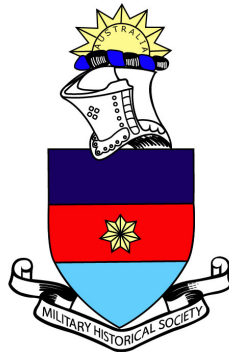


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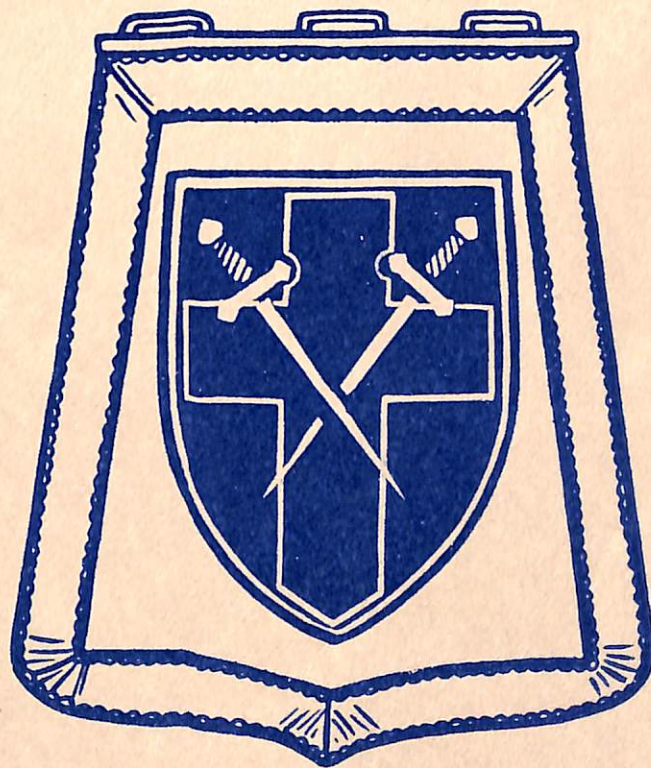
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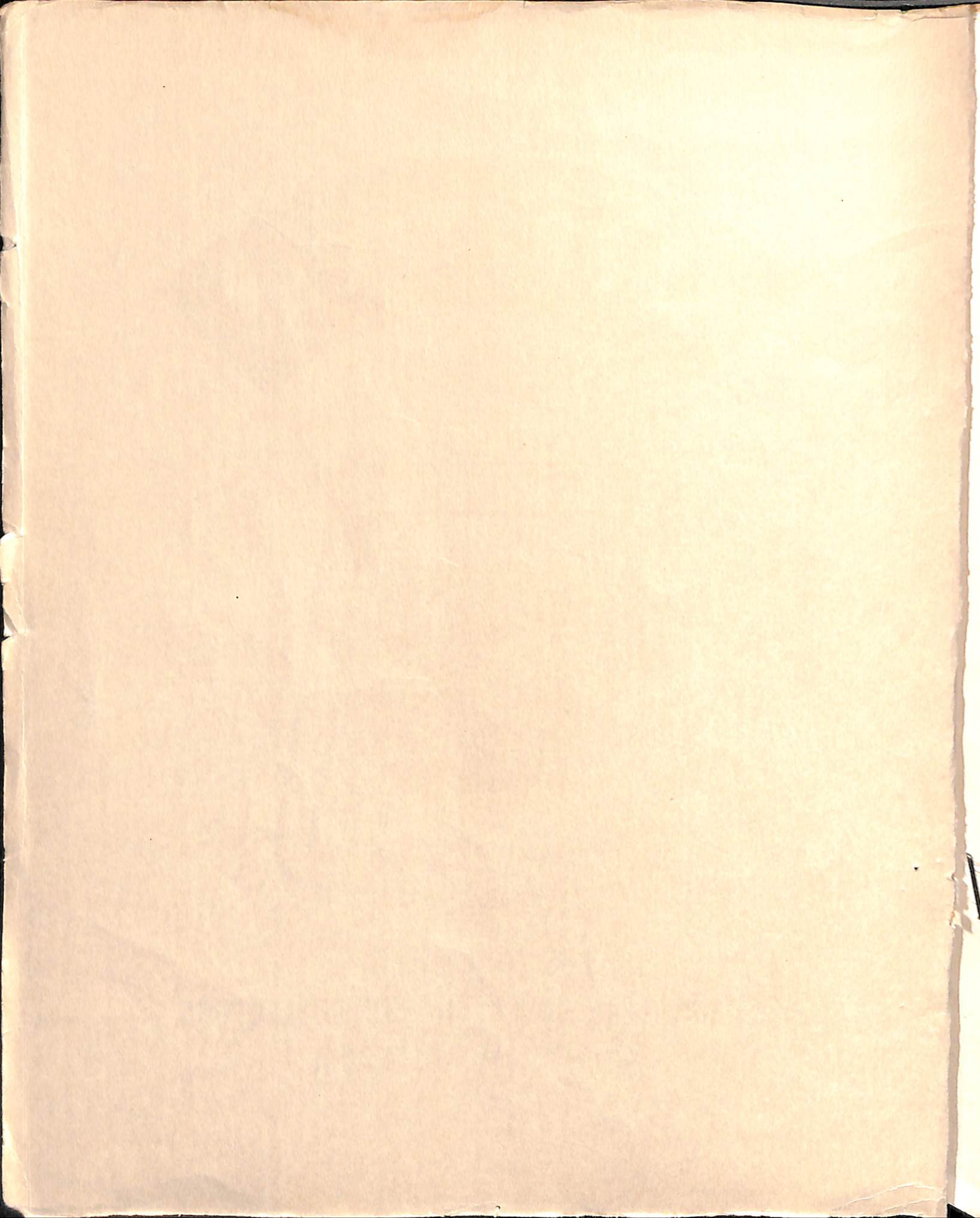


THE JOURNAL OF
THE MILITARY RESEARCH AND COLLECTORS
SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

VOL. VI

JULY, 1963

No. 1



SABRE TACHE

The Journal of the

MILITARY RESEARCH AND COLLECTORS SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA.

VolVI

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July 1963

No.1.

HONORARY OFFICE BEARERS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30th June 1964.

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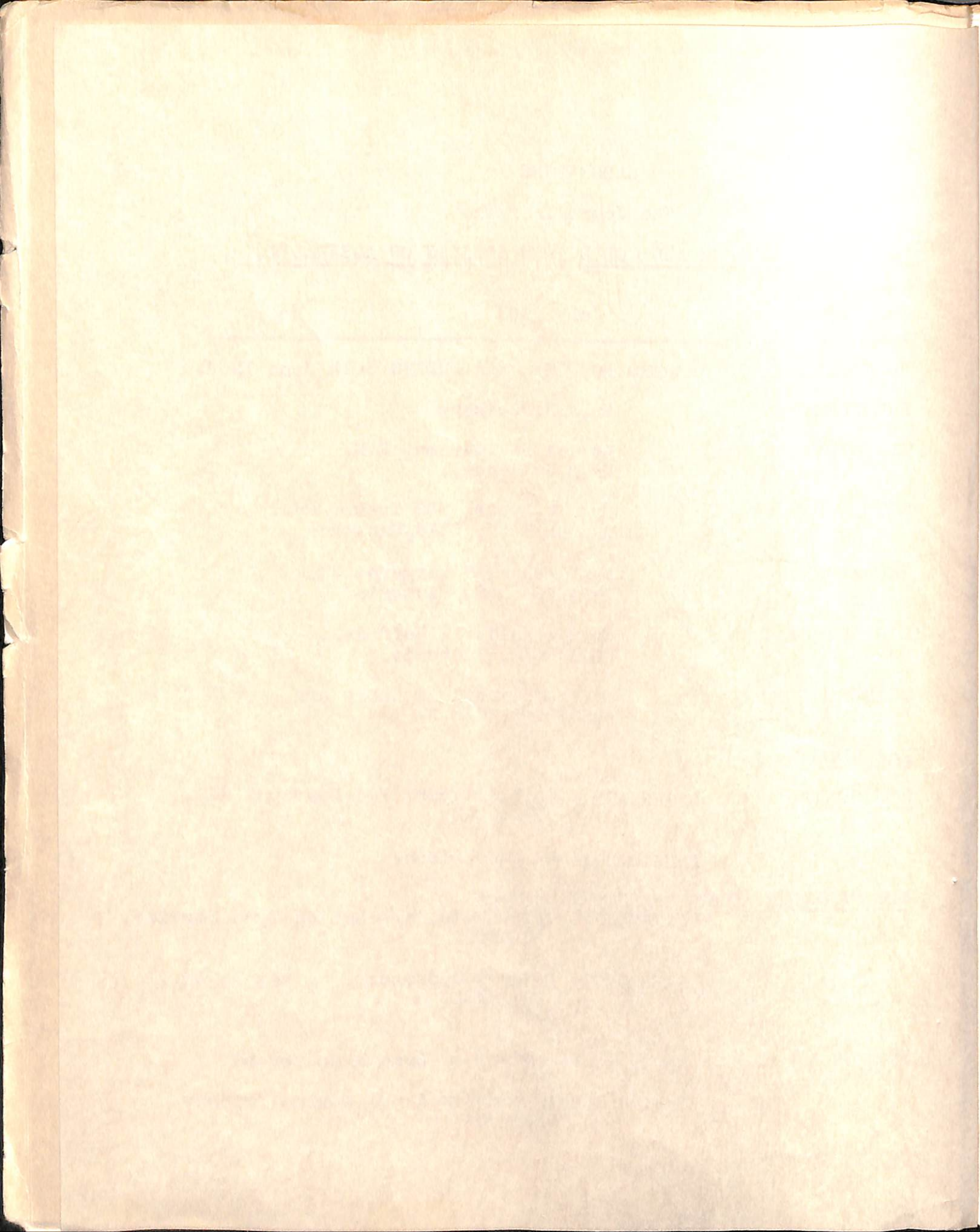
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RED HILL.

