

Military Historical Society of Australia
Sabretache



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

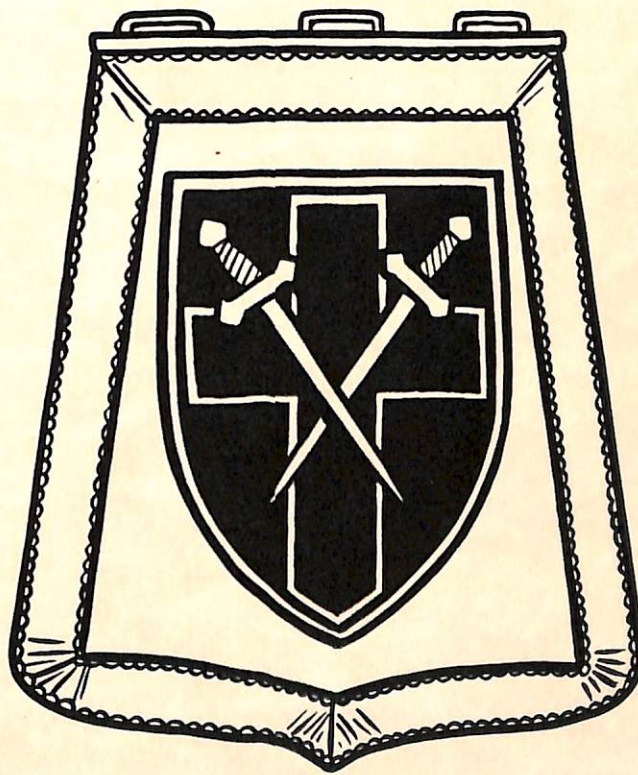
Sabretache policy is that the submission of material gives the Society permission to print your material, to allow the material to be included in digital databases such as the MHSa website, Australian Public Affairs-Full Text, INFORMIT and EBSCO. Reprints to non-profit historical and other societies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

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

www.mhsa.org.au

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

SABRETACHE

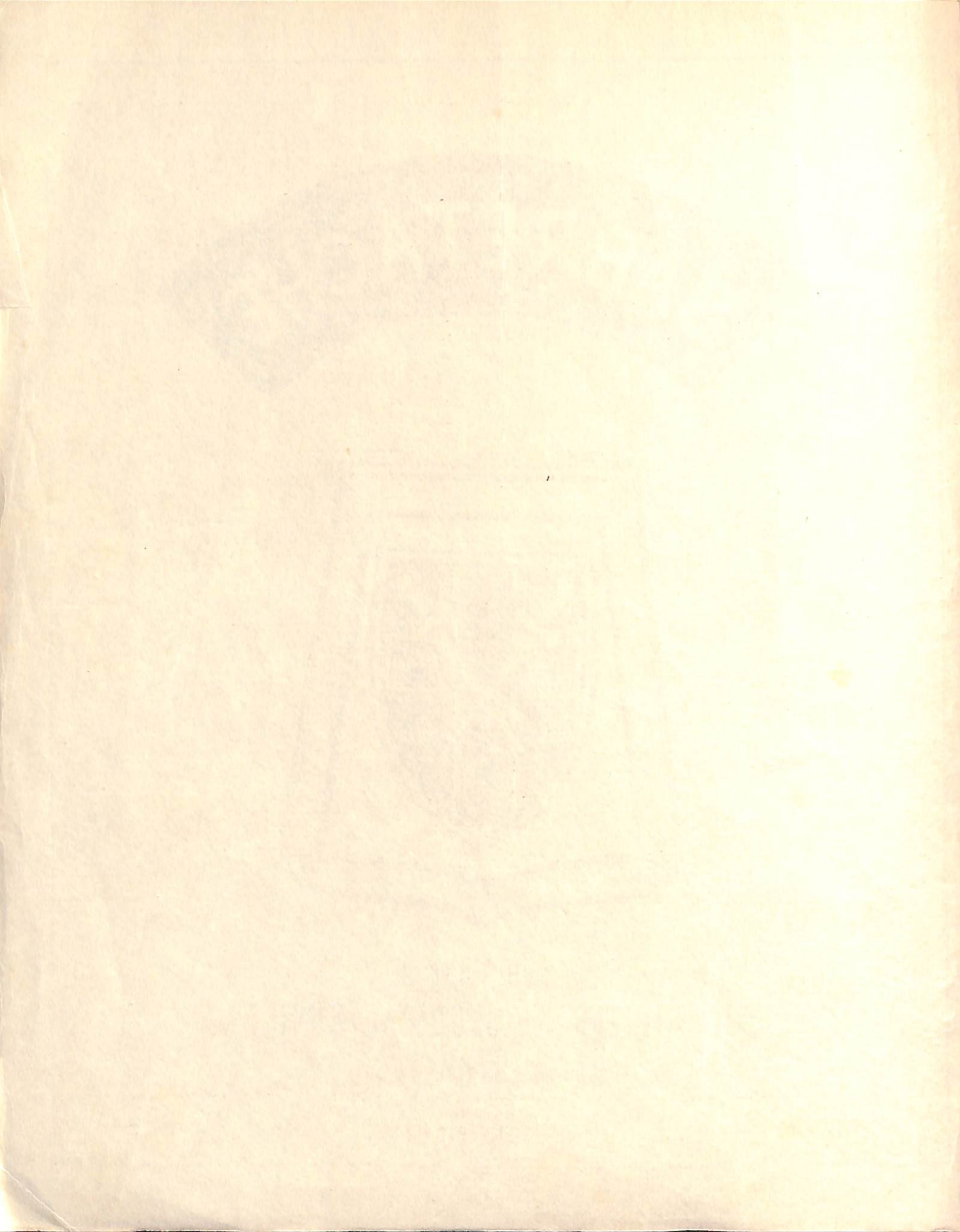


THE JOURNAL OF
THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF AUSTRALIA

VOL. VII

OCTOBER, 1964

No. 2



OCTOBER, 1964.

"SABRETACHE"

THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
Officially recognized by the Department of the Army

Founded in Melbourne in 1957

HONORARY OFFICE BEARERS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE, 1965.

PRESIDENT.

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

VICE PRESIDENTS

Mr. A.N. Festberg
Lt. Col. P. V. Vernon, E.D.
Mr. B.J. Videon

SECRETARY

Mr. J.K. Lyons
(262 Tucker Road, Ormond East, S.E.14, Victoria)

TREASURER

Lt. P. Lober
(7 Margaret Street, Brighton, S.6. Victoria)

LIBRARIAN

Mr. R. Powell
(11 Daff Avenue, Moorabbin, S.20. Victoria)

EDITOR

Mr. B.J. Videon,
(12 Noble Avenue, Punchbowl, N.S.W.)

BRANCHES OF THE SOCIETY

NEW SOUTH WALES

PRESIDENT.

Mr. B.J. Videon

SECRETARY

Mr. N.R. Grinyer
(144 Chetwynd Road, Guildford, N.S.W.)

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

PRESIDENT.

Major T.C. Sargent

SECRETARY

Mr. K.R. White
(50 Girrahween Street, Braddon, A.C.T.)

MONTHLY MEETINGS.

Monthly Meetings are held in Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra on the second Friday, last Saturday and fourth Tuesday respectively, of each month. Further details may be ascertained from the Secretary concerned.

THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS

INCORPORATED IN AUSTRALIA

MEMBERSHIP LIST

MEMBERS

Mr. J. H. ...

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

EMERITUS MEMBERS

Mr. ...

(Mr. ...)

MEMBERS

Mr. ...

(Mr. ...)

MEMBERS

Mr. ...

(Mr. ...)

MEMBERS

Mr. ...

(Mr. ...)

MEMBERS

Mr. ...

(Mr. ...)

(Mr. ...)

(Mr. ...)

MEMBERS

Mr. ...

(Mr. ...)

MEMBERS

Mr. ...

(Mr. ...)

(Mr. ...)

(Mr. ...)

(Mr. ...)

MEMBERS

Mr. ...

(Mr. ...)

(Mr. ...)

(Mr. ...)

THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA.

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

INDEX

	<u>Page</u>
EDITOR'S NOTES	28
INTRODUCING OUR NEW PRESIDENT	28
A MESSAGE TO MEMBERS FROM THE PRESIDENT	29-31
WILLIAM MINCHIN - ADJUTANT OF THE N.S.W. CORPS By Col. M. Austin, D.S.O., O.B.E.	32-45
UNIFORMS OF THE MILITARY FORCES OF ARGENTINA Submitted by Major T.C. Sargent	46-48
MILITARY CHRISTMAS CARDS By K.R. White	49-50
BOOK REVIEWS	50-52
"GOLDEN FLEECE" SWAP CARDS By B.J. Videon	53-54
"FEDERAL" MATCHBOX LABELS By B.J. Videon	54
CHANGES IN N.Z. ARMY DRESS ETC. Submitted by G. Shaw	55
BRIEF LIFE FOR N.Z. UNIT Submitted by G. Shaw	56
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	56
FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1963/64	57
MEMBERS ADVERTISEMENTS	57-58

THE HISTORY OF THE

... ..

...

...

...

...

...

Journal and Proceedings of
THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA.

Vol. VII

October, 1964

No. 2

Price: Four Shillings and Six Pence

EDITOR'S NOTES

INTRODUCING OUR NEW PRESIDENT.

At the elections held in Melbourne on 10th July, 1964, Major Warren Perry, R.L., M.A., B.Ed., was elected to the post of President.

Major Perry has not held office previously in our Society, although he is well known among our members as a military historian of no mean ability. His interesting article on Colonel Harry Will Perrin, V.C., A.G.A. appeared in "SABRETACHE" in 1961.

Our congratulations and good wishes to Major Perry for his term of office.

