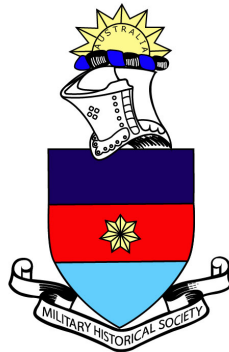


Military Historical Society of Australia  
*Sabretache*



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

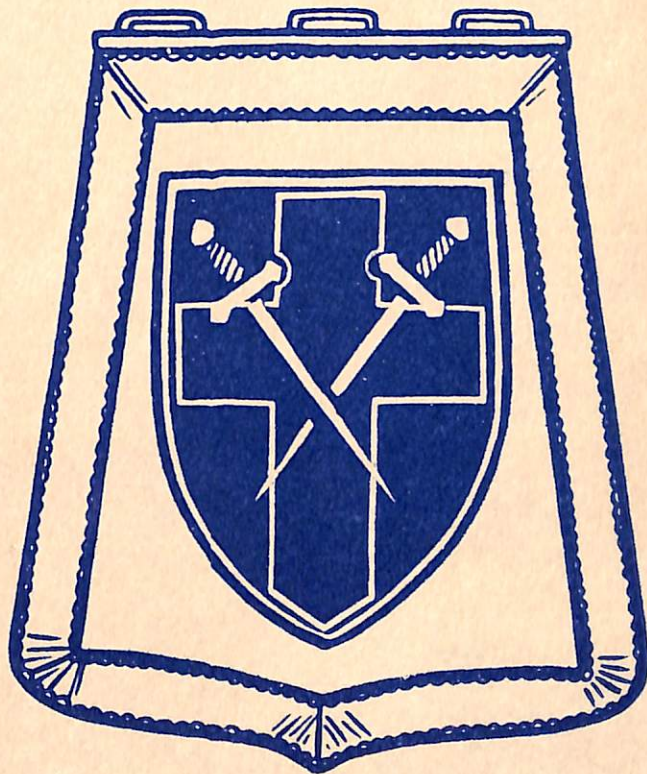
*Sabretache* policy is that the submission of material gives the Society permission to print your material, to allow the material to be included in digital databases such as the MHSa website, Australian Public Affairs-Full Text, INFORMIT and EBSCO. Reprints to non-profit historical and other societies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

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

[www.mhsa.org.au](http://www.mhsa.org.au)

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

# SABRETACHE



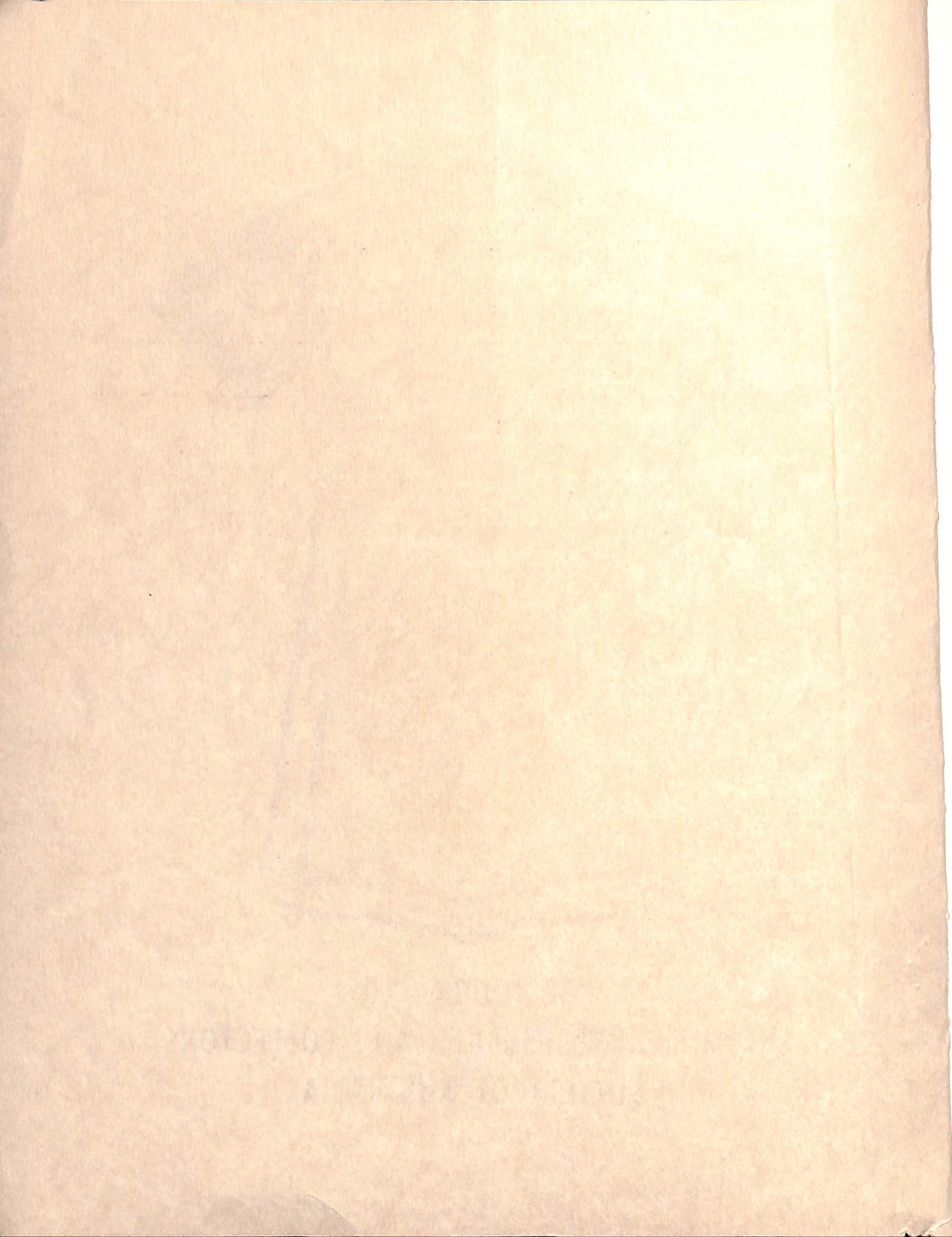
THE JOURNAL OF  
THE MILITARY RESEARCH AND COLLECTORS  
SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

VOL. VI

OCTOBER, 1963

No. 2 & 3





SABRETACHE.

The Journal of the  
MILITARY RESEARCH AND COLLECTORS SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA.

Vol. VI

October, 1963 - January, 1964.

Nos. 2 & 3.

---

HONORARY OFFICE BEARERS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE, 1964.

---

PRESIDENT : Mr. A.N. Festberg.  
VICE PRESIDENTS : Lt. Col. P.V. Vernon, E.D.  
Mr. B.J. Videon.  
SECRETARY : Mr. J.K. Lyons, 262 Tucker Rd.,  
ORMOND EAST, SE14, Victoria.  
TREASURER : Lt. P. Lober, 7 Margaret St.,  
BRIGHTON, S6, Victoria.  
LIBRARIAN : Mr. R. Powell, 11 Daff Ave.,  
MOORABBIN, Victoria.  
EDITOR: Mr. B.J.Videon, 12 Noble Ave.,  
PUNCHBOWL, N.S.W.

BRANCHES:

NEW SOUTH WALES: SECRETARY : Mr. N.Grinyer, 144 Chetwynd Rd.,  
GUILDFORD.

PRESIDENT : Mr. B.J. Videon.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY :

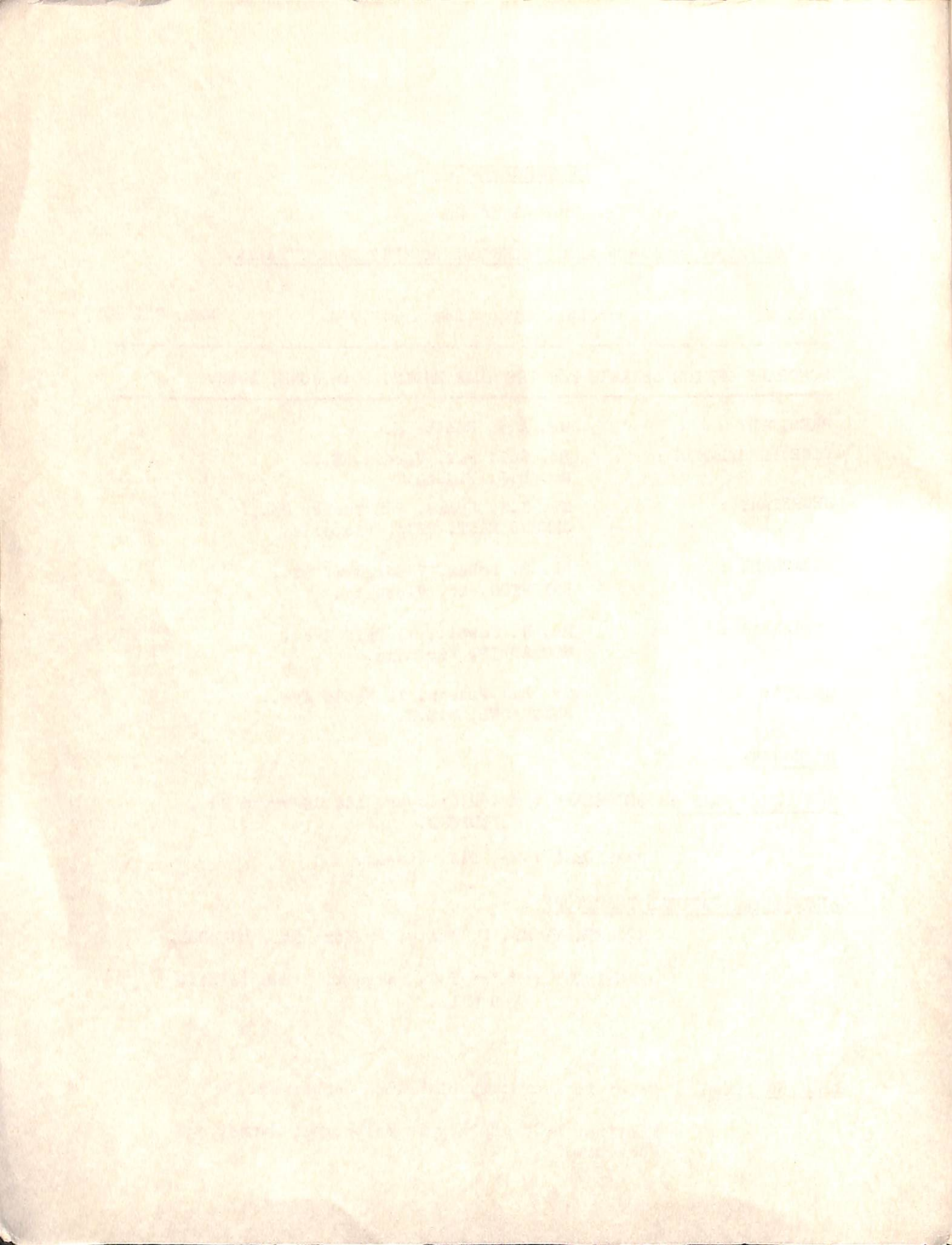
SECRETARY: Mr. K. White, 20 Mort St., BRADDON.