MEETING TIMES.

Refer to Secretary of Branch concerned.

Meetings held monthly in Melbourne, Sydney
and Canberra.



THE EARLY DEFENSE FORCES IN VICTORIA (CONTINUED).NAVAL FORCES.

The origin of the Victorian Naval Forces can be traced to the Crimean War, when, in January 1854, a Select Committee was appointed by the Victorian Parliament to take into consideration the manner in which the colony might be attacked. This Committee recommended, amongst other things, that the Imperial Government should be applied to for a ship of war.

Melbourne, at this time, which saw less of the British Squadron, was just then storing and exporting great quantities of gold. The only vessel then available was the S.S. "ELECTRA", a small sailing vessel, with a few marines on board.

The Committee further recommended that Captain Lockyer, R.N., should proceed in the fitting up of a wooden steam vessel as an auxiliary. This was subsequently known as the sloop "TICHOHALL", a 500 twin screw steamer, armed with six 32 pounder guns and a 9 foot 6 inch swivel gun. The vessel arrived in Hobson's Bay on 31st May, 1856, under the command of Captain Norman, R.N., it was eventually sold in 1883, and broken up in 1894.

In May 1868, Mr. G. Verdon was commissioned by the Government to proceed to London in connection with matters respecting defences of Victoria, including the obtaining of an ironclad war ship. One of the results of his negotiations was the presentation to the colony of a line-of-battleship, the "NELSON", launched in 1814, which was to be used as a training vessel in time of peace. The "NELSON" was a wooden steam frigate of 2730 tons, mounting two 7 inch and nineteen 24 pounder guns. She was formerly a two-decker steamship, but was cut down to a frigate at a cost of £40,000; her crew numbered 62 all ranks. The colony undertook to defray the cost of the outfit and the expenses incidental to the voyage to Victoria, and likewise to provide for the equipment and maintenance of the vessel after her arrival. The "NELSON" arrived in Hobson's Bay in 1868.

On the 9th April, 1871, the "CINCINNATI", a then very up-to-date turret ship (the ironclad referred to in the negotiations made by Mr. Verdon) arrived in Hobson's Bay under the command of Captain Panter, who had been sent to England to take charge of the vessel during her voyage out. The "CINCINNATI" was an armour plated double screw turret ship of 2,137 tons, mounting four 10 inch 18 ton guns. Her crew was 124 all ranks. For many years she was the "Flagship" of the Victorian Navy, and now reposes as a breakwater on the Black Rock Beach.

Towards the end of 1884, Captain A. B. Thomas, R.N., who had been selected as Naval Commandant, arrived in the Colony with two gun boats, the "Victoria" and "Albert".

"THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE, IN BRIEF AND THEIR UNIFORMS.

(from material supplied by the R.C.M.P. - submitted by-
Eric Wiseman.)

On May 23, 1873, by an Act of Parliament, the North West Mounted Police came into being "to prevent bloodshed and preserve order." Its duties were to suppress the whiskey traffic which flourished between Indian and white, to collect customs dues, to calm the growing unrest among the Indians and to stamp out lawlessness.

As a first mission, on July 1874, a force 300 strong with waggons, cattle, a few fieldpieces and some agricultural equipment, including a mowing machine, left Dufferin, Manitoba. It headed west to Fort Whoop-up, a stronghold of whiskey-traders and such like.

It had a pretty tough time and found the Fort almost deserted. However, during that trip, relations with various Indian Tribes were established and law and order, which had practically vanished, was gradually re-established.

Members of the N. W. M. P. fought in several Indian wars of greater or lesser size, as well as serving with Canadian forces in both World Wars, being given leave of absence for the purpose.

In 1904 the force became known as the Royal North West Mounted Police; and assumed its present title in 1920. It now operates criminal investigation branches and all other branches of a modern police force, including a marine section. While it is highly motorised, the Force still trains its recruits to ride.

(In case anyone is thinking of joining, pay starts at 3,700 per year and goes up to 17,500 dollars.)

UNIFORMS & ARMS.

When the detachment left Dufferin they wore loose-fitting scarlet Norfolk jackets, steel-grey or flesh-coloured breeches, black Wellington top boots and spurs, white buckskin gauntlets and dull-white cork helmet. Gold lace alone distinguished officers from men.

Each man was armed with a heavy .450 Deane and Adams revolver, and a .577 Snider carbine. The revolver was carried in approved cavalry fashion, on the left side, butt to the front, and the carbine in a saddle bucket. As with other Cavalry units, the carbine was subsequently tried in other places from time to time, but finally returned to the bucket.

A troop of twenty picked men carried lances in order to impress the Indians.

The Norfolk jacket was soon replaced by a shorter, closer-fitting tunic, and the "pill-box" hat the Force had acquired - another cavalry affectation of the time - was gradually discarded in favour of broad brimmed felt hats.

The Deane and Adams revolvers were replaced by .45 Colts and Enfields and, in 1851, these were replaced by the Smith and Wesson .33 special. The 1876 Winchester replaced the Snider around 1873, and this was replaced by the .303 Ross in 1905 and the Lee-Enfield in 1914.

Another early change was from the grey and flesh-coloured breeches to blue pantaloons with broad yellow stripes. A colourful uniform patterned after that of the 13th Hussars was prescribed for officers about the same time.

Now, in addition to the "review" order uniform of felt hat with leather band, scarlet tunic with blue facings, blue breeches with yellow stripe, brown boots and Sam Browne, the Force wears "service" order in which the scarlet jacket is replaced by a brown jacket, khaki shirt and blue tie, and "undress" order which includes brown jacket and trousers and black boots. Saddle blankets are blue with yellow border and the connected letters MR.

BADGE: In an oval belt surmounted by a crown, the face of a North American bison; on the belt the motto "MAINTIENS LE DROIT; the whole within a wreath of maple leaves; and with the words "ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE" on a four-part scroll beneath.

.....

SUBSCRIPTIONS

BECAME DUE AND PAYABLE ON THE 1ST JULY. ARE YOU PAID UP?

A strong membership will assist us in our ultimate goal of printing properly SABRETACHE.

THE CANADIAN AIR FORCE.

Motto; "SIC ITUR AD ASTRA" (This is the way to the stars).

Uniform : Navy blue.