It is timely too to thank our retiring President, Mr. A.N. Festberg, for his work and guidance over the past years. Members will be interested to know that Mr. Festberg combines with his military studies a keen knowledge and appreciation of heraldry, and that he holds the position of Councillor in the Australian Branch of the Heraldry Society. Mr. Festberg's work on the Lineage of the Australian Military Forces was mentioned in the previous edition of "SABRETACHE."

The 50th Anniversary of the Outbreak of the War of 1914-18.

The fiftieth anniversary of the declaration of war by Great Britain against the Imperial German Empire occurred on Tuesday 4th August, 1964. On that date fifty years ago a state of war came into existence between these two powers on and from 11 p.m. (London time). On Wednesday, 5th August, 1914 at 12.45 p.m. (Melbourne time) the Australian Prime Minister, Sir Joseph Cook, announced in Melbourne to the press that: "I have received the following despatch from the Imperial Government - War has broken out with Germany."

Australian naval, military and air forces took part in this first world war. The ships of the Royal Australian Navy were placed under the direction and control of the Admiralty in London for the duration of this war and the Australian Flying Corps was an arm of the Australian Imperial Force.

Australia's principal fighting force in this war was the A.I.F. which grew in size to a force of more than five divisions and five light horse brigades. This A.I.F. produced from within its own ranks two corps commanders - General Sir Harry Chauvel and General Sir John Monash - and several divisional commanders, one of whom, Major General William Holmes of Sydney, was killed on active service at Messines. On the day after Armistice Day in 1918 the Australian Prime Minister, Mr. W.M. Hughes, said in a message to the Commander of the Australian Army Corps, General Sir John Monash, that: "On behalf of the Government and the people of Australia, I assure you, and every Australian soldier in the field, that Australia is full of pride and admiration for their endurance and sacrifice. The Australian soldiers are entitled to, and shall receive, not only the thanks of a grateful people, but that treatment which their great services deserve."

It is fitting on the occasion of this fiftieth anniversary to recall these words of Mr. Hughes and to refresh our memories with the following statistics relating to the first A.I.F.: the total enlistments into this force were 416,809 men; the total number of all ranks embarked for service overseas was 331,946; the total deaths in this force from all causes were 59,341. The first A.I.F. was awarded, among other honours and awards, 65 V.Cs; 619 DSOs; 2366 MCs; 171 MCs with 1 Bar, and 4 MCs with 2 Bars; 1767 DCMs and 27 DCMs with 1 Bar; 9926 MMs, 481 MMs with 1 Bar, 15 MMs with 2 Bars and 1 MM with 3 Bars. The Hon. C.L.A. Abbott once said of the first A.I.F. in words long since forgotten that: "I speak now to what is, and increasingly will be, the diminishing remnant of the A.I.F. The A.I.F. is dwindling year by year. Into the mists of time, the great army is slowly but all too quickly melting. ... In the front line with their comrades they stood. In the front line of peace today, with their ranks reduced, and their comrades gone and going, facing all the problems and vicissitudes of peace, they still remain, closing up the ranks". Happily a rearguard of the first A.I.F. is still with us, but no longer marching at the rate of 120 paces to the minute.

We remember on this occasion the deeds of all those Australian people who played a part, fifty years ago, in the War of 1914-18. These deeds have since become a part of Australia's history and of this part of that history Dr. Bean has said that: "It rises, as it will always rise, above the mists of ages, a monument of great-hearted men; and, for their nation, a possession for ever."

A MESSAGE TO MEMBERS FROM THE PRESIDENT.

This is the first opportunity I have had since my election to the office of President on the 10th July, 1964 to address all members through the medium of the Society's Journal. The present is an occasion for us to look backwards as well as forwards. In looking backwards we recall that the Society has entered the eighth year of its existence and we see all what has been achieved in that time. In these past years the rough and the smooth

have been mixed in varying proportions. We owe a debt of gratitude to all those office bearers who have had the responsibility of conducting the day-to-day business of the Society in past years and also to those ordinary members who have actively helped during this time in countless unrecorded ways not only to establish and to maintain the Society but also to develop and thereby promote its object and interests. These office bearers and these members have achieved much and we should be ever mindful of their work, usually unsung, in the general interests of the Society. What they have done has been done at much cost to each of them in time and often, no doubt, in money to meet many out of pocket expenses in the cause of advancing the business of the Society.

Nevertheless, we must look forward as well as backwards if we are to be members of a progressive Society. We must be ever mindful of the need to examine continuously ways and means for promoting the general interests of the Society and in doing this to promote thereby the particular interests of members.

Our programme for the current year, 1964-65, is a full one. Its aim will be to establish the Society more firmly and promote its aims more vigorously by giving better service to members. This aim will be achieved, I hope, by the attainment of a number of objectives. The first objective is to increase our membership and thereby to increase our financial position, for members' subscriptions are the sole source of the Society's income. The second objective is to increase the range and quality of the articles in our already much sought after journal - "Sabretache". This is not something that can be left exclusively in the hands of the Editor. If he is given articles below standard for publication he cannot always transform them, by sub-editing, into articles that meet required standards. Indeed, it is not a true function of an Editor to be obliged to do sub-editing of this kind. Members can, therefore, help the Editor to improve the journal by giving him articles which are well-written and accurate and are related directly to the aim and interests of the Society. In this connection it should be noted that the object of the Society is the promotion of all aspects of Military History and members should, therefore, draw a sharp line between history and current affairs. Much remains yet to be done in the field of history. Very little has been published yet on the military forces of their various Australian colonies before Federation in 1901; nothing has been published in recent years to my knowledge in the nature of re-appraisals of earlier histories of Australia's role in the South African War of 1899-1902; and much of what was written in the 1920s and the 1930s on the War of 1914-18 is due now for re-writing and re-assessment.

We must remember also that many of our members are primarily interested in collecting. We should, therefore, try to ensure that well-documented articles on rare and interesting collectors' items, especially on items of Australian origin, are published in the Journal from time to time. But it must obviously be left to Collectors themselves to furnish material of this nature to the Editor for publication.

Australia's principal fighting force in this war was the A.I.F. which grew in size to a force of more than five divisions and five light horse brigades. This A.I.F. produced from within its own ranks two corps commanders - General Sir Harry Chauvel and General Sir John Monash - and several divisional commanders, one of whom, Major General William Holmes of Sydney, was killed on active service at Messines. On the day after Armistice Day in 1918 the Australian Prime Minister, Mr. W.M. Hughes, said in a message to the Commander of the Australian Army Corps, General Sir John Monash, that: "On behalf of the Government and the people of Australia, I assure you, and every Australian soldier in the field, that Australia is full of pride and admiration for their endurance and sacrifice. The Australian soldiers are entitled to, and shall receive, not only the thanks of a grateful people, but that treatment which their great services deserve."

It is fitting on the occasion of this fiftieth anniversary to recall these words of Mr. Hughes and to refresh our memories with the following statistics relating to the first A.I.F.: the total enlistments into this force were 416,809 men; the total number of all ranks embarked for service overseas was 331,946; the total deaths in this force from all causes were 59,341. The first A.I.F. was awarded, among other honours and awards, 65 V.Cs; 619 DSOs; 2366 MCs; 171 MCs with 1 Bar, and 4 MCs with 2 Bars; 1767 DCMs and 27 DCMs with 1 Bar; 9926 MMs, 481 MMs with 1 Bar, 15 MMs with 2 Bars and 1 MM with 3 Bars. The Hon. C.L.A. Abbott once said of the first A.I.F. in words long since forgotten that: "I speak now to what is, and increasingly will be, the diminishing remnant of the A.I.F. The A.I.F. is dwindling year by year. Into the mists of time, the great army is slowly but all too quickly melting. ... In the front line with their comrades they stood. In the front line of peace today, with their ranks reduced, and their comrades gone and going, facing all the problems and vicissitudes of peace, they still remain, closing up the ranks". Happily a rearguard of the first A.I.F. is still with us, but no longer marching at the rate of 120 paces to the minute.

We remember on this occasion the deeds of all those Australian people who played a part, fifty years ago, in the War of 1914-18. These deeds have since become a part of Australia's history and of this part of that history Dr. Bean has said that: "It rises, as it will always rise, above the mists of ages, a monument of great-hearted men; and, for their nation, a possession for ever."

A MESSAGE TO MEMBERS FROM THE PRESIDENT.

This is the first opportunity I have had since my election to the office of President on the 10th July, 1964 to address all members through the medium of the Society's Journal. The present is an occasion for us to look backwards as well as forwards. In looking backwards we recall that the Society has entered the eighth year of its existence and we see all what has been achieved in that time. In these past years the rough and the smooth

have been mixed in varying proportions. We owe a debt of gratitude to all those office bearers who have had the responsibility of conducting the day-to-day business of the Society in past years and also to those ordinary members who have actively helped during this time in countless unrecorded ways not only to establish and to maintain the Society but also to develop and thereby promote its object and interests. These office bearers and these members have achieved much and we should be ever mindful of their work, usually unsung, in the general interests of the Society. What they have done has been done at much cost to each of them in time and often, no doubt, in money to meet many out of pocket expenses in the cause of advancing the business of the Society.

Nevertheless, we must look forward as well as backwards if we are to be members of a progressive Society. We must be ever mindful of the need to examine continuously ways and means for promoting the general interests of the Society and in doing this to promote thereby the particular interests of members.