PRESIDENT : Major T.C. Sargent, 4 Beagle St.,  
RED HILL.

MEETING TIMES. Refer to Secretary of Branch concerned.

Meetings held monthly in Melbourne, Sydney and  
Canberra.





A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR.

For some time it has been obvious that the quality of the production of SABRETACHE has not been up to the standard of the material it has included.

This has been due to a number of factors --- the lack of our own ink duplicator or printing machine; lack of funds to have it printed properly; the steamy weather of Sydney which has made it so very hard for Fordigraphed papers to dry out when printed on both sides, causing the print on both sides to "run" despite, in some cases, the most elaborate and time-consuming precautions.

The Society Committee has now decided that something must be done about this, and arrangements have been made for this edition to be typed and "run off" properly by a commercial organisation. This is regarded as a trial, to see whether the cost is justified by the expected improvement. If it is, and if it is calculated that the Society can afford to continue to have SABRETACHE done in this way, then that is what will be done. If, however, it is decided that the cost can not be met for four editions, then some other arrangement will have to be considered.

Members will realise that our ability to produce a better SABRETACHE will depend largely on their support. More members, subscriptions paid promptly, and so on, will help in this regard.

It is also important that we get the right sort of material. A number of members have sent in various contributions that have not yet been used. This is not as a result of lack of interest, but is mainly due to the need to "balance" the contents of each issue as much as possible, in order to try to serve the interests of all.

With the return to the use of ink duplicators, we can once again reproduce suitably clear photographs. A fair range of these is held here, and as nearly as possible, we will attempt to include relevant photos with major articles.

It will be appreciated, therefore, if contributors who HAVE photos relating to their particular articles can lend us these for our consideration. These will be returned.

Finally, please do NOT send in extracts of official works etc., without quoting the source. It is essential that a proper authority be quoted in relation to details of unit changes, badges, dress etc., otherwise the details are forced to be regarded as suspect.

THANK YOU!



A HISTORY OF THE ST. PETER'S COLLEGE  
CADET UNIT, ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

by M.J. Lee and S.J. Williams  
 (Submitted by Major R.J. Stanley, the present O.C.)

"Considering that the cadet movement has been carried on for so long and so successfully in the other colonies, it is a matter of some surprise that South Australia has only just awakened to the same idea. As a Public School institution the advantages of a cadet corps cannot be overlooked. Individually, a boy, by a regular course of drill and military discipline, is straightened up mentally and physically." These were the sentiments which prompted in 1900 the founding of the cadet movement in the colony of South Australia.

Originally four companies were formed - at the University, Prince Alfred's College, Gawler, and St. Peter's College. Messrs. H. and W. Leschen were gazetted to command the cadets, while Captain Basse, formerly captain in a South Australia militia regiment was appointed staff officer to the cadets. Lieut. L. Austin was to be OC of St. Peter's (B) Company which initially comprised four Sergeants, four Corporals, two buglers and forty ORs. The budding Unit was equipped with the Martini-Henry carbine, their uniform being khaki without facings, yellow shoulder straps (the regimental colour) with red edges, and the cross keys as the distinctive badge of St. Peter's College.

With such a propitious start it seemed that the movement had a rosy future, and indeed for a while the infant unit flourished. But the School Notes of 1902 record that cadets ceased owing to lack of official recognition by the Federal Government. However, thanks to the untiring efforts of Mr. H. Leschen, cadets resumed in 1905, when a Federal subsidy of £250 for the State secured their continuation. At St. Peter's 130 boys enlisted, and were divided into two companies, the second company being composed of junior boys under the command of Mr. Jose.

In the following year the school unit entered the new Federal scheme, which enabled them to enroll all boys who were twelve years of age and over and upward of 4'8" in height. Consequently half an hour's compulsory drill per week was introduced for all members of the school, whether cadets or not. The new unit progressed as expected, and in 1907 was issued with .303 rifles, later replaced by the less powerful .310's.

In 1908 the first camp was held at Rosslyn Park. It lasted three days, and all agreed, at least officially, that it was a great success, in spite of the fact that 'the ground might have been softer, the dust less thick and all-embracing and the tin-ware not so scanty as to leave doubt at times as to whether the tea had been obtained in what had last been used as a wash-basin'. However, the cadet notes report a surprising lack of enthusiasm to attend a voluntary camp in the Christmas holidays.



The next few years were ones of continued but unspectacular development in the history of the unit. But in 1911 a major change occurred with the introduction of compulsory training for all boys between fourteen and seventeen. Mr. H. Leschen, who had now attained the rank of Major, was still the unit's OC. The fruits of this were shown in the increase in numbers which by 1913 had reached their peak at 210 senior cadets and 75 juniors. The wisdom of this innovation became apparent with the outbreak of war in 1914, for the cadet unit gave prospective soldiers a valuable grounding in military drill and tactics.

Patriotic spirit abroad raised morale in the unit to an unprecedented level, as is shown by the optimistic tone of C Company's newly composed marching song (sung to the tune of 'My Old Kentucky Home') :

"C Company holds the boys who will never know retreat,  
Of good old 78th we are the best.  
And our silver bugle doesn't know the way to sound retreat,  
and our shots are miles ahead of all the rest.

CHORUS:

March on, march on, C Company  
And when the bullets fly  
Every bullet from C Company  
Will find its billet there,  
For C Company's got the lads who'll do or die."

Meanwhile, old cadets of St. Peter's were experiencing the real thing on diverse battlefields. The following extracts are from a letter describing the evacuation of Gallipoli, written by an ex-St. Peter's cadet, W. Marsh:

"When you heard of the evacuation you must have been rather anxious, and will be interested to know how we got off. It was absolutely the most wonderful piece of work done in the Turkish campaign; everything worked like clockwork and without the slightest hitch ... We moved out of our lines at 10 p.m. on a Saturday night, and everyone realised the importance of absolute silence and acted accordingly - not a light was to be lit or any smoking to take place and all orders were passed along in whispers - each man carried 200 rounds and two bombs. We waited in a gully for about half an hour in case our movements had been detected, but all was serene and quiet, just the crack of rifles and the occasional shell bursting. As we moved down the gully to the beach we passed through barb-wire barricades which would be closed by engineers when the last men had passed through. You would have thought we were just moving down to a new bivouac,



every man was so calm, all that was missing was the noise and barrack which took place directly there was not any more cause for silence. Everything was so quiet and went so smoothly that I felt our boys were going to get off without the slightest hitch, but when we reached the beach, it sent my heart down to my boots, and in fact all of us felt it and would have gone back right away if we could and see it out to the last. Where there was usually great activity and piles of stores was absolutely deserted and the great piles of stores were missing, and one was on fire. I thought the Turks could not help but notice it the next day and would then make a violent assault, the consequence of which would have meant the lives of those we were leaving .... But thanks to our aeroplanes and Navy the enemy were prevented from observing. When we saw the condition of things on the beach we realized that there were not many men left behind, and we could well number ourselves among the last, and everything went like clockwork."

Back at home, cadets were still functioning smoothly in spite of numerous changes in Command. It is not clear when Maj. H. Leschen ceased to be attached to the Saint Peter's cadet corps, but in the period of the war the unit was alternately commanded by Capt. Freeman, Lieut. Grattan and Lieut. Price. We read also that one H.W. Florey, later to be co-discoverer of the drug penicillin, was, in 1916, gazetted as a Second Lieutenant.

The end of the war saw new changes in the unit. New uniforms the breeches of which seem to have been abnormally large, were introduced, while the unit was now to be known under the new title of 4th Company, 3rd Battalion, 10th Regiment. And in December of 1919 Lt. J. Holroyd Hill succeeded Price as OC Unit, a position he was to occupy for twenty-five years.

In 1920, the year in which H.R.H. the Prince of Wales visited the school and inspected the unit, there was a further important occurrence in the unit's history: T.T. Reed received his commission as 2nd Lieutenant, and filled this post with as much dignity and efficiency as he now does that of Lord Bishop of Adelaide and Chairman of the Board of Governors. He, like all cadets at this time would have paraded for two and a half hours' drill on Monday afternoons from 1430 to 1700 hrs.

At this point there is a break of several years in our sources, except for the one solitary report in 1923 that the strength of the unit had now dropped to 100 cadets. The reason for this sudden decline is not hard to surmise. In 1922 the Boy Scout movement had been started at St. Peter's College by Mr. M.H.O. Forbes, a renegade major from the C.M.F. The novelty of this organization attracted many boys who would otherwise have joined the cadet movement.