Badge : The letters "CAF" superimposed upon a maple leaf , flanked by upswept wings, surmounted by a crown, with the motto on a three-part scroll beneath. White metal. Officers collar badge has a bronze maple leaf with a red silk "cap" to the crown, and is mounted upon a piece of black cloth cut to shape. This is a handsome badge.

Buttons : White metal, showing the badge design less scroll.

BRIEF HISTORY.

Canada saw the birth of flight on 23rd February 1909, when J.A.D. McCurdy successfully flew the "Silver Dart" at Bras d'Or Lakes, Cape Breton. The machine was powered by a Curtiss water-cooled engine, and the flight was conducted by the recently-formed "Aerial Experiment Association", which had conducted earlier trials in the United States. In these, an important participant was Alexander Graham Bell, who had been interested in the theory of flight since 1899.

The Association, and its successor, the "Canadian Aerodrome Company" tried unsuccessfully to interest the Government in aviation right up to the outbreak of the first world war.

On September 16th, 1914, due to the efforts of Colonel Sam Hughes (Minister of Militia and Defence), the Canadian Aviation Corps was formed. It was intended to provide air cover for the Canadian Expeditionary Force, and a machine was purchased, which was crated and accompanied the First Division to England. The machine was never used, and was eventually sold as scrap. The Corps Commander had, in the meantime, resigned his commission and returned home, and the Corps ceased to exist. During its brief period of existence, one of its officers lost his life in an accident, after undergoing service experience and training with the Royal Flying Corps.

In 1915 the Army Council suggested that complete Canadian units be raised for service with the R.F.C. The Canadian Government did not take up the suggestion at that time, however.

In 1917 the R.F.C. set up an establishment in Canada for recruiting young men to train at various Canadian airfields. When America entered the war, reciprocal training was carried out of American squadrons in Canada in summer, and of the Canadians in Texas during the winter months.

During the war, a great many Canadians served with distinction in the air with the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service, and with the later Royal Air Force when it was formed on April 1st 1918. A total of over 22,000 men served with these forces during the war years.

Early in 1918, the Canadian Government finally accepted the invitation of Britain to organise its own units within the service, and two Canadian squadrons, one of fighters and the other day bombers, were formed as a Canadian wing of the R.A.F. Training of ground crew commenced in August 1918, a headquarters cadre was established in England, and officers were appointed. This force did not fly in action, however, and it was disbanded in February 1920, whilst still overseas. The Government had delayed too long, and it thus missed the chance to have a purely Canadian air service in action during the war.

In 1918 the nucleus of a Royal Canadian Naval Air Service was created for the purpose of carrying out anti-submarine patrols and convoy protection. Personnel were sent to the United States and Britain for training, and flying stations were established at Halifax and North Sydney, N.S. These were manned by elements of the U.S. Naval Flying Corps pending the arrival of the Canadians. The war ended before this eventuated, and the R.C.N.A.S. was disbanded on 5th December 1918.

In June 1919, after the disbandment of the R.C.N.A.S., and during the disbandment of the short-lived air service in Britain, the Canadian Air Board came into being, with responsibility for air defense, civil flying, and the making and policing of the necessary regulations for these matters.

In February 1920, a new Canadian Air Force was formed. Under the Air Board's legislation, its flying employes were commissioned in the C.A.F. in addition to their civil employment. In the discharge of their civil duties, the members of the C.A.F. gave the Canadian people for the first time a sense of confidence in the feasibility of civil aviation, and paved the way for the creation of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

In a defence role, however, the C.A.F. was not so impressive. The Air Board was not clear as to the best method of organising air defences; the people and the Government were predominantly anti-militaristic, and the main use of the force continued to be "civil". An Air Militia was created, but after a short period of sketchy activity, this practically ceased to exist in 1921, and it finally collapsed completely early in the next year.

The C.A.F. had been very fortunate in receiving gifts of over one hundred World War I aircraft from Britain, and also twelve American flying boats with spares, hangars etc, as well as some airships and kite balloons. This equipment proved most useful in the early work of the Force.

One of the first services to be instituted was a system of fire patrols, which proved so satisfactory that they completely replaced the previous ground lookout system. Also, in 1920, aerial mapping using photographic mosaics was commenced at Ottawa.

On 22nd September 1920 the first trans-Canada flight was commenced, and the C.A.F. took a part in this project, completing the section between Winnipeg and Vancouver on October 17th, after many incidents enroute. This was an important step in the development of civil flying in Canada. In 1921, geological reconnaissance from the air was initiated.

In November 1921, the C.A.F. adopted the R.A.F. Ensign as its flag, with 45 officers and 169 airmen parading for the ceremony of its consecration and first raising on the 30th of that month.

When the Australian Air Force became "Royal" on 15th August 1921, the Canadian Air Force decided to make application for a similar name change. Formal application was not made until 5th January 1923, and notification of the title "Royal" was made on 15th February. The title "Royal Canadian Air Force" was first used on March 13th 1923, and the use of the R.A.F. uniform and the motto "PER ARDUA AD ASTRA" initiated.

The Air Board merged into the Dept of National Defence, and all government flying became Air Force flying.

On 1st April 1924, the Canadian Government recognised the "Royal" prefix, and the official birthday of the R.C.A.F. is taken as that date.

The C.A.F. and R.C.A.F. performed a great deal of invaluable work in all fields of civil aviation development during the years between the wars, including fire-watching, exploration, meteorological flights, anti-smuggling patrols, mapping, and police and ambulance work. It is probably fair comment that, despite its fine record in wartime, the R.C.A.F. performed no duties of greater use to its homeland than did its predecessor, the C.A.F., during those years of peace.

(Taken from "The shall be wings" by Leslie Roberts. B.J.Videon).

.....

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.FOR SALE CHEAP

Model soldiers--individual figures, not boxes. Mainly Britains--metal and plastic, painted and unpainted. Original figures and conversions.

Let me know your requirements--I can probably help you.

F.B.Thornborough, 13 Haig St.,
BEXLEY, N.S.W.

WANTED.

A rifle barrel or piece thereof. Not under 7 inches long, any condition, so long as the rifling is apparent. Must be .69 inches calibre, rifled three grooves right hand.

E.Radke, 72 Bridge St., LANE COVE, NSW.

WANTED.

Helmet badge for French Armoured Corps helmet World War 2.

Peter Thornborough, 13 Haig St.,
BEXLEY, N.S.W.

WANTED.

DUTY BRASSARDS and armbands and armllets of the Australian Forces, including those of the various Service Police.

Particularly any types that are peculiar to the Australian Forces (i.e.) not similar to those of the British Army.

J.Llewallyn-Jones, P.O.Box 29, CHOMA,
Northern Rhodesia.

WANTED.

Badges of the British Air Defence Cadet Corps (forerunner to the A.T.C.)--all types except lapel badge for civvies.
Badges of the British Air Observer Corps--cloth types only.
Information on badges etc worn by R.A.F. sections of the Combined Cadet Forces, U.K.
Australian Womens Air Training Corps beret badges WW2.
Australian Flying Corps pilot wings and metal shoulder title.
R.A.A.F. four-bladed propellor sleeve badge metal Pre-WW2.
French Air Force badges other than flying wings.
Malayan Air Force pilot wings. Ceylon Air Force ditto.

B.J.Videon, 12 Noble Ave.,
PINEBURWL N.S.W.

THE U.S. ELGIN CUTLASS PISTOL.

by E.Radke.
(All Rights Reserved).

This pistol, which is an excellent example of the composite fire and edge weapon, is an authentic service arm, invented by George Elgin.

On September 8th 1837, G.B.Allen, of Springfield, Mass., U.S.A. received a contract from the U.S.Government for the manufacture of 150 of them. They were to be used as a trial issue to the U.S.Navy.

There does not appear to be any record of them having been used in actual warfare. It is said, however, that in 1838 an expedition of exploration to the South Seas took these pistols as a part of their equipment. They were used against hostile natives.

The expedition returned to the U.S.A. in 1842, and no further orders for the pistols were placed. In the absence of any recorded report as to their suitability as a service weapon, it must be assumed that they were regarded as unsatisfactory.

