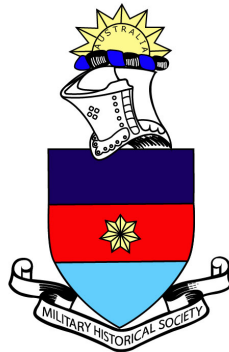


Military Historical Society of Australia
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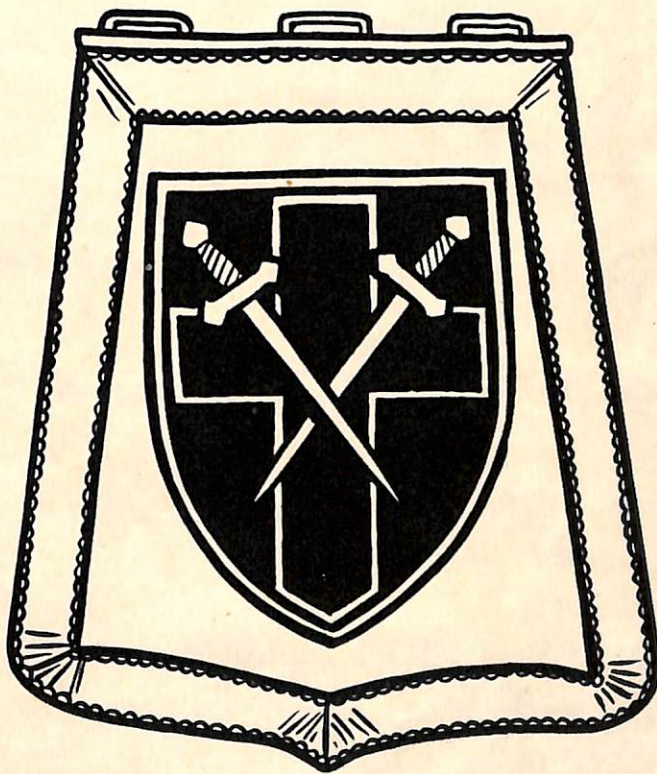
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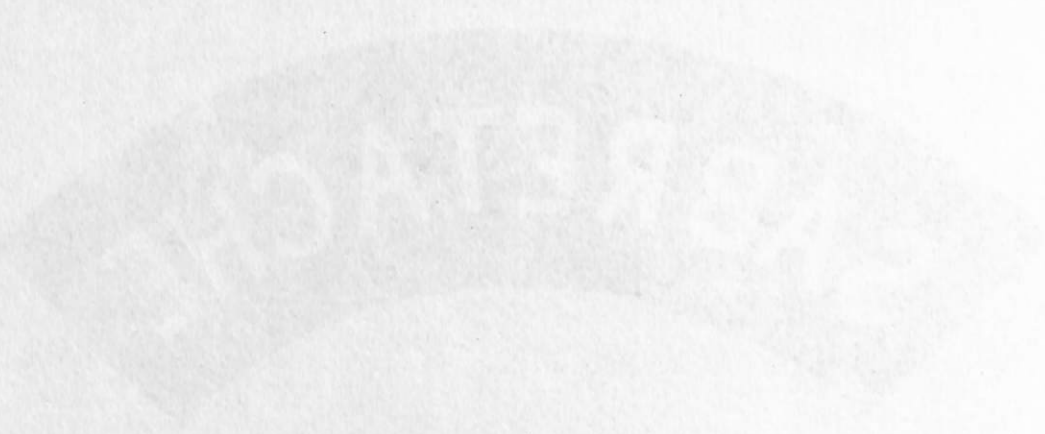


THE JOURNAL OF
THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF AUSTRALIA

VOL. VIII

JANUARY, 1966

No. 3



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THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA.

Founded in Melbourne in 1957.

HONORARY OFFICE BEARERS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE 1966.

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NO. 1000

1960

BY

DR. J. H. GOLD

AND

DR. R. M. WATSON

1960

REPRODUCED FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT



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

A SCENE IN THE TRENCHES, W.W.I

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MONTHLY MEETINGS.

Monthly meetings are held in Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra and Adelaide.

Details of times, places etc may be obtained from the Branch Secretaries concerned.

Members travelling Inter-State are welcomed at any meeting of the Branches of the Society. It is recommended that prior to travelling, arrangements be made with the Branch Secretary in the city being visited.

"SABRETACHE."

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

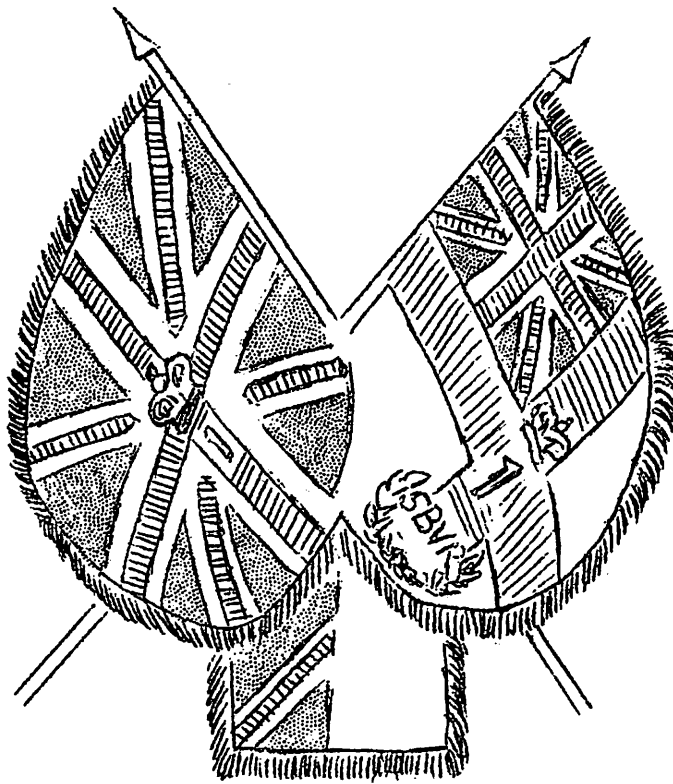
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SABRETACHE



A sketch of the Colours presented to the 1st Sydney Batt.
Volunteer Rifles, by Lady Young, on behalf of the Ladies
of Sydney, in 1861.

Journal and Proceedings of
THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA.

Vol. VIII

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No.3.

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EDITOR'S NOTES.

WHAT ARE WE HERE FOR?

Many an old soldier will recall these words, plaintively sounding across a campsite, or from a mess queue. How illustrative they were, generally of frustration, boredom, discontent!

But---it was a good question.

What are WE here for? In other words, what are we as Society members trying to do?

Most of us are members of this Society---and many others--- in order that we may enjoy the benefits of corresponding or meeting with others sharing our interests. And this is very right and proper.

As a Society, however, we must look forward to rather wider aims.

We must seek to make the Society an organisation of which we can be more and more proud; an organisation that DOES something! And I think and believe that we are now on the right road.

Looking back over my file of SABRETACHES from that first one of June 1958, I see many editions that have been quite good, some very good, and some that have not been so good. Our main problem is ---the lack of funds over and above our members' subscriptions makes us totally dependent on this source of revenue for all our workings. The quality of SABRETACHE is directly geared to finance. The more we have, the better we may be able to make it.

The remedy is to increase our membership---and to do this, we must continue to be able to offer prospective members inducements to join us.

The existence of Branches in three capital cities provided our members in these places with a golden opportunity to make the most of Branch membership. If the programmes arranged by the Branch Committees are not to their liking, members may help to alter them by raising their voice at the meetings.

Corresponding members may enjoy wider advantages by submitting their copy to the Editor---and an inducement in this regard is now offered in the shape of an Annual Award, mentioned in the Report of Federal Council proceedings elsewhere.

The purpose of this Award is not, of course, to provide a payment for articles submitted, but rather a token of achievement that members may be proud to try to win. By this means, we hope also to lift the standard of SABRETACHE even higher than it is.

In other ways, the Society is making its presence felt too.

Major works of value in the military historical field are being produced---such as the Golden Fleece swap card series prepared by Mr. Monty Wedd, and, more recently, the Australian Army Lineage Book mentioned elsewhere in this issue---and more are hoped for in the future.

Standards of publication may vary, but the important thing is that the effort has been, or will be, made, to the benefit of others interested in the subject.

The preservation of historical relics is of interest to many of us. Some manage this by amassing their own personal collections which are maintained generally in a good state of repair. Others can not personally collect, but take action when historical items are threatened by the march of progress or the passage of time in an apathetic community. Thus a number of tanks and old guns have been saved in past months from being consigned to the scrap metal yards.

In many ways we can justify our existence, as a Society or as individual collectors or students, in this field of military interest that is becoming more popular as the years go by.

Never has the time been so favorable for our activities as it is at the present time.

And when we go about our business of collecting, studying, etc, it may be well to remember that there is much to be said for the old motto....."UNION IS STRENGTH" . Let us build up the Society and let us try to make its aims our aims.

No. 4 SQUADRON, R.A.A.F.

No Squadron badge or Battle Honours awarded to No. 4 Squadron.

AIRCRAFT BADGE FOR
No. 4 SQUADRON AFC

A BOOMERANG

No. 4 Squadron (Australian Flying Corps) was formed at Point Cook during October 1916, from personnel trained on the sixth course held at the Aviation School, of Instruction and other army volunteers.

It arrived in England on 27th March 1917, and was sent for training to 25th Training Wing, Royal Flying Corps, at Castle Bromwich, near Birmingham.

As No. 71 (Australian) Squadron, R.F.C., it arrived at St. Omer, France, on December 18th, 1917, equipped with Sopwith Camels, and came under the command of 10th (Army) Wing, operating with the British First Army.

On 19th January 1918, it became once more No. 4 Squadron, A.F.C., and in the following October, it re-armed with Sopwith Snipes. In 1918, it became the only Australian squadron to form part of the Army of Occupation.

During the War, No. 4 Squadron destroyed 128 Aircraft, sending down 63 out of control, and driving down 8. It also destroyed 32 balloons, and forced down 1.