Our programme for the current year, 1964-65, is a full one. Its aim will be to establish the Society more firmly and promote its aims more vigorously by giving better service to members. This aim will be achieved, I hope, by the attainment of a number of objectives. The first objective is to increase our membership and thereby to increase our financial position, for members' subscriptions are the sole source of the Society's income. The second objective is to increase the range and quality of the articles in our already much sought after journal - "Sabretache". This is not something that can be left exclusively in the hands of the Editor. If he is given articles below standard for publication he cannot always transform them, by sub-editing, into articles that meet required standards. Indeed, it is not a true function of an Editor to be obliged to do sub-editing of this kind. Members can, therefore, help the Editor to improve the journal by giving him articles which are well-written and accurate and are related directly to the aim and interests of the Society. In this connection it should be noted that the object of the Society is the promotion of all aspects of Military History and members should, therefore, draw a sharp line between history and current affairs. Much remains yet to be done in the field of history. Very little has been published yet on the military forces of their various Australian colonies before Federation in 1901; nothing has been published in recent years to my knowledge in the nature of re-appraisals of earlier histories of Australia's role in the South African War of 1899-1902; and much of what was written in the 1920s and the 1930s on the War of 1914-18 is due now for re-writing and re-assessment.

We must remember also that many of our members are primarily interested in collecting. We should, therefore, try to ensure that well-documented articles on rare and interesting collectors' items, especially on items of Australian origin, are published in the Journal from time to time. But it must obviously be left to Collectors themselves to furnish material of this nature to the Editor for publication.

The publication of "Sabretache" is one of the Society's most important functions, for it is a reflection of the Society and a record of its proceedings of an enduring kind. It is by means of this journal that members are kept in touch with the activities of the Society as a whole. This journal should enable members to increase their knowledge of military history in all its aspects. It may be truly said that a Society can be judged by the quality of its journal.

It is planned also to invite persons to speak at meetings in Melbourne, during the current year, on subjects of interest to the Society and in which the speakers are experts or authorities. In this respect a lecture was given by myself at the August 1964 meeting in Melbourne on "The Fiftieth Anniversary of the Outbreak of the War of 1914-18" and in September 1964 the inaugural Presidential Address was given in Melbourne on the subject, "An Author at Arms" which dealt with the 19th century British Soldier and Writer, General Sir Edward Bruce Hamley. It is hoped that Branches of the Society in other States will be able to arrange likewise a panel of lecturers who will speak at their monthly meetings on subjects a knowledge of which it is the aim of the Society to promote. It was said earlier that one of our objectives is to increase our membership. I believe this can only be done successfully by making our monthly meetings worthwhile for members to attend.

The success of the Society depends neither on the President alone nor on the Headquarters and Branch executive committees alone, but more largely, than upon any other factor, upon the individual members. It is from the members that the executive committees of the Society draw their authority and inspiration and it depends on the individual support of every member of the Society whether the Society, as a whole, will flourish and succeed.

There are certain directions in which members can help and accord the Headquarters executive committee and the President even greater support than in the past. One is in the direction of the monthly meetings. In these meetings members can help, mainly by making it a point of honour to attend as many meetings as possible each year. Secondly, by coming forward with papers for publication in "Sabretache" and with lectures on matters on which they are competent to speak and which will be certain to be of interest to other members. And lastly by discussing freely all lectures given at meetings and articles published in "Sabretache". If these things can be done in a greater measure than in the past then the coming year will be a successful one.

In conclusion I send my best wishes to all members and hope that by our efforts, collectively and individually, we will be able, at the next Annual General Meeting, to look back on the year 1964-65 as our best year so far.

Warren Perry.
PRESIDENT.

WILLIAM MINCHIN

Adjutant of the New South Wales Corps.

By Colonel M. Austin, D.S.O., O.B.E.
"An address delivered to the Canberra and District Historical Society by Colonel M. Austin. The meeting at which this paper was delivered was attended by the members of the ACT Branch of The Military Historical Society of Australia. The address is reproduced by kind permission of Colonel Austin and the Canberra and District Historical Society."

"This valorous Adjutant next claims a place
In the Temple of treason his Fiz must be shewn
This pease cask Poltroon hath at length run his race
And in Newgate with G-r-ms he is safely set down."

Not content with this piece of wanton libel, the author, reputed to be one Lawrence Davoren a convicted attorney from Dublin, goes on with malicious inaccuracy to state that -

This hero of the blade was originally a private in the Irish Royal Artillery, and being passenger on the Lady Jane Shore, transport, which was surprised and taken by the female prisoners into old Spain - the Adjutant (then Ensign) hid himself prudently in a pease cask during the conflict, convinced with Hudibrass that 'he who fights and runs away may live to fight another day'. Upon him emerging however, from his recess in great trepidation after the conflict was terminated by the Captain of the vessel he was uncivilly treated by Major Semple of swindling celebrity, who was one of the prisoners then coming to the Colony and who, having taken a part against his fellow prisoners in the mutiny very roughly kicked and pulled the Ensign by the nose for his cowardice and for his conduct upon that occasion. The Major obtained a pardon on his return to London and the Ensign was also preferred to an Adjutancy upon his arrival at Port Jackson as also Officer of Artillery - cowardice being inherent in the whole wretched tribe of them and considered and rewarded as a military virtue here.¹

The subject of this character assassination was William Minchin, the Adjutant of the New South Wales Corps. A soldier who, during the 45 or 47 years of his life appears to have had more adventures than most.

From a biographical point of view his life falls conveniently into four phases, viz -

His early years.

The Mutiny on the 'Lady Shore'.

Service with the N.S.W. Corps, and finally

Service under Macquarie.

THE EARLY YEARS.

Minchin's early years are clouded in obscurity. He appears to have been born in County Tipperary in 1774 or 1776, as a cadet of the Greenhills branch of the Minchin family, which first settled in Ireland in the days of Elizabeth I.²

To date it has not been possible to discover where he was educated, and to whom he was married, although we do know that his wife Ann was born in 1775, and consequently was much the same age as himself.³

Like many of the Minchin family William chose the Army as his career. If the general accuracy of most of Davoren's statements is taken as an indication it would appear unlikely that Minchin ever served as a private in the Irish Royal Artillery, although from a despatch of Governor King's he appears to have had some training in the use of the 'great guns'.

On the 10th of June 1796, Major Grose was authorised to increase the establishment of the New South Wales Corps by two companies. Grose was allowed to nominate the extra officers, the only conditions laid down being that subalterns must have two years' service, and that ensigns could not be under the age of 16.⁴

It is at this time that the first point of confusion arises. The Greenhills branch of the Minchin family was founded by a William Minchin. Many of this branch, as well as the other branches bear the name William. Unless extreme care is taken, therefore, there is considerable latitude for error.

For example, on the 7th of March 1795, a William Minchin was appointed to the 18th (or Royal Irish) Regiment of Foot. He was promoted to Lieutenant on the 15th of June 1796, but retired on the 6th of January 1797 after little more than two years' service. It appears unlikely that this is the William Minchin of the N.S.W. Corps, who, although appointed Adjutant of the N.S.W. Corps on the 8th of November 1796, and gazetted as Ensign on the 4th of March 1797 was serving at the same time.⁵

It will be remembered, that the early Governors were constantly complaining about the shortage of officers in the Colony, and consequently although the augmentation of the N.S.W. Corps was cancelled on the 13th of March 1797, the additional officers appointed by Grose were allowed to proceed, on the understanding that they were 'to be second in their respective ranks and are to fall into vacancies in the establishment as they shall occur'. Consequently the newly appointed Ensign William Minchin found himself in command of Ensign Prater and a detachment of recruits bound for N.S.W. The latter included a number of Irish and French prisoners of war (who may also have been deserters) who had been virtually impressed into the British Army. They also appear to have included 6 soldiers from the Savoy military prison who had been condemned by a benign Sovereign to serve for life in a regiment stationed in N.S.W.⁶

The cargo included 66 female convicts who could be expected to give trouble anyway, the notorious swindler 'Major' Semple and 100 stand of 'black arms' to assist Governor Hunter to suppress the 'banditti'.⁷

Minchin's position was hardly an enviable one, and unless he possessed abundant self-confidence he could hardly, with his youth and inexperience, have faced the voyage with any great degree of confidence.

THE MUTINY ON THE 'LADY SHORE'⁸

Early events made it obvious that the 'soldiers' had no intention of serving in N.S.W. if this could be avoided. One of the English 'soldiers', possibly one from the Savoy, asked Semple if he would help in an attempt to seize the ship. This was the eighth time he had been embarked for Botany Bay without reaching it, and he was equally determined not to reach it this time, even though he had been put on board by a police officer. Moreover one of the French 'soldiers' informed General Fox prior to leaving Chatham, that if the ship was not taken it would be set on fire, 'for to Botany Bay they would not go'.

It is not always remembered, that at this period the Army and Navy did not quite see eye to eye. The Army officer was apt to regard commissioned officers in the Navy, as something less than gentlemen. The basis of this attitude no doubt lay in the system of commissioning - the purchase system of the Army as opposed to the system of upward progression through the lower ranks used by the Navy at this time. Moreover the time was not so far distant when Army officers fought the ships in naval engagements, while the mariners went about the technical business of sailing the ship under their direction. These attitudes alone go a long way in explaining some events in N.S.W. for the first 25 years of its history;

Trouble broke out soon after the troops embarked in March 1797. The soldiers showed scant respect for the master and his officers, or for that matter Minchin. The soldiers treated the quarter deck as their own private parade; arms and ammunition were issued, even to those troops embarked under guard. When the Lady Shore arrived at Torbay the master/owner of the transport, Willcocks, complained to both General Fox and Duke of Portland. As a result Grose came aboard for a few minutes, but gave Willcocks little satisfaction. On the contrary he endorsed Minchin's action in issuing arms and ammunition to the troops, even those who had been prisoners.

At Falmouth, Murchison, the second mate, was informed by a female convict that she had heard that Minchin intended to put the captain into irons as soon as they put to sea. Murchison, while scathing in his comments on Minchin's conduct, does not appear to have taken any action as a result of this warning.