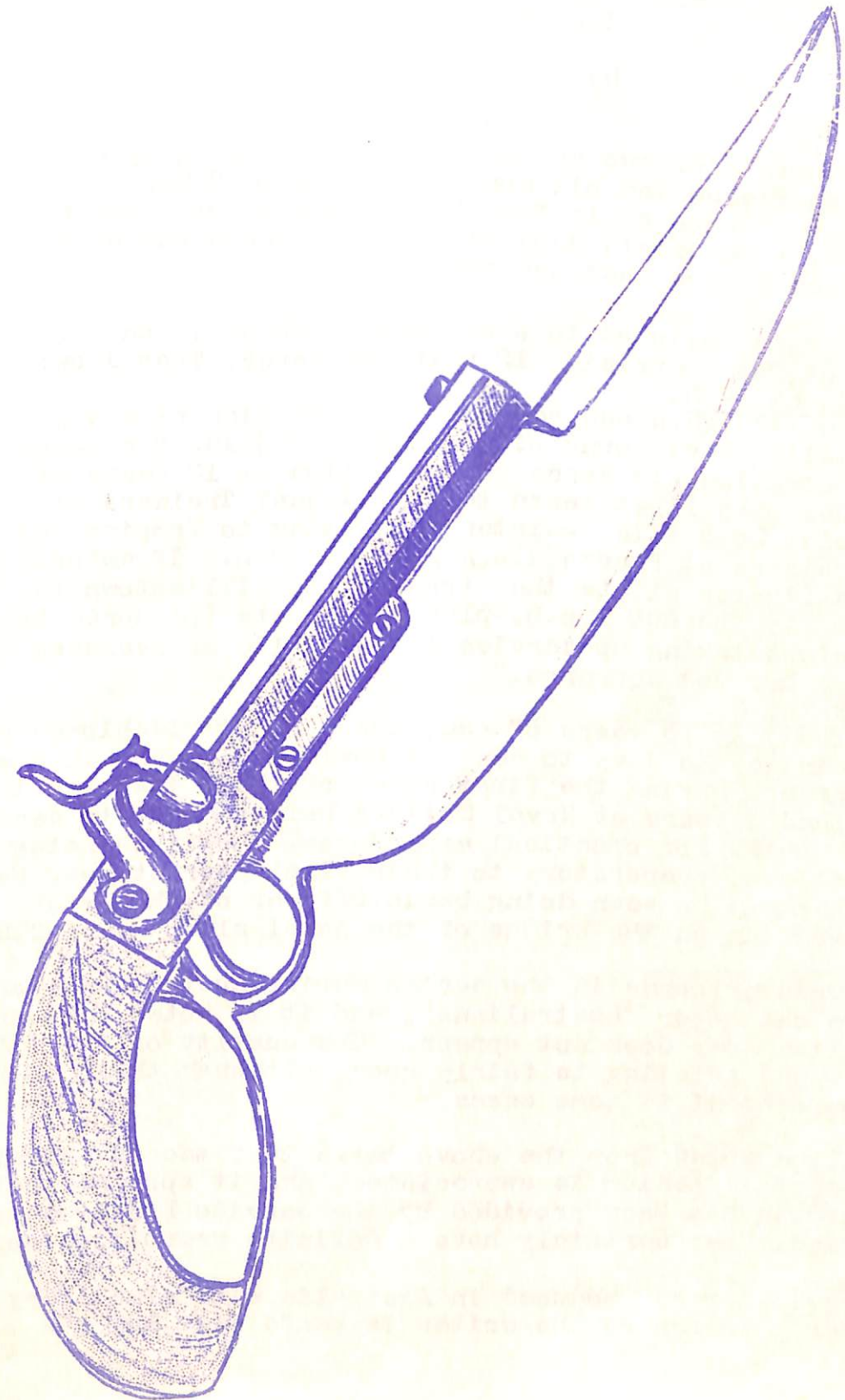
They are now regarded as a world rarity.

It would be most interesting to learn how this specimen came to be in this country. When brought to light, a year or two ago, its condition and the circumstances would indicate that it had been here for very many years. A possible theory is that the expedition had called here, while in the South Seas, and that the pistol was left behind. An equally possible explanation is that it was left in the Islands, whence several other rare specimens have been obtained.

DESCRIPTION. Smoothbore .54 Cal. octagonal barrel, 5" long. Blade foresight, no rear sight. Percussion lock, side hammer. Length 17" overall; weight $2\frac{1}{4}$ pounds. The blade is $11\frac{5}{8}$ " long, 2" wide. Walnut grips. The weapon was carried in a leather scabbard (missing), which also held the ramrod. The barrel is marked on top "ELGINS PATENT" "P M CBA 1837". The left side of the body is marked "C.B.ALLEN, SPRINGFIELD, MASS." All major parts are marked with the serial number "147".

(NOTE: Sketch opposite, from photo submitted by Mr Radke).

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A PLEA FOR A SET OF AUSTRALIAN MILITARY
ILLUSTRATIONS.

by B.J.Videon.

The appearance of two cards in a series currently distributed by Golden Fleece (an oil company) entitled "SWAP CARDS", prompts me to appeal once again for the production of a series of cards (or similar material) depicting the uniforms and equipment of Australian forces past and present.

The two cards alluded to above are numbered 1a and 1b in a series of 24, comprising 12 pairs of cards. They show:

1a. SABRE JETS.

(text) "High-speed adventure in the wide blue sky awaits every young pilot-to-be who joins the Royal Australian Air Force. On selection at 18 years of age, they first learn to fly Winjeel Trainers at Point Cook (Vic.)--later graduating to Vampire Jet Trainers at Pearce R.A.A.F. Base, W.A. If selected as fighter pilots they transfer to Williamstown (N.S.W.) to fly the 600 m.p.h.-plus Sabre Jets (pictured here), before taking up service in Australia or overseas with a Sabre Jet Squadron."

1b. NAVAL CADETS.

(text) "At 13 years of age, these cadet Midshipmen are joining the Navy to see the world...and make it their career. During the first stage of their training they spend 3 years at Naval College before going to sea for 3 months for practical experience. They then return to college, preparatory to their final year at sea. Here they can be seen doing basic Officer of the Watch training on the bridge of the naval sloop H.M.A.S. Swan."

The remaining cards in the series depict Australian sports, flowers and other "Australiana", and it is noted that the Australian Army does not appear. The quality of the illustrations and printing is fairly good, although there is room for improvement in some cases.

It will be noted from the above texts that the advertising value of this medium is appreciated, and it appears that the wording has been provided by the Service Departments concerned. They certainly have a definite recruiting appeal.

The previous card produced in Australia with a military "flavour", as far as the writer is aware, was one of a

series produced a few years ago by Atlantic (another oil company) entitled "PICTURE PACQUET", on Australian items of history. It showed a somewhat blurred picture of a few redcoats facing a distant horde, and it bore the caption "Battle of the Eureka Stockade" (an unhappy incident in Victoria's gold-rush era of the last century). The series was of interest to many junior collectors of cards, most of whom were unaware of the existence of the more polished productions of earlier years.

During the early months of the Second World War, a well-known breakfast-food company brought out a good series of cards showing Australian weapons, equipment and various aspects of military life. One or two uniform details were shown, the troops being militia. Printing was in sepia color, and of fairly good quality, on economy-quality card. The set was eagerly sought after by the young, and it doubtless did much in the cause of the patriotism which at that time was a feature of daily life. Some other quite good cards also appeared during the war years, showing war heroes, personalities, ships, and the like; most were included in sweets packets etc.

Years ago, in the days when cigarette cards were issued, sets of cards of a military character were too numerous to set out at length here. Players' "Military Headdress", Wills' "Arms and Armour", Carreras' "History of Army Uniforms", and the many sets showing badges, colours and the like, were (and still are) eagerly sought after by the cartophilist and the military collector alike.

And---wait for it!---there was even a series issued by Vice-Royal, showing AUSTRALIAN army uniforms! (this was, of course before the First World War, when sentiment was not confined to "pop" singers wailing sickly 'love-songs' to the accompaniment of a monotonous species of St.Vitus' Dance!)

Almost by accident, apparently, Players also included in their very fine series of 50 "Military Uniforms of the British Empire Overseas" three Australian uniforms. Those selected were Australian Light Horse, Royal Australian Artillery and Australian Infantry in the smart Militia uniforms introduced by 1935 Dress Regulations.