Towards the end of 1919, the Squadron returned to Melbourne, and was disbanded.

No. 4 Squadron was re-formed at Richmond in May 1937, as a General Reconnaissance Squadron, at first armed with Demons, but later with Avro Ansons. On 1st January 1939, No. 4 Squadron was renamed No. 6 (General Reconnaissance) Squadron.

No. 4 Squadron was re-formed on 17th June 1940, as an Army Co-Op. Squadron equipped with Wirraway aircraft, and during the New Guinea campaign, provided close support for the 7th Australian and the 32nd U.S. Divisions.

On Boxing Day, 1942, Pilot Officer John Archer, of Melbourne, surprised the R.A.A.F., the Japanese and himself when he shot down a Zero from his out-classed Wirraway. For this unique exploit, he was awarded the U.S. Silver Star.

The first Boomerangs to be allotted to the Squadron arrived about the middle of 1943, and with these aircraft the Squadron supported the A.I.F. in the Markham and the Ramu Valley operations, and, later, the U.S. Marines on Cape Gloucester.

In March 1945, No. 4 Squadron landed at Morotai, and in late June, reached Labuan to operate with the 1st. Tactical Air Force, R.A.A.F.

No. 4 Squadron returned to Canberra at the end of 1945, and was re-equipped with Mustang aircraft.

Its peacetime existence as an Army Co-operation Squadron ended with its disbandment in 1948.



THE AIR TRAINING CORPS.

The Air Training Corps, R.A.A.F., was founded on 11th June 1941, only four months after the formation of its kindred organisation in the R.A.F.

The original intention was to provide pre-entry training for youths who wished to serve as R.A.A.F. aircrew. Later the scope was widened to provide pre-entry training for ground staff musterings also.

By 1943, the Corps had expanded to some 13,000 members, a strength at which it remained until 1944. When fully operative, its output to the R.A.A.F. was 5,000 a year. During the War years, 14,000 cadets graduated from the Corps, and, of these, 12,000 enlisted in the R.A.A.F.---7,000 as aircrew and 5,000 as ground staff.

At present the A.T.C. is organised on a squadron basis--one in each State, with the exception of Queensland, where two are in existence. In the latter instance, due to the geographical area involved, it was found necessary to form one squadron for the area north of the Tropic of Capricorn, and one for the southern portion of the State.

Each Squadron comprises a Headquarters and a number of Flights, and is commanded by a Permanent Air Force officer.

Flights may be of two types---Town Flights, which are open to all youths who qualify for membership; and School Flights, which are limited to the qualified pupils of the schools concerned.

Organisationally, the A.T.C. comes under Support Command, and in each State Command, the Air Training Corps Squadron ranks after the University Squadron of the State concerned.

THE WIMMERA REGIMENT (Victoria),
1936.
THE JESS COLLECTION--AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL.

by Major John Gorman.

The Australian War Memorial Library includes two boxes of small--about 9" x 6"--watercolours by the late Brigadier-General Sir Carl Jess, depicting Australian military uniforms of all branches, and of the entire period of Australia's military history. These are not identical with the large volumes--some 36" x 24"--held in the Library of the Royal Military College

Society members visiting the War Memorial may no doubt wish to ask to view these watercolours, which are stored in the basement, and are not on view to the general public.

The sketch presented here is from this collection, and it shows a corporal of the 1st Armoured Car Regiment (The Wimmera Regiment) in the uniform of 1936.

The uniform owes much to the Light Horse. The tank beret was not exactly of the modern pattern, but was rather more full and with the top fold stitched to the headband, showing a distinct seam. The material was black wool, and the badge of brass.

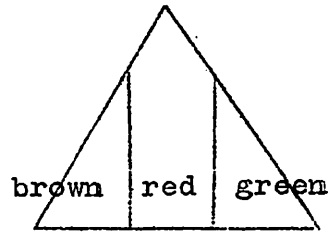
The tunic was of dark blue material with cavalry maroon collar (EDITOR'S NOTE: Dress Regulations of 1935 stipulate collar blue with maroon piping at base), and maroon piping at cuff edge and edges of shoulder straps. Buttons and badges of brass, with gold lace chevrons. A triangular colour patch of armoured units colours at each sleeve head.

The bandolier and other leather were of tan colour. The bandolier with five pouches at the front, and four at the rear. A white lanyard worn round the throat and falling to the pistol butt.

The cavalry pattern breeches appear to be of a curious light grey colour. Spurs were not worn

When the Sydney members of the society visited the Royal Military College last year and studied the Jess collection there, Mr. Videon gave a masterly display of knowledge by describing most of the uniforms and regiments from memory, having seen the books for the first time on this occasion.

One uniform, however, baffled everyone present.



beret-black
 badge-brass

collar-maroon

tunic-blue

buttons-brass

chevrons-gold

pistol lanyard-
 white

shoulderstraps piped in
 maroon
 colour patch-as above

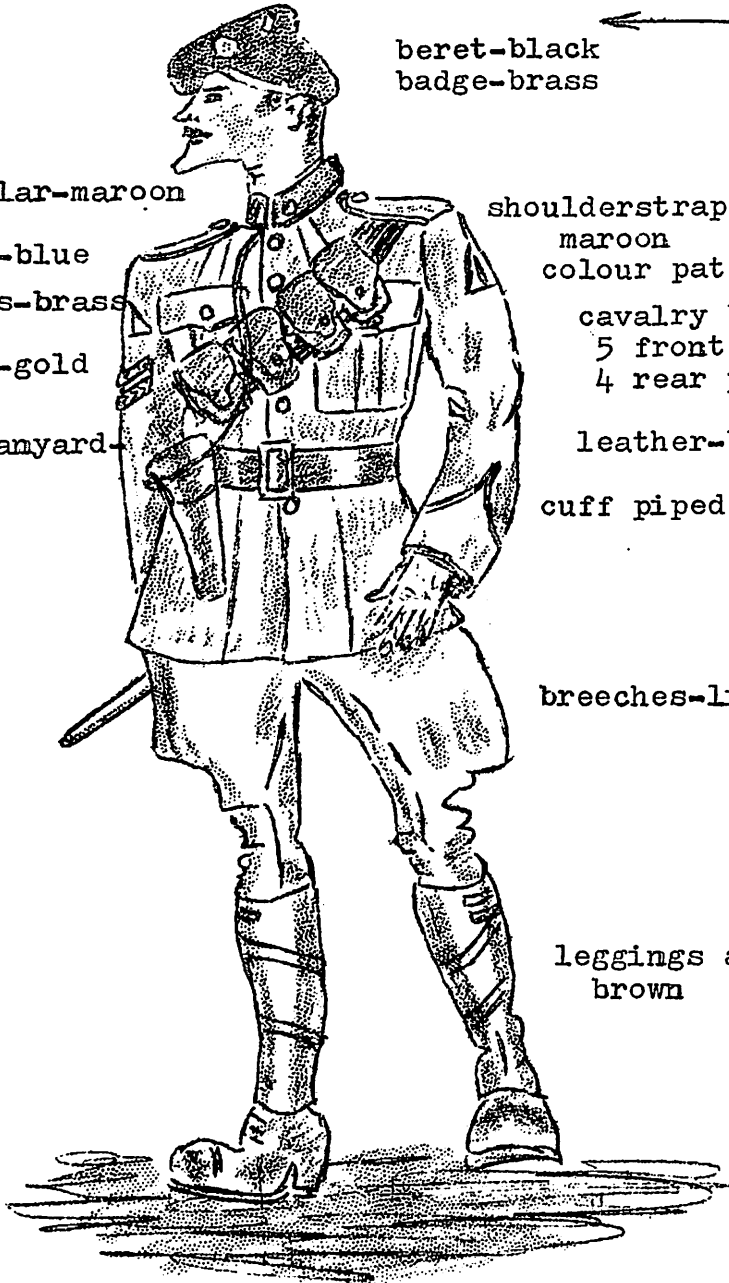
cavalry bandolier-
 5 front pouches
 4 rear pouches

leather-brown

cuff piped in maroon

breeches-light grey

leggings and boots-
 brown



THE WIMMERA REGIMENT 1936.

The un-named uniform was similar to that of the New South Wales Lancers of 1900, in a khaki material, with lighter breeches and brown boots. The puggaree was white with a green stripe, and the gorget patches on the collar were white with a red centre stripe. The plastron on the lancer jacket was white, and the soldier carried a lance.

The War Memorial collection again shows this uniform, and identifies it as "THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S OUTRIDERS, R.A.A., VICTORIA, 1906".

One imagines that this was a special ceremonial uniform adopted by the Regulars--there were no Regular Cavalrymen--for the purpose of escorting the Governor-General, and as the only source of Regular manpower was the Artillery, the Gunners dressed as Cavalry when required.

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The AUSTRALIAN ARMY LINEAGE BOOK, by A.N.Festberg, and published by the Victorian Branch of the Society is now available for £2.10.0 (\$5 new currency) from B.J.Videon, 20 Thomasina St., EAST BENTLEIGH, SE15, Victoria.

BRIEF REPORT OF FEDERAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD
3rd December 1965.

On the 3rd Decmeber 1965, the first Federal Council Meeting for the conduct of business under the recently-adopted Constitution was held.

Present were--Major W.Perry (Chairman), Major J.B.Gale, and Messrs. E.J.Videon, A.N.Festberg and J.K.Lyons. Apologies were accepted from Lt.Col.P.V.Vernon (Sydney), and Lt.P.Lober (army duty).

The following decisions were made:-

1. ANNUAL AWARD. - To make annually an award in the form of a suitable book or trophy to the value of \$3 for the best historical contribution of a high literary standard for the Society's journal SABRETACHE. The scheme to come into effect on and date from 1st. July 1966. Details to be published later.
2. MEMBERSHIP DRIVE. -To conduct a drive for increased membership by means of increased publicity and other means suitable to the end. It was also decided to examine the possibility of forming in South Australia a Branch of the Society in accordance with suggestions of some members there.
3. SOCIETY BADGE. -To defer for twelve months the question of adopting a new Society lapel badge.
4. SABRETACHE. -Dependent upon supply of material from contributors, to retain a predominantly Australian flavour in the Society's journal.
5. FINANCE. -To endeavour to build up funds by enlistment of new members and the rigid control of expenditure, for which new rules are being devised.
6. SOCIETY LIBRARY. -To restrict the scope of the Federal Library of the Society to publications of a type not originally prepared for sale through recognised publishing houses. The Library in future will comprise mainly those official publications not normally available to the public, such as Army Orders, Dress Regulations, Training Manuals, and the like, as well as the journals of similar societies with which we have established exchange agreements.

