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Sabretache



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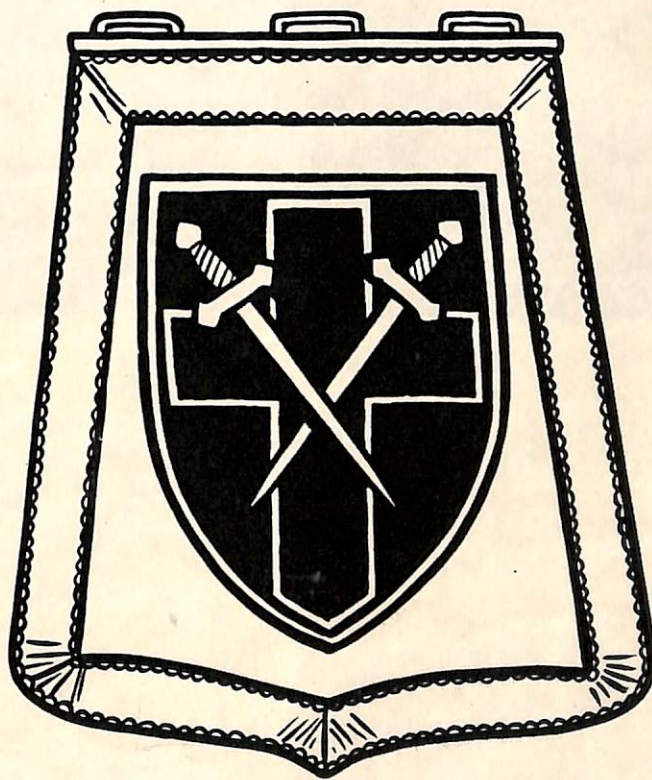
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THE JOURNAL OF
THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF AUSTRALIA

VOL. VII

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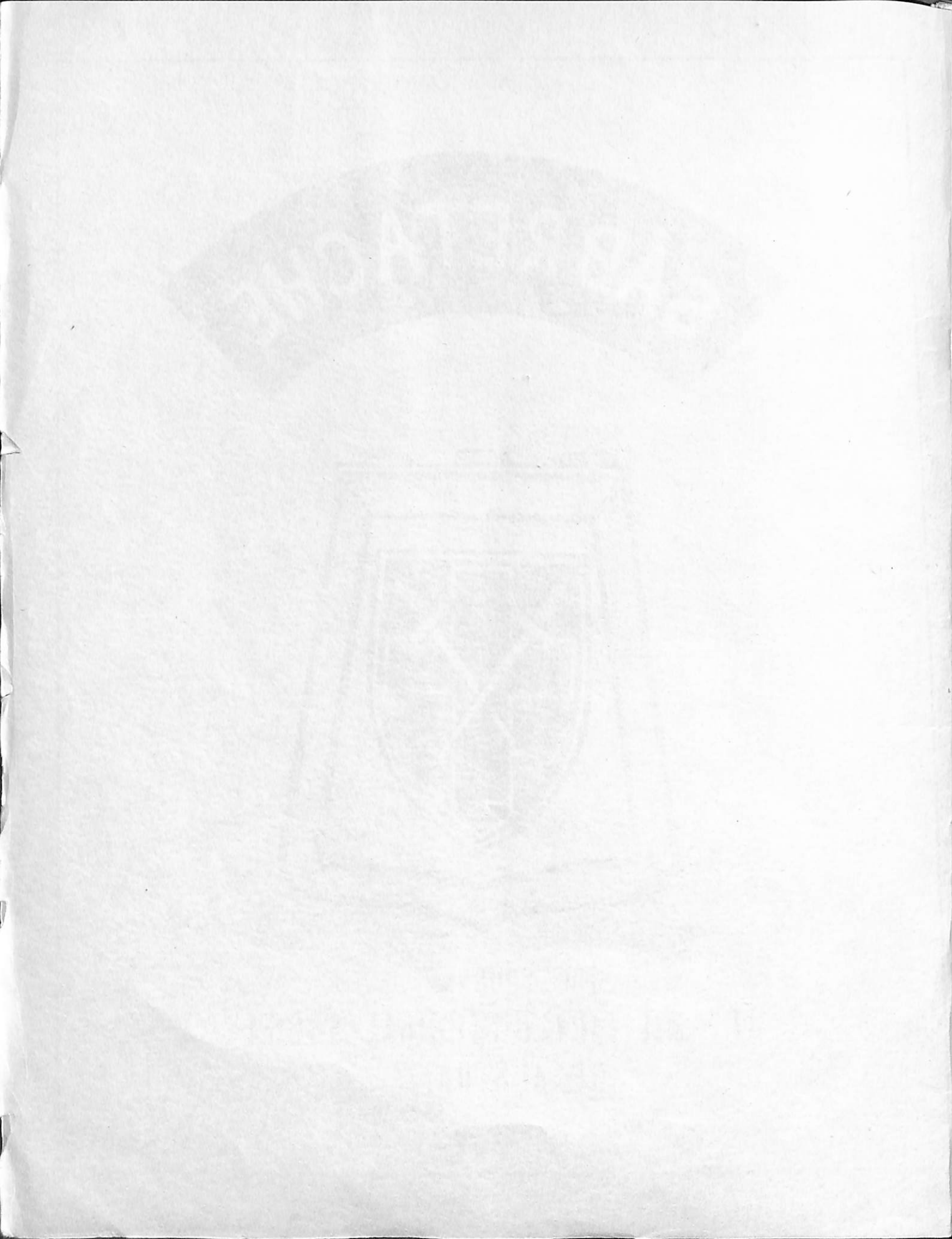




Photo: Australian War Memorial, Canberra
Block: Australian Army Journal, Canberra

AUSTRALIAN TROOPS IN FRANCE, W.W.I

"SABRETACHE"

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

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PLATE

AUSTRALIAN TROOPS IN FRANCE, W.W.1

Frontispiece

THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Founded in Melbourne in 1957

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MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

REPORT OF THE
COMMISSION ON THE ORGANIZATION
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
AND THE DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
FOR THE YEAR 1964-1965

Submitted to the Board of Trustees
of the University of Chicago
January 15, 1965

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Vol. VII

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EDITORS NOTES

THE GRENADIER GUARDS AT PARRAMATTA.

Grenadier Guards added to the history of Parramatta in New South Wales by their visit on Saturday, 3rd October, 1964, when, with other troops, they participated in that city's local opening of British Fortnight.