It will be noted that this (and many other) series appeared at the time of military awareness prior to the outbreak of the War.

Before the First World War, when Gale & Polden used to produce their most attractive wall charts for 1/- and 1/6 each (printed in full colour including gold), one chart entitled "Crests and Badges of our Imperial Forces" showed 10 Australian out of a total of 108 badges; while, about the time of WWI, Players' series of 25 "Colonial and Indian Army Badges" included 2 Australians...the wellknown universal pattern badge (the "rising sun"), and the old hat badge of the Australian Field Artillery, of 1903 inception.

Despite the comparative smallness of our armed forces, it does seem that they achieved scant attention from the publishers of cards etc., and this is noone's fault but our own.

It is not known why there was and is this strange reluctance to produce material of this type. Perhaps it is an attempt to convince ourselves that we are not a militarist nation. Or is it merely apathy, and lack of awareness of the part which tradition can play in building of morale in an army, and in the public which provides armies? Perhaps in war we think of our soldiers, and in times of peace we forget them?

At the present time, the Australian War Memorial, our great national museum dedicated to the memory of Australia's War dead, produces some postcards showing a few of the more excellent displays to be seen within its imposing building. The cards available serve as mementoes of a visit there, but for little else. The quality of the prints is not inspiring, and not all of the best exhibits are depicted. By contrast with the many fine picture cards produced by the English Tucks, Valentines, and even Gale & Poldens, and those of many continental countries, they are very mild fare. This is disappointing, as they could be so much better.

Here attention must once again be directed to the recent edition by the South African National War Museum of a series of really excellent coloured postcards, including three showing uniforms, and sold by them for a very modest price. These cards should do much to perpetuate the memory of the units shown in the minds of present and future generations.

In addition to cigarette and postcards, Britain has brought out many other excellent publications, such as the well-known "Wonder Books" for boys, including regularly revised editions on aircraft and ships (including the armed services concerned), and on soldiers. The wealth of detail in these is still of interest to many collectors and others. In the mid-30's there also appeared three very good books published with the approval of the Service Departments concerned, under the titles of "The King's Navy", "The King's Army", and "The King's Air Force" respectively. Well printed on strong paper, with eye-catching front covers, they were great value at 6 pence each, containing many illustrations (including badges), a useful text and captions designed to encourage interest in the services.

Germany has always been to the fore in this field, and has produced such excellent works as those by Moritz Ruhl during our Edwardian era, and, over the years, a host of fine cigarette cards and other military prints and books too numerous to mention. Readily available today in Germany are some excellent picture books and charts etc showing uniforms and badges of the present German forces.

America has also contributed during two world wars some excellent material on badges of her forces, in the well-known "National Geographic" magazine, and in sundry small booklets by commercial concerns.

Canada has also been represented, in booklets and official leaflets showing badges of her many regiments; whilst a number of recent British books and booklets have described and illustrated the uniforms, badges, traditions and history of the British Army right up to the present day.

It appears that none of the above-mentioned works of any country can be said to have caused a bad influence, nor does it appear that they were intended to do so, with the possible exception of some of the cigarette card series published in Germany prior to the Second World War. Apart from their propaganda value, however, they provide an interesting record in convenient form, of things as they were at the time.

In fact, much good may well be derived from the preservation in this way of important detail concerning, in some cases,

units with a great tradition. This type of material is most suitable for general distribution in large quantities. Such are the average military histories, for instance. There is small doubt however, that its intelligent use could serve to whet the appetite for consumption of the more comprehensive works.

Thus, it appears to the writer, both from his own observations and interests, as well as from the numbers of requests and comments by correspondents here and overseas, that Australia is sadly in need of some form, such as those mentioned above, of illustrating badges, uniforms etc of our forces from the earliest times to the present.

Perhaps never before has there been such a chance to bring to the notice of people all that is good in military history. Television has opened the way to informing people per popular medium of items of historical interest. Museums are gaining a resurgence of popularity. People are more interested in what goes on around them.

Suitable source material is in existence in many places. Old photographs, dress regulations, paintings (including the Sir Carl Jess series in particular), and the like could well supply the uniform detail. What appears to be needed is a generous allowance of uniforms, old and new, of famous or quaint corps; service, full or battle dress in use by troops engaged in a variety of occupations; items of Australian service equipment; while there is a good field to be explored in the depicting of incidents from Australian military history. A series showing regimental badges and thumbnail history would be more than welcomed by the many badge collectors, both serious and casual, whether in the services or not, here or overseas.

Not only collectors, but serving soldiers, cadets, old soldiers and their families would find much of interest in a well selected series along the above lines.

Do we realise how very little is known about our forces, even within the country? With the exception of Anzac Day, odd monuments, and the national War Memorial in Canberra (a place not able to be reached by many in our vast land), there is little to advertise our troops.

That cost need not be a deterrent is shown by the moderate price of the South African cards. A sufficiently wide distribution would reduce unit price, and this perhaps could be made possible by sales through forces canteens, R.S.L. clubs, or even through the medium of the previously-mentioned breakfast foods or sweets. Colour need not be used for badges or

historical events, provided that good printing could be achieved. Colour would be an essential feature of cards on uniforms however.

Why not military Christmas cards? These are in common use in other countries. We already have Australian flowers, Australian animals, Australian bush scenes and Australian poetry on our Christmas cards. Why not some of the defenders of Australia's liberty?

In book or booklet form, there surely would be a demand among serving men and women, cadets and all those who are interested in military matters generally, but who, for various reasons, are not actually serving in the forces. In paperback form, it is likely that a wide distribution could be effected through not only the service and ex-service bodies, but also from the stands in the many bookshops throughout the country. In many cases books of the type envisaged do not enjoy a wide sale by reason of high costs. For this reason it seems essential to keep cost to a minimum, while still preserving the worth of the publication.

Surely, somewhere among the breakfast food distributors, sweets packers, ex-servicemens and historical bodies, and the Forces' Public Relations Departments, there must be the talent and ability to produce something that will do sufficient honour not only to our wartime soldiers, sailors and airmen, but also to the many militia service men and women, and the cadets, past and present, who spend and have spent time in fitting themselves for our defence.

.....

"LES ARMÉES D'EUROPE. VOL. 1"Major J. C. Gorman.

It has been my good fortune to discover two volumes of the above work, which is undated, but inscribed (in French):-

"The Armies of Europe represented in characteristic groups, and dedicated to His Imperial and Royal Majesty, the most serene and very clement Emperor and King, NICHOLAS I, autocrat of all the Russias, by his very humble and very obedient servants H. J. Scherer and C. Weiss."

No where is there a date. The work must therefore fall between 1825 and 1855, during which period Nicholas 1st reigned. The watercolours depict soldiers fighting the French, and therefore one presumes that this work is earlier rather than later in the reign of Nicholas 1st.

The volume is breathtaking in its detail. Volume 1 deals with the Austrian Empire, the Kingdoms of Germany, and the Duchies of the present Germany. The watercolours appear to be originals, with quite a heavy overlay of gilt where necessary. Each is a separate sketch, 12 inches by 10 inches, pasted on to a page 18" x 13". These sketches are most original in pattern - a general waving off an ADC is holding up two fingers to indicate that he wants two of something. A band, marching through a town at night, is accosted by a drunken man, who is shoved aside. Gendarmes are usually engaged shooting at smugglers, villainous, unshaven, cofs.

There are pages of so-called "Apercu" - summaries of the uniforms, in the block form. These are very difficult to follow, and some of the watercolours do not exactly follow the Apercu. The sketch showing the "pr" - ie First-regiment of Austrian Lancers shows the uniform of the 3rd Regiment. There are also spelling errors - "Superieur" is spelt "Superiur" on one occasion, which lends authenticity to the volume.