Federal Council Meetings are held quarterly for the purpose of dealing with the Society's business.

Branch Committee meetings are held in accordance with Branch needs for the conduct of Branch business--usually monthly.

31.12.65

B.J.Videon.

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH NEWSLETTER.

The N.S.W. Branch Committee has introduced its Newsletter "DESPATCH" for the primary purpose of keeping its members informed of current events in the area. Of several pages, the Newsletter also contains articles by Branch members.

N.S.W. Branch Newsletter (cont).

Well-presented by the Branch Committee, and under the able editorship of Mr. Monty Wedd, the Branch Newsletter should ensure that no Branch member is ignorant of what is going on in his Branch.

Good Work, N.S.W. Branch!

SITES OF INTEREST TO THE MILITARY HISTORIAN IN THE A.C.T.

submitted by the A.C.T. Branch.

1. THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL: Location-Fairbairn Ave, CAMPBELL. The contents and setting of the A.W.M. are well-known and require no further description here.
2. THE AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN WAR MEMORIAL: Location-Russell Hill, off Parkes Way. This Memorial does not feature any item of direct interest to the historian, other than as a place to be visited. It is located centrally among the Defence Group of buildings, and is in the form of a tall column, surmounted by an eagle.
3. ENTRANCE GATES TO THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE: Location-Morshead Drive, Duntroon. On the left side is a single brick wall bearing a large replica of the "rising sun" badge of the Australian Military Forces, beneath which are the badges of the Australian and New Zealand Staff Corps. On the right hand side are a series of brick walls set louvre-wise, each bearing a replica of the various corps badges of the Arms and Services of the Australian Army, including the women's services.
4. ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE: The road to Mount Pleasant Lookout runs through the grounds of the Royal Military College, and among other sights may be seen the College Library, Cadet Barracks, the Parade Ground and Duntroon House.
5. GENERAL BRIDGES' GRAVE: Halfway up the hill to Mount Pleasant Lookout, General Bridges' grave is located, looking out over the grounds of the College, of which he was the first Commandant. General Bridges, who was mortally wounded at Gallipoli, was the only Australian killed overseas whose remains were brought home to Australia for burial.
6. ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMoured CORPS MEMORIAL: Location-Mount Pleasant. This Memorial, dedicated to all Light Horsemen and members of the Armoured Corps who died in the service of their country, is located at the top of Mount Pleasant, overlooking the R.M.C. to the east, and Canberra City and lake to the south and west. The Memorial is an Australian-made Cruiser tank of WW2 vintage.
7. THE GUN GATE, ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE: This gate is situated in Fairbairn Ave, and is flanked by two 18-pounder guns. Whether these guns have any historical significance is being investigated.
8. PARLIAMENT HOUSE: A number of paintings of interest may be viewed in the basement.
9. C.M.F. TRAINING DEPOT: Location-Kingsley Street, TURNER. The HQ of C. Coy (Werriwa Coy) 3 RNSWR, This Depot was formerly the HQ of

- 3 Battalion, The Werriwa Regiment, and features a very fine replica of the regimental badge above the front entrance.
10. Boer War and World War Memorials, Queanbeyan: These list the local residents who served in the various wars, and, in the case of the Boer War Memorial, a list of the actions is given.
11. DUGOUT BAR, the HOTEL AINSLIE-REX: Location-Limestone Ave., Ainslie. This bar is decorated with a military motif, and it features a number of the prints by the late Sir Carl Jess, and also a number of firearms and edged weapons.
12. OTHER PLACES NOT READILY AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC:
- (a) The War Memorial Archives
 - (b) National Library
 - (c) Department of Defence Library
 - (d) Royal Military College Library.
13. BLUNDELL'S COTTAGE: Location-Parkes Way. Although of no military historical interest, this Museum, maintained by the Canberra and District Historical Society, contains many items of interest to any person interested in the history of the Canberra district.

ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES LANCERS MEMORIAL MUSEUM BUILDING
APPEAL.

The Editor,
SABRETACHE .

6th December 1965.

Dear Sir,

I am pleased to be able to report some progress with the building of the Lancers' Museum.

As most members of the Society know, the project is to re-erect an early colonial building of Parramatta in the grounds of the Lancer Barracks, to dedicate it as a regimental war memorial, and to use it to house the Regiment's historical museum. The building is commonly known as "Linden House", and an interesting fact about it is that it was used for several years, at least, as a Redcoat mess.

No public funds are available for this, and a public appeal has been running for some time. After meeting dismantling costs and other expenses, not much over £6000 has been accumulated, which is less than half the original target. A contract has been let for partial construction, viz: erection of four walls to full height, the roofing, and making the ground floor usable; Barring accidents, the Honorary Curator, Lt. Norman Grinycr, will be able to present a display of items from the museum on 6th March 1966, the date of the regiment's annual church parade and field day.

Thereafter, the construction will be carried on towards the completion of the whole building as funds become available.

In the meantime, the museum collection continues to grow, and among recent acquisitions are a Japanese medium tank in running order, and a Covenantor bridge-layer tank. A number of Australian

military uniforms are held, but they do not include a 1938 pattern Militia tunic, and the Curator would be interested to know where to obtain one. Items of saddlery are scarce.

Further news of progress will be sent for a later edition of SABRETACHE.

Yours sincerely,

P.V.Vernon.

EDITOR'S NOTE: If any reader can help this worthy cause, by way of gift, donation or information, please contact either the Curator, Lt.N.R.Grinyer, at 144 Chetwynd Road, GUILDFORD, N.S.W., or Lt.Col. P.V.Vernon, ED, 2 Reid St., LINDFIELD, N.S.W.

GOLDEN FLEECE SWAP CARDS.

by Robert Gray.

I wish to correct the colours shown in two of the Golden Fleece uniform cards "UNIFORMS OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMED SERVICES".

In Number 3 (South Australian Volunteer Infantry) green facings were not in use in the period in question. The band on the cap, and also the collar etc of the jacket, should all be scarlet.

In Number 12 (South Australian Infantry) the colour has suffered in reproduction, and should be the pinkish brown common in use at the time. The colour of the facings varied from battalion to battalion.

Collectors will wish to correct these colours.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The opportunity is taken to repeat that the greens shown in card 4 (Balkarat Volunteer Regiment) should be rifle green, and card 18 (1st Australian Horse) myrtle green, including the hat.

AIR FORCE RIFLE-WOMEN TAKE FIELD.

The R.A.A.F. (Edinburgh, South Australia) made history in the annual Simpson Trophy shoot at the Dean Range on Saturday, when it fielded the first women's team to compete since the series started in 1890. The team of W.R.A.A.F.'s comprised Kath O'Connor, Joyce Campbell and Jinx Kelly.

(Submitted by Robert Gray from "The Advertiser" of 22.11.65)

THE FIRST AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY REGT.
HISTORICAL RECORD AND JUBILEE.
1854 - 1904.

(The following article, submitted by A.S. Camsdell, was printed for the above-mentioned jubilee, from regimental records, etc.)

ORIGIN OF THE CORPS.

The history of the First Regiment of Australian Militia Infantry is almost a complete record of the efforts made by the mother State towards creating a Defence Force, and it is therefore necessary to commence with the first enrolment of Volunteers under Act 18 Victoria No. 8, assented to 4th August 1854, by Sir Charles Fitzroy. This Act was only slightly different from the subsequent one; but the regulations that were made under the "Volunteer Force Regulation Act of 1867" from time to time, considerably affected the conditions of those who served under it.

The enrolment of the First Regiment of New South Wales Rifles took place under exciting circumstances. Perhaps it was the first of the series of Russian scares that have from time to timeswept over the Continent of Australia. Though the din of war was far distant, though no telegraph ticked the scenes of the Alma and the Inkermann (as it would do now almost hourly), and though when news arrived it was a month old, yet those were exciting times; and prophecies (and even wagers) were made on what the news would be. Then all would be settled for another month.

So far back as 1851, the Government of New South Wales, having obtained the sanction of the Imperial Government, authorised the establishment of Volunteer corps in Sydney; but it was not until three years later, in 1854, that (accelerated in all probability by the war with Russia) practical measures were taken in this direction. On 21st June a Select Committee of the Legislative Council was appointed to consider the matter. They brought up their report on 8th July; and an Act of Council (18 Vict No. 8) was passed, under which a troop of Yeomanry Cavalry, a battery of Artillery and a Battalion of Rifles were raised.

They were upon what is known as the "purely voluntary system; the members providing their own uniforms, bearing almost all incidental expenses, and being supplied with arms, accoutrements and instruction. Colonel Bloomfield, H.M. 11th Regiment, was appointed to the command of the whole.

EARLY HISTORY.

It is only with the Rifles that we are concerned for the purpose of this history. They were styled the "1st N.S.W. Rifle Volunteers"; and it is from them that the 1st Australian Infantry Regiment can claim direct descent. They were divided into six small companies, the strongest numbering only 80, and the weakest comprising no more than 18 of all ranks; but each having its proportion of officers, non-commissioned officers and privates.

The following were the first officers:

Honoray Colonel	His Excellency Sir Charles Fitzroy	
Major	Thomas Wingate	
Captains	Edmund Lockyer (late 57th Regt)	
	John Maclean (late 43rd Regt)	
	Frederick Orme Darvall	
	John Moore Dillon	
	James Raymond	
Lieutenants	Henry Garnett	
	W.A. Brownrigg	J.G. Chapman
	George Wilson	Walter Lamb
	Joseph Tricket	G.N. Shuttleworth
	George Miller	William Cathcart Still
Ensigns	Frederick Perry	Thaddeus O'Sullivan Green
	T.A. Dibbs	

Sergeant-Major Baynes was the first Instructor, and they could have had none better qualified.

