines has a tradition of presenting medallion-like tokens on neck ribbons to visiting dignitaries, which are worn for the duration of the visit or ceremony. This medallion was presented to Philippine and foreign dignitaries attending the ceremonies in Iloilo in March 2005 marking the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Panay, Romblon and Guimaras Islands

When he eventually emerged, Lieutenant Onoda was unaware that Japan had surrendered 29 years earlier.: he believed Japan was still at war, and did not surrender until the Japanese Government flew out his former Commanding Officer to convince him – Major Taniguchi was running a bookshop in Nagano when he was asked to fly to Lubang and formally order Onoda to surrender. A display of Onoda's weapon, implements and letters can be seen at the new Philippine Air Force Museum in Pasay City, Manila, which opened in 2007.

Nevertheless, over the years, rumours have persisted of Japanese veterans still in hiding throughout Mindanao. Undoubtedly these stories are based on fact: a pre-war Japanese trader or farmer conscripted into the army, or a member of the occupation force itself, wounded or separated from the main force, unable or simply reluctant to surrender, who settled into agricultural life with a local wife. Equally fascinating to the treasure-hunters have been the tales of gold-laden caves scattered throughout the Philippines, some apparently still untouched since 1945 despite exhaustive searches (by treasure-hunters, Presidents and the military). In combination, a lucrative opportunity arose following the surrender of Lieutenant Onoda for those who would claim to be the son or grandson of a veteran still living in the mountains, seeking cash loans from tourists which they would later repay with hoarded wartime gold.

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Obituary

Major E W O (Warren) Perry, MBE ED BEc (Sydney) MA (Melb) Litt D (Melb)
 28 January 1909 – 7 November 2010
 Federal President, Military Historical Society of Australia - 1964-68
 Honorary Life Member, Military Historical Society of Australia since 1969



It is with great sadness that we mark the death of the oldest member of the Society, Doctor (and Major) Warren Perry. Few Australian scholars and historians could equal his assiduous approach to his life and work. For example, Warren gained his Doctorate from The University of Melbourne in his 93rd year - by examination!

Many will know of Warren because of his centenary history of the (alas now defunct) Naval & Military Club. The Club was closely aligned with the USI of Victoria, particularly in its early days, and his book shows how much of our history was intertwined. He documented this book in such detail that military writers still consult it for its accurate footnotes that give brief biographies of otherwise obscure colonial Victorian officers. He wrote several other books (including the history

of the Ballarat School of Mines and Industries and the history of the Science Museum) and many articles mostly on military topics.

He was a historian used to the methodical habits of what now may be a past era. His voluminous handwritten notes, multiple cards and folders all were supplemented by his prodigious memory. He could reach back into Australia's military history at a personal level. He would correct the common pronunciation of Monash's surname, tell you that Chief of the General Staff Sir Julius Bruce collected books about Samuel Pepys, and tell second-hand yarns about General 'Curly' Hutton. In this he was without equal.

Warren was a Militia Gunner officer from September 1930. During the Second World War he was Adjutant 102nd Tank Attack Regiment, as Adjutant raised 20th Field Regiment, was seconded to the AIF in August 1942 and then became successively Staff Captain (MS) HQ Second Australian Army, Staff Captain (MS) HQ New Guinea Force, Staff Captain "A" HQ New Guinea Force and then as Temporary Major Deputy Assistant Adjutant General of 4th Australian Base Sub-Area and Deputy Assistant Adjutant General HQ Second Australian Army.

In the 1960s he spent more than a decade in ASIO in charge of its registry – a most responsible position.

Warren's knowledge of the German General Staff and the associated literature prior to the First World War was unrivalled. He had served as Federal President of the Military Historical Society of Australia and was made a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria at the same time as Geoffrey Blainey. He donated many of his valuable manuscripts to the State Library of Victoria. There was little that could be done to alleviate Warren's increasing blindness and this affliction caused him to cease his writing in the last few years. He will be remembered as one of the founding fathers of Australian military history.

Major General Mike O'Brien (Ret'd)

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