Some 48 pages are devoted to the Austrian-Empire - including one startled officer who has been confronted, at his office, by a gorgeous creature who is identified as an "Auditeur". Some of these plates include more than one regiment or corps. The "Apercu" identifies every single regiment and corps of the Army. It appears that these were the cavalry regiments:- 1-8th Regts. Cuirassiers, 1-8th Regts. Dragoons, 1-7th Regts. Chevaux-Legers, 1st-12th Regts. Hussars, 1st-4th Regts. Lancers (Lanciers-not uhlan). 20 Frontier Regts, including "Hussards de Seckler" are listed with an Apercu of uniforms, and Corps without end - Battalions of Garrison, Police Guard of Vienna, Hungarian pensioners, Military Schools, and marines, amongst many others.

The Apercu of uniforms of infantry somehow finds its way into the middle of the Prussian section - it shows 58 battalions of Grenadiers listed 1st-63rd Battalions, with some omissions, and grouped into threes, with two groups of two. These groups - presumably ad hoc regiments are neither named nor numbered. The grouping is quite at random - for example, one group comprises 2nd, 32nd and 33rd battalions, another 37, 53 and 61 battalions. Shown as infantry regiments of the line are 58 regiments numbered 1 - 63, these are listed in order, and missing are 5, 6, 11, 46, 50, 55 Regts. Every regiment has different coloured facings although the difference in shade is difficult to identify.

Following the Austrians, comes the Kingdom of Saxony, (23 plates) the Duchy of Saxe-Meiningen (3 plates) Saxe-Altenbourg (3 plates) Saxe-Cobourg-Gotha (3 plates) Saxe-Weimar (3 plates) The Duchy of Holstein (12 plates) the Grosserzogthum (?) of Oldenburg (1 plate) the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg - thus spelt - (6 plates). These are followed by the Principality of Waldeck (2 plates) of Hohenzollern Hechingen (2 plates) Hohenzollern Sigmaringen (1 plate) Schwarzburg Rudolstadt (1 plate) and the Free Town of Hambourg (4 plates) the Principality of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt (1 plate) and the two plates of the Principality of Schaumbourg-Lippe. It must have been difficult to find enough principalities for all the Princes.

After this Pot-Pourri, comes the Prussians; about 30 plates. Of great interest are the Prussian Apercus, for these list organizations. For example, the 11nd Division of the Guard: - Regt. of Grenadiers of the Empress Alexandria - 3 battalions. Regt. of Grenadiers of the Emperor Francis - 3 battalions. Battalion of Chasseurs. Sgt. of (Guard) Cuirassiers - 4 squadrons. Regt. of (Guard) Dragoons - 4 squadrons. 3rd Regt. of Royal National Guard, 4th Regiment of Royal National Guards. These last two, each of 3 battalions, each shows two uniforms - one with a red cuff, and one with a white cuff. There follows the 2nd Regt. of Lancers of the Royal National Guard, of 4 squadrons, and with each squadron having an entirely different uniform - white, red, yellow and blue. The 1st Regiment, belonging to the 1st Division, almost identically matches each squadron - buttons and lace being silver against gold. Still in the 11nd Division are the following:- Single Companies of the "Regts. of Garrison" Empress Alexandria and Emperor Francis, two companies of the division of the garrison, and two companies of invalids, which seems odd. This concludes the division - 13 battalions, 12 squadrons, 6 companies. Two divisions made up the Guard Corps, and Corps troops held:- The Artillery Brigade - of 12 companies (not batteries) of foot artillery and 3 of Horse Artillery; 2 companies of the Detachment of Pioneers, 2 companies of the Regiment of Reserve, and the Gendarmerie. These Apercus show, in the above detail, the eight army corps and the Guard Corps. It is thus possible to identify every Prussian regiment and Company.

34 plates of the Kingdom of Württemberg follow (without however, any *Aperçus*). The uniforms are almost entirely brilliant royal blue faced with scarlet. There are four platoons of the *Armes Gardes*, and a number of the *Royal Chasseurs à Cheval*, who wear the usual *busby* of fur which flares out wildly from the head to form a flat top.

Trying to identify the date of the volume, I note what the Prussians include as the monogram "FW" - this is of little help, as their kings were all Frederick William. The Württembergers have a monogram "W" - this could refer to their King William I, 1816-1864, and probably does. Not much help. *Dranswickers* also wear a "W" referring to their Duke William, who rules 1831-1852. The *Prussians* also wear "FW" which must refer to Francis Ist who ruled 1806-1835. These monograms narrow the date of the volume to between 1806 and 1835.

The plates of the Principality of Reuss, in grey and royal blue, follow Württemberg and then come the *Duchy of Brunswick*, with a dozen plates. The curiosity here is the *Russian* regiment - the *dragging* across the most recent of but three years. Each row of gold cord consists of three loosely looped strands. This I have not seen elsewhere. The *Dranswickers* include the book - the title spells *Dranswick* the first time, and *Dranswe* thereafter.

As one can imagine from the foregoing, the volume is about 3 inches thick.

It being impossible to describe the multitude of uniforms in this report, allow me to describe the *Hungarian Noble Guard* of 1806.

The *Coat* is an *English* style.

Color - light brown skin, gold cords from the right center and a few cords light from the butt of the white, green faced *plume*. Green *busby* top, but no cords looped around the *busby*.

Waist-coat with 11 rows of silver cord, no loops but each row with 5 buttons.

The *lace* is curious - scrolling like the fringe of a *holland* skirt hanging. This hangs vertically down both ends of the *dragging*, and across the belly, in lieu of a belt. A silver cord lined green encases from the RIGHT shoulder. Below and to the left of light brown and, on the cuff, a V of thin green cord, lined green. This gives the impression of a *holland* in a *holland* pattern.

Collar - light skin, loops about the neck and secured with a *holland* type round clasp at the RIGHT shoulder, with a *holland* silver cord, lined green, which passes under the left arm. *Waist* - each side a *holland* cord along the previous cord. The *collar* has a *holland* white eye and is lined green.

Breeches. Scarlet with three "U s" descending inside one another, each of dangling lace, lined green. These almost amount to a U shaped apron on each thigh, and overlap the broad silver stripe on the seam, which is flanked by two very narrow silver stripes, one on each side. The bottom and largest U of dangling lace lies on a green background.

Boots. Hussar type, bright yellow, with silver edge and tassel.

The shabraque is enormous, pointed, green with 2" silver lace fingers off a thin silver edge, like a fern leaf split down the centre, the spine of the fern being the edging. Large silver devices front and back. Over this shabraque is laid a loose, irregular tiger skin.

The sabre is mameluke, highly curved, the sabretache is green, lined with 2 silver stripes and suspended by green straps, lined silver. A shell bridle and breastplate.

This volume has been borrowed and it is hoped to have the plates photographed and reproduced. If this is possible, members will be informed and may thus secure their own copies of the main plates. It is unlikely that the Apercus would reproduce, as they will be too small. If, however, members would like to know the exact composition of the Prussian Army, I will draw it up and offer it to the editor.

Volume 11 I have not yet borrowed, as I am painting my way through Volume 1 Cavalry, and have reached about the middle of the book.

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NOTES OF PLATES FROM "DER ALTE FRITZ",A LIFE OF FREDERICK THE GREAT.

Published in Berlin 1895.

Submitted by Eric Wiseman.

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Plate 12. which shows the infantry in April 1741, shows them as wearing blue coats not buttoned back; pale buff gaiters and breeches; white belts, straps and sword knot; red shoulder straps, cuffs, slashes and coatlining; brown hairskinned knapsacks; black shoes; white piping; brass buttons. White shirt cuff shows about 2". The tricorne hat is black with white edges, and a scarlet tuft, topped by a circle quartered in white and black. Sword hilt is brass, and the long pigtail white. They are carrying colours, one being white with the F.R. cipher, laurel wreath and crown in each corner, with the grenade between, and the black eagle on a green background inside a wreath in the centre. The others are identical, apart from being green where the first is white. Tassels are white. The officer is dressed in similar way to the troops but has no belts - only a white waist sash - his hat is edged with gold and has no pom-pom.

