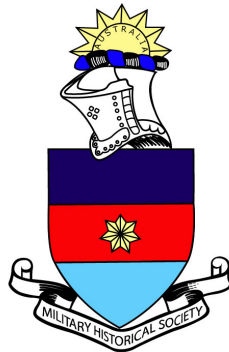


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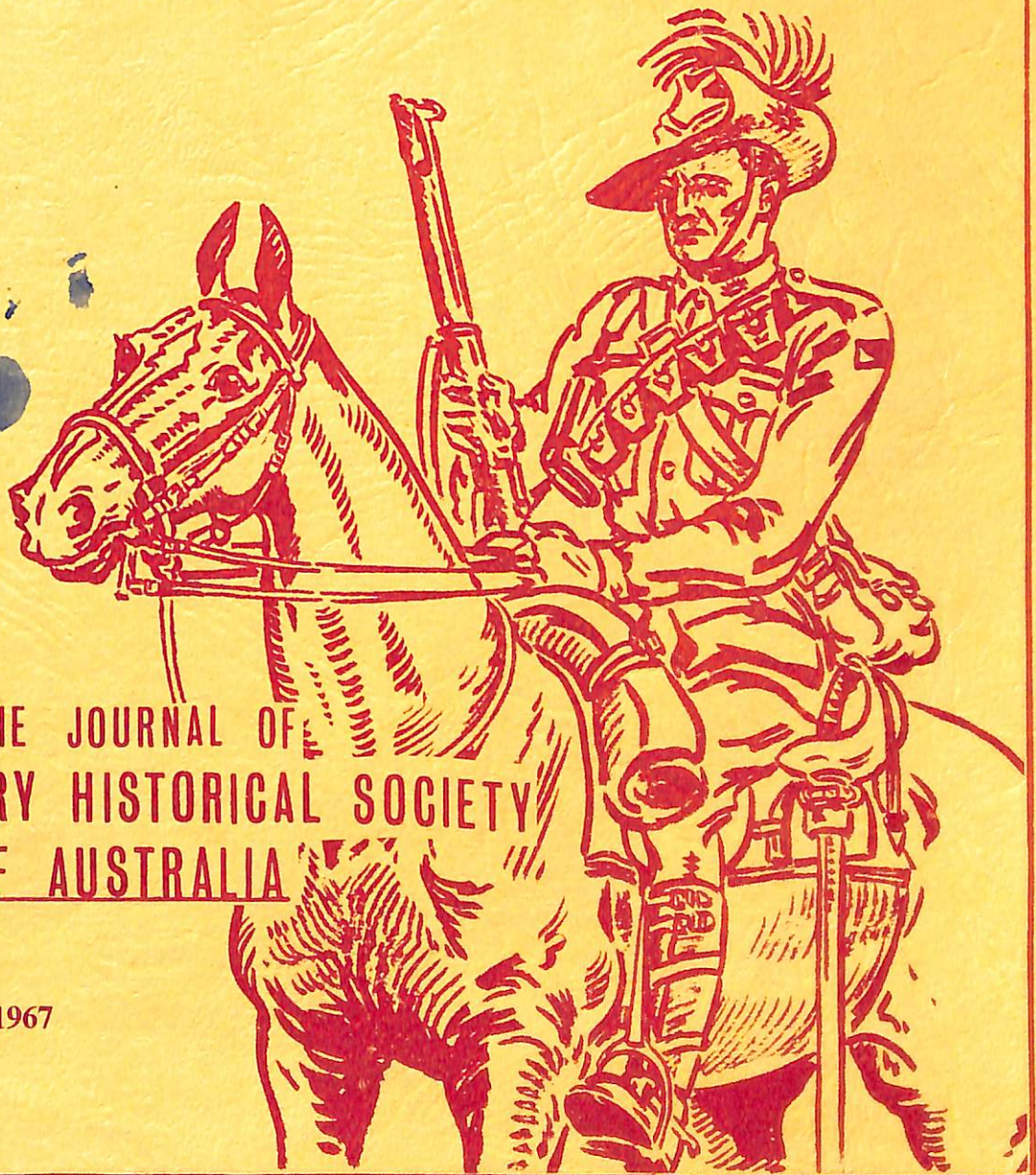
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THE JOURNAL OF
THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF AUSTRALIA

JULY, 1967

"SABRETACHE"