When our records resume in 1930, we find that a new volunteer cadet corps had replaced the old regime. The recruiting was at first slow, but when the Headmaster pushed hard for volunteers the response was better. The new unit was divided into two platoons, No. 1. consisting of day-boys, and No. 2 of boarders. Major Hill was still in command. Two years later, the unit's strength having risen, a further division was made, and five new House Platoons were formed, one each from Da Costa, Farrell, Hawkes, Short and the three boarding houses.

In 1936 there was a further change in uniform, which now comprised of a felt hat with royal blue piped puggaree, a khaki garbadine jacket and slacks, also piped in blue, and a royal blue gorget and brass buttons. This uniform had to be purchased by each cadet but when he left the unit he could sell it to the corps, which in turn sold it, after cleaning, at a reduced price to an incoming recruit. Strength at this time was 148, but in the following year it rose to 267 owing to the weekly parade being held during school hours, which enabled Scouts to enroll in addition. It is interesting to note that Maj. Forbes was acting OC during a temporary absence of Col. Hill.

In view of the national defence requirements the Council of Governors circularised parents of those boys who were not cadets and pointed out the objects of the detachment. It was hoped that this appeal would result in far more boys joining up. At this time the administrative section of the unit was located in the two top floors of Old School House, while annual camp was held at Woodside.

Owing to the imminence of war, the annual camp at Woodside was put off, and in the following year the calling-in of rifles led to a further check in the development of the unit. In addition, Col. Hill, called up to command the 10th battalion at Woodside was again temporarily replaced by Maj. Forbes. However, training became if anything more varied and interesting, for activities included "incendiary bombs burning and being dealt with, collapsible assault boats and kapok rafts on the school baths, and air-raid drill (under Lt. Vollugi and Mr. A.M. Bills) in the parklands". Altogether the accent was on more practical work. With the introduction of standard army dress in 1944, the unit began to look more and more like the real thing.

In 1945 the corps suffered a major loss in the death of Col. Hill, who had resumed command three years previously. The loss of this man who had guided the unit through some of its most troubled periods would have been even more deeply felt had he not been succeeded by another of the highest ability. With the future of the unit assured, Capt. F.H.Schubert was able to bring the unit to the highest standard of efficiency yet attained; and it is significant



that under his command this unit won the Efficiency Cup, awarded to the best unit in annual camp every year from its inception in 1944 until the competition lapsed in 1951. Other notable events during Capt. Schubert's period of office were the winning of the Earl Roberts shooting trophy for the district and of the much-coveted A.N.A. Shield, once in 1949 and again in 1952. During the Royal Visit of 1954 the unit twice lined the streets of Adelaide for the Queen.

With Capt. Schubert's retirement in 1955 Capt. D.L. Noon became OC Unit. He succeeded in maintaining the high standard set by his predecessor, and the unit continued to develop steadily. In 1959 the Annual Camp had to be cancelled owing to an epidemic of influenza, and the following year saw its transfer from Warradale, where for some years previously it had been held under canvas, to the comparative luxury of the huts of Woodside. The unit was again successful in winning the A.N.A. Shield in 1960, while in 1958 it won for the first time the Jake Rudall shooting trophy. Capt. Noon resigned in 1962 to become housemaster of the newly-formed Howard house and to supervise the development of the School property at Meadows. During his term of office three General Rowell trophies, presented to the top potential Under officer in the January courses of instruction, were won by members of the unit, while he himself was, in 1961, presented with the Cadet Forces Medal for long service, the first of such to be awarded in South Australia.

He was succeeded by Maj. R.J. Stanley, who is also 2 IC of the 3rd/9th South Australian Mounted Rifles. It seems certain that St. Peter's College cadet unit will continue to progress and to live up to the ideals on which it was founded, namely "to conduce in a marked degree to that esprit de corps which ought to be the aim of every boy during his school life".

\* \* \* \* \*

First Ship of the Commonwealth Naval Force. By R. Gray.

The "Parramatta" was the first ship of the Commonwealth Naval Force to be launched. She was launched from the Fairfield Shipbuilding Company's yards at Govan on the Clyde in February, 1909. The launching was performed by Mrs. Herbert Asquith, wife of Britain's Prime Minister who made the following speech :-

"First-born of the Commonwealth Navy, I name thee "Parramatta". God bless you and those who sail in you, and may you uphold the glorious traditions of the British Navy in the Dominions overseas."

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE AUSTRALIAN COLOUR PATCHES.

by K.M. Lyon.

The first reference to colour patches appears in Vol. 1, Page 139, of the Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-18, which states :-

"Before the First Contingent left Australia a scheme of colours had been devised, so that the location of every unit throughout the camp could be marked by a small flag. Officers and men had now been ordered to wear the colour of their regiment in a small patch on both sleeves just below the shoulder. The system was so simple that, by means of the colour and shape of the patch, anyone who was acquainted with it could deduce the regiment, brigade and division to which a man belonged. The men became intensely attached to these colours."

The flags mentioned were those authorised for the 1st Australian Division and the 1st Light Horse Brigade, in an A.I.F. Order issued by General Bridges on September the fifth 1914, before the first troops embarked; and at that time it was not anticipated that they would be worn on dress as regimental distinctions.

The colours designating the battalions on these flags were :

BLACK  
YELLOW  
BROWN and  
WHITE

for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Battalions in each brigade.

On November 17th similar flags were authorised by Department of Defence for the 4th Infantry Brigade which was being formed. The brigade colour was dark blue, the battalions colours conformed to those being used in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Brigades.

After the arrival of the 4th Brigade in Egypt in January 1915, the BLACK and DARK BLUE of the first battalion in the brigade, the 13th, were so much alike that after a little use the flag became mistaken for Brigade Headquarters.

The Unit Historian writes that, "hence in Egypt, Monash asked Burnage to suggest something more suitable. "Let's have LIGHT BLUE over NAVY, the New South Wales sporting colours," suggested Durrant, it was agreed."

March 19th, 1915, the alteration was authorised in 4th Infantry Brigade Orders.



38.

March 8th, 1915, 1st Australian Divisional Administration Order No. 562, issued by General Bridges at Mena Camp, authorised the introduction of the unit flags as colour patches :-

BADGES. 562.

In order the better to distinguish the several units of the division, coloured badges of cloth  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " wide by  $2\frac{3}{4}$ " long will be worn on the sleeves one inch below the shoulderseam. Except in cases of H.Qs of Brigades and Artillery, the Engineers and Army Medical Corps, badges will consist of two colours, the lower indicating the formation, the upper the unit etc. Light Horse and Artillery badges will be divided diagonally, the others horizontally.

The order then details the colour patches and states the issue to be six per man. They were the same as the flags with two exceptions. The engineer field companies were allotted the colour PURPLE (the colour of the Signals Company's flag) instead of the KHAKI allotted, which was not convenient as a patch upon a khaki uniform. The second exception was the artillery, these three brigades had each been allotted a colour along with the ROYAL BLUE of the artillery flag, CRIMSON for 1st Australian Field Artillery Brigade, 2nd GREEN, 3rd YELLOW and the Divisional Ammunition Column WHITE. A week later (March 16th) order 591 was issued. The whole of the Divisional Artillery were to wear the same colour patch, CRIMSON over ROYAL BLUE diagonally.

These orders were written into 1st Australian Division Standing Orders (Provisional) 1915.

The upper colour of the second battalion in each infantry brigade was changed from YELLOW to PURPLE, this was allegedly because the 14th Battalion had acquired all the available material. However, the patches were authorised in the 1st Australian Division fully three weeks before they were authorised in the 4th Brigade, and as yellow is a popular colour in the east it would seem more reasonable to assume as Major Treloar does when writing in "Reveille" 1931, that "one is tempted to suspect that the cause of the change given in the Divisional Order was "camouflage" and that, more than probably the reason was that the commanders of the second battalions were reluctant to ask their men to wear anything which might be the cause of ribald jest".

Yellow in later orders was transmuted into "GOLD".

It has sometimes been suggested that General White originated the system, but General White himself stated that Sir William Bridges as Commander of 1st Australian Division personally conceived and initiated the innovation.

The idea was not, however, entirely original, but was due to Sir William's recollection that, in the South African War, colours were worn on the helmet, a practice which was being observed by English Units in Egypt when the Australians arrived. However, no provision was made in the Australian Orders for the wearing of colour patches on headgear, the issue of 6 providing only for two Field Service Jackets and the Greatcoat.

In adopting the colour patches, General Bridges' object was to provide each unit with a distinctive emblem, which would enable men to recognise their comrades, would give the units an individuality and assist in developing esprit' de corps.

General Bridges in his order provided only for the formation he commanded in the field. No provision was made by him at the same time for the three Light Horse Brigades (their colour patches were not authorised in orders till late 1916) nor for the 4th Australian Infantry Brigade. The 4th Australian Infantry Brigade had however heard that the scheme was about to be introduced in the 1st Australian Division.

On February the twenty eighth, General Monash sought approval from the N.Z. and A. Division for permission to wear a colour patch on the hat, adding "It is understood that the course proposed has been adopted in the Australian Division". These patches "to be worn on the left side of the helmet puggaree, or on the left side of the cap band or hat band" were authorised in 4th Australian Brigade Order 134 of March 31, 1915. They were to measure  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and were therefore slightly different from the 1st Australian Division.

On April 9th this order was suspended and authority was given for the wearing of shoulder colour patches. The approved patches conformed with the scheme as laid down for the brigades flags as amended in the case of the 13th Battalion.

Such was the origin of the colour patches and this scheme grew with the Australian Imperial Force. The discrepancies which occurred in this scheme would not have crept in if it had been possible to foresee the ultimate requirements of the First Australian Imperial Force.