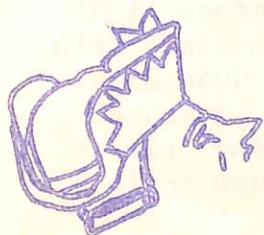
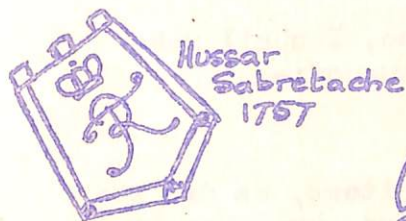
Plate 14. which represents dragoons with captured colours in June 1745, shows these cavalrymen as having white coats with scarlet facings, but white turn backs, white stock; buff breeches and waistcoat; black boots; and black hat with a black bow and gold edging; with very broad buff shoulder-belt carrying large camine. The saddlecloths and pistol covers are scarlet, with white/scarlet/white/scarlet/white $\frac{1}{4}$ " lines around the edges.

Plate 22. shows Hussars rifling a baggage waggon. They are wearing medium green jackets with white fur collar, cuffs and bottom, with white braid and piping; buff breeches, with medium green gaiters coming to about 4" from the bottom of the jacket, and a half inch white band around the top; black boots with steel heels and spurs; brown busby, with a medium green bag worn on the left, and white lines; a broad shoulder-belt with brass mounts; brown pouch and pouch-belt worn over the right shoulder. The sword is steel, with oblongs of black leather about three inches by a half inch up the centre of the scabbard, and a black sword knot. Sword and sabretache slings are brown; and the sabretache is medium green, with a three-quarter-inch white band round sides and bottom, with the F.R. cipher and crown in white. The saddle cloth is a lighter green than the uniform with a lighter green again for about 2" round the edge, divided by a white zig zag piping.

Plate 24, represents Von Sendlitz in November, 1757 throwing his pipe down to signal the start of a charge. He is wearing buff breeches with about 2" of white gaiter showing above his brown knee length boots, and a buff coat with dark blue facings and white piping. Breastplate is black, with about 1" gold edging all round, and scarlet lining also showing about 1" all round, held on by white straps with brass studs. Hat is black with black bow and white fur edging; sword knot and waist sash white; sword is brass. Scabbard is brass with black oblongs; long pigtail is black with black bow on the top; saddle cloth, pistol covers buff with white tassled edging, black and gold eagles.

Plate 39, shows a meeting between Frederick the Great and Von Zieten in November, 1760. Von Zieten is wearing Hussar uniform with dark blue jacket trimmed in grey fur, with gold braid and piping; buff breeches with dark blue gaiters up to within 4" from the bottom of his jacket, with a yellow $\frac{3}{4}$ " band on the top. Black boots have gold or yellow piping round the tops, and tassels. His busby is light brown with a red bag; sabretache is scarlet, with irregular 1" gold edging all round, and a black eagle and cipher on a gold shield in the middle. He is wearing a pale grey cloak. Sword is steel with white sling.

Grenadier 1757



Grenadier
Officer 1757

Mitre cap
1757



Von
Zieten
1760.

NAPOLEONIC PRIMER.By:- Eric Wiseman.

I have been finding lately, to my intense relief and gratification, that I am not the only member of the Society interested in the dim, dark days of the Napoleonic Wars. Some members even go back further than this in their interests...must be some kind of nuts.

However, I feel many members are rather frightened of stepping across the 1900 line, for fear of the complications of uniforms, etc. 'way back there.' Things were a little more complicated then, of course, but that only increases the satisfaction of finding out about them.

And, of course, nearly everyone specialises in a certain country and, often, in a very narrow period. Clem Sargent, down in Canberra, for instance, is only interested in the Peninsular campaigns, and he views earlier and later (even if only by a year or so) periods with a cold eye. Don Kennedy prefers the late eighteenth century, and isn't frightfully keen on Waterloo, in which many others are interested. These two, like myself, are mainly interested in the British Army, but we are far outnumbered by those interested in the French army with its more colourful uniforms.

Uniforms in the 1800-1815 period, I think, had attained a neatness and practicability while still being colourful. Before then they were rather formless, and after then too fancy for a period, and then far too plain.

In order to help some of those who would like to plunge into this period, but who are scarce on details, I intend running a series of brief articles on uniforms of the era.

Since this foreword has taken up so much space, I shall make this issue's description brief and describe the uniforms of:-

AUSTRIAN INFANTRY IN 1815.

The line infantry wore breeches with short gaiters, as did the jaegers. Gaiters were black right through. Grenadier breeches were sky-blue (with yellow Austrian knot and piping); jaeger breeches light blue-grey; and "ordinary" infantry white. Coats were short-tailed, with stand-up collars cut away at an angle of about 45 degrees. Grenadiers and "ordinary" infantry wore white with varying colour duffs, turnbacks, piping (light red and orange were two colours), the same colour worn on all items. Jaeger coats were light blue-grey with light green facings.

All wore fawn packs and light grey blanket rolls. Jaegers had black leather belts, etc., the rest white. Buttons and so on were brass or steel.

It was in the headgear the main differences were seen. The jaegers wore a sort of shake with the left brim much larger than the right, turned up and tied up with cord. The hat and the nine-inch high plume which appears to have been attached to the left side of the top, were all black.

The grenadier's head-piece was a much more colourful affair. It was a high bearskin, something like a British Guardsman's but some what flatter back to front and with a brass-edged peak. It was black with a brass plate on front, a sprig of green leaves on the right and a parabolic-shaped patch on the back with light-red and white horizontal stripes - about seven of them.

"Ordinary" infantry wore a black, slightly bell-topped shake with peak front and back. There was a three inch brass circle about the middle of the front which connected to a smaller brass circle, half standing out from the top, by a brass loop. Both circles had black centres. A sprig of green leaves was worn from the top of the top circle.

Officers wore longer tailed coats and breeches of the same colours as their men. They wore boots coming to within an inch or two of the bottom of the knee. Sashes, belts, buttons, sword hilts and knots were gold. Sword scabbards were steel (the men's bayonet scabbards were black with brass tips). Officer's headgear was the same as the men's but with gold ornaments. Some wore cocked hats, also with gold ornaments.

A.C.T. BRANCH NOTES
1st Sept. 1963.

By T.C. Sargent.

The Australian Capital Territory Branch of the Society was formed in Canberra in May 1963, at a meeting attended by local Society members, and the President and members of the New South Wales Branch. At this meeting, Major T.C. Sargent was elected President of the A.C.T. Branch, and Mr K.R. White as Secretary/Treasurer.

Three monthly meetings have since been held. The first meeting dealt with administrative matters relating to the formation of the Branch; at the second Mr K. Lyon delivered a paper on "The History and Development of the Colour Patch System in the Australian Army"; and at the last meeting, Major Sargent spoke on "Some Prints of the Peninsular War Period". It is hoped that these, and future talks, will form the basis of articles to be published in the Journal.

Contact has been established with the Canberra and District Historical Society, and the Branch has been invited to provide a speaker at the Annual General Meeting of this Society on 17th September 1963, to speak on our organisation, and its aims and interests. A.C.T. Branch members have also been invited to attend the October meeting of the Historical Society when Colonel M. Austin will deliver a paper on William Minchin of the N.S.W. Corps--the 102nd Foot.

Future activities will include a visit to the Library of the Royal Military College on 21st September 1963, to inspect the Jess Collection, and a talk by Major J.B. Gale on "Medal Collecting" scheduled for the November meeting.

Branch membership is now twelve, and it is hoped that this will increase in the near future.

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"AUSTRALIAN MILITARY BIBLIOGRAPHY" by C.E. Dornbusch.

Advice has been received from Cheshire Pty Ltd that, due to a booksellers agreement, the price of this book will now be 62/6 plus postage, and not 42/- plus postage (1/2) as was previously advertised in Sabretache of April 1963.

This Society regrets the necessity for this increase in price, it being considered that high pricing must result in decreased circulation, regardless of the quality offered.

SOCIETY ELECTIONS.

Due to preoccupation with Constitutional matters affecting the future of Branches, it is regretted that the usual notice of elections was despatched too late to arrive in the hands of members prior to the closing date for the receipt of nominations.

In view of this fact, the elections were not held at the July meeting. As no further nominations were received, and the previous officebearers were nominated unopposed, they were reinstated without election. Mr Robert Powell was appointed Librarian in place of Mr M.R.Glenny, resigned.

J.K.Lyons,
Hon. Secretary.

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MILITARY RESEARCH AND COLLECTORS SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 30/6/63.