The uniform was dark rifle-green frock coat, with black velvet facings and black cloth shoulder straps; trousers of similar material with stripe of black cloth braid; and forage cap to match, with the figure "1" and bugle in front. White trousers were worn in summer. The belts were black, with suitable ornaments for the officers.

The total number of privates enrolled from the commencement to 18th July 1855 was 316. Of these, 18 had been promoted to Commissions, 9 transferred to the Cavalry, and 11 to the Artillery; 1 died, and 1 left the Colony. Seven officers and 80 non-commissioned officers had resigned, and two paid buglers discharged. The effective strength of the regiment in July 1855 comprised:
1 Major, 4 Captains, 4 Lieutenants, 5 Ensigns, 1 Lieutenant-Adjutant, 135 Sergeants, and rank-and-file total about 150.

The men were armed with 2-groove M.L. rifles, of the pattern known as the "Improved Brunswick", which was in use with the Army previous to the Minie being adopted. They weighed 9 lbs 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ ozs; sword bayonet 1 lb 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ ozs; scabbard 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ ozs; ball drawer and jag in butt of rifle 2 ozs; total weight 12 lbs 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ ozs. Rifle practice in those days was somewhat limited; and musketry was not regarded by any means with the same interest that attaches to it today. The rifles carried a belted bullet cast and wrapped round with calico; grease was provided in the stock of the rifles, or greased cartridges issued. Mallets were nearly always kept at hand for bullets that jammed beyond the efficacy of the ramrod; when they could not be driven "home" they were fired off, wherever their position in the barrel might be. There are no records whether anything remarkable ever happened.

So far as can be gathered, the first appearance in public of the Rifles, after their preliminary drills had been passed, was on the occasion of the opening of an Industrial Exhibition at the Museum (comprising exhibits for the Paris Exhibition), when they formed a Guard of Honour for Sir Charles Fitzroy. They also formed Guards of Honour on the following interesting occasions: the official landing of Sir William Denison; the departure of Sir Charles Fitzroy; the

opening of the railway to Parramatta; the presentation of a banner by Miss Ironside, accompanied by the Rev. Dr. Lang; and the proclamation of peace. The first Queen's Birthday Review attended by the Rifles was that in 1855, when they were brigaded with H.M. 11th Regiment, a somewhat distinguished honour when it is considered that the march-past was in slow time, and therefore rather a tax upon the precision of citizen-troops.

On the 22nd November 1856, the first Rifle match was fired at the Paddington Rifle Range, then considered a remote location only to be approached by a long dusty walk. The winners were:- Private Stratford, first prize, silver cup; Private Clayton, second prize; Private McCutcheon, third prize.

On the 12th June 1855, a Select Committee of the Legislative Council (Mr. James Martin being Chairman) was appointed to consider the working of the various Volunteer corps. The movement had only proved a partial success; the average attendance was low; there was a deficiency of instructors; appointments to commissions had not in all cases given satisfaction; and the expense of uniform etc was considered by many to be objectionable. Furthermore, the Volunteers were discouraged by the ridicule which assailed them; indeed, it was not until many years afterward that the public desisted from treating this arm of the Service with sarcasm more or less barbed.

The Report of the Commission, which was composed of the following members of the Legislative Council:- Mr. Jas. Martin, Mr. Cowper, Capt. King, Mr. Geo. Macleay, Mr. Parkes, Col. Ward, R.E., Capt. Finch, Mr. Holder, and Colonel Burney, R.E., was as follows:-

That a building should be erected or set apart in some convenient locality in which the Volunteers should deposit their arms, accoutrements and uniforms when not in use.

That there should be appointed in connection with such building a sufficient number of paid non-commissioned officers to take charge of the arms and ammunition, and keep them at all times in order.

That the various Volunteer corps should, for the present at least, form one regiment, and be placed under one head.

That the uniforms should be provided for at the public expense.

That in the appointment of officers, special regard should be paid to zeal and efficiency of the gentlemen selected.

That as your Committee have been informed that Sergeant-Major Baynes is a very valuable officer, they think it desirable that the Government should secure his services, if possible, in the capacity in which it may be thought that he will be most useful to the public.

James Martin,
CHAIRMAN.

19th December 1855.

Pursuant to the report of this committee, the 1st. New South Wales Rifles was formed into six companies under the command of Major Wigate.

No.1 Company- Capt. E.Lockyer; Lt.Cathcart Still;Ensign H.M.Keightly.
 No.2 Coy-Capt.Chapman;Lt.W.F.MacCarthy.
 No.3 Coy-Capt.John MacLean;Ensign William Walker.
 No.4 Coy-Capt.W.M.Brownrigg;Lt.T.O'S.Green;Ensign Osborne Rich.
 No.5 Coy-Capt.F.O.Darvall;Lt.Geo.Wilson;Ensign R.P.Raymond.
 No.6 Coy-Capt.Jas.Raymond;Lt.J.M.Shuttleworth;Ensign Henry Lowe;
 Adjutant-Lieutenant A.G.M'Lean; Sgt.-Maj.Baynes, Instructor.
 Number--about 180 of all ranks.

A few months later, however, the Russian war having terminated, interest in local defence waned, and for some years the battalion existed chiefly on paper.

THE SYDNEY BATTALION.

On the 20th December 1859, the air being thick with rumours of war, Mr.Henry Parkes moved in the Legislative Assembly, and, after a long discussion, carried the following resolutions:-

- '1. That, having regard to the present complications of foreign governments, and the hold which the great maritime powers have in the seas in this area, it is impolitic and unsafe to neglect the means of preparation at our command for protecting the Colony in the event of it being attacked by an enemy.
2. That the maintainance if regular troops in the Colony for its protection ought to be substituted by a national militia, composed of the citizens.
3. That the true principle of military defence, and the only course which would ensure effective resistance in extreme circumstances, is to habituate the subjects of the Queen in this Colony to the use of arms, and to foster among all classes a loyal and practical spirit of reliance on their own valour and military organisation.
4. That any opinion herein expressed is not intended to apply to the protection afforded by Her Majesty's ships of war in the Australian waters.
5. That the foregiong be embodied in the address to His Excellency. '

The Government appeared to have declined carrying out these resolutions on the grounds of the financial difficulty, pending the establishment of the Militia. The breaking out of the New Zealand War, and the demand for help from the regular troops stationed in this Colony, caused attention to be drawn to the matter, and the want of control that the Colonial Government possessed over the movements of the Imperial troops.

On the 12th April 1860, 125 men of the 12th Regiment, and about 40 of the Artillery, departed from Sydney for the seat of the War in New Zealand. About this time, alsô, a great revival of volunteering took place in the United Kingdom, which may be accredited to Hans Busk, of the Victoria Rifles, and the issue of the Enfield rifles. All this tended to increase the desire to revive the regiment from a dormant state into activity. A meeting to form Volunteer Artillery corps was held on the 8th August 1860, Mr.William MacLeay in the chair. An initial requisition was signed and presented to the Mayor of Sydney, asking him to call a public meeting for the purpose of discussing the

question. A meeting was held on the 17th August 1860, in the Victoria Theatre, and was largely attended. Speeches were made by Messrs. Parkes, Darvall, Windeyer, etc, and an address was dictated for presentation to His Excellency, asking him to organise an effective armed force for the defence of the Colony. The result was a proclamation dated the 1st. September 1860, calling upon the citizens to enrol and furnish the following establishments, viz:-

Sydney City--2 batteries of Artillery,
 Sydney City (including Woolloomooloo, Paddington, Redfern, the Glebe, Pyrmont, Penrith, Randwick, Waveley and Coogee, Balmain, Newtown, etc)--Rifle Companies.

Meetings were held in nearly all the suburbs, and the Corps rapidly filled up. Meanwhile a meeting of the 1st New South Wales Rifles was held in the Domain on 31st August 1860, to revive the Regiment. Major Wingate and a large number of the old members were present. Mr. Windeyer and a considerable number of recruits joined and were sworn in. Mr. Windeyer then moved that the whole be amalgamated into one regiment for the County of Cumberland, to be called the 1st Regiment of New South Wales Rifles. This was carried; but as a matter of fact the Corps became known as the "Sydney Battalion". Sergeant-Major Baynes was again appointed Instructor, and drilling commenced on 3rd September 1860.

In order to remove all difficulties in the way of the newly-formed Corps, the 1st New South Wales Rifles was disbanded by proclamation 12th October 1860, so far as related to those who enrolled before the commencement of the year 1860; thus formally preserving the direct links of connection with the old corps.