*The views expressed in the articles in this
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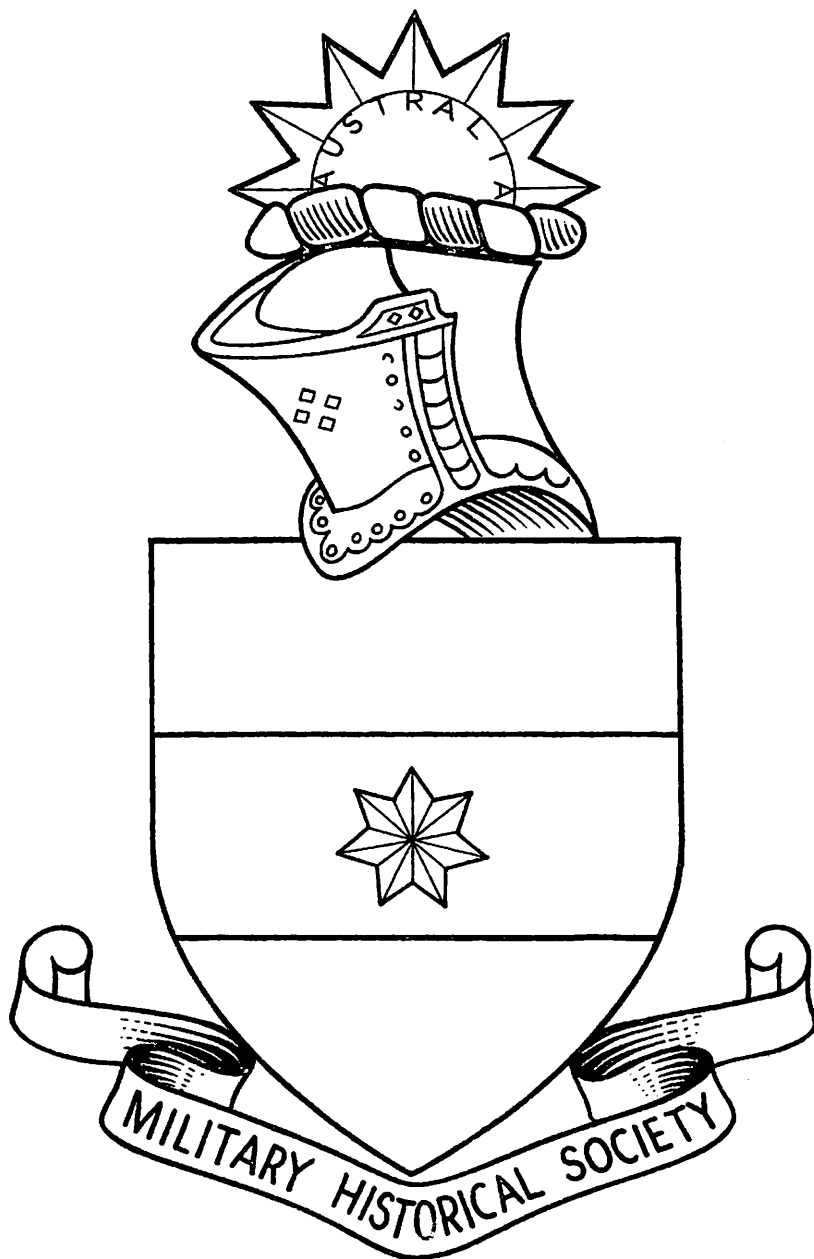
CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
FRONTISPIECE - THE BADGE OF THE SOCIETY	
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH - MAJOR GENERAL JOHN KEATLY FORSYTH, C.M.G.	
By Major Warren Perry	1
A LETTER FROM THE SOUDAN	
By Capt. C. Stuart-Cansdell	5
THE SOUDAN CONTINGENT	
By Major R. Clark	7
MILITARY MINIATURES	
By R.A. Powell	9
THE MINIATURIST'S NOTEBOOK	
By R.A. Powell	12
TERRITORIAL TITLES AND MUNICIPAL AFFILIATIONS	
By Sgt. G.R. Vazenry	14
THE AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH MILITARY FORCES 1903 <i>Changes of Titles of Regiments and Corps</i>	
<i>Submitted by A.N. Festberg, from Official Records</i>	18
ALLIANCES BETWEEN AUST. CORPS/REGIMENTS AND BRITISH AND OTHER COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES CORPS/REGIMENTS	
AAO No. 5/1967	20
RESEARCHERS CORNER	22
AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH MILITARY FORCES 1903	23
THE BRIGHTON VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY CORPS	25
DESPATCHES	28
ADVERTISEMENTS	30