<u>RECEIPTS.</u>	£		<u>PAYMENTS.</u>
Balance brought fwd	72. 3. 5	Printing	18.11. 0
Subscriptions	123. 2.11	Stationery	28. 4. 6
Exchange/postage refunded	2.16. 4	Postage	18. 7.11
Society badges sold	2.16. 0	Trading	28.10. 0
Bank interest	3. 6.11	Bank charges	2. 7. 9
Trading	3.10. 0	Balance c.fwd	<u>111.14. 5</u>
	<u>£207.15. 7</u>		<u>£207.15. 7</u>

P.Lober, TREASURER.

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Letter to the Editor.

R.A.A.F.HISTORIES.

9th July 1963.

793 MMalcolm Rd.,
TOORAK, Victoria.

Dear Sir,

Recently, when looking through a copy of the December 1958 edition of SABRE TACHE, I noted errors on pages 3/38 and 3/43 which I am sure you will desire to correct.

A considerable amount of confusion still appears to exist with regard to the formation of Numbers 2 and 3 Squadrons Australian Flying Corps, and, as the Historian of No.3 Sqn, I feel I am in a position to clear up this point.

With regard to No.3 Sqn, the details are covered in my volume "THE BATTLE BELOW", which makes the matter clear. Relevant extracts therefrom are:

Page 20:--'Four months after the despatch overseas of No.1 Squadron, the Commonwealth Government offered to raise a second complete squadron. This offer was duly accepted, and the organisation of No.2 Squadron (later known as No.69 Australian Squadron, Royal Flying Corps, and, still later, as No. 3 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps) was commenced without delay.

.....
The Squadron was assembled and organised in the Australian Imperial Force camp adjacent to the Central Flying School at Point Cook.

.....
.....at 5.30 a.m. on the 25th October 1916, the Squadronmarched out from camp at Point Cook, and proceeded via road and rail to Port Melbourne, where it embarked in troopship A.38, better known as S.S.Ulysses of the Blue Funnel Line.'

Page 22:--'On arrival in England the nomenclature of the Squadron was changed from No.2 Squadron Australian Flying Corps, under which title it sailed from Australia, to No.69 (Australian) Squadron, Royal Flying Corps.'

Page 26:--'On the last day of March, the nomenclature of the Squadron was changed for the second time, a War Office memorandum of that date notifying the unit that in future it would be known as No.69 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps.'

Page 50:--'The early days of 1918 witnessed another change in the designation of the Squadron, for on 20th January, a letter was received from Headquarters, Royal Flying Corps, to the effect that the Squadron designation had been changed from No.69 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps, to No.3 Squadron Australian Flying Corps. This latter designation was retained by the Squadron during the remainder of its existence, and, to enable the traditions of the old unit to be carried on into the future, the first army co-operation squadron to be formed as part of the post-war Royal Australian Air Force has been designated No.3 Squadron.'

The Squadron formed in Egypt was known as No.68 (Australian) Squadron, Royal Flying Corps, then as No.68 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps, and finally as No.2 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps. It was re-formed later as No.2 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force.

It is difficult to account for the misunderstanding with regard to the two squadrons, but I trust this information will enable you to make the necessary correction on pages 3/38 and 3/43 of the above-mentioned edition of 'SABRETACHE'. If there is any further assistance I can give you please do not hesitate to let me know.

Yours sincerely,
(sgd) H.M.Wrigley.

(NOTE: It is regretted that the above-mentioned brief histories, provided by courtesy of the R.A.A.F., were incorrect in this detail. Mr.Wrigley's explanation above is welcomed.--Ed.)

SQUADRON BADGES:

R.A.A.F. No.2 Squadron--conventional R.A.F.type heraldic squadron badge with exception of wreath, which is of wattle. Central design shows an Australian piping shrike (often called a magpie), outspread wings, coloured in black and white, with the breast charged with a fleur-de-lys in gold.

No.3 Squadron--similar badge with central design of a winged grenade fired, the wings and grenade coloured royal blue, and the flame orange and red, the face of the grenade is charged with a fleur-de-lys in gold.

R.A.F. No.68 Squadron (No.2 Squadron, A.F.C.)-- standard R.A.F. type heraldic badge showing design of the head of an owl.

No.69 Squadron (No.3 Squadron, A.F.C.)--design shows a vertical anchor, crossed diagonally by an opened telescope.

It will be seen, therefore, that the badges adopted in the R.A.A.F. and the R.A.F. to perpetuate the same squadrons of the A.F.C. differ in each case from each other.

The latest pattern badge in use in R.A.A.F. No 3 Squadron is for working dress and flying suits, a circular white patch, with a large numeral "3" on an upright sabre, with the words "FIGHTER SQUADRON" at either side. These are worn on the left shoulder, and also on the front of the work hats of Squadron personnel.

B.J.Videon.

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH NOTES
September 1963.

The New South Wales Branch held its Annual General Meeting on Saturday evening 27th July, at the Royal Australian Armoured Corps Club, Pitt St., SYDNEY.

The meeting was opened by the Branch President at 730 pm, and he outlined the growth of the Branch since its formation, and welcomed members and visitors in attendance.

The Secretary's Report (attached) was read and accepted, and the Branch Treasurer outlined the financial position of the Branch.

Mention was made of impending problems concerning Branch existence, and of correspondence with the Melbourne Executive in this regard. The President expressed confidence that these problems would soon be ironed out by the exercise of tact and reason.

The old Committee stood down, and elections were carried out under the management of two Returning Officers appointed by the meeting, after the President had thanked them, and in particular Mr N.Grinyer (Branch Secretary) for their help in the past year.

The Committee elected for the coming year comprised:
PRESIDENT Mr B.J.Videon, SECRETARY Mr N.Grinyer
VICE PRESIDENT Lt.Col.F.V.Vernon TREASURER Mr D.Kennedy
COMMITTEEMEN Messrs M.Wedd, S.Zimeris, E.Radke

The President and Committee then assumed office, and the President welcomed the new Committee members.

Social discussion and supper then followed, after which short talks were delivered on some of the items that were brought for display by members and visitors.

The meeting closed at 10 p.m. amid mutual expressions of satisfaction at the success of the function.

SECRETARY'S Report for the year ended 30th June 1963.

During the past year, meetings have been held at the following places and times:

25th August 1962
22nd September

Lancer Barracks Parramatta
M.Wedd's Museum, Dee Why, where
election of officers took place.

27th October 1962	L.Hornshaw's home, Drummoyne
24th November	P.Heiniger's home, Gladesville
8th December	Royal Armoured Corps Club (Social)
2nd February 1963	B.Videon's home
23rd February	Hero of Waterloo Hotel (Excursion)
23rd March	R.A.A.F. Base Richmond (Excursion)
25th April	Presbyterian Church Hall Guildford (Welcome to Dan Atkinson)
6th June	Infantry Centre Ingleburn (Excursion)
28th June	Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences Ultimo (Excursion).

The officers elected at the meeting on 22nd September were: President B.j.Videon, Vice President P.V.Vernon, Secretary N.Grinyer, Committeemen H.Wedd, P.Heiniger, P.Drage.

During the period representations were made in the following matters:

- To The Maritime Services Board, regarding the preservation of the mast of H.M.A.S. SYDNEY
- Dept of Main Roads and local councils regarding the guns at Taren Point
- Cumberland County Council regarding the preservation of historic sites in the Rocks Area
- Dept of Trade and Customs regarding the entry of historical ceremonial daggers for collections
- Dept of Army, regarding the possibility of obtaining surplus obsolete items for collections
- Chief Secretary's Dept, Newspapers, Parliament, Police Department regarding the preservation and collection of antique firearms
- At the meeting held at the Lancer Barracks regarding the Linden House Appeal
- At the meeting in Canberra for the purpose of opening an A.C.T. Branch

Preliminary discussion was also held in regard to the possible participation in a combined convention of historical societies and similar bodies to be held at Parramatta later in the year. In addition the Branch was represented at the Parramatta Symposium regarding the preservation of historic buildings.

The net result is that the Branch has taken an active interest in local and contentious matters to the credit of the Society and has made its voice heard and its name known in various quarters.

N.Grinyer,
BRANCH SECRETARY.