If it had been possible to foresee the requirements it would have been possible to draft a complete army scheme instead of as at first a divisional scheme. While at the end of the war it would have been possible to draft a better constructed scheme for the army the regiments strongly preferred to wear the colours which were now the emblems of the proud traditions of the Australian Imperial Force, and units whose colours through accident differed from the general scheme prized them all the more because of this fact.



By the end of the war there were approximately 182 authorised patches, although many more had been worn and cancelled.

In 1920 it was decided to maintain the A.I.F. formation, on the 1st of April 1921 the A.I.F. formations were applied to the peace time forces. Modifications were made to cover training contingencies so that brigades consisted as near as possible of units from the same state. With these modifications other units were required to maintain these formations and so other colour patches were initiated.

When the size of colour patches was standardised at  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " as per 4th Brigade orders is not known, but by 1922 this was the size officially laid down.

Through the years from 1920 to 1929, the colour patches lived through all the drastic reductions of 1922-23 when the citizen forces were reduced from 86,568 to 35,228, and the end of compulsory training on 5th November, 1929. When the great reductions called for the linking of units the various colour patches were still worn.

In January 1930 when voluntary enlistment was initiated, and 1931 when the militia was raised from 35,000 to 70,000, more units were raised and these in turn were allotted their respective unit colour patches, until in 1939 there were over 200 colour patches.

Throughout this period the various colour patches maintained their original A.I.F. territorial affiliations wherever these were applicable.

And in the case of Units changing names as per the 30th and 1st Bns. the colours still stayed with the numbers of the units.

On the outbreak of war, 3rd September, 1939, the colour patches authorised for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th divisions of the A.M.F. were retained. Patches which were authorised for Australian Cavalry Regiments, Permanent, Fortress and Non-Divisional Units were worn in the initial stages of the war, but were not used later unless such units were shown on the order of battle.

It was throughout this war period the policy to follow the system of the original A.I.F. as far as possible. Although this was the policy it was hard to maintain and so we find colour patches worn which were never authorised and again some colour patches which though authorised were never worn.

When the 2nd A.I.F. was formed the principal was that the units should wear the colour patches of the corresponding units of the old A.I.F., but on a grey  $\frac{1}{4}$ " background to distinguish the A.I.F. units from the Militia. From this date the Patches were also worn on hats.



Now it has been stated in the official War History that, "the Army asked the Australian War Memorial to provide examples of the colour patches of the old A.I.F. and it did so, but some of the colours were faded or the dyes poor and to this day there may be men who maintain that the colour patch of the 2/6th Battalion for example, was ROYAL BLUE over RED, whereas if the principle had been followed it should have been PURPLE over the brigade colour".

One would ask the question; why did the Army need to go to the War Memorial for examples of colour patches of which it had coloured illustrations in its standing orders, and which it was at that stage wearing and had been wearing for 24 years?

The statement of colours fading is also questioned as there are also colour patches in existence which are 23 years older than they were in 1939 and still show no signs of fading. There is also no purple which will fade to a blue, as is stated in reference to the colour patch of the 2/6th Battalion. Rather the blue will fade if it is fugitive and leave a mulberry or mauve.

It is also worthy of note that until 1939 when the Department of Defence was split into three, forming Department of Army and Department of Supply, one Department, namely Defence, handled its own contracts, after this date the Department of Supply handled contracts for the services and here could be the explanation for colours which did not conform to those samples supplied. It is most unlikely that the Army would indent for wrong colours, rather is it that they had to accept that which was supplied quickly and in bulk.

By the end of 1939 there were in existence three sizes of colour patches. Pre war issue of Militia and Permanent force colour patches measuring  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ", A.I.F. colour patches measuring  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " including the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " grey border and war issue militia measuring 2" x 1" for oblong patches and other shapes in proportion.

For security reasons colour patches were not promulgated in AAOS during 1939 to 1941, therefore there is no record in AAOS, MBIs or GROs of approved patches for 6th, 7th and 8th Divisions or early 9th Division patches. Shapes however allotted were as follows :-

1st Australian and Corps Troops	=	Triangle
Overseas base and L of C Units	=	Square
6th Australian Division	=	Rectangle
7th Australian Division	=	Diamond
8th Australian Division	=	Elliptical
9th Australian Division	=	Circle



With the change from the 4 Battalion to the 3 Battalion Brigade the old A.I.F. System could not be adhered to in its entirety and to overcome some of the difficulties of this formation the divisional shape was adopted in a battleship grey background and the distinguishing patch was superimposed in its unit shape. An example was the 2/21 Battalion of RED over BLACK diamond, the shape of the 2nd Division 1st A.I.F. to which this Battalion originally belonged, superimposed on the oval battleship grey background of elliptical shape, the shape of the 8th Division 2nd A.I.F. to which this unit was allotted.

Another further complication to the old A.I.F. System was the 25th Brigade formed in England from Infantry Reinforcements and Artillery Units, which, originally allotted to the 9th Division assumed the circle of that division but found their own colours and shapes within it. (The shapes and colours of the original A.I.F. units had been allotted to it, within the circle, but were never worn.)

Another complication was the 9th Divisions change in shape and colours in the ME which were approved in 1943.

Divisional Cavalry Regiments did not follow the old L.H. System or Divisional Cavalry Colours, but took the colours of the Tank Corps, Green, Scarlet and Brown, and the Armoured Regts. did not follow the Tank Corps colours but later after sometimes as many as four changes adapted the old L.H. Colour Schemes.

The formation of new Corps such as AEME also called for new colour patches. By 1942 the System was becoming so complex that a start was made on the simplification of colour patches and a suggestion was submitted to the C in C for the adoption of a system such as the British "flash" System. This was not approved.

Upon the re-organization of the Corps of Signals a request for a standard colour patch for Signals was considered and after approval by C in C was promulgated in GRO All/4A.

Following this colour patch a scheme for further simplification was adopted which resulted in a new size colour patch being adopted, mostly for corps troops, measuring  $\frac{3}{4}$ " x  $2\frac{1}{8}$ " with a  $\frac{3}{16}$ " grey background (where applicable). The simplification of the scheme reduced the number of colour patches in December 1945 by 252.

Prior to this there were 712 colour patches officially sanctioned not including those which were unauthorised but regularly worn.

Finally in 1950 colour patches were superceded by the British Shoulder Title System and the colour patch passed from the Australian Army after 35 years.



In retrospect it is interesting to look back and wonder why this purely Australian system could not have been retained if even in a modified form which it obviously required by the end of 1945, for the Australian Colour Patch more than any campaign medal truly indicated the war services of those members who were proud to wear them.

- - - - -

REFERENCES :

1. 1st Volume Official History of Australia in the War of 1915-18. Pages 139.
2. Reveille May 30 - 1931 Page 2; 36.
3. First Australian Division Standing Orders (Provisional) 1915. Pages: 22; 27; 28; 29.
4. Divisional Administration Orders Part 1. 8th March 1915.
5. Australian Encyclopaedia.
6. SOD's 1924 1935
7. AAOSs.
8. Australia in the War of 1939-45.
9. M.G.O. Drawings of Colour Patches.
10. Department of Supply Samples.
11. SALT Volume 11 No. 7.

\* \* \* \* \*

BUTTONS WORN BY OFFICERS OF THE 17th BATTALION.

By R. Gray

Permission was granted to the officers of the 17th Bn. The North Sydney Regiment to wear the buttons of their affiliated regiment the East Surrey Regiment. This was in 1937. Officers could also wear the tie of the East Surrey Regiment.

\* \* \* \* \*

NEW ZEALAND REINFORCEMENTS. WORLD WAR 1.

By R. Gray.

In June 1916 a training depot was established at Sling Camp, near Bulford, Salisbury Plains, England. On arrival at sling a reinforcement lost its identity as such, and was absorbed into the various regiments of the N.Z. Expeditionary Force, as far as possible in accordance with the districts in New Zealand where the men normally resided.



SOME PRINTS OF THE PENINSULAR WAR PERIOD.

A talk delivered at the August meeting of the ACT Branch of the Military Research and Collectors Society by Major T.C. Sargent, and illustrated by original prints and books in the speaker's collection.

It is proposed in this talk to discuss :

Firstly and briefly, the various methods of printmaking in use during the Peninsular War Period,

Secondly, the main series of prints and the artists responsible for their execution,

Thirdly, some points of general interest in regard to these prints.

The prints of the period are almost entirely intaglio, that is produced from metal plates, usually copper or zinc, but occasionally iron or steel, upon which the detail has been incised by a tool, or by the action of acid.

There are some relief prints from woodcuts, mostly seen as minor illustrations in books, but not of any great significance to the subject under discussion.

Intaglio includes metal engraving, etching, clay point, mezzotint, stipple engraving, aquatint and soft ground etching, and although the prints with which we are concerned here are mostly aquatints, it is proposed to give an outline of the other methods used.

In engraving the lines are incised in soft metal by means of a burin or cutting tool.

In etching the metal is first covered with a layer of acid resisting ground - usually wax in which the artist draws with a needle, laying bare the surface of the metal plate. The plate is then placed in acid which attacks the metal wherever it is exposed. Etching allows greater variation in depth and quality of line than does engraving.

Dry point in this method lines are scratched into metal with a steel or diamond point leaving a shaving of metal beside the line. This shaving is called a burr and holds the ink in printing. This technique gives a rich and velvety black characteristic to line work, but fewer prints can be pulled from a dry-point plate than one which is etched or engraved.

In mezzotint a copper plate is first covered with a multitude of tiny indentations made with a tool called a rocker. The plate so



prepared would print a solid black. The engraver then scrapes away or burnishes out the indentations, as desired, to form high lights, and, working from dark to light, gradually creates a complete pattern of light and dark tones. This method is particularly suitable for reproducing oil paintings.

Stipple engraving - in this method, a variety of etching, the design is built up by dots, placed on the surface of the ground by a tool called a roulette.