The female cargo produced the usual problems. Minchin complained to Willcocks about the intercourse between the seamen and the prisoners - not on moral grounds, but because of the traffic past his quarters, i.e.

the 'passage to the great cabin and to the steerage was down the after hatch-way'. No mention is made of the soldiers, although I would be greatly surprised if they were not involved just as much as the seamen.

There must have been many incidents which produced friction between the soldiers and the sailors from the day the 'Lady Shore' sailed in May until the mutiny occurred on the first of August 1797 off the coast of South America.

It is always easy to be wise after an event, but not so easy to make an objective judgement of anyone's actions based only on the information available at the time the event occurred. Eighteen months previously some of the convicts, with the connivance of a sergeant, a corporal and some privates, had made two unsuccessful attempts at mutiny on board the 'Marquis Cornwallis'. Presumably Grose knew of this, but discounted the possibility of it occurring on a female convict ship. He may or may not have known of the threats of the 'soldiers' from the Savoy and the French ex-prisoners of war that they were determined not to reach Botany Bay. In any case threats of this nature can be very easily discounted at the time they are made, and it is often not until after the event occurs that people recall them.⁹

It is obvious today that the soldiers placed on board under arrest should have remained in confinement for the whole of the voyage. But was this quite so obvious 166 years ago? Apart from being recruits for the N.S.W. Corps, the troops were also a guard over the convicts. To be consistent arms and ammunition would have to be issued to carry out those guard duties. But was it really practicable to have issued some soldiers with arms and ammunition and not others, particularly when the soldiers to whom arms and ammunition should not have been issued were not in confinement?

Consequently, while Minchin does not appear to have had a great deal of control over his troops, and to have avoided responsibility, it is perhaps just as well to remember that the original mistakes were certainly not his, and his action in issuing arms and ammunition to all the troops was endorsed by his commanding officer.

The various accounts of the mutiny are conflicting although the following is a fair summary of events as they occurred.

The chief officer, Lambert, made the initial mistake, for which he paid dearly. Although he saw preparations for the mutiny he did not raise the alarm but went to his own cabin to load his pistols. When he returned on deck, even though 'he plainly perceived the intentions of the men', he again returned to his cabin. The mutineers wasted no time. They surrounded Lambert's cabin, and in the ensuing fracas he and one of the mutineers were wounded. Murchison, the second mate, by this time was awake. Lambert succeeded in breaking into his cabin, and together they attempted to break

through another door into the Great Cabin and the Captain's stateroom. This door, unfortunately, was locked, although Murchison succeeded in tearing down the canvas screen division into the other part of the cuddy. Lambert, already wounded twice, crawled through the opening only to receive his quietus at the end of a bayonet.

Wilcocks, the captain, was now also awake, but as he ran out of his cabin he was stabbed below the heart and fell down the after hatchway. This appears to have woken Minchin whose cabin was close by. Wilcocks had sufficient strength to crawl back into the Great Cabin, at the same time calling out to Minchin that 'your men have seized the ship, and have murdered me'. He afterwards called out to give up the ship - an order which Minchin repeated several times, whereupon the mutineers 'gave three cheers, fired two of the great guns and a volley of small arms, and laid on the hatches fore and aft'.

From the various accounts it appears fairly certain that the plot was conceived and directed mainly by impressed French prisoners of war 'on account of their having (being) trepanned into the service by Colonel Grose'. As prisoners of war, of course, it would be their duty to escape from the opportunity offered. James' 'Naval History' casts doubts on whether the French involved were true prisoners of war, and no doubt reflecting perfidious Albions' view of the French at the time, considers it possible 'that these French prisoners had committed some act of turpitude, the divulgement of which would have shown, not only that their punishment had been justly inflicted, but that their veracity was not to be relied on'. Perhaps James is just as inaccurate in this as he is when he states that 'A spirited opposition by the passengers, and the loyal part of the soldiers and seamen, might yet have saved the ship, had not a traitorous scoundrel, one 'Adjutant Minchin', delivered up the arms and ammunition to the mutineers'.

The mutineers did not suffer from irresolution - 'if the least resistance was attempted a general massacre would take place'. Ensign Prater was injudicious enough to suggest that the ship be retaken, and very nearly found himself hanged for his trouble.

On the 15th of August the mutineers cast 29, including strangely enough, 3 female convicts, adrift in the long boat. Two days later the castaways arrived near Porto St. Pedro where they were hospitably received by the Portuguese Colonel Commandant. Eventually the party was embarked and sailed, only to be wrecked. However, Minchin and his wife reached shore safely, and eventually arrived at Rio de Janiero on the 18th of November.

It would appear from the Purser's account (John Black) that Murchison and Semple were on very friendly terms, even though Murchison censures Minchin for his conduct at Rio de Janiero which he states is infamous, since he passed Semple off as a Dutch major, and allowed him to sit at the Governor's table.

The passengers from the long boat went their several ways. Minchin and his wife returned to London where in 1799 he appears to have successfully answered charges against him in connection with the mutiny. Semple, a man of many parts, eventually ended up in the Bridewell writing a full report for His Grace the Duke of Portland.

Those who remained on board the Lady Shore perhaps had the worst part of the deal. In their turn they became prisoners of the Spanish and correspondence exists showing the struggle which many of them had to get their back pay, which in some cases was not paid until late in 1805.

In summing up this particular period of Minchin's life I think it fair to state that his control as a commander was weak, and his judgment at fault, but it can hardly be said that he was a traitor, or that he lacked courage. He was a victim of circumstances, although a stronger character no doubt would have been able to exert an influence on events as they occurred. He certainly does not appear to be one of those officers who could have filled Wellington's requirements of leaving school, and with two NCO's and 15 privates get a shipload of convicts to Australia without trouble.¹⁰

SERVICE WITH NSW CORPS.

Minchin's second voyage to N.S.W. was more successful than his first. The 'Royal Admiral' departed from London on the 23rd of May 1800 via Rio de Janeiro. Apart from a small group of soldiers (including Ensign William Lawson of Blue Mountains fame) she carried 257 male convicts, a small group of missionaries, a quantity of copper coin, '8,000 gallons of infamous poison' and the germs of the dreaded gaol fever.¹¹

The voyage was not without incident. There was a naval engagement, and a reported plot to seize the ship. However, by far the most deadly scourge was the fever, which had claimed 43 convict lives by the time the ship reached Sydney on the 20th of November 1800, while nearly two years later Governor King was to observe that 'I am sorry to say at this moment many of the people who arrived by the "Royal Admiral" are in a state of great debility, nor do I apprehend they will ever recover the strength of men'.¹²

Minchin took over the duties of Adjutant from Ensign Neil MacKellar on the 22nd of November 1800 - four eventful years after his appointment to the position. The next two years, however, were to test him still further.¹³

As a result of the celebrated Marshall case in 1801 Minchin, although Paterson's Adjutant, came under the influence of McArthur. Paterson and King were busily patching up their quarrel when Minchin carried this interesting piece of information to McArthur. The resultant chain reaction led to the famous and extraordinary duel between Paterson and McArthur, and the latter's departure for England under arrest.¹⁴

The following year, in 1802, Governor King by his inept handling precipitated another crisis - this time involving the visiting French officers under Baudin and the officers of the N.S.W. Corps. In this particular case it was Harris, the Surgeon of the N.S.W. Corps, who triggered the incident by reporting a conversation he had had with Minchin to King.¹⁵

The evidence of Minchin and Harris was conflicting, and possibly with the events of the year before clear in his mind, King saw his opportunity to avenge himself on Minchin. In any event there was no doubt in King's mind that Minchin was lying. After some prodding the weak and pliant Paterson placed both Harris and Minchin on court martial charges to discover who was telling the truth. If King's aim was really revenge it miscarried, since both Harris and Minchin were acquitted, the findings being subsequently confirmed by the authorities in England.¹⁶

Time is not sufficient to analyse fully the events of these two years. Minchin displayed a degree of immaturity during the Marshall case, although he obviously learned his lesson, since a careful persual of King's despatches shows a degree of circumspection in Minchin's written and spoken statements relating to the Baudin incident. There does not seem to be any real evidence on which a court martial could reach a conviction. Nevertheless, as will be seen later, there appears to have been a feeling that Minchin was not to be trusted too far, and little reason to doubt King's statement to Jas Thompson, the acting DJAG at the trials of Harris and Minchin, that Grose in a letter to Paterson, subsequent to the duel between Paterson and McArthur, had called Minchin's veracity into question.¹⁷

Fortune smiled more kindly during the next 5 years, possibly because he was more prudent both in his dealings with King and his brother officers. It is possible also that his training in the use of 'great guns' was badly required by King. However, whatever the reason his relations with King improved considerably.

Late in 1804 King appears to have regained sufficient confidence in Minchin to appoint him as Engineer and Artillery Officer of the colony. This duty entailed instructing the Loyal Association in the use of the 'great guns', but more particularly the supervision of the construction of Fort Phillip - the citadel which Governor King had ordered to be built as the last ditch stand against the threatened rising of the fractious Irish who had been imported into N.S.W. in increasing numbers, as a result of the '98 rebellion.¹⁸

There is little record of how successful Minchin's efforts were in instructing volunteers in the science of artillery. However, the work involved in superintending the building of Fort Phillip appears to have provided him with an outlet for his restless energy, and an emolument of 7s.6d. per day, in addition to his pay as a company officer, as well as Adjutant.¹⁹

Neil MacKellar who had departed for England in 1802 with King's despatches and MacArthur's sword did not arrive in England. By this time he had been presumed dead, and as a consequence Minchin found himself promoted, without purchase, to MacKellar's vacant lieutenantancy in March 1805.²⁰

The Army officer of this period was nearly always a member of the landed gentry. He considered himself invariably a gentleman, and very rarely indeed as a professional soldier. On the other hand the very circumstances of a naval officer's career set a very high premium on professional competence, particularly at a time when England was busy about her industrial development, safe behind a sea barrier, pursuing a policy of colonial expansion and foreign trade. Moreover the Navy, while it did not have a system of commissioning by purchase, relied far more heavily on patronage than the Army.²¹

Consequently there was a marked difference in philosophy between the two Services. To some degree, therefore, it could be expected that friction would develop between a naval governor and a military garrison, particularly one such as the N.S.W. Corps.