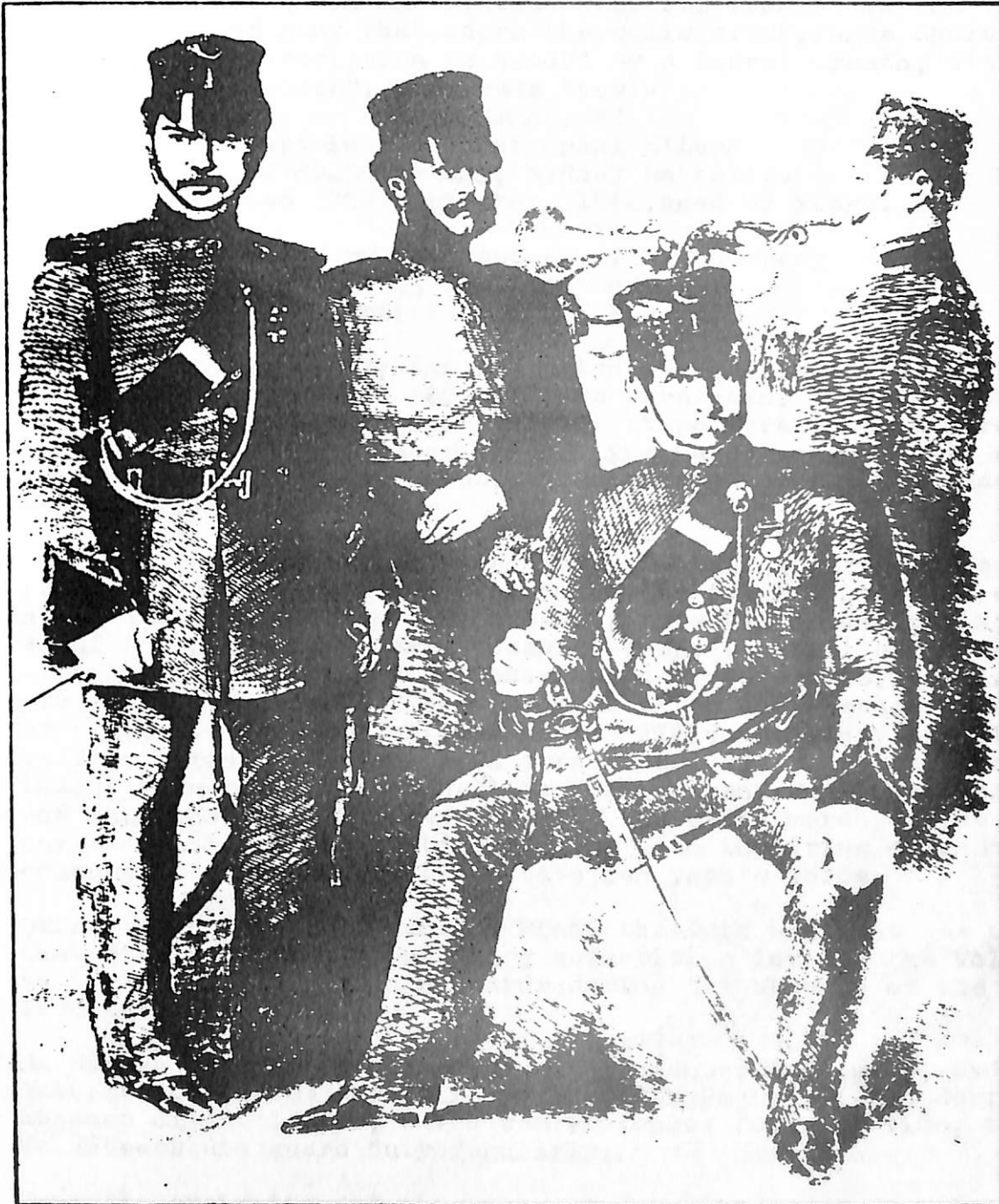
The following officers were elected and commissioned Captains:-

R. P. Raymond	W. C. Windeyer
J. R. Fairfax	Cathcart Still
A. M'Lean	W. Harbottle
Lt. W. Teale	H. Atkinson
J. A. Brown	W. M. Campbell
W. Forde	F. C. Brewer
Ensign. W. Freeman	C. A. Wilson
W. T. Farrell	Alex Hamilton
Thomas Richards	J. J. Davey
Medical. Dr. Aaron Moon	Dr. Huistan

Captain Lavers of the 12th Regiment was appointed Adjutant.

The names of many eminent citizens will be observed in the above list. Captain Raymond and Ensigns Richards and Farrell lived to command the Regiment in succession. Captain Windeyer, subsequently Judge, and Chancellor of the University, was promoted to Major, and retired in his rank in 1870. Captain Fairfax is the present Sir James Fairfax, who has always taken great interest in defence organisations and rifle shooting. Another old officer of whom mention should be made, and who was commissioned at a later date, was Captain John Cooper, brother of Sir Daniel Cooper, our first Australian baronet. He was one of the most efficient and popular officers in the battalion, as well as an enthusiast in musketry;

being himself a good shot, and the winner of several trophies. He retired about 1878, and has resided for some years in England, and notwithstanding his advanced age still manifests a keen



SYDNEY RIFLE CORPS UNIFORMS were considered "quiet in appearance and well suited to their work" in 1854. Left to right: Sgt-Major, Private, Major, Bugler.

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being himself a good shot, and the winner of several trophies. He retired about 1878, and has resided for some years in England, and notwithstanding his advanced age, still manifests a keen interest in military matters. Lt.Col.H.W.Strong,V.D., who for many years commanded the Public School Cadets,N.S.W., was originally an officer of the Regiment, which he quitted on being accorded the honour of a commission in the N.S.W.(Regular) Infantry.

Of Captain M'Lean an interesting memorial remains in the shape of a tablet--one of many that adorn the walls of St.James Church, King Street. The inscription is headed by a laurel wreath, with the motto "Altera Mores", and reads thus:-

In Memory of
Captain Alexander Grant M'Lean
of No.5 Company, Sydney Battalion
Who died 27th September, 1862,aged 37 years.
This Tablet
Is Erected by the Members of his Company
In Testimony of
Their Esteem and Regard.

The uniform adopted by the Battalion was grey with black facings and an infantry shako. Brown belts were worn. The weapons were the Enfield Rifle and bayonet. Initial steps were taken towards the formation of a Rifle Association. The Headquarters Band, as it was termed, also was established, and commenced to practise under Bandmaster Callen.

On the 19th January 1861, the Sydney Battalion participated in a review before Sir William Denison in the outer Domain, at which about 1,400 Volunteers were present; this Battalion turning out about 450 strong. Of this occasion there is still extant an interesting souvenir, namely a lithographed picture by S.T.Gill. The troops are represented marching past in column, headed by a squadron of cavalry. This is followed by the Field Artillery in columns of half batteries advancing with drag ropes. They are succeeded by the Infantry in companies, H.M. 12th Regiment and Royal Marines leading, and then the Rifle Volunteers. The favourite march of the time, it may be mentioned, was "Riflemen Form", an inspiring quickstep, composed to the then Poet Laureate Tennyson's words.

Owing to the riots at Lambing Flat, the 12th Regiment was ordered to that district; and the military authorities invited the ~~Volunteers~~ to take over the garrison guards during the absence of the Regulars from the metropolis.

On Sunday morning 24th February 1861, Number 1 Company, Sydney Battalion, paraded and relieved the 12th Regiment; and during the absence of the latter, which was prolonged for some time, the Volunteers did guard duty regularly.

Upon the expiration of this turn of duty, they were commended for their services by Parliament, which passed £10,000 for their support.

Nothing could exceed the high popularity of the new force; and Sir William Denison, on leaving the Colony, expressed his entire satisfaction at the scheme of defence which he long previously proposed, and prophesied that nothing would interfere with the national spirit existing.

On the 18th May 1861, Lady Young presented the Battalion with colours. Her Ladyship made a stirring address upon their duties, and eloquently appealed to their patriotism and loyalty. Both Sir John and Lady Young were great supporters of the Volunteer movement.

On the 5th June the Battalion was first officially inspected since the reorganisation. In the same month Captain Lavers having been appointed Brigade Adjutant, Lieutenant (afterwards Lt.Col.) Baynes was appointed Adjutant to the Battalion; and a handsome "Sword of Honour" was subscribed for and presented to him in recognition of his long services as Instructor.

In July, the Lambing Flat riots having broken out again, necessitating the absence of the 12th Regiment, the Volunteers again found the Guards in regular rotation. Many droll stories are told of incidents which took place in the course of this continuous guard-duty; and no doubt variations, of a more or less diverting character from the ordinary routine occasionally occurred. Nevertheless the duties were carefully and zealously carried out, and earned the express satisfaction of the Government.

In those days, when all ranks were closely drawn together more than now obtains in these days of direct commissions, and strict discipline, there was naturally more sociality; there being little class distinction amongst the several grades. Now-a-days there is small probability of a private to cease bullying him, or otherwise he (the private) would raise his rent! But matters were otherwise in the "sixties". Picnics and outings, known as "marches out" were frequent occurrence in the companies; and not only members, but frequently guests, were invited, and conviviality reigned supreme. If space permitted, many amusing stories of these social occasions might be related; but they will be remembered by all our old soldiers. This genial custom prevailed for many years, and not the least of the obligations devolving upon officers was that of periodically regaling the men under their command.

The year 1861 was also marked by the first meeting of the Rifle Association.

We must pass rapidly over several intervening years marked by no event of special moment, and come to the year 1867. In the meantime, the 12th Regiment had left the Colony, and Lt.Col.J.S.Richardson had assumed command of the Volunteer forces, which he subsequently raised to so high a standard of efficiency. With the disappearance of the war cloud, symptoms of waning zeal began to manifest themselves, and the force commenced to dwindle away. The inevitable reaction that follows excitement had set in; and there appeared to be, for the second time, a prospect of the Volunteer Service expiring of inanition.

THE LAND ORDER SYSTEM.

To prevent this, the Volunteer Act of 1867 was passed, under which (supplemented out of all recognition by an amending Act and transfiguring regulations changing its entire scope), the local Volunteer Forces carried on, astounding as it may seem in view of all the radical alterations in the system, until last March (1904). In the Act as it originally stood, every Volunteer having five years continuous service became entitled on the termination thereof to a grant of 50 acres of land. A standard of efficiency was prescribed; and, thus resuscitated, the Volunteer system (now purely so no longer), again revived.

On the 21st February 1868, Captains Raymond and Windeyer were promoted to Majors, and the former appointed to command the Regiment. This was a step towards ultimate consolidation, though the companies were still worked as separate corps under the Act of 1867; and in consequence there was not that rigid adherence to detail which should characterise a regiment, and mark to some extent its discipline and efficiency. Hitherto, what was known as the "Administration System" had been adopted, but about this time there was agitation in favour of consolidation. However, the proposal met with considerable opposition, and was not revived for some time afterwards. The drills for efficient, exclusive of recruit drill and musketry, were eight battalion parades and four company drills per annum.

About the beginning of this year, Lt. Baynes, having been appointed Brigade Adjutant Lt. Chatfield became Adjutant of the Battalion.