Aquatinting is a process developed late in the 18th Century by which the etcher is able to draw not only with lines, but with washes or areas of tone.

Usually aquatinting was combined with pure etching. The areas of a plate to be coloured were given a coating of resin dust, and etched in acid. A separate plate was required for each colour and the intensity could be controlled by variation of the density of the resin covering of the plate.

In soft ground etching a sticky ground is laid on the plate and covered with paper or silk upon which the lines are drawn. On removing the paper, or silk, the soft ground comes away with the paper wherever it was drawn upon. The metal is then etched in acid.

To get the print on paper, the plate is given a coating of ink and wiped off; the ink being retained in the etched or incised lines, or on the aquatint plate, in the area of colour or tone. Damp paper is then placed on the plate, and plate and paper together are passed through the rollers of a press which exerts considerable pressure; the paper is forced into the lines and picks up the ink from the plate.

Although some of the prints which will be mentioned are not absolutely pertinent to the Peninsular War, they do have considerable bearing on the illustrated records of the current uniforms.

One of the first series to consider is that produced by Rowlandson - "The Loyal Volunteers of London", a set of 87 aquatint plates published by R. Ackermann in 1798. Thomas Rowlandson, (1756-1827), had studied at the Royal Academy in Paris, and had also exhibited at the Royal Academy. He took up caricature, winning fame and displaying great individuality. His "Loyal Volunteers" is by far the best known of his military works and is a fine record of the dress of the Volunteer units during a time when variety was the keynote. He also illustrated "The Military Adventures of Jonny Newcombe" in 1815; this was a satirical poem which has been attributed to various authors. His print "Extraordinary Scene On the Road From London to Portsmouth" is typical of his work in caricature applied to a military print.



About 1798 the British Military Library published a series of 28 coloured line engravings as illustrations in two volumes.

J.A. Atkinson published in 1807, "A Picturesque Representation of the Naval, Military, and Miscellaneous Costumes of Gt. Britain" with 32 coloured plates. John Augustus Atkinson (1775 - 1833) had previously collaborated with his uncle, James Walker, to produce "The Picturesque Representations of the Russians" in 1803-4. Following the 1807 work he published a set of 7 aquatints on Napoleon's Russian campaign in 1813, and later worked on Bowyer's "Important Events" Orme's "Historic Military and Naval Anecdotes" and published in London in 1817 "Military Incidents". Atkinson exhibited in the Royal Academy from 1803-1833.

Goddard and Booth in the period 1812-22 published the "Military Costumes of Europe" a series of 96 coloured plates in two volumes. Twenty-seven of these plates were of British units, and six of Foreign Troops in the British Army.

"Costumes of the Army of the British Empire according to the Regulation of 1814", a set of 60 aquatint plates was published in 1816. These were the work of Colonel Charles Hamilton Smith. Smith was born in East Flanders in 1776. Schooled for some years in England he completed his studies in the Austrian academy for Artillery and Engineers at Malines and Louvain. Smith served as a volunteer under Lord Moira in the 8th Lt Dragoons, and as a cornet in Hompesch's Hussars. He was appointed to the 60th Regt in 1797 and served in the West Indies. He served in the Walcheren expedition as a DQMG and saw service in various other theatres until his retirement on  $\frac{1}{2}$  pay in 1820. Until his death in 1859 he led a very active life and his output on a wide variety of subjects was prolific.

It is interesting to note that his only son Captain Charles Hamilton Smith received a grant of land in this country, and died here.

A departure from uniforms occurred in 1816 with the publication by J. Jenkins of "The Martial Achievements of Gt Britain and her Allies 1799-1815" - a series of 52 coloured aquatint by Sutherland and Dubourg after W. Heath - a series more notable for their colour and action than for the accuracy of detail. William Heath (1785-1840) was one of the most active military artists of the period. He is attributed with some of the plates in Goddard & Booths "Military Costume", he has the series described above to his credit and he continued to produce works of military interest up to the time of his death.

1819 saw the publication of "Historical Military and Naval Anecdotes" by Orme, a series of 40 coloured plates after Atkinson, Heath and others.

Other series include Major T.S. Sinclair's "Series of Views of the Principal Occurrences of the Campaigns in Portugal and Spain" -

12 coloured aquatints by C. Turner 1812-14; Colonel G.T. Landmann's "Historical Military and Picturesque Observations on Portugal with 75 coloured plates of the Peninsular Battles, Sieges etc." (1818), and the series of 12 prints after H. L'Eveque by various engravers in 1812.

Henri L'Eveque (1769-1832) was a Swiss Painter and engraver. He resided in London from 1812-1823. It is known that he had travelled in Portugal and Spain, and as the engagements depicted in his prints took place in 1808-09, it is perhaps safe to assume that he had visited the sites during his travels in Portugal, before settling in London, and it is possible that he may have been a spectator of some of the actions. If this assumption is correct then his prints should at least give us a more reasonable presentation of the topography than say Heath's "Battle of the Pyrenees".

There are many other series, and single prints, but space would not allow a listing of all. The writer has, however, three aquatints by William Alexander from "Picturesque Representations of the Dress and Manners of the English" published by J. Murray in 1813. These are interesting because the page of text referring to each print has also been preserved, and these pages give an insight into popular thought on military matters at that time. This publication is known to contain several more uniform plates.

Although not comprising a series by any one artist or publisher, one can almost consider the large number of mezzotints of senior officers of the period as such. By well known artists - Reynolds, Hoppner, Raeburn, Lawrence, Shee and their engravers, they have been described in the following words by a modern writer on prints -

"There is a certain sameness about these mezzotint portraits, due partly perhaps to a limitation of the medium which emphasises softness and smoothness at the expense of honest or subtle delineation of form, but also due to the fundamentally artificial approach of the painter to his problem. It is a highly aristocratic and superficial art, grandiloquent, flattering and sentimentalizing, and without that exquisite taste and sense of style which gives distinction to the equally aristocratic art of France."

This may be so, but they have a charm which would make the collection of a representative set, a satisfying pursuit.

It is interesting to note a letter of January 1809 by Thomas Lawrence to Lt-Gen Robert Brownrigg, quoted by Carola Oman in her biography of Sir John Moore, in which Lawrence requests the loan from Brownrigg, of a portrait which the artist had painted of



Moore some time previously. The purpose was "that an Engraving from it may be immediately made, and under my own inspection". Lawrence mentions his desire to ensure that "a just and faithful resemblance of this man be given to the world" and also that to him "unversed in these matters, it may or may not be profitable". This is undoubtedly the print by C. Turner, after Lawrence, which appeared in 1809. Could it have been that the painter wished to capitalise on the interest caused by Moore's dramatic death at Corunna, even though in a letter to fellow artist Joseph Farington, written on the same day, the sentiments expressed by Lawrence were not particularly kind to Sir John?

Did a similar sentiment influence the republishing in 1815 of a mezzotint of Sir Thomas Picton by Easling after M.A. Shee?

By far the most important series of prints which were produced in this period, although not printed until 1836, is the Goya series "Disasters of War". These can hardly be described as military prints, but they can not be neglected by anyone interested in the pictorial record of the Peninsular War. There are many written accounts of the atrocities inflicted on the Spanish by the French troops, but no pen can drive home these facts with the impact of the Goya plates.

Goya during this period appears to have enjoyed the privileges so often extended to artists and scientists in those days, privileges rapidly disappearing under the Napoleonic system of warfare. He spent a great deal of time in Madrid and painted portraits of King Joseph and French generals, and was decorated by Joseph. He was strongly suspected of being an "Afrencesado", and yet was at British HQ the morning after the battle of Salamanca when he produced the crayon portrait of Wellington which was stolen from the British Museum in 1962.

Goya's attitude was nationalistic, and although we see in his prints death inflicted on the invader in many ways, never do we see evidence of some of the brutal retaliations which his countrymen took on French prisoners.

James Wyld in 1841 published an 'Atlas containing the principal battles, sieges and affairs of the Peninsular War'. It may be considered that this book hardly qualifies for discussion with prints of the period, but the plates were produced from maps drawn by Major Thomas Mitchell, later Surveyor-General of N.S.W., and are consequently of some local interest.

This Atlas, of approximately 30 battlefield maps was additionally illustrated by plans and landscapes of Peninsular Scenes also sketched by Mitchell. There is a copy of this Atlas in the Special Collections of the Public Library of N.S.W., and, in the National Library Canberra, a collection of manuscript letters from Mitchell to Wyld, written during Mitchell's visit to England in 1839-40, concerning the production of the plates for this work.

"Now Captain Mitchell's drawings were made by him after the war, by order of the government, and at public expense. He remained in the Peninsula for more than two years with pay as a staff officer, his extra expenses were also paid, (about five thousand pounds) he was attended constantly by two Spanish dragoons as a protection and the whole mission was costly. Never was money better laid out, for I believe no topographical drawings, whether they be considered for accuracy of detail, perfection of manner, or beauty of execution, ever exceeded Mitchell's."

These are Napier's comments on the material for this work, written at a time when he was attacking his George Murray, late QMC in the Peninsula, for not making the map material available to illustrate Napier's History. It is a great pity that the illustrations from Wyld's Atlas are not available in quantity in this country to demonstrate the versatility and ability of the old Light Division Soldier, Thomas Mitchell.

There is little doubt that few military prints of the period can be described as works of art, nor had the British military scene attracted the same interest as the French, where the artist received every encouragement to record pictorially the glories of the 1st Empire. However, the British military print is important to all who are interested in the period, for they record the details of uniforms worn at that time, and they also serve to keep alive an awareness of Regimental and Army tradition by their colourful depiction of by-gone actions.