The order of march in a colourful parade was Her Majesty's Grenadier Guards Band (55 members), a detachment of the Royal New South Wales Lancers (50), Grenadier Guards platoon (30), a detachment of the King's School Cadets (50). Major Warren E. Glenny of the Lancers was in command. Also present at the City Hall to sound the General Salute were four State Trumpeters of the Royal Horse Guards.

The starting point for the march was Lancer Barracks in Parramatta where a crowd was assembled to watch the ceremony of turning the first sod for the re-erection of Linden House which is to be the Lancer's Memorial Museum, as well as to have close-up views of the Guards and other troops.

The weather was fine and mild and the well kept grounds of the barracks, completed in 1820, were a good setting for such a unique parade. Here, between 1820 and 1850, detachments of several of the finest foot regiment of the British Army had been quartered, in their ranks being not a few veterans of Waterloo and other famous battles. Near the edge of the parade ground lay the sandstone blocks of the dismantled Linden House, a former Redcoat mess, which will be re-erected. Also, nearby stood a Matilda tank, a relic of the Second World War, reputed to be the last one remaining in Australia other than, possibly, some in private hands, and a Centurion tank which is present day armament.

It was a proud day indeed for those Lancers and Cadets who were on parade.

While the Guards in their bearskins and scarlet tunics were a magnet for the eyes, colour was added by the red and white pennons of 50 lances and the time honoured uniforms of The King School Cadets - grey pepper and salt tunics, blue trousers, and red puggarees, cuffs and piping.

For the first few minutes it was the sergeant-major's parade, under W.O. Randall of the Grenadier Guards. There were three different weapons on parade - lances, Lee-Enfield rifles, F.N. rifles - so the General Salute which was taken at the City Hall had to be rehearsed beforehand. After a few movements were executed the onlookers were thrilled to hear the sergeant-major, before he handed over the parade, praise the cadets for their precision and bearing.

After the march through the City, the R.S.L. provided refreshments, at the Barracks, for the troops which provided an opportunity for visitors, including Boer War veterans and other old soldiers, to enjoy a good half-hour of fraternisation with the State Trumpeters and the Grenadier Guards.

It was a day that will linger long in the memory.

* * * * *

TWO MILITARY PLACE NAMES IN AUSTRALIA

By Major T.C. Sargent.

Although historians have lately been giving rather more attention to the work of minor military personalities in the early days of Australia than they had previously, there appears to be very little interest in or appreciation of the achievements of the collective efforts of units or garrisons, or of any of the colourful events in regimental history which occurred in Australia.

Many of these achievements and events are perpetuated in Australia by locality names. Two of these were written up in the Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research in 1927/28. One name commemorated the establishment by a garrison regiment of a township in South Australia, a name which unfortunately has now been lost; the other records an event in regimental history. These two items are reproduced here by permission of the Editor of the "Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research" in London:

"QUEEN'S OWN TOWN"

This place, now known as Finnis, is situated in South Australia about 34 miles S.E. from Adelaide, near the mouth of the Murray River. It was named after the 50th (The Queen's Own) Regiment of Foot, which was stationed in the neighbourhood in

1866-69, on arrival from New Zealand. Some of its few streets are named after Officers of the Regiment who were serving in 1867.

Named After

Hamley Terrace	Major (Bt.Lieut-Colonel) Francis Gilbert Hamley
Fyler "	Captain Arthur Evelyn Fyler
Clarke "	" Montague de Salis M'Kenzie Gordon Augustus Clarke
Turner "	Lieutenant George Henry Turner
Fleury Street	" William L. Fleury
Allardice "	" George James Campbell Allardice
Considine "	Ensign William Napier Considine
Taunton "	" James Edward Doidge Taunton
Owen "	Asst. Surgeon Owen Owen

Was the town built by the regiment? Are other instances known of towns, or villages, being named after British Regiments?"^x

^xSAHR JOURNAL Vol VI No.24 April 1927 P.122.

It is of interest to note that the town was officially known as 'QUEENS OWN TOWN' until 1940 when the name was changed to 'FINNIS' in the South Australian Gazette of 19 Sep 1940.

The reasons for the change are probably those of "common usage". Colonel W.B. RELF, R Aust Svy (Retd.) a licensed surveyor of considerable experience in South Australia, has kindly investigated the nomenclature of the township; he writes -

"I'd always thought of it as 'FINNIS' - I'd never done any surveys or searching in that town, or I would have known because all departmental records show 'QUEEN'S OWN TOWN' up to 1940. Postal address was 'FINNIS' and it would therefore appear as though common usage caused the change. 'FINNIS' I believe, was a large property holder in the early days down that way and probably the locals considered the town belonged to the "Squire" and so used his name for the town. With Post Office installation the common usage term was used for the Post Office and thence all road maps."

The area of the town was diminished and roads closed in the Sth. Aust. Government Gazette of 3 April 1941. It would be worth further investigation to ascertain how many of the street names given by the 50th are extant.

It is of interest that Lt. Col. HAMLEY was Administrator of the Colony of South Australia from 20 Feb 1868 to 15 Feb 1869.

The second item refers to an incident in which the 28th Foot, "The Slashers" (The Gloucestershire Regt.) was involved. Although the names were lost for a period, they were revived due to the historical appreciation of the Admiralty and the Queensland State Lands Department. The Reefs in question are off INGHAM, Qld., and appear on Admiralty Chart 2349.

"SLASHER'S REEFS" - off the coast of Queensland (Lat $18^{\circ} 30'$ to $18^{\circ} 34'$, Long. E. 147°) is named after the "Slashers" or 28th Foot (1st Battalion, the Gloucestershire Regiment).

Three ships - "Arab", "Kelso", and "John Brewer" - when conveying the Regiment from Australia to India in 1842, grounded on the reefs during the night of 29-30 June.

Without damage, or loss, however, the ships were all got off with the next tide.

H.M.G.

The Hydrographic Department of the Admiralty has kindly furnished the following information, dated 6 October, 1927, on the subject:-

The name "Slashers' Reef" does not at present appear on the Admiralty charts, but an examination of the records of this Department has revealed the fact that a reef marked "Slasher Reef", with the date "June 1842", formerly appeared on Admiralty chart No. 2349.