Governor King at this stage was virtually a 'land lubber', as he had had no real contact with the main stream of naval life for 18 years. Bligh on the other hand had been very much in the thick of things and there is little to be wondered at, apart altogether from the characters of the two men concerned, that relations between the N.S.W. Corps and the succession of naval governors worsened soon after Bligh's arrival.

It must have been quite a stunning shock to Bligh for the soldiers to laugh at his daughter, Mary, when she came into church on the 21st of September, 1807; an even greater one for the wretches to laugh at him as well. His dignity must have been badly hurt indeed when only a weak explanation was offered after investigation, by Minchin, instead of swift and terrible punishment to the culprits.²²

Not long after this incident we find Minchin, now on good terms with both King and Harris, penning his ideas on the new regime to the former. He is not unduly distressed by his expected dismissal from the post of Engineer and Artillery Officer, but Bligh's 'tyranny' and 'oppression', and his threats towards Fort Phillip obviously depress him.²³

As we all know the explosion took place early in 1808. The part Minchin played in the rebellion, like many another, will probably never be fully clarified. He has been accused of removing the screws from the guns in front of Government House, and training those on the parade ground to fire in the direction of Government House. He accompanied George Johnston in from Annandale, was a member of the court which tried MacArthur both before and after the rebellion, procured spirits from the 'Jenny' to celebrate the 'night of the illuminations' on the 28th of January, rescued Bligh from possible man-handling when he was arrested, arrested Palmer and seized his books and papers, and arrested Gore. Altogether he appears to have been quite busy one way or another during this turbulent period.²⁴

The seriousness of events did not escape the notice of those responsible, and consequently in May, Harris being prevented by sickness, we find Minchin on his way to London in the 'Brothers' with Johnston's despatches to Castlereagh. He did not stay long in England after his arrival in mid-September. By mid-December he was on the return voyage in the 'Atlanta'. After transshipping to the 'Mary Ann' at Rio de Janeiro, he reached Hobart in July 1809, eventually returning to Sydney in the 'Lady Barlow' on 22nd August. Bligh must have been extremely irritated to have seen Minchin in Hobart. His first thoughts were to place him under arrest, an action which he may have found extremely difficult in the event, but wiser counsels prevailed - 'when I reflected he had been at liberty in England, and enabled to come out in this Colony, it appeared improper for me to place him in confinement in this ship, and particularly as it might have produced a severe retaliation on the friends of Government at Sydney who are in a most helpless state'.²⁵

Nine months later the N.S.W. Corps, now numbered the 102nd Foot, were on the return journey to England via Cape Horn, as Sir Charles Napier says 'probably the only corps to circumnavigate the globe'.²⁶

It is not easy to be objective about the rebellion, much less about the various personalities who took prominent parts in it. Many of Minchin's actions, while tainted with obvious personal feelings against Bligh, Palmer, Gore and the rest of Bligh's entourage, are also obviously the result of his official capacity as Adjutant. While there is obviously little love lost between himself and Bligh, on the other hand certain officers of the N.S.W. Corps appear to have had little confidence in him, or he in them. Both Abbot and McArthur saw fit to inform Piper at Norfolk Island - the former 'they think and many are of the same opinion, that they (i.e. Harris and Minchin) were sent away as being obnoxious'; the latter that 'Minchin sent home with the despatches - not from any confidence placed in him -'. However, as it subsequently turned out at Johnston's court martial Minchin had little faith in McArthur - 'I have not been for a length of time upon good terms with Mr. McArthur; and I am sorry that he was a man whom I did not much care to be intimate with, as I thought some parts of his conduct very improper ...' Consequently when he received an offer from McArthur shortly before he sailed in the 'Brothers', regarding land grants and various other matters 'I laughed at it, I turned it into contempt; I never thought any thing of it, nor would I have accepted anything of the kind; I never wanted any such thing.'²⁷

It is nevertheless interesting to note that Johnston granted Minchin 100 acres in the vicinity of Georges River before he departed for England, and Paterson granted Ann Minchin 200 acres in the Minto district, and 6 head of cattle, two and a half months after Minchin returned from carrying Johnston's despatches to Castlereagh. While both these grants were subsequently cancelled by Macquarie. Perhaps Minchin, like the lady 'doth protest too much, methinks'.²⁸

It is possible, therefore, to interpret Minchin's part in the rebellion from widely different points of view. However, the fact that he remained loyal to Johnston, while at the same time he was distrusted, not only by Bligh, but also by some of his fellow officers, strengthens my belief that his earlier experiences had taught him to trust nobody. While he was wholly in accord with the spirit of the rebellion, and would and did take action in his official capacity he was not a ringleader, nor would he become closely involved with those who were.²⁹

The three years from 1808 to 1811 must have been quite a worrying period. Apart from the events in N.S.W., and Johnston's court martial, Gore instituted proceedings against Minchin for false imprisonment placing damages at the tidy sum of £1,000. This seems to have been subsequently dropped. The only ray of sunshine was the birth in 1810 of an only daughter, Maria Matilda, either during the voyage home, or shortly after arrival in England - a daughter who was to disappear tragically with her husband and children at sea 28 years later.³⁰

Little is known of Minchin's movements after Johnston's court martial, apart from a very sketchy history of the 102nd Foot.

Charles Napier (later General Sir Charles) was appointed to command in June 1811, although he did not assume the appointment until January of the following year when the regiment was stationed at Guernsey. Napier had high hopes of leading the 102nd in the Peninsula, but these were dashed when he was ordered off to Bermuda in June. Minchin was prompted to Captain two days before the regiment arrived there on the 12th September.³¹

There is little genuine glory in the war of 1812-1814 however much it may have contributed to the development of America as a nation. Militarily, the operations on the coasts of North Carolina and Virginia in which the 102nd was involved has little to offer. After a few skirmishes the regiment pitched its tents in Halifax, Nova Scotia in September 1813.

In 1816 the 102nd Foot was stationed in New Brunswick, and it is interesting to note that Minchin was now serving in the same area as his brother George who was a Lieutenant in the New Brunswick Fencibles. George's son, the Ensign William Henry Minchin, was at the same time serving with his uncle William in the 102nd.³²

When the 102nd were serving in Bermuda Napier saw fit to remark that 'our officers and men sigh for Botany Bay'. Possibly Minchin was one of these, since he did not waste much time returning there after 'retiring by sale of commission' in August 1817. Early in April the following year he and his family sailed in the 'Isabella', once again via Rio de Janeiro, this time however carrying a recommendation from Forveaux to D'Arcy Wentworth - 'I take the opportunity of recommending him to your friendship, and I make no doubt you will render him any service that may be in your power'.³³

SERVICE UNDER MACQUARIE.

There is little to tell of this period of Minchin's life.

For a period of 18 months he remained in obscurity. Late in March 1820, however, he was appointed a member of the Female Orphan Institution, the Male Orphan Institution, and the Native Institution. A few days later, on the first of April, Macquarie appointed him Principal Superintendent of Police in Sydney, in succession to D'Arcy Wentworth. His appointment on this particular day is rather a grim joke - 12 months later he was dead. ³⁴

Time did not permit Minchin to make any particular contribution to the development of the police in N.S.W., and the events of the last 12 months of his life disclose nothing unusual. He was a Director of the Bank of N.S.W., and appears to have lent that institution £3,000 from the Police Fund, of which he was Treasurer, no doubt without loss of profit to himself. He was a member of the Bible Society, and of the Board of Magistrates which investigated prostitution on the 'Janus'.³⁵

In May 1823, Ann Minchin at the age of 48 became the third wife of Captain Eber Bunker then aged 61. In 1826, Maria Matilda, then aged 16 married Henry Howey whose name is perpetuated in Howey Court, Melbourne. Bunker died in 1836 and Ann early in 1837; Maria Matilda, together with her husband and children disappeared at sea in the 'Sarah' in 1838. For some extraordinary reason Minchin's estate was not finally settled until 1859.³⁶

CONCLUSION.

To fortune and outstanding fame Minchin was unknown.

An examination of his land holdings does not disclose anything unusual, and I think it can be said, in the absence of any other evidence, that he did not trade in rum.³⁷

As a soldier he was not outstanding, but then he apparently neither sought, nor was placed in a position to display any particular talent in his profession. He was not cast in the mould of a commander, although as a junior staff officer he appears to have been reasonably conscientious - perhaps too much so at times for his own good.

He can only be judged against the background of his times, his contemporaries, and the standards of morality of his day. Like all of us he had his strengths and weaknesses, and while he did not possess the qualities of character which would have a marked influence on the course of events, he was not altogether without strength of character. As a result he played a minor, but nevertheless on occasions an important role,

for better or for worse, in Australia's early history. Macquarie thought him 'well respected' and of 'superior intelligence and good moral conduct'. Moreover, his death was 'universally most deservedly regretted by all who knew him', 'a great public loss'. Perhaps even Bigge's comment can be taken at face value '(his) death has deprived the colony of service that promised to be very beneficial when assisted by more experience'.³⁸

Finally, reverting to Lawrence Davoren from whom I quoted extensively earlier, it is always as well to remember Samuel Johnson's comment that 'The Irish are a fair people; - they never speak well of one another'.