#### Authorities.

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| "Book of Fine Prints"  | - | Carl Zigrosser.   |
| "Graphic Arts Crafts"  | - | D. Kauffmann.   |
| "British Military Prints"  | - | Ralph Nevill 1909.  |
| "Collecting Military<br>Prints"  | - | Capt. R.G. Hollies-Smith<br>The Army Quarterly Vol. LXXII.<br>Jan. 1959                   |
| "The Anatomy of Glory"   | - | Edited by Anna K. Brown 1961.   |
| Dictionary of National Biography.                                      |   |   |
| "Sir John Moore"   | - | Carola Oman 1953.   |
| "Goya's Life and Work"   | - | Xavier De Salas<br>Doubleday Anchor Books 1956.   |
| MSS Letters of Sir Thomas<br>Mitchell to James Wyld                    | - | Australian National Library<br>Canberra.  |
| "History of the War in the<br>Peninsula and in the South<br>of France" | - | Major- Gen. Sir WFP Napier KCB.<br>(Reply to a Third Article In the<br>Quarterly Review). |



CANCELLED



CANCELLED



CANCELLED



CANCELLED



CANCELLED



CANCELLED

"ECHOES OF GLORY."

(The Queen's Scarf)

from "The Brighton Grammarian, December, 1956"

From Arusha, Tankanyika have come further threads for the story of what is claimed to be one of the world's most exclusive awards for gallantry - to Captain Alfred H. Dufrayer, old boy of our school.

One of the most homely and intriguing scenes of British History is of Queen Victoria, in the last year of her long life, sitting knitting while the Duchess of York (later Queen Mary) often helped pick up dropped stitches. The scarves were to be for four of her Colonial soldiers as a special recognition for bravery in the field. A wide-spread search resulted in the recommendation of Dufrayer for his outstanding bravery in the Boer War; he was three times mentioned in despatches and twice recommended for the Victoria Cross. Lord Roberts named men from Canada and Cape Colony as two other worthy of the high honour. Unfortunately Her Majesty died before she could present the scarves or give official instructions about the decorations. Dufrayer's scarf was presented by the Duke of York in Sydney and it was proclaimed that whenever the Queen's Scarf was seen or worn within the British Empire it should receive the salute of 'Present Arms' in honour of the Royal House and the man who won it. The riband of the Victoria Cross was, by Royal Command, to be worn with the Queen's Scarf. On the day of the presentation, a public holiday was proclaimed and it is reported that the nation went wild with excitement.

Australian Army orders record that the awards were to rank equally with the Victoria Cross but the special nature of the decoration suggests something more. Did Queen Victoria intend a superior honour? Why was the award made only to Colonial Soldiers?

The Scarf is believed to be the only perfect specimen still preserved; it is kept carefully folded in a bank vault in Tanganyika. Mr. A.G.H. Dufrayer, son of the hero, sent this further information to his father's old school and stated his belief that, apart from the family portrait, there is only one photograph of his father wearing the Queen's Scarf: In the school tower there is a full size picture of trooper Dufrayer wearing the scarf and in the old Dining Room his name with Q.S. after it appears on the Boer War Honour Board.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE BUGLE HORN By R. Gray

The Bugle Horn was adopted by Light Infantry Regiments about 1778. This was copied from some of the German Jager (Hunter) Regiments in the Seven Years' War.



CORPS INSIGNIA IN USE BY NAVAL CADETS OF THE INDONESIAN NAVY.

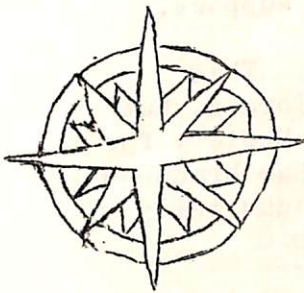
Submitted by Eric Wiseman.

(from a booklet issued on the occasion of the visit to Australia by the sail-training ship R.I. Dewarutji 1959)

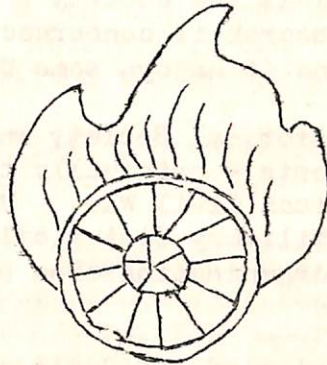
The sketches hereunder show the badges of :-

- (a) Navigation (Pelaut)
- (b) Engineering (Teknik)
- (c) Electrical (Teknik Elektro)
- (d) Supply (Administrasi)
- (e) Medical (Dokter Umum)... (Dental is the same but with a point on the top of the staff).
- (f) Marine Corps (Korps Komando).

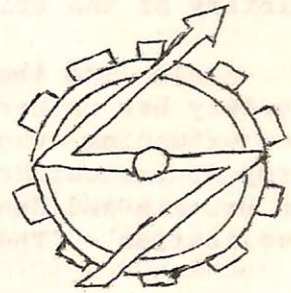
The badges are in yellow (to signify intelligence and comprehension) with red borders (for courage).



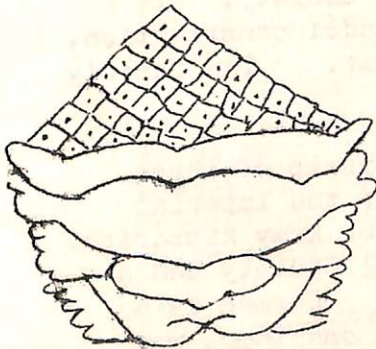
a



b



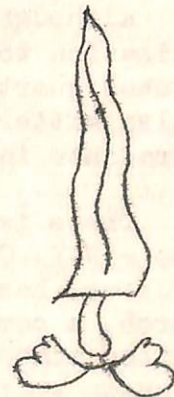
c



d



e



f



"MILITARY RESEARCH AND COLLECTING"

an address by Major T.C.Sargent  
 President of the Canberra  
 Branch of this Society  
 To the Canberra & District  
 Historical Society.

As the representative of a very new and small group in Canberra, I would like to express our appreciation of the invitation to address your Annual General Meeting on the aims and interests of our organisation - the Military Research and Collectors' Society of Australia.

It is worthwhile to look at the development of the better-known British military historical and kindred organisations in order to appreciate the background against which the Military Research and Collectors' Society was formed. The history of the British societies commences only in 1911 when a move was made to form what became, in 1921, the Society for Army Historical Research.

Some may be familiar with the very fine Journal of this Society. The publication of this Journal is the Society's prime object. The Society for Army Historical Research is concerned mainly with the history of the British Army, and it enjoys some War Office support.

In 1948 the Military Historical Society was formed. This Society has rather wider interests - originally the Crown Forces, but now extending even to the American Civil War. Unlike the Society for Army Historical Research, the Military Historical Society has branches in Britain and Canada. This organisation also produces a quarterly publication - 'The Bulletin'.

Last year saw the formation of the Guild of Military Antiquarians, which, I understand, is progressing favourably.

Although not strictly an historical society, there is another organisation worthy of note, the British Model Soldier Society. It publishes quarterly a journal covering techniques of model construction, and also matters of general military historical interest. The Society has branches in Britain and Canada.

There is a very noticeable overlapping of membership of these groups - W.Y. Carman, F.S.A., and Assistant Director of the Imperial War Museum, has been a Council Member of the Society for Army Historical Research, a committee member of the Military Historical Society and a committee member of the British Model Soldier Society. Carman is a well-known writer on British Military uniforms and, at one time, was engaged in the commercial production of model soldiers. Brigadier Peter Young, D.S.O., M.C., M.A., F.S.A., F.R. Hist. S. (Retired), another very active military historian, is, I believe, a member of all four societies mentioned.



It was actually from the British Model Soldier Society that our own Society sprang. A small group of model soldier collectors met in Melbourne, in 1955, with the object of forming a branch of the British Model Soldier Society. The group and its interests expanded rapidly, with the resultant formation in Melbourne in 1956 of 'The Military Research and Collectors Society of Australia'. A N.S.W. Branch was formed in 1961, and the A.C.T. Branch in May this year. The Australian membership is now 95, there are 42 overseas members, and 20 affiliated groups for the exchange of publications, either in Australia or overseas.

The Society publishes quarterly a journal called 'Sabretache', which is distributed to all members and affiliated groups, and free to 14 public and service libraries. The standard of article is varied, because, as with most publications of this type, there are never sufficient contributors. It is hoped that as membership grows this deficiency will be remedied, and it is also hoped that the journal can then be published commercially rather than in its present duplicated form.

The aims of the Society are stated in the Society Constitution in very broad terms - 'to bring together people having an interest in military matters'. However, in the A.C.T. Branch we have been more specific, and have stated the Branch aims as :

'The encouragement and development of Military Historical Research and Military Collecting, including -

- (a) Research into military antiquities, into matters connected with Services and Regimental History, Uniforms, Dress and Equipment, Customs and Traditions, the History of the Art of War, Pictures and Prints, Decorations and Medals, and other objects of similar interest;
- (b) Fostering the collection of Militaria;
- (c) Raising the status of collectors and of the Society, and giving assistance to organisations and individuals.
- (d) The arrangement of lectures and talks on matters relating to the Society's objects.'

It will be appreciated that these aims cover a very wide field in the study of military history. It is not proposed at this stage to go into the detail of research into each of the aspects mentioned. Instead it is proposed to consider in the first instance, military collecting, for this is the aspect of our Society's interests with which the majority of people are least familiar.

The collections of our members are varied and cover practically every aspect of military life. One enthusiast has a Japanese tank and an Australian field gun in his backyard, and at least two collections are officially recognised as private museums. Generally, however, the collections fall into the following main types:



- (a) Insignia - badges, insignia of rank, buttons, etc.
- (b) Uniforms and equipment.
- (c) Weapons.
- (d) Decorations and Medals.
- (e) Model Soldiers.
- (f) Books, Prints and Pictures.