BADGE OF THE SOCIETY

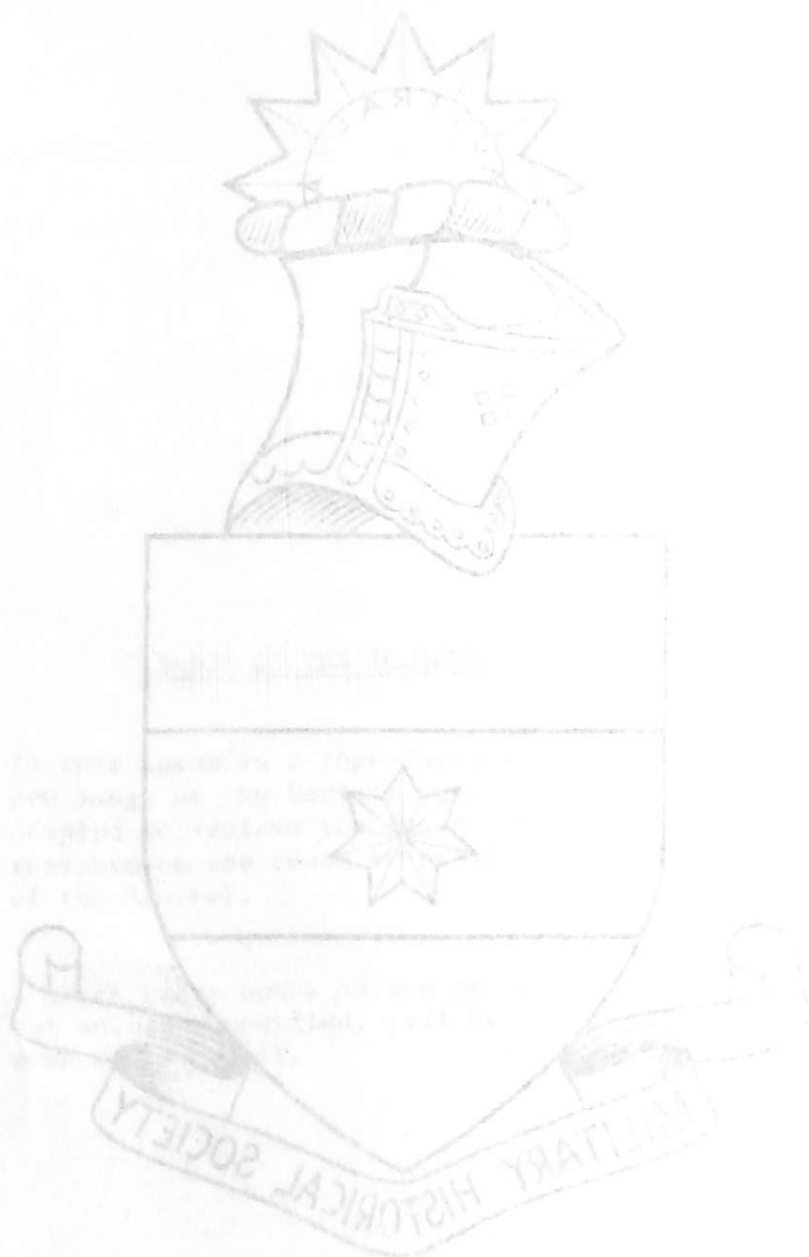
In this issue is a reproduction of the new badge of the Society which has been adopted to replace the design which appeared on the cover of previous issues of the Journal.

A lapel badge based on the new design, but suitably modified, will be struck when funds permit.



THE BADGE OF THE SOCIETY

- Features:
- A representation of the first "Rising Sun" badge, used as a heraldic crest to the helmet;
 - A wreath in the national colours of Blue and Gold;
 - A mediaeval helmet in Silver;
 - A 3 colour shield of Navy Blue, over Army Red, over Air Force Blue;
 - The Federation Star of Australia;
 - A scroll bearing the Title of the Society.



THE BADGE OF THE SOCIETY

The badge of the Society is a shield divided into three horizontal sections. The top section contains a crown, the middle section contains a star, and the bottom section is blank. A ribbon scrolls across the bottom of the shield with the text "MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY".

The crown is a coronet with a sunburst above it. The star is a five-pointed star. The ribbon is a scroll that curves around the bottom of the shield.