The name disappeared from the Admiralty charts in 1889, when chart No. 2349 was republished in a revised form, embodying the surveys made by H.M.'s. ships Paluma and Myrmidon in 1886-88. On this new chart, near the position formerly occupied by Slasher Reef, but covering a much larger area, was shown a group of several more or less separate reefs, to three of which the names Leaf Reef, Oleose Reef and Maxwell Reef, were given.

It would appear that at that date the origin of the name "Slasher" had been lost sight of. It has, however, now been traced to the accidental discovery of this reef through the ships John Brewer, Kelso, and Arab, on board which was the 28th Regiment of Foot, on passage from Sydney to Bombay, stranding on it on 30th June, 1842. A Fourth ship, the barque Hopkinson, which happened to be in company with the troopships, also struck the reef.

As there is no special authority for the later names, it is now proposed, subject to the concurrence of the Queensland Government :

1. To apply the name "The Slahsers Reefs" (June, 1842) to the whole group of reefs mentioned above.
2. To substitute the names Kelso, Arab and Hopkinson Reefs for Leaf, Oleose and Maxwell Reefs, respectively, and
3. To substitute the name John Brewer Reef for Watt Reef, a few miles to the southward, this being believed to be the correct identification of a second reef mentioned in the account in the Naval and Military Gazette.

The account referred to in the preceding paragraph, which appeared in The Naval and Military Gazette, Vol. IV. P. 276 (1843), in a letter to the Editor, is here given:-

Karachi, Scinde, 25 March, 1843.

On the 16th June, 1842, the whole regiment (28 Foot), consisting of 26 Officers and 709 men, embarked at Sydney, and on the 19th sailed for Bombay on board ships John Brewer (head quarters), Kelso and Arab, to proceed by the inner passage, Torres strait, and to keep company through, the Kelso leading as Commodore.

On the night of the 29th, being now two or three days in the straits, it blew very fresh, and the ships were going very fast before the wind as we ran along by the coast, which was some 30 miles from us.

You must be aware that this is perhaps one of the most dangerous passages known, as it is studded with reefs and rocks, hidden and visible, and that the vessels are obliged to anchor each day with good light. We had not done so yet and whether we ought to have done it is a question I do not mean to venture an opinion on; it is sufficient for my present object to state we did not do so, but continued running through the night and the following morning. About half-past five o'clock, just as day was breaking, the three ships above named, with a barque that joined us the day before, named the Hopkinson, were almost at the same moment fast, having struck against a coral reef. It was indeed a curious scene to see them almost within hail. The Brewer, Kelso, and Hopkinson almost in line, were held by the bows; the Arab had gone more ahead and got her broadside on, in which position she was rocking and striking in a manner that led us to conclude she must either go to pieces or never get off.

The limits of a letter will not permit my entering at any length into the various means we resorted to, or the many fortuitous circumstances to which we owe our escape. Kedy (presumably a misprint for 'Kedge' - 'a small anchor with an iron stock, used for mooring or working') anchors were got out, as we were afloat astern, while

we had not two feet water at the bows, and after a hard day's work we succeeded in dragging the ships, all but the Arab, out of the reef, and into deep water again; but here we were in almost greater danger than before, as it blew hard, and we were surrounded by rocks so close that if the anchors yielded the least, we must have gone against them. During the night the Arab swung off when the tide rose, and was afloat. In fact, we worked unceasingly for six days, until the 5th July, during which time we had recourse to every possible expedient. At length all was ready to attempt getting out of what the Americans would call our present "fix", and this was the greatest difficulty of all. To give you some idea of this I must try and explain our position.

It seems that on the 29th we had kept too much to the eastward, and that right a-head of us, stretching from west to east, ran a long barrier to coral reef, not visible, and of course stretching across our course. Had we struck against this our doom would have been sealed; but here, as in many other instances, Providence interposed on our behalf: in the line of this barrier was a gap of about a mile, within which was formed a bay, running about two miles back; in fact, forming a sort of harbour under water. Through this opening the four vessels entered almost together, and from the tide being full at the time we must have sailed over some of the rocks, which showed themselves everywhere behind us at its fall, and presented a fearful opposition to our attempts at getting out. Another difficulty was that the wind, which is always favourable to the onward course, as it blows from the south, for that same reason must be against us in our efforts to return.

However, on this morning, with God's blessing, we did make the effort, and succeeded after truly many "hairbreadth" 'scapes in clearing this reef, and that night anchored at the Palm Islands.

.

After clearing this and making for the Palm Islands, we passed another long reef: this we called "JOHN BREWER REEF".

As to the causes which led to our getting into this place at all, I do not feel myself competent to give an opinion; but had I time or space to enter more into detail, I think I could show you that our getting OUT of it forms one of the most wonderful instances of escape on record.

"A SLASHER". x

x SAHR Journal Vol. VII No. 27 Jan. 1928.

RUSSIAN CAVALRY 1838.

By Major John C. Gorman, Jr.

The Grenadier a Cheval Regiment of the Guard.^x

The headress of this regiment was unique, and was still being worn in 1890. It consisted of a dragoon type black helmet, surmounted crosswise by a black fur piece. The front and back edges of the helmet were edged with gold metal, and it was secured by a gold leaf type of chinstrap. The plate was of gold, the double-headed eagle of the Romanoffs. From the centre of the back of the helmet descended a thick red tailpiece, edged and with a centre line of gold, and finishing with a gold tassel.

It is difficult in the plates to see the back of the coat, but it appears that it was a short square tailcoat, in keeping with the times. The coat and trousers were both a very dark green, almost black. The collar was red-troopers' collars, which were very stiff and high, added two thick bands of yellow, with a thin red stripe in the middle of the yellow. The officer wore two thick stripes of gold. The troopers' epaulettes were long and were of red cord, the officers' were golden plates. The plastron in each case was bright red, with golden buttons. The officer had only three - he is incorrectly drawn with five - eliminate the top two buttons. The cuffs were red, with a red Brandenburg, on which were three gold stripes horizontally (officer) and yellow for troopers. The crossbelt holding the pouch was white for troopers. The officer wore a gold belt, edged deeply with black. He wore a silver chain and secured it to a silver plate. There were no pickers. The trooper wore a thick cloth belt of red and green, and the officer a narrow silver belt, attaching, low down, to two tassels each of mixed silver and red.

The pouch was black and almost certainly was embossed with the seven pointed silver Guards Star, with a gold centre, centred with a dark dot.

The dark green trousers carried two wide - about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch - red stripes, divided by the green of the trousers, and in the centre of the green, a very narrow red stripe. Spurs with short black boots.