Some collections, of course, are formed merely for their own sake, but collections have their place in any study of military history, and form a basis on which research may develop. Let us look briefly at some of the avenues for research opened by each type of collection:

- (a) Insignia - a collection of badges and other insignia relative to one unit may trace the history of the unit from its inauguration to the present, through all its re-organisations in peace and war. To complete an authentic regimental collection it will be necessary for the collector to investigate the history of the unit and to check the various orders for dress to ensure that no item has been overlooked, and that each item can be identified in its correct period. As the history of many of our units began in Pre-Federation days, this aspect of collecting can make a very definite contribution to our knowledge of early Australian military history.
- (b) Uniforms and Equipment - here again the keynote is the identification of period, unit, or corps, calling for a very detailed knowledge of these. The appearance of any unusual item will cause the collector to delve into records until that item can be correctly identified.
- (c) Weapons - the knowledgeable collector will not be content to know, for instance, that the Brown Bess was a muzzle-loading, flintlock musket firing 16 balls to the pound, which saw service in the British Army for almost a century. He will want to know how the reloading rate and the range of the weapon affected the tactics of the day. Where did the Brown Bess fit in the evolution of 'The Thin Red Line'?
- (d) Medals - No self-respecting collector of medals would be satisfied unless he had checked the authenticity of his more valuable pieces by an investigation of the background of the original recipient. He will want to know, perhaps, if the bars on a particular medal were awarded to the recipient or whether they have been added by some less scrupulous collector. He will, therefore, need to check records of the medal-winner's unit, to see if they were actually engaged in the battles for which bars were awarded and if the man was there.



- (e) Model Soldiers - popularly considered as toy soldiers, but not so by the collector. These are usually authentic models true in all detail of a particular rank and unit, and, in many cases, quite expensive. The majority of collectors paint these themselves, and the desire to produce an authentic replica forces the collector to search all available material for detail of uniforms, and equipment. Few collectors can ever hope to display a complete uniform of the early 19th century, but the model provides an interesting substitute.
- (f) Books, prints and pictures - little need be said on this aspect as it is one common to all historical interests. However, the military print does have special significance as it will establish the colours of uniform, and regimental distinctions in an era. In the reverse, a detailed knowledge of these matters will often assist in the identification of some unnamed portrait.

Each one of the interests mentioned could be the subject of long and interesting discussion, but at this point it is more important to bring out the importance of the military collector in this country.

The Military Research and Collectors' Society caters for people who share the sentiments of Field-Marshal Sir Gerald Templer, expressed in his foreword to Carman's book on 'British Military Uniforms' - he wrote - 'I am an unrepentant believer in the traditions and customs that are still preserved in the uniforms of the British Army'.

Unfortunately, while many people in this country share this outlook, there is very little official effort being made to preserve traditions, customs, or the uniforms and other military items in which they are reflected. The Australian War Memorial is restricted to the collection, preservation, and display of items relevant to the wars in which Australians have fought as part of our national forces, and it does not, and probably has not the resources, and certainly not the charter, to collect other items of interest relating to the peacetime history of the Australian Services.

There is an Air Force Museum at Point Cook, and the Army Infantry Centre has a weapons museum at Holdsworthy. However, to my knowledge, there is only one regimental museum in process of formation in this country - that of the Royal N.S.W. Lancers at Parramatta. There an attempt is being made to preserve and display relics and uniforms of one of our oldest military units. It is worthy of mention that the curator is an active member of our Society; he is the Secretary of the N.S.W. Branch, and is ably supported by Colonel Phillip Vernon, E.C., editor of the recently published History of the Royal N.S.W. Lancers, and a Vice-President of the Military Research and Collectors' Society.

Two recent examples of items of dress or regimental distinction which are likely to be lost to the military historian unless they are collected now, are the rather colourful formation signs worn by the Army from the early 1950's until two years ago, and, of more importance, the regimental badges of the C.M.F. battalions which disappeared in the latest Army re-organisation. Where, apart from in the collections of private individuals, have these items been preserved.

It is hoped that by these few examples I have been able to make clear the need for collecting, and the avenues of research which are opened for the collector.

Now not all the members of the Military Research and Collectors' Society are collectors, some are interested in basic research into the history of units, the military careers of individuals, and other matters of more generally accepted historical interest. The results of their work may be found in 'Sabretache'. For example, a series of articles on the 'Early Defence Forces in Victoria' has been running in the Journal for the past twelve months.

It has been arranged with our headquarters in Melbourne that a copy of each future issue of 'Sabretache' will be forwarded to the Canberra and District Historical Society.

It would be painting a false picture if I left you with the impression that each one of our members is a dedicated student of Australian military history. This is not so. We have members whose interests range from the Middle Ages, through the American Civil War and Tsarist Russia to Nazi Germany. I can say that the basic interest of the majority of our members is Australian, however ours is a collectors', as well as a research or historical organisation, and we do have a very definite need to cater for those whose interests lie elsewhere.

What are the future plans of the Military Research and Collectors' Society? These are mainly dependent upon Branch policy, for our Branches enjoy a fairly independent existence. Here, in Canberra, we hope to develop a greater interest specifically in Australian military history, and, by talks and lectures on the subject, provide not only information for our local members, but maintain a flow of material of more Australian content for our Journal, thereby fulfilling our part in preserving some of our Country's history and traditions.

The Military Research and Collectors' Society can, and does, cater for individual interests, but we consider that the Society fills, to some extent, a national requirement. It is our policy and hope, to meet this need on a yet larger scale.



INSIGNIA OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES MILITARY FORCES. 1890.Submitted by R. Gray.Hat and Badges.

Drab felt left side looped up and secured as under :-

General and Permanent Staff: Badge of the Colony.

Cavalry: Crest of His Excellency Lord Carrington.

Engineers: A grenade.

Mounted Infantry: Badge of the Colony.

Infantry; Medical Staff Corps; Reserves; Regimental Badge or general service button.

Distinctions on shoulder straps.

W.O's N.C.O's and O.R. of :-

General and Permanent Staff: The badge of the Colony.

Cavalry: Letter of troop.

Engineers: A grenade.

Mounted Infantry: Letter of Company.

Medical Staff Corps: The letters - M.S.C.

Troop and Company Sgt. Majors; Colour sgts and sergeants: silver embroidered company letter and number of regiment. For other ranks same in white metal.

Puggarees.

General Staff: Blue and fawn.

Permanent Staff: Blue

Cavalry: Red.

Field Artillery: Dark blue.

Engineers: Blue and red.

Mounted Infantry: White.

1st Regiment: Light drab.

2nd " : Green and drab.

3rd " : Purple and drab. Later changed to scarlet.

4th " : Yellow and red.

Medical Staff Corps: Dark drab.

Reserves: White.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY REGIMENT.

By R. Gray.

Students from the Melbourne University formed "D" Company 4th Battalion Victorian Rifles in 1833. This company was disbanded in 1886. In 1895 the University Corps of Officers was formed. This Corps was disbanded in 1901. It was not until 1910 that the Melbourne University Rifles was formed. This regiment was disbanded in 1942. The unit was reformed in 1948 under the new title of the Melbourne University Regiment.

VOLUNTEER DEFENCE CORPS.

By R. Gray.

This body was raised in the first instance by the Returned Servicemen's League of Australia, in 1940. In 1942 the V.D.C., with the alternative title of Home Guard, became part of the Australian Military Forces. Members were enrolled for full time duties as well as part time service, and were entitled to qualify for the British War medal and/or the Australian Service Medal. The Corps was disbanded in 1945. A book called "On Guard" which dealt with the history etc., of the V.D.C. was brought out by the Australian War Memorial in 1944.

Uniform (of normal Army pattern of the time).

Tunic. Green.	Trousers. Green.
Hat. Khaki felt.	Gaiters. Khaki.
Greatcoat. Khaki.	Badges. Commonwealth pattern, blackened ("Rising Sun")
Formation sign. Black letters "V.D.C." on a circular red background.	
Boots. Brown.	Buttons. Map & crown type - blackened.

Khaki tunics and trousers were issued to full time members, and also to part time personnel when stocks of the green uniforms were depleted. The following battalions were raised in South Australia :-

1st Battalion	Headquarters	Hindmarsh.
2nd "	"	Prospect.
3rd "	"	Unley.
4th "	"	Strathalbyn.
4th " (Metropolitan)	"	Glenelg. Later transferred to the 3rd Bn. In 1944 it became the 3rd Bn. V.D.C. Artillery Group.
5th "	"	Wudinna
6th "	"	Port Pirie
7th "	"	Kadina
8th "	"	Murray Bridge
9th "	"	Mount Gambier.
10th "	"	Gawler.

The headquarters were at the Torrens Drill Hall, the Parade Ground, Adelaide. Both the 3rd and 9th. Battalions had pipers attached to them. The V.D.C. also had a band which was recruited from the Glenelg Town Band.  
\* \* \* \* \*

British Colonial Horse.

By R. Gray.

Just after the outbreak of war in August 1914 members of the Legion of Frontiersmen living in Lancashire, Cheshire and Yorkshire paid their own fares to Belgium. Upon arrival there they were attached to the 9th Belgian Lancers under the title of "British Colonial Horse". They were in action against the Germans on August 16th, 1914 - a week before the Battle of Mons. Some members of the "British Colonial Horse" remained with the 9th Belgian Lancers to the end of the war, but others managed at a later stage to get accepted for service in the British Army. These are in the position of having two sets of medals for the 1914/18 war - one set of British medals and one set of Belgian.



NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH NOTES.

Since last issue of Sabretache, this Branch has been very active. A meeting was held at the Bradley's Head gun emplacement and the problem of the "Sydney" mast was raised again. It was decided to request again that action be taken in its restoration, but before we could act, an appeal was launched, to which we made a contribution and an offer of assistance from the Branch.

Alfred Festberg visited Sydney, so we convened a special Committee Meeting to meet socially and discuss our problems, followed by an afternoon at Vacluse House, this being a monthly meeting which Alfred attended.