FOOTNOTES

¹ 'A new song made in N.S.W. on the Rebellion' - George Mackaness, 28 Sept. 1951. Original Mitchell Library Bl097, Bligh Papers - the Military Rebellion 1808.

² Minchin's tombstone, old Botany cemetery, Bunnerong, states death 26 Mar. 1821, aged 45 years. Register of burials, St. Philips Church states aged 47 years at age of death. Birthplace at present obscure, however the tombstone of Minchin's brother George in Fredericton N.B. states 'a native of Tipperary'. Moreover Minchin named two properties 'Mount Ormond' and 'Colloney'. Possibly 'Mount Ormond' is named after the Marquess of Ormonde whose family at one time held the grant of the Regalities etc. of Co. Tipperary, with the rights of a Palatine in that county. 'Colloney' may refer to Collooney or Coolaney, both towns in Co. Sligo and may be an indication that Ann has some connection with that part of Ireland. See also Burkes 'Landed Gentry of Ireland' 1958 Ed.

³ Ann Minchin married Eber Bunker 28 April 1823. Ann Bunker died 28 Jan. 1837 aged 62. (St. John's Cemetery, Parramatta, cemetery transcriptions Vol. 1, p.147.)

⁴ H.R.N.S.W., Vol.III, p.52

⁵ Army lists - provided by War Office Librarian.

⁶ H.R.N.S.W., Vol.III, pp.193, 198, 519; H.R. of A. Series 1, Vol.II, p.703.

⁷ H.R.N.S.W., Vol.III, pp.191, 195; H.R. of A. Series 1, Vol.II, p.703

⁸ (a) H.R.N.S.W., Vol.III, pp.4, 102 et seq, 205, 356, 391, 413.

(b) War Office 40/16.

(c) 'The authentic narrative of the mutiny on board the ship Lady Shore with particulars of a Journey through part of Brazil in a letter dated "Rio Janiero, Jan 18, 1798" to the Rev. John Black, Woodbridge, from Mr. John Black one of the surviving officers of the ship.'

(d) James' 'Naval History'.

⁹Complaints about Ensign Brock on the 'Ganges' may also have coloured his imagination.

¹⁰Quoted by Hackett as G.M. Young, Victorian England, 1953, p.98.

- ¹¹(a) H.R.N.S.W., Vol.IV, pp.256, 260
(b) H.R. of A. Series 1, Vol.III, p.18
(c) Bateson 'The Convict Ships'.
(d) WO 4/845.

¹²H.R.N.S.W., Vol.IV, pp.259, 868.

¹³WO 12/9900.

- ¹⁴(a) H.R.N.S.W., Vol. IV, p.527
(b) H.R. of A. Series 1, Vol.III, pp.311, 318.
(c) Banks Papers, Vol.20, p.134.

¹⁵H.R.N.S.W., Vol. IV, p.970

¹⁶H.R. of A. Series 1, Vol.III, pp.646 et seq; Vol.V, pp.86, 243.

¹⁷H.R. of A. Series 1, Vol.III, p.734.

¹⁸H.R.N.S.W., Vol.IV, p.484

¹⁹H.R. of A. Series 1, Vol.V, pp.99, 489, 678, 785. See also Muster Rolls N.S.W. Corps.

- ²⁰(a) H.R.N.S.W., Vol.VI, p.403
(b) WO Librarian - annotated Army List 1804.

²¹The 1962 Lees Knowles Lectures given at Trinity College, Cambridge, by Lt. Gen. Sir John Winthrop Hackett, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

- ²²(a) H.R.N.S.W., Vol.VI, p.588
(b) H.R. of A., Series 1, Vol.VI, p.404

²³H.R.N.S.W., Vol. VI, p.331

- ²⁴(a) H.R.N.S.W., Vol.VI, pp.291, 422, 465, 721.
(b) Rowland Hassell papers, p.236.
(c) Banks papers, Vol.22, pp.386, 387.
(d) 'Proceedings of a G.C.M. for trial of Lt. Col. Geo Johnston', Bartrum.

- ²⁵(a) H.R.N.S.W., Vol.VI, pp.349, 634.
(b) H.R. of A., Series 1, Vol.VI, p.457; Vol.VII, pp.169, 200, 219.
(c) Banks papers, Vol. 6, pp.157, 172, 173.
(d) Sydney Gazette, 30 Jul, 20 Aug., 27 Aug. 1809

- 26 H.R.N.S.W., Vol. VII, pp.343, 378, 404, 434.
- 27 (a) Piper Papers, Vol.I, p.138; Vol.3, p.11.
(b) Bartrum, op. cit.
- 28 H.R. of A. Series 1, Vol.VII, p.114
- 29 Minchin may have been on good terms with Johnston for some time - see Piper papers Vol.I, pp.80, 81.
- 30 (a) H.R.N.S.W., Vol. VII, pp.546, 549, 553.
(b) 1828 Census.
- 31 (a) 'The life and opinions of Sir Charles James Napier GCB' by Lt. Gen Sir W. Napier, K.C.B., Vol.I, 2nd Ed., 1857.
(b) Army lists.
- 32 There is perhaps some doubt about this, however see
(a) Army Letter Book 1816 (Legislative Library, Fredericton N.B.);
(b) Archivist, AHQ Ottawa quotes WO C/719 and 17/2363.
- 33 (a) H.R. of A. Series 1, Vol.X, p.85.
(b) Macquarie's Journal (A774, p.9).
(c) Governor's Despatches Vol.3, Despatch 20 of 1819.
(d) Foveaux to D'Arcy Wentworth (A753, p.147).
(e) Sydney Gazette, 19 Sept. 1818.
- 34 (a) H.R. of A. Series 1, Vol.VII, p.254; Vol.X, p.345.
(b) Macquarie's Journal (A774, p.214).
(c) Wentworth papers (A754-2, p.375).
(d) Governors Despatches No. 23 of 1820; No. 24 of 1821.
(e) Sydney Gazette, 1 Apr. 1820.
- 35 (a) H.R. of A Series 1, Vol.X, p.322.
(b) 'Bank of N.S.W. and Potts' (A329).
(c) Bigge Appendix BT Box 27, p.6288.
(d) Wentworth Papers (A753, p.355a).
(e) Sydney Gazette, 3 Jun. 1820.
- 36 (a) 'Henry Howey, the pioneer of the Gisbourne district' by N.M.O'Donnell-Vic. Hist. Mag., Vol.VI, 1917/18, pp.82-96.
(b) Sydney Gazette, 4 Jan. 1859.
(c) Probate Office, Sydney.
- 37 (a) H.R.N.S.W.; H.R. of A, Series 1.
(b) Registrar General's Office Book 3C, pp.102, 223. - 4D, pp.160,189
(c) Register of Grants of land No. 56, p.241 Old registers 2, p.5 entry 30.
(d) Grants of land Series 11, p.161.
- 38 (a) H.R. of A. Series 1, Vol. X, pp.345, 532.
(b) Lacquarie's Journal (A774, p.214).
(c) Judicial Establishments of N.S.W., p.83.

UNIFORMS OF THE MILITARY FORCES OF ARGENTINAFrom the General Staff Handbook 1913Submitted by Major T.C. Sargent1. CAVALRY UNIFORM

Cavalry wear a double breasted dark blue tunic with brass buttons. The collar and cuffs are of the cavalry distinctive colour-blood red. Officers also have a dark blue frock coat for undress, and a single breasted blue jumper, with collar of the distinctive colour. A white linen collar showing about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch above the coat collar is worn by all ranks.

Officers wear red overalls or breeches with a double black braid stripe, whilst the rank and file wear either dark blue trousers with a double red stripe or red trousers or breeches with black stripes.

The German helmet, forage cap and kepi are worn on different occasions. The forage cap has a red band and the kepi a red crown and red piping.

The Presidential Escort Regiment has a special review order dress with swallow tail coat, copied from the uniform worn at the beginning of the 19th Century by the troops of San Martin; Regiments Nos. 4 and 8 have also certain peculiarities in their full dress tunic and head-dress.

The universal service dress consists, in the case of the officers, of a brown woollen khaki frock and breeches, and, in the case of the rank and file, of a similar brown khaki blouse, with low roll collar, and brown khaki trousers. Two collar tabs of the distinctive colour are worn by all ranks.

Two thicknesses of service dress, for summer and winter are issued.

The universal pattern of service headdress is a brown Baden-Powell felt hat which can be fastened up on either side. The Argentine colours (sky blue and white) in beads are worn in circular form in front with the regiment's number below; they are also similarly worn on the forage cap.

The fatigue dress, worn by the rank and file, consists of a light brown or dirty white cotton drill frock and trousers, with forage cap to match. The forage cap band is of the distinctive colour, with the Argentine colours in beads and the regiment's number in front.

The great coat is light gray for the officers and dark blue for the men. A new pattern of brown woollen great coat with brass buttons has been issued to the rank and file. The blue coat is being worn out.

In other than service dress, cavalry wear a black knee boot, into which the trousers are tucked, or an ankle boot and gaiter; in service dress a brown ankle boot, with one of various patterns of gaiters, or, in some cases, a brown knee boot is worn.

ARTILLERY UNIFORM.

Artillery wear a uniform practically identical with that of cavalry, except that, instead of the blood-red distinctive colour, scarlet is worn. The officers' overalls and breeches are dark blue, with two scarlet stripes one on either side of the seam, which is shown by a narrow red piping; the kepi is dark blue with scarlet piping.

The boots and gaiters are generally similar to those worn by cavalry, except for dismounted numbers, who wear the infantry pattern.

ENGINEERS UNIFORM.

Engineers wear a uniform identical with that of the artillery, except that black velvet is substituted for the scarlet on the tunic and frock coat, and black braid on the trousers.