Journal and Proceedings of
THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

VOL. X

JULY, 1967

No. 1

PRICE: Fifty-seven cents.

MAJOR GENERAL JOHN KEATLY FORSYTH, C.M.G.

A Biographical Sketch of one of Australia's pioneer General Officers.

By Major Warren Perry, R.L., M.A., B.Ec.

Stand still
Let me review the scene,
And summon from the shadowy Past,
The forms that once have been.
LONGFELLOW.

Major General John Keatly Forsyth was one of the original officers of the Australian Military Forces as we know these forces to-day and have known them since Federation. Like his great contemporary, General Sir Harry Chauvel, he was an officer of the Permanent Staff of the Military Forces of Queensland at the time of Federation and, on the 1st March, 1901, he became, as did all other officers on the Active Lists, Reserve of Officers Lists and Retired Lists of the various former Australian colonies, an officer of the military forces of the newly created Commonwealth of Australia.

General Forsyth was born in Brisbane on the 9th February 1867 and was educated in that city. He became a Militia officer on the 18th July 1892, that is at twenty-five years of age, and later, on the 22nd September 1896, he attained the rank of Captain. But in the following year he decided to make the Army his profession and, on the 1st August 1897, he was appointed to that Colony's Permanent Military Staff with the rank of Lieutenant. Soon after Federation, on the 1st February 1901, but while the military forces were still in fact under State control, he became a Captain again.

Forsyth came to the Department of Defence in Melbourne in 1905 when, on the 13th November 1905, he became Staff Officer and Secretary to the Inspector General of the Forces, Major General Harry Finn. Forsyth's arm of the service was Mounted Infantry or Light Horse and Finn was a cavalry Officer and ex-ranker of the British Army who was on loan to the Australian Army. Finn had been, at the time of Federation, the Commandant of the Military Forces of Queensland where he had probably met Forsyth and got to know his capabilities.

Captain Forsyth served in the 3rd Military District of Victoria on the Instructional Staff from the 1st February 1907 to the 30th November 1910. It was during this time that he received further promotion. On the 23th May 1908 he became a Major in the Administrative and Instructional Staff. He was reposted to the appointment

of D.A.A.G. (for Instruction), on the 1st December 1910 vice Major J.H. Bruche, but remained on Headquarters, 3rd Military District at Victoria Barracks, Melbourne. He held this appointment for only a short time. He was reposted on this headquarters again on the 1st January 1911 to the General Staff as a G.S.O.(II) and he held this appointment until the 30th June 1912. By the time he vacated this appointment Forsyth had acquired considerable training and experience as a staff officer.

On the 1st July 1912 Major Forsyth became the Director of Equipment at Army Headquarters in Melbourne. It was on this date too that Universal Training began in Australia for Trainees of the Citizen Military Forces. It had begun a year earlier for Junior and Senior Cadets. On the 1st March 1914 Forsyth was promoted, and retained the appointment of Director of Equipment, to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Administrative and Instructional Staff.

On the eve of the outbreak of the War of 1914-18 Lieutenant Colonel Forsyth was reposted to a more senior appointment. On the 1st August 1914 he became the Quartermaster General of the Australian Forces and 3rd Military Member of the Military Board. On the same date Colonel J.G. Legge became the Chief of the General Staff and the 1st Military Member of the Military Board. But Forsyth did not remain in this new appointment long. The War of 1914-18 began on the 4th August 1914 and Forsyth was swept up in the many changes which immediately followed.

The A.I.F. came into being, officially, on the 15th August 1914 and on that date Forsyth was appointed to command temporarily the 1st Light Horse Brigade of the A.I.F. He sailed with this brigade, which formed part of Major General Bridges' 1st Contingent of the A.I.F., on the 1st November 1914 from Albany in Western Australia. When he arrived in Egypt he handed over the command of the brigade to Colonel Chauvel who had left Australia in July 1914 for England to take up duty at the War Office.

Lieutenant Colonel Forsyth's next command was that of the 4th Light Horse Regiment, A.I.F. to which he was appointed on the 13th December 1914. He commanded this regiment until, on the 19th May 1915, he was appointed to the post of A.A. & Q.M.G. of the first Australian Division which was then in action in the Gallipoli campaign. He remained in this appointment until, on the 26th July 1915, he became the Commander of the 2nd Infantry Brigade, A.I.F., vice Brigadier General J.W. McCay who had been evacuated wounded. Forsyth commanded this brigade at Gallipoli, he took it back to Egypt after the evacuation and later he took it to the Western Front in Europe. But from there he was invalided himself to England and relinquished command of the brigade on the 1st October 1916.