The Branch affiliated with the Royal Historical Society of Australia and made overtures to the National Trust, which have to be followed up on a personal level.

Due to A.H.Q. Victoria Barracks Sydney sending on to us requests for buttons, badges and insignia, from Australia and overseas (requests which we cannot meet due to our limited access to these items) representations were made to A.H.Q. and Deputy Director Royal Aust. Ordnance Corps, to allow us access to surplus items prior to sale or destruction. On the failure of these requests, direct representation is now in the hands of the Minister for the Army.

We feel that if the Army is willing to ask us to supply these items to collectors, then they should assist us to obtain them in the first place.

Serious thought has been given to the establishment of Branches in other States. Whilst this is only at the discussion stage, I will use this medium to spread the idea. More, and well established, vigorous branches assist us to maintain our aim - a worthwhile Society of serious and well intentional people. In this regard, the Secretary, N.S.W. Branch, prepared an article which has been accepted for publication by the Army Journal.

Next function is the December Social to be held at the Royal Aust. Armoured Corps Club on Friday, 13th December.

The New Year starts with the Executive of the branch being invited by the Randwick Historical Society to the opening of their project on historical Bare Island on January 19th. This could well be the venue of a full branch meeting the same or following month.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all from the N.S.W. Branch.

N. Grinyer,  
Secretary.



NEW ZEALAND COLOURED HAT BANDS.

Submitted by R. Gray.

Staff Corps (Also Ceremonial Guards and EIIR Coronation Contingent).	Red.
Artillery.	Blue, Red, Blue.
Mounted Rifles and Armour	Khaki, Green, Khaki.
Engineers.	Khaki, Dark Blue, Khaki.
Signals.	Light Blue, Dark Blue, Light Blue.
Infantry.	Khaki, Red, Khaki.
Army Service Corps.	Khaki, White, Khaki.
Medical.	Khaki, Maroon, Khaki.
Ordnance	Red, Blue, Red.
Electrical & Mechanical Engineers.	Blue, Yellow, Red.
Dental.	Green, Khaki, Green. Also Dark Blue, Peacock Green, Dark Blue.
Chaplain.	Black, Khaki, Black.
Pay.	Khaki, Yellow, Khaki.
Provost.	Dark Blue.
Education and Welfare.	Khaki, Brown, Khaki.
Regular Forces Cadets.	Red, Khaki, Red. Also Khaki.
Officer Cadet Training Units.	White.
Postal.	Khaki, Light Blue, Khaki.
Y.M.C.A.	Black, White, Black.
War Correspondents.	Green.
Signals. (Old type)	Khaki, $\frac{1}{2}$ White, $\frac{1}{2}$ Light Blue, Khaki.

In 1958, the Service Dress hat on which coloured hatbands were worn, was withdrawn from issue and replaced by a Battledress Cap as the standard N.Z. Army headdress.

\* \* \* \* \*

UNIFORM WORN BY THE PIPE BAND OF THE ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT.

By R. Gray.

Mackenzie kilt.  
 Green doublet (for ceremonial).  
 Battle dress (Khaki) jacket for normal wear.  
 Blue Glengarry (ceremonial).  
 Blue Bonnet (normal wear)      } Both with red and white dicing.  
 Leather sporran for Pipers.  
 Hair sporran for Pipe Major and Drum Major.  
 Red and White Hosetops.  
 White gaiters.



BRANCH NOTES.  
NEWS FROM CANBERRA BRANCH

by K.R. White.

The Branch has completed its first six months and has established itself quite successfully. Membership has passed double figures and a number of new members are expected in the near future.

A very successful meeting was held in September with a visit to the Royal Military College to view the JESS COLLECTION of Aust. Military Prints (with a very able commentary from our Editor) followed by a visit to the home of John Gorman to inspect his wonderful collection of model soldiers and reference library.

In October the Branch was invited to a meeting of The Canberra and District Historical Society to hear an address by Colonel M. Austin on William Minchin of the New South Wales Corps. We have obtained a copy of this paper for our Branch records and if permission can be obtained it would make a very good article for Sabretache.

Jim Gale delivered a very interesting talk on Medal Collecting at our November meeting which was well attended and a most welcome visitor was Ivan Losmasney from Melbourne.

Speaking of visitors, we are in the fortunate position of being half way between Sydney and Melbourne and as a result we have received quite a number of visitors over the past few months. The Society President, Mr. A. Festberg, was a recent visitor and useful talks were held during his visit. New South Wales members, B. Videon, P. Heiniger, E. Wiseman, J. Haken and A. Cansdell have also been sighted lately. We can assure any member visiting Canberra a hearty welcome at any time.

The Branch was recently presented with a telescope, which bears the inscription "James Thompson, Esquire, Bengal Artillery". The telescope, made by Dollond, London, is in very good condition and an interesting feature is the lacquered wood outer cover.

On behalf of all ACT members we extend the compliments of the Season to all members and wish everyone a very successful New Year in their various activities.

\* \* \* \* \*

BOOKS.

"CHARLES KING - AMERICAN ARMY NOVELIST"

By C.E.Dornbusch.

This is a bibliography from the collection of the National Library of Australia, Canberra, by our member Mr. Dornbusch, from whom we have seen several interesting and useful similar works in recent years.



Charles King was a soldier novelist. He was credited by the War Department in 1933 with seventy (70) years of active service! Born in 1844, in Albany N.Y., at the age of 12 years he became a marker in the Milwaukee Light Guard. From that time on, right through World War 1, he served in many military ranks and capacities. During this time he produced a great many books with a military or Western flavour. From the numerous editions in which some were reprinted, it is obvious that he was a "best-seller" in his time. Many of his works were published as paper-back editions.

The collection now in the National Library of Australia was mainly amassed by Mr. Dornbusch.

This bibliography is an interesting one for the specialist, as it lists not only the books that King wrote, but also the various editions. A series of 6 plates shows the covers of some of the books.

Publisher: HOPE FARM PRESS.

Price: 3 dollars US.

.....

#### BOOK LISTS.

Recent lists of books for sale have been received from :

A.A. Johnston, 1 Telston Close, Bourne End, Bucks, England.  
213 military books and prints are listed, covering all sorts of military subjects.

Ken Trotman, 3 Ash Close, Naphill, High Wycombe, Bucks, England.  
65 books on military subjects, arranged under headings such as "Firearms and Ammunition", etc.

.....

#### THE SOCIETY LIBRARY.

Mr. Robert Powell advises that the Library is now available to members who may care to call at his home. It is suggested, however, that a phone call in advance will ensure that he will be available. Phome X1 4131.

Bob also kindly offers members the chance to see his own extensive collection of military books.

.....



MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS. (5/- per advert.)

WANTED: By exchange or purchase. Australian and New Zealand only.

NAVAL: Cap tallies, cap badges, belt clasps, pouch badges, buttons, helmets.  
ARMY: Badges, buttons, shoulder titles, belt clasps, helmets, felt hats, Light Horse colour patches, embroidered titles, formation signs, puggarees.  
AIR FORCE: Cap badges, shoulder titles, belt clasps.  
CADETS : Badges and embroidered titles.  
POLICE Headdress only.  
SOUTH AFRICAN WAR AND WWI Hats, badges and shoulder titles.

Particulars to R. Gray, 5 Elder Tce., Glengowrie, Sth. Aust.  
 ALL LETTERS ANSWERED.

. . . . .

WANTED: AIR FORCES BADGES, including:

Australian Flying Corps pilot wings of 3 patterns,  
 " " " metal title "AFC",  
 R.A.A.F. metal 4-bladed propellor sleeve badge,  
 " Air Officers piped forage cap,  
 Australian Womens Air Training Corps beret badges,  
 Malaya, Ceylon, Hong Kong and new African States items,  
 French Air Force insignia other than wings,  
 British Air Observer Corps cloth insignias,  
 " Air Defence Cadet Corps uniform insignias.  
 W.A.A.A.F. wartime blue peaked cap.

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

. . . . .

EXCHANGE:

A number of pre-Federation Victorian Military Forces glengarry badges about 1886 for other pre-Federation Australian badges, cash settlement for superior pieces,  
 also

WANTED TO PURCHASE:

Australian Army badges.

Write to: J.K. Haken, c/- P.O. Box 1, KENSINGTON, N.S.W.

. . . . .

FOR DISPOSAL:

German leather cartridge boxes, complete with loops for 40 cartridges, to fit on front of waistbelt. Thought to be of Franco-Prussian War period.

American Civil War combination nipple wrench and screw driver for Enfield musket. Nipple protector for same musket.

3 aluminium badges of Nazi Germany -- one pin back with sailing ship, one eagle, swastika in wreath, one swastika on "V" of oak leaves.

Imperial Austrian medal awarded for shooting, dated 1st May, 1898. Bust of Franz Joseph on front.

Austrian Republic (c.1926) N.C.O.'s full dress kepi in black cloth, gold braid and Republic cockade.

A number of odd cigarette and chewing gum cards on military subjects.

WANTED:

Cap badge of Grenadier Guards Warrant Officers with Geo. VI crown and cypher.

Busby plate skull and crossbones for Deaths Head Hussars busby, also scroll for above.

Prussian Cockade for above busby.

Imperial German helmet roundels any colours.

Imperial Austrian belt buckle brass.

Austrian Uhlans shapska.

Austrian field service cap WW1 period.

German ditto.

Austrian steel helmet WW1 period.

Particulars to K.W. Pryor, c/- Overseas Visitors Club,  
180 Earls Court Rd., LONDON, SW5, England.

. . . . .

AN INVITATION.

Mr. Robert Gray extends a warm welcome to anyone visiting Adelaide to call and see him. Bob has a great collection of Australian and New Zealand items, and any collector will find this an interesting and pleasant visit.

His address is - 5 Elder Tce., GLENGOWRIE. On the phone.