There was no sabretache. The shabraque was of curved design, of very dark green. There was a very narrow edge of red, then a green stripe about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide. Then there was a gold-red-gold stripe, each about 1 inch wide. The officer wore a Guards star fore and aft, and the trooper wore the usual Russian monogram in yellow, edged in red. The horses were all blacks, and wore light black harness, breastplate and a curved curb bit. Stirrups were rounded at the edges.

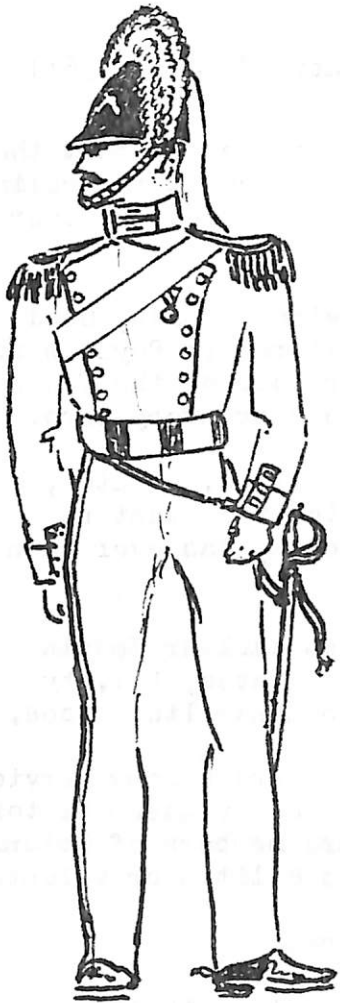
^x See Weiss "Les Armees D'Europe".

The Grenadiers a Cheval of the Guard did not carry their rifles on slings, as did the Hussars. The rifle was slung by its own sling across the chest, and was worn from right shoulder to left waist. The sling, and the troopers sword belt, were both of brown leather, the officer wearing gold slings.

There do not appear to have been any other regiments of Grenadiers a Cheval.

x See Weiss "Les Armees D'Europa".

Russia 1838



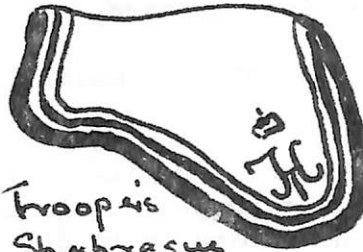
Grenadier



OFFICER



Officer
Shabraque



Troopier
Shabraque

Grenadiers à Cheval de la Garde

THE VICTORIAN LOCAL FORCES LONG SERVICE MEDAL.

Three interesting Medals issued to the Victorian Armed Forces,
Both Naval and Military.

by E. Kennedy.

(Reprinted from "The Australian Numismatist", June 1961)

About the middle of the last century it was feared that the country would be invaded by the Russians. On what grounds the belief was based, I do not know, but volunteer forces were formed all over the States.

To reward such service, certain Long Service Awards, Good Conduct and Meritorious Service Medals were instituted by Royal Warrant, Volunteer Statutes and Discipline Acts. But by reason of the few who became eligible to receive them, the earlier issues are very rare.

W.E. Curran, S.A. Numismatic Journal, Vol. I No.6 states, "This is logical, but what is most illogical is the fact that no description of these Medals, nor lists of recipients, has ever been compiled".

Following on Federation in 1901, all these earlier Medals became obsolete, and were no longer issued by the States, but, by Royal Warrant, other medals were issued to the Commonwealth Forces.

My first medal is the "Colonial Auxiliary Forces Long Service and Good Conduct Medal". This medal was authorised by Queen Victoria, under Royal Warrant dated 18th May 1899, to reward members of Colonial units who had served for 20 years, whether in the Militia or Volunteers.

The description of this medal is as follows:

- Obverse: Veiled bust of Queen Victoria facing left, with the legend "Victoria Regina et Imperatrix".
- Reverse: An irregular shaped label surmounted by an Imperial Crown, surrounded by scrolls and laurel branches. On the label, in impressed letters, "For long service in the Colonial Auxiliary Forces", in five lines.
- Medal: A silver medal, $1\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter, with a straight suspender. The ribbon is dark green.

After the accession of Edward VII in 1901 the obverse was altered, and the King's effigy, in Field Marshal's uniform, facing left, with the usual legend, was adopted.

In 1930, on the institution of the Territorial Efficiency Medal, it ceased to be awarded to the Dominion and Colonial Volunteer and Auxiliary Forces.

2. The next medal is the "Victoria Local Forces Long Service and Good Conduct Medal".

History: This medal was issued by the State of Victoria to officers and men serving in the Militia Forces, under the Volunteer Statute of 1865 and the Discipline Act of 1870; who had completed from October 1863 a period, or periods of effective service, not necessarily continuous, amounting in all to not less than 15 years. These medals were later restricted to Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men only. The date of the first issue, I believe, was 1882.

The medal is a silver circular medal $1\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter.

Obverse: There are two obverses to this medal -
On both medals, in the centre, is a cross of St. George, having at the extremities of its arms and in its centre five stars. Surrounding this Cross is a Garter surmounted by an Imperial Crown bearing the words:

1st type: "Aut Pace aut Bello Victoria"

2nd type: "Pro Deo et Patria Victoria"

Reverse: "For Long and Efficient Service" in four lines.

Mounting: There are two types of mounting -

- (a) On the "Aut Pace Aut Bello" type the swivel mounting is of the 'claw' pattern.
- (b) On the "Pro Deo et Patria" type, the scroll swivel suspender is soldered to the rim.

Ribbon: One and a half inches wide, magenta with a broad creamy coloured centre stripe that is double the width of the magenta at either side.

The recipient's name, rank, unit, etc., and sometimes the year of issue are either engrained or impressed around the edge of the medal.

Members of the Victorian Naval Brigade were also eligible to receive this medal.

The Medal Group of the Australian Numismatic Society made some research on this medal and I quote their report:-

"Fifteen of the Victoria Local Forces Medal are definitely known to us, and there are many others in existence. This medal then, though rare by general standards, is fairly common by Australian standards."

Before describing the next medal, I would like to make a further apt quotation from our Secretary's paper:

"The early issues of medals to these pioneers who donned a uniform (often at their own expense) and drilled on the barrack squares so that their country might be defended, are rarely, if ever, mentioned by the medal collector."

The third medal is called the "Brassey Competition Medal".