The boots and gaiters worn by mounted men are generally similar to those in use in the cavalry. Dismounted men wear the ankle boot.

INFANTRY UNIFORM.

The infantry uniform is similar to that of artillery, except for the distinctive infantry colour, viz., green, on the collar, cuffs, etc.

Infantry wear a brown ankle boot. The bottom of the trousers are usually folded over and secured with a kind of big safety pin or clip. Sometimes the infantry wear a brown leather gaiter spat or a Stohwasser gaiter over the trouser.

POLICE AND GENDARMERIE FORCES.

The uniform of the police generally is a dark blue frock and trousers, with a dark blue great coat and police helmet; white uniform is also worn with a white helmet. The mounted police corps of the federal capital wear the same coat, but with a light blue collar and light blue breeches with a black stripe; their great coat has a red lining. In full dress, white cord shoulder straps and aiguillettes are worn.

The ornaments are white metal; the number of the unit which is cut out of metal is worn on the collar and the police number on a plate in the helmet.

The rural police wear a brown khaki service dress suit, with helmet to match, and black knee boots.

The gendarmerie wear uniforms of varying shades of blue, sometimes with red collars and red piping or red stripes. A kepi instead of a helmet is usually worn.

COLOURED FACINGS OF THE ARMS AND DEPARTMENTS.

The coloured facings of the various arms and departments, which are worn on the band of the forage cap, the cuffs, the collar and collar tabs, are as follows :-

Cavalry	...	Blood red
Artillery	...	Scarlet
Engineers	...	Black
Infantry	...	Green
Train	...	Silver grey.
Medical Department	...	Dark red
Veterinary Department	...	Steel blue
Supply Department	...	Chestnut
Judge-Advocate's Department	...	Blue
Chaplain's Department	...	Violet
Clerk and cyclist company	...	Saxon blue

General officers have scarlet facings; the top of the forage cap, however, instead of being the regulation dark blue, is white.

In order to distinguish the various kinds of artillery, the following colours are superimposed on the distinctive collar tab, leaving an edging in front of about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in width :-

Horse artillery	...	Blood red
Howitzer artillery	...	Pearl grey
Mountain artillery	...	Black
Heavy field artillery	...	White

For machine guns a golden yellow tab is similarly superimposed on the distinctive collar tab of the arm with which they are used.

MILITARY CHRISTMAS CARDS.

By K. R. White

The collecting of Military Christmas Cards can form an interesting side to the activities of the collector of militaria, particularly if shortage of space confines the collector to a limited quantity of material. It is possible to confine the whole field of collecting to the space occupied by a couple of photograph albums or even a shoebox.

The origin of these cards is not known to the writer, however during World War I many Australian troops sent home cards bearing an embossed Rising Sun badge. The widespread use of military Christmas cards probably followed the universal practice of the exchanging Christmas cards among friends and associates and it has almost become a duty to exchange cards between units and formations and more particularly, between Messes.

Probably the first thing noticed when inspecting a military Christmas card is the Corps or Regimental badge which is featured on the front of the majority of these cards. The badge will generally be embossed and will frequently be printed in full colour, which makes it very attractive to the badge collector. However, on occasions, these badges may be misleading to the collector as they may be unofficial representations of the badge concerned, or, alternatively, official badges never worn by the units, an example being the badges used by the now disbanded National Service Training Battalions. The badge will sometimes be accompanied by a ribbon showing the Corps or Regimental colours.

Inside the card, in addition to the normal Christmas greeting, one can find a mass of information, of use to the collector, in the form of photographs, prints and sketches. Listed hereunder are some of the subjects which will be found in any representative group of cards ;

- (a) Buildings - Barracks, Messes, Memorials, etc.
- (b) Ceremonial - Parades, Inspections, Colour Parties, etc.
- (c) Weapons - AFVs and Guns
- (d) Uniforms - Historical and Current
- (e) Regimental Colours.
- (f) Personalities - Senior Commanders, Regt. Heroes, etc.
- (g) Model Soldiers
- (h) Bands
- (i) Mascots
- (j) Maps
- (k) Military Prints - These cover many of the above headings.
- (l) General Militaria
- (m) Non-military Subjects

In addition to the military Christmas cards similar information can also be obtained from the cards of Historical Societies, Service Clubs and police units in some countries. In a separate class are both military and civilian cards featuring Royalty and Royal Occasions.

Both the Navy and Air Force produce cards similar to those discussed above and it is possible to build up a comprehensive collection of Ships' Badges or Squadron Crests from this source.

Establishing a collection is comparatively easy, provided one has contact with a military unit or more particularly with an Officers or Sergeants Mess. The cards are usually prominently displayed over the Festive Season and then discarded early in the New Year, so it is necessary to get in early after Christmas to obtain the cards.

The mounting of the cards can present a problem, due to the large number available, however, possibly the best method is to mount them in photograph albums in a similar manner to the sample books used by stationery travellers.

Any member interested in starting a collection of these cards or who may already have a collection, is invited to contact the writer who will be happy to further discuss this little known side of military collecting.

BOOK REVIEWS

'PENINSULAR PREPARATION - The Reform of the British Army 1795-1809'

RICHARD GLOVER.

Cambridge University Press 1963 - 40/- (Sterling)

If it accomplishes nothing else, Richard Glover's new study of the British Army in the period 1795-1809 should effectively lay the ghosts of Mrs. Mary Ann Clark and of incompetent campaigning in Flanders by Frederick Augustus, Duke of York, second son of George III, Commander-in-Chief of the British Army from 1795-1809 and from 1811-1827.

But this book does much more than merely to pay justice to the reforms effected by the Duke of York and many others, soldiers and politicians, who worked to make the Army the weapon to be wielded in the Peninsula by Wellington, after it had sunk to one of the most woeful states of unpreparedness in its history; the work is a scholarly review not only of the organisation of the Army, but of its training and discipline, its manpower and supply problems, and of the work of the Ordnance Department, at that time still responsible to the Master-General of Ordnance, and not to the Commander-in-Chief. To set the background on which the picture of the reforms can be painted a good deal of research has been given to the causes of the decline of Army administration and to the dissipation of effort in the years prior to 1795.

The style is not dry or didactic. The author, Professor of History at the University of Manitoba, served in the Canadian Army from 1942 to 1946, consequently we find the occasional apt simile drawn between the old methods and modern warfare, as "what the Bren gunner of 1939-45 was taught to call 'enfilade fire'". Only in the chapter on manpower does it become a little difficult to see the detail clearly, but considering the changes of Government during the period, and the various expedients used by each to raise men, this is not surprising.

Professor Glover confesses that there is difficulty in writing about cavalry and there is some weakness in his handling of cavalry organisation and weapons. It is a little difficult also to reconcile his account of contemporary French and British Infantry tactice, the old argument of Column and Line, with Oman's theories on the same subject.

It is surprising that in a book which deals so well with reform that some mention is not made of a step in the opposite direction, one which Wellington was to declare a positive hindrance to discipline. This was the requirement that members of Regimental Courts Martial and witnesses should be sworn, introduced in the Mutiny Act of 1805 by parliamentarians described by Sir John Moore as 'men who know little of soldiers, and have no experience of regimental service'.

The material in 'Peninsular Preparation' will be found elsewhere by those interested in the British Army of this era only by extensive reference to many works not readily available in this country. The book is excellent value for the student of the period. It should be in every military library in Australia.

T.C. Sargent.

"SOME NOTES ON THE CONTINENTAL ARMY" - Col. John Wormack Wright.

New Windsor Cantonment Publication No. 2
National Temple Hill Association, Vails Gate, N.Y., 1963.
Price in the U.S.A. \$2.50
Published and printed by the Hope Farm Press, Cornwallville, N.Y.

Our friend Mr. Dornbusch has demonstrated his unfailing instinct in selecting the sort of publication that will most appeal to the military historian and collector in forwarding for our interest and approval this most worthwhile publication.

Colonel Wright was the son of Brigadier General Marcus J. Wright, C.S.A., who played a conspicuous part in the creation of the official records of the American Civil War.

He had a long and active military career until his retirement in 1940, after FORTY-EIGHT YEARS of service, after which he performed five years' duty in the Historical Section of the Army War College.

These "Notes" contain many interesting and useful facts, and will be of great use to the student of the American Revolution. Decorative headings based upon Continental Army insignia have been sketched by George Woodbridge, Fellow of the Company of Military Historians.

The following sections are included :-

Preface by Col. Frederick P. Todd, Director of the West Point Museum,

- Para. 1. Background and literature.
2. Strategy and Command
3. Organisation and tactics
4. Camping and Marching
5. Awards and Ceremonies
6. Regiments and Corps
7. Discipline and Punishment
8. Arms and Accoutrements and

References.

Altogether, this book is an essential for the student of American military history, and a most interesting addition to the libraries of those with broader military interest. The para. dealing with military awards and ceremonies will be of particular use to the student of military life of this era.

B.J. Videon.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT TO MEMBERS IN VICTORIA.

On and after Friday evening, 9th October, 1964, the Society's Monthly Meetings in Melbourne will be held in the City in the "G.F.S. Building" located at 37 Spring Street, Melbourne.

An address will be given there by the President, Major E.W.O. Perry, R.L., M.A., B.Ec., on Friday evening, 9th October, 1964, entitled "The History of the City of Ballarat Regiment from 1857 to 1945".

Members of all Branches of the Society and their friends are cordially invited to attend meetings.

"GOLDEN FLEECE" SWAP CARDS.

A Review by B.J. Videon.

Having repeatedly bewailed the lack of an Australian set of uniform cards or plates, it gives me great pleasure to review the series of cards released during August, 1964, by the Golden Fleect Petroleum Company.