In March the Battalion took part in a great review before H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh. Shortly afterwards, an attempt upon the Prince's life caused great excitement in Sydney; and the Government considered it desirable to call upon the Volunteers to supply a guard by night over the Military Stores at Hyde Park Barracks. On the 12th March, a guard of 60 men, under Major Raymond, was mounted, and on the following day, pursuant to Brigade Orders, a guard of one subaltern, one sergeant and one corporal, one bugler and nine privates mounted regularly every evening at 8.30 pm, and dismounted one hour after daylight. It was visited by an "officer of the day", and found by the different corps in rotation. The first "officer of the day" was Major Windeyer. The guard was subsequently augmented to 20 privates, and it was continued until the 20th April without any foe having had the temerity to approach it.

In November 1869, the Sydney Battalion adopted, in lieu of the grey uniform, one somewhat similar to infantry of the line, silver lace being substituted for gold; namely scarlet tunics and dark blue trousers piped with scarlet down the seams, and an infantry shako. The officers wore white enamelled belts, with whistles etc, as for a rifle regiment. Subsequently, facings of "Royal Blue" were adopted, and a white helmet replaced the shako.

In 1872, two more companies, the 7th and the 8th, were added, the former being known as "the Teachers Company", as it was recruited from the Public School officials; Captain Wilkins, of the Public

Education Department, being the commanding officer.

The first Volunteer encampment for continuous training ever held in New South Wales took place in the Easter of 1873, at a place known as Ham Common, in the vicinity of Richmond. The Staff Officers present were Lt. Col. Richardson, Commandant; Capt. Baynes, Acting Major of Brigade; Capt. Compton, Field Aide; Surgeon Cox, P.M.O. The officers of the Sydney Battalion present were Major Raymond (C.O.), Major Richards, Captains Wells, Davey, Farrell, Moriarty, Wilson, Wilkins; Lieutenants Dickson, Johnson, Morris, Cooper, Cavanagh, Fisher, Wolcott; Ensigns Ferguson, D'Arietta, Cramna, McCutcheon, Cohen, George; Adjutant Chatfield; Asst. Surgeon Pattison. Total of the Battalion, 431, being greatly in excess of the attendance put in by any other battalion. The total number in camp was 1,606. This has ever been associated in the minds of such of our old soldiers that recollect it as "the wet camp"; easily chief among many wet camps that have since been held. During the five days that it lasted the rain was almost incessant, in steady, drenching streams; if it ceased for a short time, it was only to set in again with renewed fury. It has been stated, possibly with truth, that not a few of the force subsequently died from ailments contracted as a result of the exposure. The men were kept, however, constantly upon duty; they drilled all day, besides finding the usual guards and fatigues, etc., and were sent on "flying columns" to attack the camp by night. They took both training and saturation with commendable philosophy.

In 1873 the men were supplied with the "Hay" rifle in substitute for the Enfield.

The Land Order System, under which the force had been working for several years, had given rise to so many abuses, and even frauds, and upon the whole operated so unsatisfactorily, that early in 1874 it was resolved by Government to incur no further liability in this respect beyond the claims already maturing; and recruiting was accordingly stopped, pending a change in the system. This, however, did not come in for several years.

On 23rd, 24th and 25th May 1874, the second Volunteer Encampment was held at Campbellfields, about four miles from Campbelltown and nine from Liverpool. The Battalion numbered 342, the period of the year probably interfering with the attendance. As upon the previous occasions, as much duty as possible was crowded into the minimum of time. The weather, though not wholly propitious, was not incessantly wet as it had been the previous year.

On the 16th December that year, Major Raymond was promoted to Lt. Colonel, and Captain Wells to Major.

After the stoppage of recruiting, the Battalion, in common with the other Volunteer Corps, began to "dwindle, peak and pine", there being no means of replacing members who left. It became, therefore, a question of urgency to introduce some new organisation, which would have the effect of bringing into existence a citizen army sufficient in numbers and discipline to meet requirements of a peace establishment.

CONTINUED IN NEXT EDITION.

BOOKS etc. OF INTEREST.THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY.

by B.J.Videon.

The AUSTRALIAN ARMY LINEAGE BOOK has at last been published by the Victorian Branch of the Society, and can be obtained from its Treasurer, Mr.B.J.Videon, of 20 Thomasina St., EAST BENTLEIGH SE15, Victoria, cash with order.

Compiled by Mr.A.N.Festberg, after months of painstaking research and work, this book contains useful introductory material dealing with the growth of the Australian Army out of the separate forces in existence in several colonies prior to Federation in 1901, and it sets out details of later re-organisations, together with all available details of changes that have occurred in individual units of the infantry, armoured corps and light horse from 1903 to the present day, with the exception of the two Australian Imperial Forces, which in the space of this work could be dealt with only in broad outline.

Attractively bound in a plasticised wrap-around card cover with suitable decoration, this book of 183 pages with coloured chart of present-day army badges represents a major breakthrough in the provision of essential reference material for the collector who is interested in the Australian Army.

The work was financed by the monies subscribed by those who were sufficiently confident to order in advance of publication, and these subscribers were able to benefit from the pre-publication price of £2.

The price to all who did not either subscribe in advance or place an advance order either to the Victorian Branch or earlier to the Society is £2.10.0 Australian, or \$5 Australian new currency. This represents £2 sterling, or \$6 U.S.currency, post paid.

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

Aviation and air forces enthusiasts will be delighted with the new book by George Odgers, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE-- an illustrated history, published by Ure Smith Pty Ltd., Sydney, 1965, and able to be procured from all technical and major book sellers.

Well set up and printed on good quality paper, with illustrations on almost every page, at 69/6 (\$6.95 new currency) this represents a very good buy.

Perhaps better known for his book "ACROSS THE PARALLEL", the story of 77 Squadron R.A.A.F. in the Korean War, the author is a journalist of many years standing, and is now Director of Public Relations for the R.A.A.F.

BOOKS etc. OF INTEREST (cont.)A NEW GERMAN MILITARY CALENDAR.

"REITER-ROSSE-BUNTE ROCKE 1966" is the title of a calendar just published for sale by the publishing house Verlag Wilh. C. Rubsamen, of 7000 Stuttgart W., Reinsburgstr.102.

Each month's date sheet shows a magnificently-coloured plate from originals in the Bavarian National Museum's collection "Das Deutsche Bundesheere im Charakterischen Gruppen" by H.A.Eckert and D.Monten, 1833-1840. Each plate measures 10" x 8", and such troops as Garde Grenadiers of Hannover, Infantry of Brunswick, Dragoons of the Hanseatic Brigade, Garrison Battalions of Austria, and a host of others are presented in a manner calculated to fascinate all who are interested in the older European armies.

The price is 12.50 DM/"Stuck-staffelrabatte auf Anfrage". Strongly recommended to all readers.

HISTORIC AMERICAN FORMATION GETS NEW FLAG IN R.I.

from newspaper clip sent in by Member Elton Manuel, N.A.C.

A reproduction of the flag used by the Newport Artillery Company in 1775 was presented to this historical militia unit recently by the City of Newport's United Veterans Council, in formal ceremonies in Battery Park on Washington Street.

The flag bears on one side the fouled anchor of the State of Rhode Island, and on the other the arms of the colonial Governor, Joseph Wanton of Newport.

Units taking part in the ceremony included the Newport Artillery Company, the Kentish Guards of East Greenwich, the Bristol Train of Artillery, the Cranston Blues, and it is recalled that the Kentish Guards performed camp duty with the Newport Artillery in the War of 1812.

The new flag, provided from donations made by less than 50 persons, was blessed by the units Chaplain, the Rev. Canon Lockett Ford Ballard, rector of Trinity Church.

The Newport Artillery Company, besides maintaining a fine military museum under the loving care of Messrs. John Lauth and Elton Manuel, both of whom are Officers of the unit, takes part in many ceremonies and parades in the State and elsewhere.

The old colours which have been replaced by the new set have now been laid up in the unit's museum, on Clarke St., in Newport.

WANTED!!

Information leading to the acquaintance of all
Military Miniaturists throughout Australia.

by R.A. Powell.

Throughout the world, in workshop and studio and on kitchen table, men and women with a compelling urge to re-create in miniature the world they see about them pursue their vocation. When this love of modelling is coupled with an equally strong love of military history, the result is what we know as the military miniaturist.

The production of fully rounded, three-dimensional figures began with the advent of the British "lead" toy soldier of the early 1900's; approximately 54 mm. in height, these stalwart warriors of the nursery soon proved themselves ideal subjects for the adult student of military uniform who, by repainting them in authentic uniforms and adding a little detail here and there, created for himself showcase models of his favourite regiments. By 1935, the number of model soldier collectors, as the fraternity became known, had grown sufficiently to bring about the formation of the British Model Soldier Society, a body of enthusiasts who met monthly in a London pub.

Since the end of the Second World War, the art of creating military miniatures has been subjected to a process of continuous refinement, resulting in the masterpieces of meticulous craftsmanship we find in private collections and military museums today.

Whilst many enthusiasts still use the original lead soldier, as a starting-point from which to fashion their figures, by a process of rebuilding and reshaping, changing the position of a limb here, and adding a coat fashioned in lead foil there, the trend these days is more and more towards creating original figures in clay, plasticine or a similar modelling medium. From this master figure, a silicone rubber mould is made, and the figure cast in low melting point alloy, usually a lead-tin alloy. It is usual to fashion delicate fittings such as swords, shields and sabretaches from brass sheet and solder them to the cast figure. The final step is the painting of the model in commercial matt paints or artists oils applied with a fine brush. The result is a small segment of history that can be held in the palm of the hand.

Membership of military miniature societies throughout the world today totals thousands, with one or more societies in most countries. Probably the greatest drive, and the most publicity concerning the hobby emanates from the U.S.A., where thousands of enthusiasts, members of a score or more societies, devote their leisure hours to re-creating, as far as I can make out, either the armies of the American Civil War, or Napoleon's "Grand Armee".