This interesting medal was instituted by Lord Brassey who was Governor of Victoria from 28th October, 1895 to the 24th December, 1900.

Description: A silver medal $1\frac{1}{4}$ " in diameter, with a raised double border.

Obverse: On a seven-pointed radiated star, surmounted by a Crown, within a wreath of olive branches tied at the base, St. George's Cross, on which are five stars, surmounted by a Garter, on which is inscribed "Pro Deo et Patria Victoria" in relief.

Reverse: Within a laurel wreath, tied at the base, are the words, "Won by 2nd. Batt. I.N.F. B'GDE, 24 May 1899.

Surrounding the whole "Brassey Field Firing and Marching Competition", in the exergue - a small Maltese Cross, all in relief.

The words "Won by" and the date are in relief, the name of the winning unit being engraved.

It is interesting to note on the second medal shown the embossed date has been removed and a small piece of silver sweated on to the medal, and the date "24 May 1897" engraved thereon. In the previous year more "dated" medals were struck than wanted.

Suspender: There are two types of suspenders -
 1st A swivel scroll bar soldered to rim
 2nd A small ring soldered to rim

Ribbon: A brown and white ribbon of equal stripes $1\frac{1}{2}$ " wide.

Naming: The name of the recipient is engraved in block letters on the rim.

This medal is very rare.

At this stage I would like again to quote our Secretary:

"Owing to the scarcity of data available, and the lack of interest which has been evinced over many years by those in a position of authority, errors and omissions may creep in, but at least the foundation will have been laid for another addition to the edifices of Australiana".

I am curious to know whether the five stars on the St. George's Cross on this medal, and the previous one, represent the Southern Cross Constellation.

- References:
1. W. E. Curran F.R.N.S.
South Australian Numismatic Journal
Vol. 6 No. 3 et seq.
 2. Australian Numismatic Society
Vol. X 15 No. 3
 3. "Awards of Honour"
Capt. A. Jocelyn M.V.O.

* * * * *

THE SCHOOL OF MILITARY ENGINEERING IN SYDNEY
THE LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE IN 1880

Mr. A. Cansdell of the New South Wales Branch of the Society has submitted the following extract, from the book "History of the New South Wales Corps of Engineers" by Captain C. Stuart-Cansdell, V.D., which may be of interest to readers:

'An event of considerable importance, in as much as it is indirectly connected with the defences of New South Wales, took place at the Victoria Barracks on the 24th July 1880, when Mrs. John Soame Richardson, wife of the Commandant, laid the memorial stone of the School of Military Engineering, then in course of erection at the rear of the Military Hospital. The ceremony, being one of great interest to all branches of the military service, was marked with considerable martial display, and witnessed by a large number of persons, including many officers of the forces and ladies. The Engineers, under the command of Captain Rowe, together with the Headquarters Band, were drawn up, forming the sides of a hollow square. Near and level with the memorial stone, a platform, gracefully decorated, was erected, and at the back of it were groupings of British ensigns around the Royal and New South Wales arms, while overhead various flags were unfurled. The gay costumes of the ladies and brilliant uniforms of the officers, grouped together in the centre of the square, formed a pretty spectacle. Captain Rowe, after escorting Mrs. Richardson onto the platform, read the following documents, a copy of which, enclosed in a bottle, was placed in a cavity in the stone:

"This memorial stone of the School of Military Engineering was set by Mrs. Richardson on the 24th day of July, in the Year of our Lord 1880, being the fortyfourth year of the reign of Her Most Gracious Sovereign Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and Dependencies and Empress of India; the Right Honourable Lord Augustus Loftus, P.C., G.C.B., being Governor and Commander in Chief of the Colony; the Honourable Sir H. Parkes, K.C.M.G., Premier; J.S. Richardson, Colonel Commandant; C.F. Roberts, Colonel Commanding Artillery; W. Wilson, Colonel Commanding Volunteer Artillery; T. Rowe, Captain Commanding Engineers; E.C. Cracknell, Major Commanding Torpedo Corps; R.P. Raymond, Lt. Colonel Commanding 1st Regiment Volunteer Infantry; J.H. Goodlet, Lt. Colonel commanding 2nd Regiment Volunteer Infantry; W.H. Holborrow, Major commanding 3rd Regiment Volunteer Infantry; Major W.B.B. Christie, Major of Brigade; Major T. Baynes, Brigade Pay and Quartermaster; J.A. Compton, Captain and Instructor of Musketry; G.F. Dansey, Principal Medical Officer Volunteer Force; James Barrett Esq., architect; W. Stoddart, contractor; strength of the Engineer Corps -- Thomas Rowe, Captain; Thomas S. Parrott and C. Stuart-Cansdell, Lieutenants; four sergeants, six corporals, two buglers, and 45 sappers (total 60); Staff Sergeant Masters, Instructor to the Corps. God save the Queen". '

This work by Captain Cansdell was published in 1899 by William Brooks & Company of Sydney and it covers the history of the Corps in New South Wales from 1869 to 1899.

* * * * *

THE ROYAL MILITARY CHRONICLE

or

BRITISH OFFICERS MONTHLY REGISTER AND MENTOR

By Major T.C. Sargent

DEDICATION

VOLUME FIRST

Gentlemen of the British Army,

To the real and permanent good of the British Army; to its grace, its dignity, and its utility, through its manners, morals, and knowledge, this Work is humbly dedicated; being an anxious effort, upon the part of the Editor and his friends, to infuse into the younger officers a professional zeal and an ardent patriotism; and to remind them that the best and surest roots of all true heroism are that knowledge and virtue, which, by adding their worth, teach them to value themselves; and that active and manly piety, which, in teaching them the FEAR OF GOD, sets them above all other fear whatever.

So opens the first volume of a publication printed and edited by J. DAVIS, 38 Essex St., Strand in November 1810.

The Chronicle was produced monthly, the date publication ceased is not known to the writer, but there are in the Library of the Department of Defence, CANBERRA, a set of four bound volumes covering the following periods.

- I - November 1810 to April 1811
- II - May 1811 to October 1811 (With Supplement - "Memoirs of Captain Carleton")
- III - November 1811 to April 1812
- IV - May 1812 to October 1812 (With Supplement - "The Life of Charles The Twelfth")

These volumes are of particular interest because they bear on the fly-leaf of each, the signature "Geo Johnston" and in some cases "Geo Johnston Annandale Farm", and on the inside of the back cover of the first volume "Annandale near Sydney".