The set comprises 36 cards, which are obtainable in limited numbers ON REQUEST by purchasers of Golden Fleece petrol. Also available, for the sum of 1/-, is an album designed to take the set.

Although intended by the company primarily for the juvenile public, the cards will be eagerly sought after by the cartophilist and student of militaria, as they are of excellent quality and finish. Early indications are that the company is somewhat astonished at the degree of interest being shown in the series.

Members will be interested to know that the original coloured drawings were done by Mr. Monty Wedd, a member of the N.S.W. Branch of this Society. The reviewer was privileged to see some of these originals, and they were of a quality to justify their consideration with any of the world's sets of coloured uniform plates. It is unfortunate perhaps that the advertising agency saw fit to re-draw these, although the finished products appear to be substantially in accordance with the originals, retaining in each case Mr. Wedd's concept of a large central figure in great detail, before a background including known landmarks, or contemporary architecture or equipment appropriate to the period. In some cases there are small figures also in the background in other orders of dress of the period. The cards resemble somewhat the pre-war sets of Players cigarette cards, but are improved by the larger size and the absence of advertising matter on the fronts.

Uniform details are based on actual photographs and dress regulations have supplied the colour details. Colour reproduction is good, apart from the green tones, which show up lighter than the originals. In a number of cases it has been possible to actually copy samples of the uniform items. Weapons and badges are shown in as much detail as the generous size will permit. The degree of accuracy is excellent, particularly in regard to the older uniforms.

It is unfortunate that one small error has crept in to card 34, in which a WRAN is depicted wearing a cap ribbon instead of the correct "crown and anchor" badge in red thread. This is due to the fact that it was earlier decided to draw the present day WRAN in "sailor hat", and the changeover was incompletely effected. In re-drawing, it appears that one or two belts are shown secured to the wrong side (e.g. R.A.A.F. officer). Despite these minor matters, the cards represent the most significant contribution to our Australian military interests for some time, particularly in this easily disseminated and attractive form.

All congratulations are due to the Company and to Mr. Wedd for a truly valuable set of cards. May we take this opportunity to hope that this will be so popular as to call for the eventual preparation of a second similar series.

Appended hereto is a list of the cards comprising this set.

N.S.W. Volunteer Rifles 1855.	Victorian Volunteer Rifles 1860.
South Aust. Vol. Infantry 1868	Ballarat Volunteer Regt. 1874
1st Vic. Metro. Rifles 1881	N.S.W. Infantry 1885.
N.S.W. Field Art. 1886	Queensland Scottish 1886.
Victorian Horse Artillery 1890.	West Melbourne Regt. 1890.
Queensland Permanent Arty. 1890.	South Aust. Infantry 1890.
Vic. Mounted Rifles 1893	Adelaide Lancers 1893.
Tasmanian Infantry 1899.	N.S.W. Naval Brigade 1900.
Western Aust. Infantry 1900	1st Australian Horse 1900.
Nursing Service 1900	Derwent Regiment 1903.
N.S.W. Lancers 1903.	Aust. Army Service Corps 1903
1st A.I.F. Infantry 1914-18.	Nursing Service 1914-18.
Aust. Flying Corps 1917	Aust. Army Medical Corps 1930.
R.A.N. 1939-45.	Aust. Womens Army Service WW2.
2nd A.I.F. Infantry.	Voluntary Aid Detachment WW2.
Aust. Army Medical Womens Service.	R.A.A.F. 1939-45.
Nursing Service WW2.	Womens Royal Aust. Naval Service.
Womens Aux. Aust. Air Force WW2	Royal Australian Regt. 1964.

"FEDERAL" MATCHBOX LABELS.

A Review by B.J. Videon.

1964 is a "bumper" year for us, as, in addition to the cards reviewed above, the Federal Match Company (N.S.W.), has brought out an excellent set of matchbox labels showing badges of the Australian Army.

The complete set comprises AT LEAST 44 cards, and badges are shown very clearly and correctly in a size that is good enough for all needs. Each badge is shown on a coloured edging of corps colour, and the numbered series shows badges in order similar to the order of precedence in the army list.

While most badges shown are currently in use, some few have not yet been issued, and this may confuse the collector until these new badges become available. It is believed that the serious collector can exchange a complete set of matchboxes for an unused set by writing to the company.

Once again, like Oliver Twist, this reviewer feels he must ask for more. Why not series to follow, showing R.A.A.F. and R.A.N. badges and crests. These labels must be a terrific sales gimmick, to judge by the number of unwanted matches this writer has bought!

CHANGES IN NEW ZEALAND ARMY DRESS AND EQUIPMENT.

By Gavin Shaw.

Radical clothing and equipment changes are projected for the New Zealand Army. Calf-length boots are to replace the traditional ankle boot, old style groundsheets are to yield to bedroll covers complete with inflatable mattresses, and for field wear heavy greatcoats and leather jerkins are to give way to waterproof parkas and leggings.

Ski-type hats are to be replaced by smart berets in distinctive unit colours.

A new gabadine dress coat of belted design of wool and synthetic fabric has also been approved and a scale of issue is being fixed.

However, the greatcoat will remain in use for some years for certain tasks.

The trousers of the private soldiers' walking-out uniform will have a new line, with the cuffs tapered to 19 in. and a slide fastener for the fly.

A special Army committee has been meeting daily for some weeks to prepare a changeover programme, but it is likely to be some years before total re-equipment is achieved.

Some items are still under test, and it would be uneconomic to introduce others till present issue is approaching the end of its useful life.

Rejection of the ankle-type boot is probably the most radical change. The new one is basically the boot with moulded rubber soles introduced two years' ago, but will have extended tops reaching half way up the calf. It will be waterproof to its full height, give protection against leeches in tropical climates and give better ankle support.

An extremely light synthetic waterproof coat with no shoulder seams will replace the oilskin coat.

A slender braided tie in lieu of the broad style is designed to make formal dress more attractive.

The waterproof bedroll will have a three section inflatable mattress. Blankets weigh $1\frac{3}{4}$ lb., compared with the current standard Army weight of $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb.

Shelter sheets can be erected as an individual shelter or clipped together to form a tent.

BRIEF LIFE FOR N.Z. UNIT.

By Gavin Shaw.

When World War 1 broke out 50 years ago, New Zealanders in England at the time, many of them seamen, offered their services for combat.

The British War Office found so many New Zealanders in Britain ready to volunteer that, after a suggestion by a group of these Kiwis, the office decided to form a fighting unit of them.

In September 1914, a New Zealand Expeditionary Force of 236 men and 8 officers came into being and began extensive training as an infantry unit, known as the British section or Colonialists. As a fighting force the company never made it. It trained together for four months but was dissolved into other companies - engineers and army service corps - two days after its arrival in Egypt.

So short was the life of the company that a Wellington man, a member of the unit, found that the New Zealand Army Department had no record of its existence. It was not till two former members of the company found an old roster of the whole company in their attic that proof of its existence could be given.

With the list of the 244 members, and the help of the Army Department thirty former members have been traced.

From a report of the N.Z. Press Association, August, 1964.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor,

5 Elder Terrace,
GLENGOWRIE. S.A.

17/4/64

Dear Sir,

In reference to my article "Australian Contingents at the South African War 1899-1902" that appeared in the April issue of "Sabretache" Vol. VI No. 4. Pages 67-74, I wish to draw attention to the dates of the departures and the arrivals back in Australia. The dates stated by me are the ones on which the Contingents left its Colony or State and arrived back in its Colony or State. Also the Australian Commonwealth Horse was raised in the various States and I have quoted the States from which they were raised. Two of the States provided a full regiment each and the other regiments were recruited from the various States.

Yours faithfully,
R. Gray.

MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA.FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS AT 30th JUNE, 1964.

<u>RECEIPTS</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Balance B/Fwd.	£111.14. 5	By Printing	£69.10. 0
By Subscriptions	120. 7. 3	" Stationery	40.13. 4
" Bank	6. 4. 2	" Postage	13.15. 1
" Trading	4.15. 4	" Trading	26.13. 6
" Exchange	1.14. 7	" Bank	1.19. 9
		Balance C/Fwd	92. 4. 1
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£244.15. 9		£244.15. 9
	<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>

P. Lober
Hon. Treasurer.

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS

WANTED TO PURCHASE.R.A.A.F. ITEMS.

WW2 cap for W.A.A.A.F.; Cap field service (piped) for Air Officers;
pre-WW2 airman's jacket with high collar.

Lapel badge for R.A.A.F. Reserve for civilian wear c.1939/43.
Metal wing badges; squadron or unit badges in metal or silk embroidery.
Fourbladed propellor sleeve badge in metal for NCO's pre-WW2.

OTHER AIR FORCES.

British W.A.A.F. cap of WW2; Air Defence Cadet Corps badges of any type
before introduction of British A.T.C.

Badges of British Air Observer Corps (cloth badges only needed).
Coloured cap bands for R.A.F. apprentices and Boy Entrants.
Cap badge Royal Ceylon Air Force; wings of Ceylon and Royal Ceylon
Air Force; wings of Hong Kong, Malayan and Pakistan Air Forces.
In addition to the above I am interested in badges and headdress of all
the world's Air Forces, and, in some cases, in uniform items also. I
would be pleased to hear from readers who may have these items for disposal.

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

TRAINING PAMPHLETS WANTED.

We understand that the Infantry Centre at Ingleburn N.S.W. desires to add to its collection of old and wartime training pamphlets, mainly those dealing with desert and tropical soldiering. These are required for the library, where, over the years, some have been lost due to moves from place to place, usage etc.

It is felt that many members may have odd "pams" in their possession which they would be prepared to donate to the library, and we suggest that these could be forwarded direct to the Centre, or to the N.S.W. Branch of the Society for donation in your name.

If you have no use for it, the Army probably will have!

B.J. Videon.