Australia, with its small population, has, in comparison with other centres of European culture, only a few military miniaturists. We are on the increase, however. In 1951, consequent upon joining the British Model Soldier Society, I gained the friendship of 4 or 5 other enthusiasts resident in Melbourne, and several more interstate. Today, at my home in Melbourne, I meet with almost a dozen active miniaturists, and I correspond with three others in other States. But what of the remainder? I have heard rumours of yet others living in Melbourne and unknown except perhaps to one another

I feel that it is likely that circles of collectors, similar to ours, exist interstate. It is my that, through this paper, I may be able to contact these people, and through correspondence with them, make more generally known what is being achieved in this country in our field. I know from my own experience that some of the military miniatures being made in Australia today stand comparison with those being produced in any country in the world, and I know that the Editor of SABRETACHE is in agreement with me when I say that it is high time collectors in this country brought their light out from beneath the proverbial bushel, and showed the rest of the world what they are doing.

I am not a member of this Society, nor, in fact, are the majority of miniaturists of my acquaintance; this is immaterial. Some members of this Society are miniaturists, and I ask them to write me details of their work and the work of any others with whom they are acquainted, in order that we may publish it through this periodical.

Likewise, you readers who, having no interest in miniatures yourselves, yet know of others who have, please ask them to contact me. I reiterate that membership of this Society is immaterial---we want to hear from all military miniature makers and collectors in Australia.

Some collectors may feel that they personally have little to gain from a closer association with others, being satisfied with their present circle of intimates. But in a technical field such as our hobby, no man, nor group of men, can be entirely self-sufficient. Apart from the accepted principle that seeing the work of others tends to raise the standard of the individual, there is always the problem of being able to obtain research material. This is one aspect of your hobby in which we can assist you. No matter what the historical period, let us know your queries. I will publish them in this paper, and subsequently will publish the results. Likewise, any problems in connection with the techniques of casting, converting or painting miniatures (DON'T persist with poor techniques), send me your problem. If I can not suggest a remedy, perhaps some other reader can.

Now, by way of a hard nut for a beginning---can any reader lend me for photostating any material on the PONTOON BRIDGING TRAIN of the German Armies of 1910? Several good illustrations of Pioneers in pontoons are to be found in 'Das Reichsheer und seine Tradition', but I can not find any scaled drawings of the waggons. The

background of this enquiry is that I am engaged in modelling 40 mm. scale representative groups of the German Army of this period. Whilst information on the "fighting" troops is readily available, the service corps and their "materiel" is not as fully documented. The German publishers of that era did not accord the same status to these troops.

R. Powell,
11 Daff Ave., MOORABBIN, Victoria.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

For some time it has been the Editor's feeling that our model soldier friends and members have not had much to interest them in this journal. In this subject we have several very keen collector members, and no doubt many readers who are not members. Mr. Powell has been invited to write for us regularly, and to deal with the interests of military miniaturists on our behalf. It is hoped, therefore, that members and readers will avail themselves of this opportunity to publicise and share their interests.

B.J.V.

FORMATION OF A BRANCH OF THE SOCIETY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The Federal Council has given provisional approval to the formation of a Branch of the Society in South Australia.

If no objections are lodged within 14 days of the distribution of this edition of the Society journal, the Federal Council will confirm the formation of the Branch.

A copy of the Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting appears below.

J.K. Lyons,
FEDERAL SECRETARY.

'MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD at 8 p.m. 14/1/66 AT 13th FIELD REGT., R.A.A. Barracks, ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT TO FORM A SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH OF THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA.

PRESENT: Capt. John Frewen (Chairman), Messrs B.J. Videon, M.C. Jamieson, Robert Gray, Tony Howlin, Roy Harvey, Capt. David Brook, Mr and Mrs V.H. Day.

BUSINESS: To determine whether or not to form a South Australian Branch of the Military Historical Society.

The Chairman invited Mr. B.J. Videon, Vice President of the Military Historical Society to address the meeting on the benefits of forming a South Australian Branch. Mr. Videon advised:-

- (a) The Military Historical Society was formed approximately nine years ago. Branches now operate in New South Wales, Victoria and Australian Capital Territory. Total membership is about 150. Prime objective is to raise the standard of military collecting in Australia.

- (b) A quarterly journal SABRETACHE is produced.
- (c) A detailed work "AUSTRALIAN ARMY LINEAGE BOOK" has been produced by the Society in co-operation with the Army.
- (d) The Society is recognised by the Department of the Army, and is consulted as an authority on matters relating to Australian militaria.

It was moved and carried unanimously that a South Australian Branch of the Military Historical Society be formed forthwith, to be known as "The South Australian Branch of the Military Historical Society of Australia".

It was further moved, seconded and carried that the meeting be known as the "Inaugural Meeting of the South Australian Branch of the Military Historical Society of Australia".

OFFICE BEARERS: Capt. John Frewen, Mr. Tony Howlin and Mr. Michael Jameson were nominated for the Offices of President, Secretary and Treasurer of the S.A. Branch. Moved, seconded and carried that they be so appointed, to serve until 30/6/66, whereupon these offices become vacant and open to fresh nominations.

PATRON: The name of Brigadier McKinna was put forward as a prospective Patron of the Branch. It was resolved that no action be taken in this direction for the time being, until Mr. Videon has discussed the proposal with the Federal President.

FINANCIAL MEMBERSHIP: It was recommended that those present become financial members of the Military Historical Society as soon as possible.

FUTURE MEETINGS: It was resolved that meetings be held every second Friday evening at 730 p.m. at a venue to be determined.

NEXT MEETING: 730 p.m. Friday 28th January 1966 at Warradale Medical Depot. Each member is asked to bring an item of interest to this meeting.

Meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

CONFIRMED:
(sgd.) J. Frewen
CHAIRMAN

BATTLE OF BRITAIN MEDALLION STRUCK.

From the "AUSTRALIAN NUMISMATIST" we learn that the Air Force Association has struck an attractive medallion to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Battle for Britain, this being the second of a series to be struck by this body.

The obverse shows the A.F.A. badge, and the reverse depicts St. Paul's standing alone, with Churchill's famous words of 1940: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few".

These medallions are priced at 30/- in bronze, and 52/6 in silver and are well worth having.

IN THE NEWS.

by B.J.Videon.

THE DEFENCE ACT AND MILITARY COLLECTORS.

The Australian Defence Act 1965 states that a person may not collect, or in any way deal in decorations, medals, uniforms, insignia, etc., relating to the defence forces of the Commonwealth of Australia and the British Commonwealth, unless he holds a permit issued by the Minister for Defence, giving him authority to do so.

As it is illegal to possess, exchange or dispose of these items unless in possession of such a permit, members are strongly advised, in their own interests, to apply for a permit under the Defence Act 1903-1965, Section 80B-(4).

Applications should be addressed to:-
The Minister for Defence,
Department of Defence,
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

Your Society Membership Card should accompany your application.

J.K.Lyons
FEDERAL SECRETARY.

R.A.A.F. CREATES NEW MUSTERING.

The R.A.A.F. is now calling for recruits for a new mustering--
"AIRFIELD DEFENCE GUARD".

The recruiting advertisement in recent newspapers shows a model dressed and equipped similarly to the present Australian infantry. Successful applicants are promised training in modern weapons and communications.

It is expected that, in accordance with postwar R.A.A.F. custom, no new trade or skill badge will be introduced for this mustering, although this writer/collector would be delighted to see one!

NEW AUSTRALIAN CURRENCY.

On 14th February, 1966, Australia will adopt a new currency, the basis of which is the dollar, consisting of 100 cents.

One Australian dollar is equivalent to one of the present ten-shilling notes; or, one pound Australian is equal to two dollars of the new currency.

As the present value of one dollar U.S. is approximately 9/2, in the new currency one dollar Australian will be equivalent to approximately \$US 1.10. In this journal, when referring to dollars, we shall always stipulate the country of the currency mentioned.

DESPATCHES

(Questions, comments and answers
from readers.)

Dear Sir,

I was pleased to receive your journal and your continued interest in the presentation sword of William Snow Clifton.

I am sending you a picture of the sword which you can retain, and no doubt this will give some idea of the excellent condition of it. The sword has an ivory handle embellished with rich silver gilt, and the scabbard is of black snakeskin, richly worked with silver gilt.

I feel greatly honoured, as a young man, to have in my collection this sword, which no doubt was treasured very much by this officer of bygone days.

Richard Angell.

(Ed.--the above letter follows our publication of correspondence in this matter in SABRETACHE, October 1965, page 38.)

H. M. A. S. CERBERUS.

In the article on page 37, there is a mistake in the spelling of the name of the French ship, which was "CERBERE", and not "CERBERUS" as shown. This should be corrected in order to set the record right. The ship in question was the one numbered in the article as "4", of the dates 1800-04.