How these volumes, once in the library of one of this country's first military officers, should now lie in the Library of the Department of Defence could be itself a matter of extensive research. They have, from markings in the books once been in the possession of the Library of the Royal Military College, and it is a sad reflection on some past librarian of that institution that they should have been allowed to pass from their shelves. Or was it perhaps the result of some shrewd

transaction by Peacock, who would have undoubtedly appreciated their historical value. It might be added that the Defence Department Library was not aware of the treasure it had until the writer, browsing through the volumes for information pertinent to the Peninsular War came across the inscriptions mentioned above.

And, from the Peninsular War point of view the Chronicle is a veritable mine of information, as indicated by this list of the contents for the February 1811 publications:

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Much of the information listed in the "Contents", is, of course, available from many other sources; some possibly more reliable, but of considerable interest in these publications is the "Military Correspondence". This was solicited in the first volume.

"TO CORRESPONDENTS

TO GENTLEMEN OF THE ARMY

If any of our Readers shall favour us with their Correspondence, which we again solicit, as it will much facilitate us in rendering the Work worthy of general patronage, they will be pleased to address their Letters to the Editor, No. 38, Essex St., Strand, (post paid). Every attention will be paid to them; and they will be inserted in whatever manner desired".

The officers responded nobly, including 'H' whose letter was published in the Chronicle for December 1810 -

"Sir - The following is a list of troops under the command of Lord Wellington in Portugal. It will be found much more correct than the one some time since published in the daily papers"

'H' then proceeded to list cavalry and infantry in Portugal by regiments and battalions, including"The second battalion of the 4th, and the first battalion of the 23rd (from Halifax) on passage". He then carefully listed the General Officers present. This list compares most favourably with Oman's state of the British Army in Portugal at that time.

It is small wonder that Wellington complained bitterly of his "writing officers" and that the French were better served for intelligence by the British newspapers than by their own intelligence service in the Peninsula.

The lectures on military subjects or "Military Essays" which form a considerable portion of the Chronicles give a good picture of the tactics, fortification and also the administrative procedures of the day. Note in the Contents of the Feb 1811 issue an essay on "Law and Practice of Court Martials".

As an aid to modern readers who are often at a loss to understand some of the more unusual terms used in regard to both field works and fixed fortifications during this period the Third Lecture on Elementary Fortifications taken from the Chronicle for January 1811 is reprinted below.

Course of Tactics. - Lecture Third
Elementary Fortifications

※ ※

※ Conclusion of Definitions - It is the usual way among the French writers, to arrange their definitions alphabetically, and this practice has certainly its utility. It enables the student to learn by reference, what it might be difficult to contain in his memory. When a word occurs, the definition of which has slipped his memory, he knows where to recur for an immediate explanation. On further consideration, I have deemed it proper to adopt the same plan, and though the following catalogue may repeat some words already explained, such repetition may possibly serve as an additional explanation.

ANGLE	of the centre of a polygon, is that contained between two lines drawn to the extremities of the same side.
ANGLE	of the polygon, is that formed by two joining sides of a polygon.
ANGLE OF THE FLANK	is made by the curtain and the flank.

- ANGLE OF THE SHOULDER is made by the face and flank of the bastion.
- APPROACHES are roads sunk in the ground by the besiegers, whereby they approach the place under cover of the fire from the garrison.
- BARBET when the parapet of a work is but three feet high, or the breast-work of a battery is only that height that the guns may fire over it without being obliged to make embrasures, it is said that the guns fire in barbet.
- BASTION is a part of the inner inclosure of a fortification, making an angle towards the field, and consists of two faces, two flanks and an opening towards the centre of the place called the gorge.
- BANQUETTE is a kind of step made on the rampart of a work near the parapet, for the troops to stand upon in order to fire over the parapet; it is generally three feet high, and as many broad, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet lower than the parapet.
- BERM is a little space or path of 6 or 8 feet broad, between the ditch and the parapet, when it is only made of turf, to prevent the earth from rolling into the ditch, and it serves likewise to pass and repass.
- BONNET is a sort of work placed before the salient angle of the ravelin to cover it.
- CAPITAL of a work is an imaginary line which divides that work into two equal and similar parts.
- CAPONIER is a passage made from one work to another, of 10 or 12 feet wide, covered on each side by a parapet, terminating in a slope or glacis.
- CAVALIER is a work raised generally within the body of the place, ten or twelve feet higher than the rest of the works. Their most common situation is within the bastion, and made much in the same form; sometimes they are also placed in their gorges, or on the middle of the curtain; they are then made in the form of a horse-shoe, only somewhat flatter. The use of cavaliers is to command all the adjacent works and country about; they are seldom or never made but when there is a hill or rising ground which overlooks some part of the works.
- CASEMAT is a work made under the rampart, like a cellar or cave, with loop-holes, to place guns in it.
- CHEVAUX-DE-FRIZE are large joists or beams stuck full of wooden pins armed with iron, to stop breaches, or to secure the passages of a camp, against the enemy's cavalry.

- COVERT-WAY** is a space five or six fathoms broad, going quite round the works of a fortification, and adjoins the counter-scarp of the ditches, covered by a parapet $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, terminating in an easy slope towards the field, at a distance of twenty fathoms.
- CHAMBER** is that place of a mine where the powder is lodged.
- COUNTERSCARP** is the outside of a ditch, opposite to the parapet of a work behind the ditch : it is often said, that the besiegers have carried their lodgements upon the counter-scarp, which means, they are lodged on the covert-way.
- COUNTERGUARD** is a work placed before the bastions to cover the opposite flanks from being seen from the covert-way: they are likewise made before the ravelins. When they are placed before the bastions, they are esteemed to be of a very good defence.
- CROWN-WORK** is a kind of work not unlike a crown: it has two fronts and two branches; the fronts are composed of two half-bastions and one whole one; they are made before the curtain or the bastion, and generally serve to inclose some buildings which cannot be brought within the body of the place, or to cover the town gates, or else to occupy a spot of ground which might be advantageous to an enemy.
- CORDON** is a round projection made of stone, in a semicircular form, whose diameter is about eight inches, which reigns quite round the wall, within four feet from the upper part.
- CURTAIN** is the part of the body of the place, which joins the bank of one bastion to that of the next.
- CUNETTE** is a small ditch of 10 or 12 feet broad, made in the middle of a large dry ditch, serving as a retrenchment to defend the ditch, or else to let water in it, when it can be had, in the time of a siege.
- DEMI-LUNE or RAVELIN** a work placed before the curtain to cover it, and prevent the flanks from being discovered sideways; it is made of two faces meeting in an outward angle.
- DITCH** is a large deep trench made around each work; and the earth dug out of it, serves to raise the rampart and the parapet.
- ESCARP** is properly any thing high and steep, and is used in fortifications to express the outside of the rampart of any work next to the ditch, as being high and steep.
- EMBRASURES** are openings made in the flanks of a fortification, or in the breast-work of a battery, of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet within, eight or nine without, and three from the bottom, for the guns to enter partly, and to fire through.
- EPAULMENT** is a kind of breastwork to cover the troops in front, and sometimes in flank.

- ESPLANADE** is an open space between the citadel and the town, to prevent an enemy from making approaches under cover, after he is master of the place.
- FACES** of the bastion, are the two sides which meet in an angle projecting towards the field.
- FACINE** a kind of faggot made of branches tied in two or more places of about six to eight inches in diameter.
- FLANK OF THE BASTION** is the part between the face and the curtain; the flank of one bastion serves to defend the ditch before the curtain, and face of the opposite bastion.
- FLANK** (retired) is that which is made behind the line, which joins the extremity of the face and the curtain, towards the capital of the bastion. M Vauban makes his 30 feet from that line, others more or less, as it happens.
- FOUGASS** is a small mine, from six to eight feet under-ground; they are generally placed under the glacis or dry ditches.
- FRAISE** a kind of stakes or palisades placed horizontally on the outward slope of a rampart made of turf, to prevent the work being taken by surprise.
- GABION** is a cylindrical basket open at both ends, of about three feet wide, and as much in height; they serve in sieges to carry on the approaches under cover, when they come pretty near the fortification.
- GABION(stuft)** is made in the same manner as the former, they are only filled with all sorts of branches, and small wood, and are five or six feet long; they serve to roll before the workmen in the trenches, to cover them in front against musket shot.
- GALLERY** is the passage made underground leading to the mines; they are from four and a half to five feet high, and about four feet broad; the earth above is supported by wooden frames with boards over them.
- GLACIS** is that part of a fortification beyond the covert way to which it serves as a parapet, and terminates towards the field in an easy slope at about 100 feet distance.
- GORGE** (of a bastion) is the interval between the extremity of one flank to that of the other.
- HORNWORK** is composed of a front and two branches; the front is made into two half bastions and a curtain, this work is of the nature of a crown work, only smaller, and serves for the same purpose.
- INTERIOR** side of a fortification, is the imaginary line drawn from the centre of one bastion to that of the next, or rather, the curtain produced to the centre of the bastions.

LINE OF DEFENCE is the distance between the salient angle of the bastion, and the opposite flank.

LINE OF

CIRCUMVALLATION is the work or retranchment made about an army which besieges a place, to secure it from any insult from without; it is made of a parapet with a ditch before it, and at every thirty yards, or thereabouts, the parapet projects outwards in an angle; this projection is called a REDAN, and serves to flank or defend the other parts.

LINE OF

COUNTERVALLATION is the work by an army which besieges a place between their camp and the town, to cover it against any enterprise of the garrison; it is made much after the same manner as the line of circumvallation, only in a contrary disposition.

LINE

is also the name of the works made by an army from one town or strong post to another, behind which it is encamped, to guard a part of the country.

**LINE OF COUNTER-
APPROACH**

is a kind of trench made by the garrison when besieged, going from the covert-way in a right line, so as part of the enemy's approaches may be enfiladed from thence.

LUNETTES

are works made on both sides of a ravelin; one of their faces is perpendicular to half or two thirds of the faces of the ravelin, and the other nearly so to those of the bastions.

MANTLET

is a kind of moving parapet made of strong planks, about four feet long and three high, mounted upon two wheels, with a long pole fixed to it; they serve to cover the sappers in the front against musket shot.

ORILLON

is a part of the bastion near the shoulder, which serves to cover the retired flank from being seen obliquely.

PARAPET

is a part of the rampart of a work, of 18 or 20 feet broad, and raised six or seven feet above the rest of the rampart; it serves to cover the troops, placed there to defend the work, against the fire of the enemy.

PARALLELS

or places of arms, are deep trenches 15 to 18 feet wide, joining the several attacks together; they serve to place the guard of the trenches in, to be at hand to support the workmen when attacked. There are generally three in an attack; the first is about 100 yards from the covert-way, the second 50, and the third near or on the glacis. They were first invented or used by M Vauban.

PORT-CULLICE

is a falling gate or door like a harrow, hung over the gates of a fortified place, and let down to keep out the enemy.

- RAMPART** is an elevation of earth raised along the faces of any work, of 10 or 15 feet high, to cover the inner part of that work against the fire of an enemy.
- RE-ENTERING ANGLE** is that which turns its point towards the centre of the place.
- RAVELIN**, see DEMI-LUNE
- REDOUBT** is a square work without any bastions, placed at some distance from a fortification, to guard a pass, or to prevent an enemy from approaching that way.
- RICOCHET** when guns are loaded with small charges, and are elevated from 10 to 12 degrees, so as to fire over the parapet, and the shot rolls along the opposite rampart, it is called ricochet firing; and the batteries are likewise called ricochet batteries.
- SALIENT-ANGLE** is that whose point turns from the centre of the place.
- SAP** is a trench or an approach made under cover of 10 or 12 feet broad, when the besiegers come near the place, and their fire grows so dangerous, as not to be approached uncovered.
- SAUCISSON** is a long pipe or bag, made of cloth or leather, of about an inch and a half diameter, filled with powder, going from the chamber of a mine to the entrance of the gallery, it serves to give fire to the mine.
- TALUD (or slope)** is made to the works of a fortification, both on the outside and inside to prevent the earth from rolling down.
- TRAVERSE** is a parapet made cross the covert-way opposite to the salient angles of the works, and near the places of arms, to prevent enfilades; they are 18 feet thick, and as high as the ridge of the glacis. There are also traverses made in the caponiers, but then they are called TAMBOURS.
- Traverses are likewise made within other works, when there are any hills or rising grounds, which may see the inside of these works.
- TENAILLES** are low works made in the ditch before the curtains; there are three sorts, viz; the first are the faces of the bastions produced, till they meet, but much lower; the second have faces, flanks and a curtain; and the third have only faces and flanks.
- TENAILLONS** are works made on each side of the ravelin, much like the lunettes; they differ, in that one of the faces of a tenailon is in the direction of the face of the ravelin, whereas that of the lunette is perpendicular to it.
- TOWER BASTIONS** small towers made in the form of bastions, by M Vauban in his second and third method; with rooms or cellars underneath, to place men and guns in them.