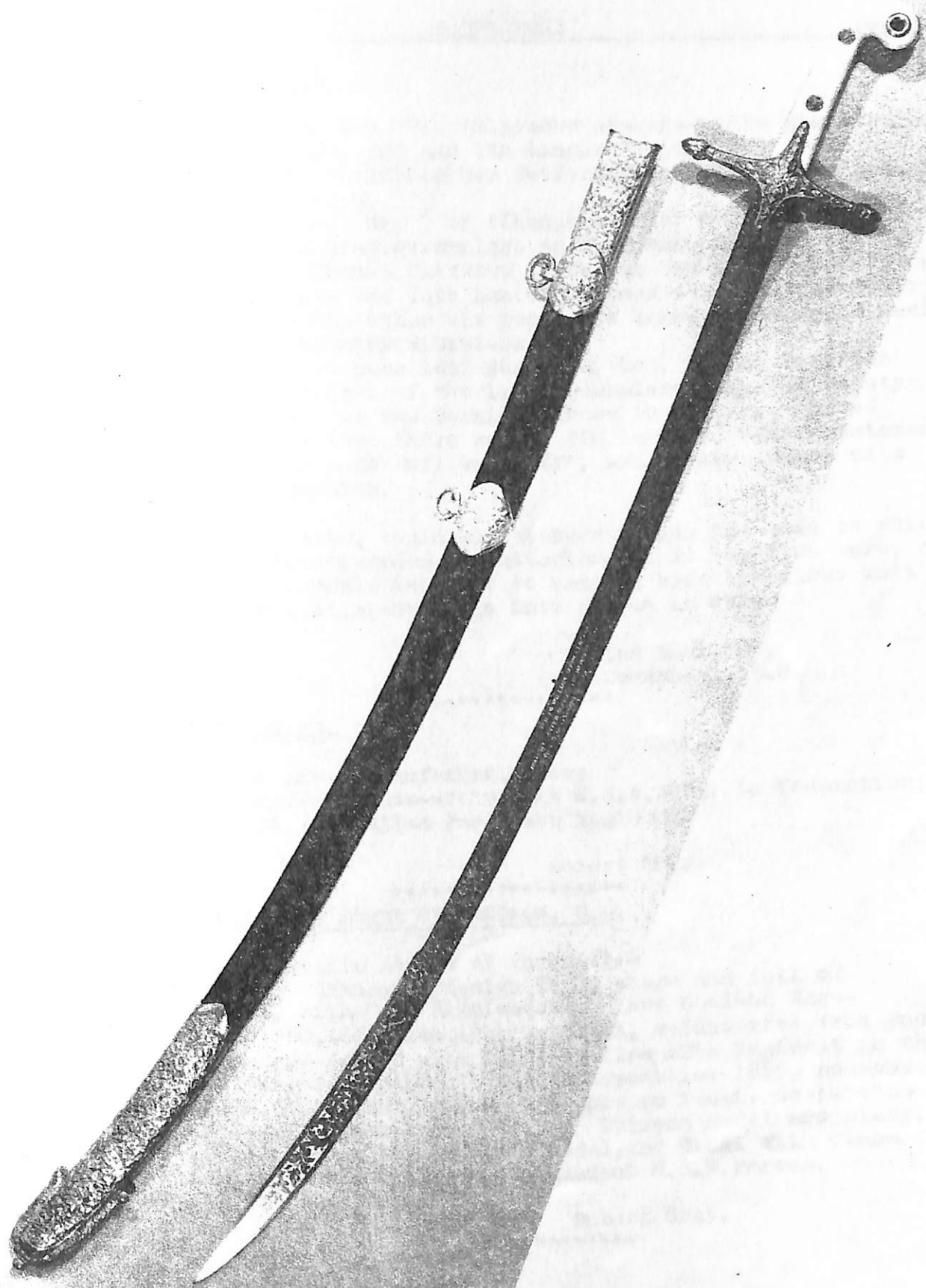
Robert Gray.

THE BELGIAN 9th LANCERS--A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY?

In the October 1963 edition of SABRETACHE, it is stated that, on the outbreak of war in August 1914, a group of members of the Legion of Frontiersmen living in Lancashire, Cheshire and Yorkshire paid their own fares to Belgium, and upon their arrival there, were attached to the Belgian 9th Lancers, and were in action against the Germans on 16th August 1914. A similar statement is made by another author in the April 1965 issue.

I have been unable to find any other record of a 9th Lancers in the Belgian Army; only four regiments of Lancers being mentioned in any publications I have been able to examine. I would quote:-

- (a) Issue No. 2 of the journal of the now defunct Guild of Military Antiquarians, where the article is stated to be based on a





DESPATCHES (CONT.)

- German publication "Die Belgische Armee"---this gives details of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Lancers' uniforms.
- (b) Knotel-Sieg's "Handbuch der Uniformkunde" gives four Lancer regiments in 1914.
- (c) In Vol 20, issue No. 2 of "Chakoten", the magazine of the Foreningen af tinfigursamlare og uniformsinteresserede i Danmark, Dr. Thomas Claudius gives ten cavalry regiments on mobilisation--- the four Lancer regiments forming a cavalry brigade, and the other six regiments being used one to each of the six infantry divisions.
- (d) In conversation here last year, Lt. Col. Bihin, then the commanding officer of the 1st Carabiniers, and now Deputy Chief-of-Staff of the Belgian Forces in Germany, stated categorically that there was no 9th Lancers. This statement admittedly was made "off the cuff", and in the course of a general discussion.

In view of the above, could the authors verify the unit to which the Legion of Frontiersmen was attached, as it is, I am sure, a matter of considerable interest to many to know the first unit with a British contingent to go into action in WW1.

Ian Hamilton,
Commander, R.N.

INFORMATION WANTED.

Can any reader give me information on:
The Border Scouts--raised in N.S.W. prior to Federation;
The 1st Australian Parachute Regiment.

Robert Gray.

MAJOR GENERAL JOHN SOAME RICHARDSON, C.B.

The following details may be of interest:-
Born 1836. Crimean Campaign 1855, siege and fall of Sebastopol, with 72nd Highlanders. New Zealand War--- Taranaki 1860, 1861 with 12th Regiment, volunteered from 2nd Battalion and served with 1st Battalion 12th Regiment in the Waikato Campaign 1863-4. Soudan Expedition 1885, commanded the N.S.W. Contingent, Suakin, advance on Tamai, despatches London Gazette 25th August 1885. Crimean Medal and Clasp, Turkish War Medal, New Zealand Medal, and ~~Natal~~ ~~with~~ Clasp for the Soudan. Khedive Star. Commandant N.S.W. Forces. Retired 9th December 1892.

Robert Gray.

DIRECTORY AMENDMENTS.

Applications for membership which appeared in the October issue have been approved.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Applications have been received from the following:-

Mr. M. Croke, 24 Adele St., VERMONT, Vic. Model soldiers, Military uniforms of the period of Frederick the Great.	Mr. L. G. Ryan, 14 Dean St., MOONEE PONDS, Vic. Military establishments, Orders of Battle.
Mr. L. Edwards, 168 The Esplanade, MIDDLE BRIGHTON, Vic. Military uniforms pre-1914, British Cavalry and Indian Army.	Mr. R. Chapman, 123 Lincoln Rd., ESSENDON W5, Vic. Military History, bayonets and Pistol Holsters.
Mr. J. Dugdale, 17 Altoma St., KENSINGTON, Vic. Military History and helmets 1914-1945.	3428, Capt. H. C. Lee-Archer, 32 Coolabah St., MENTONE, Vic. General Interests.
Mr. S. I. Thurgar, 10 Bangalow Cres., BANKSTOWN, N. S. W. British Military History and Australiana.	R59861, A/B QMG B. J. Brittain, 3 Echo Mess, H. M. A. S. PARRAMATTA, c/- G. P. O. SYDNEY, N. S. W. Military insignia and weapons.
Count N. von Tonslanann-Eulenburg, 380 Victoria St., EAST SYDNEY, N. S. W. Imperial German and Russian history.	Capt. J. J. Frewen (rejoined), R. A. A. M. C. Depot, WARRADALE, S. A. British Campaign Medals; Orders & decorations of all nations. (Collects former)
Mr. L. D. Matthews, 13 Hill St., BURNSIDE, S. A. Collects British medals & decorations.	Mr. T. J. Gleeson, 47 West Goderick St., DELORAINÉ, Tas. Metal cap badges, medals & ribbons
Mr. J. V. Howell, 2 Hill St., BELLERIVE, Tas. General interest in the army.	Mr. P. C. E. Eskildsen, Forhaabningsholme Alle 35 1th, COPENHAGEN V, Denmark. British, C/Wealth and Colonial forces from 1837.

DIRECTORY AMENDMENTS (CONT.)CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

Mr. D.O. Atkinson, to 23 Claude Rd., Manurewa, AUCKLAND, N.Z.
Capt. E.M.W. Aarts, to Swan Barracks, Francis St., PERTH, W.A.
Mr. R.F. Cooper, to 24 Sutherland St., CABRAMATTA, N.S.W.
Mr. K.T. Fleming, to 136 Clinton St., GOULBURN, N.S.W.
Mr. M.L. Golder, to Kingscote, KANGAROO ISLAND, S.A.
Mr. S.C. MacDonald, to 673 Blaxland Rd., MILPO, INGLEBURN, N.S.W.
Mr. A. Ray, to 87 Tooronga Rd., EAST MALVERN, Vic.
Sgt. G.R. Vazenry, to "G" Branch, Southern Cmd., VICTORIA BARRACKS,
St. Kilda Rd., MELBOURNE, Victoria.

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS

5/- (50c) per advert.

WANTED FOR EXCHANGE:

Central Queensland Regt	Darling Downs Regt
Derwent Regt	1st Para. Regt
Launceston Regt	Queensland Mtd. Inf.
Queensland University Regt	St. George Regt
Swan Regt	Tasmania Regt
5th Recruit Trng. Bn	

Will exchange 2 U.S. Army flashes for any of above.

G. JOHNSON, 30 Lilian St., CAMPBELLTOWN, N.S.W.

BADGES FOR DISPOSAL:

I am giving up Australian and New Zealand badges, and will exchange them for good African Colonials, or shipping Coys badges and buttons. If no-one is interested, I am shipping the lot to be sold in England.

C. A. MOORE, c/- A. N. Z. Bank, Martin Place, SYDNEY, N. S. W.

WANTED:

1 copy of book "OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE CONTINGENTS TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR" by Murray, about 1911.

M. CHAMBERLAIN, 18 Taylor Ave., BURWOOD EAST, Victoria.

WANTED-WILL EXCHANGE OR PURCHASE:

10th W. A. M. I. hat badge; 15th Northern River Lancers hat badge; also hat and collar badges of 7/21st Aust. Horse & Queensland C. M. F. battalions, 9th, 31st, 42nd, 47th, and 51st Bns.

P. A. SHAW, 25 April Rd., DIANELLA, W. A.

WANTED:

Metal shoulder titles of the Colony of Victoria Artillery, preferably a pair, but will gladly procure singles;
Metal shoulder title A. A. S. C. in brass preferably;
Pair A. I. C. collar badges, preferably gilt and enamel;
Pair U. S. Marines brass collar badges for blues;
Pair British A. T. C. cloth shoulder patches for high collar jacket (i. e.) early types;
Old air forces badges etc in cloth or metal.

B. J. Videon, 20 Thomasina St., EAST BENTLEIGH, SE15, Vic.

INFORMATION WANTED:

Information on old Australian Colonial uniforms, for use in connection with preparation of a book on this subject. Full details if possible, please.

C. C. P. Lawson, 43 Smith St., CHELSEA, SW3, England.