BRANCH NOTES

HEADQUARTERS

We have been fortunate in obtaining a permanent meeting place in the city of Melbourne.

During the past quarter we have had two lectures by our President, Major W. Perry entitled "An Author at Arms - a literary portrait of General Sir Edward Bruce Hamley" and "Col. W.A.D. Anderson: a Commandant of the Military Forces of Victoria".

At our December meeting Mr. B. Hirsh showed films of the First World War.

A.C.T. BRANCH

We have had a most interesting time over the past few months, with a visit from the NSW Branch over the October holiday weekend, plus addresses by Col. M. Austen and Maj. J. McGrath, Director of the Australian War Memorial.

It is with regret that we must report the recent resignation of our first Branch President, Maj. T.C. Sargent. Clem's resignation was due to a pending posting away from Canberra and he will be missed by all members. It looks as though we will have to find somebody else to keep us informed on the Peninsula War.

In losing Clem we have gained another Branch stalwart as Branch President in Lt. Col. Don Goldsmith, and we look forward to our further progress under his Presidency.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend the very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all members and their families.

N.S.W. BRANCH

The preceding three months have been a time of steady expansion in numbers and interests.

In October a small delegation attended a Combined Meeting in Canberra for the purposes of discussing Constitutional Amendments. It was thought that this time was well spent, and the social aspect of the visit was most enjoyable.

The November meeting was held at Bradley's Head, where the improvements and renovations to the ancient gun battery and its surrounds were noted with pleasure. It was also pleasing to note the appearance of the repaired and repainted mast of H.M.A.S. "Sydney", and the members may justly feel that the small support offered by this Branch for the repair of this historic monument may have helped to decide those responsible that the effort was worthwhile.

The December meeting was replaced, as usual, by an evening smoko, which was held in the Armoured Corps Club, Pitt St., Sydney, on Friday evening 11th December. This social meeting was well attended, and the commissariat department performed its functions with the usual generous efficiency.

At this meeting the Branch President reluctantly tendered his resignation, due to appointment to a new position which will take him to Melbourne.

In a brief speech he thanked the members and the Committee for their support and interest in the activities of the Branch and the Society.

A surprise presentation was ably made by Mr. Monty Wedd, on behalf of the members, of a handsome volume entitled "Great Sea Battles", suitably inscribed and autographed by those present. The astonishment and pleasure evidenced by the recipient were matched only by the confusion of his speech of thanks!

During the period the Committee resolved to endeavour to formulate and revise written sets of rules and by laws for the conduct of business. It was also decided to offer to participate in an Anzac Exhibition to be held in the Commonwealth Bank, Sydney, and in a military historical display at History House, the H.Q. of the Royal Historical Society of N.S.W.

A new draft Constitution was received from Society H.Q. in December for scrutiny and comments of the Committee.

B.J. VIDEON,

Branch President.

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS

AUSTRALIAN ARMY LINEAGE 1903-1964

At long last the writing of the Lineage Book of the Australian Army has been completed. It comprises the regiments of the Light Horse, Armoured Corps, and Infantry from Federation to 1964.

For each unit it shows all changes of designation etc., alliances, battle honours complete with references from date of formation to date of disbandment.

The new State Regiments are included.

The author, Mr. A.N. Festberg, proposes to publish this book if sufficient orders are received. The price will be £2. Only the ordered number of books will be printed.

Send your order with remittance to the Honorary Secretary of the Society in Melbourne as soon as possible.

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TOBRUK SIEGE 1941.

An authentic photographic record of the Siege of Tobruk

This book will include over 400 photographs from British, Australian, German and Italian sources, with appropriate introduction, text and maps. It will be 10 x 8 inches in size and printed on matt finished art paper.

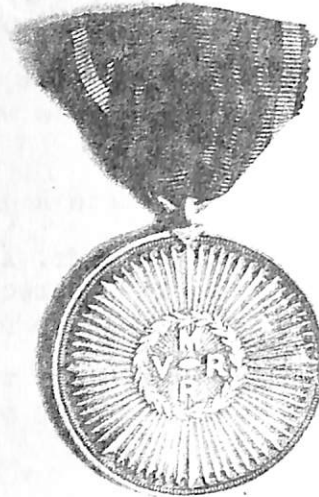
Now in preparation this volume will be published next year. Publication price will be 59/6. To provide funds to defray the cost of printing this volume is offered to members of the Association and their friends at the pre-publication price of £2.10.0 post free. As the number of photographs included will to some extent depend upon the number of advance orders received please send your orders in now to

The Secretary,
A.C.T. Branch,
Rats of Tobruk Association,
P.O. Box 101, Canberra City, A.C.T.

DESPATCHES

1. Mr. Dan Atkinson, of Takanini, Auckland, N.Z.

submits the adjacent photo of a medal for which he would like positive identification please. In addition, if any member can provide information regarding the purposes for which the medal was worn, number issued, etc., we would appreciate hearing from him.

2. Mr. A. Cansdell, of 2 Hearnshaw St., NORTH RYDE, N.S.W.

submits the following description of a Modelling Proficiency Badge for N.S.W. Engineers, taken from the book written by his relation, "HISTORY OF THE N.S.W. CORPS OF ENGINEERS" by Captain C. Stuart-Cansdell, VD. "Nearly three years had elapsed since the authorities promised to distribute badges to members who had distinguished themselves by particular merit or proficiency in engineering modelling. One of the several designs submitted long previously by the officers of the Engineers was at last selected and approved in 1884. The design obtains to this day (sic), and is that of a gabion, with the date of issue surrounded by a wreath of waratah, and surmounted by a crown worked in lace on cloth, and worn upon the sleeve like a musketry badge, and is much coveted by members of the Corps."

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

I was in error in my statement on page 53 of the October issue regarding the WRAN headdress. The fact emerges that hat ribbons WERE used by WRANs for a short while before the adoption of the red badge. The first uniform adopted was doubtless based upon the British, and was of decidedly old-fashioned appearance. A specimen may be seen in the Australian War Memorial at Canberra.