In England Forsyth became, on the 2nd October 1916, the G.O.C., of B Group, A.I.F. Depots in the United Kingdom. He returned to Australia later that year. He arrived in Melbourne on Sunday 31st December 1916 and the following day his name was promulgated in the King's New Year's Honours' List as having been created a Commander of St. Michael and St. George. On Saturday evening 13th January 1917 he was entertained at dinner in Melbourne by friends to mark the occasion of his return to Australia.

Forsyth served for the remainder of the war in Australia. On the 16th February 1917 he became the Commandant of the 4th Military District in South Australia and he held this appointment until, on the 20th July 1918, he was re-appointed Quartermaster General and 3rd Military Member of the Military Board with the rank of Brigadier General vice Major General Stanley. Stanley had been recalled from the Retired List in 1914 to fill this appointment when Forsyth had vacated it to go on active service.

This appointment of Quartermaster General was General Forsyth's last posting although he retained it for the next four years. His task during this period was not an easy one. After hostilities ceased in November 1918 facilities had to be provided for the efficient reception of members of the A.I.F. as they returned home from overseas. Almost concurrently military establishments in Australia and overseas of the Australian Army began to close down and surplus supplies, equipment, stores and transport had to be disposed of either by returning to stores or by sale. A little later the Australian Military Forces were completely re-organised to meet the changed conditions which had been brought about by the war. Then in 1922 the Federal Government announced plans to retrench within the Australian Military Forces. Forsyth was one of the general officers to be retrenched.

Major General Forsyth relinquished the appointment of Quartermaster General on the 31st July, 1922 and, on the following day, he was placed on the Unattached List. This marked the close of his military career on the Active List although he was not placed on the Retired List, officially, until the date of his 58th birthday which was the 9th February 1925.

General Forsyth was still a relatively young man and it was reasonable to expect at the time that in retirement he would continue to do much useful work. In 1928 he became one of the selected Nationalist candidates for election to the Senate but during the political campaign, which was being conducted for the Federal Government by the Prime Minister, Mr. S.M. Bruce, and for the Federal Opposition by Mr. J.H. Scullin, General Forsyth contracted pneumonia. After a short illness he died on the 12th November 1928, at the age of 61 years, at his residence at 6 Hepburn Street, Auburn, Victoria.

His friends were surprised and distressed by his unexpected and untimely ending. The Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Harry Chauvel, who had known General Forsyth for almost forty years said:

"Major General Forsyth and I first became associated in 1891 in Queensland where we served in the Queensland Mounted Infantry. His sudden death is a great shock to me. We had had almost a lifelong friendship and I regarded Major General Forsyth as an organiser of exceptional ability, and one who had given valuable service to the Australian Military Forces."¹

1. See "The Argus", Melbourne, Tuesday 13th November 1928, p.7.

Mr. W.A. Watt, a wartime Acting Prime Minister, commented at this time, in the course of the political campaign for the coming Federal Elections, on the untimely death of General Forsyth in these words:

"It is my regrettable duty to announce the death of Major General Forsyth. This sad event throws a pall of sadness over the elections. Those of us who knew him knew what a splendid character he was. Apart altogether from his gallant career as a soldier, he was a public-spirited citizen of high ideals."²

Another tribute came from the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia's Victorian Branch. It issued the following statement on the 13th November 1928:

"The League stands to-day in the shadow of a great loss. Major General Forsyth was Chairman of Anzac House, a position that brought him into close touch with the League's work and furnished opportunities for service to old comrades. He always maintained that the chief work of the League should be the upholding of the good name of the A.I.F. and the strengthening of the feeling of comradeship among those who served, and the adoption of this view by many branches and branch officers is undoubtedly due to the influence exerted by him during his travels through the State."³

The remains of General Forsyth were buried with military honours. The funeral cortege left the Methodist Church in Oxley Street, Auburn, where the deceased general had been a prominent member of the congregation for some years, after a service there which had commenced at 11 a.m. on Wednesday 14th November 1928. Among those present were the Federal Attorney General, Sir John Latham; the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Harry Chauvel; the Quartermaster General, Major General W.A. Coxen; the former Chief of the General Staff, Major General Sir Brudenell White; Brigadier General C.H. Brand who had also been commissioned originally in the Military Forces of Queensland; and another former Chief of the General Staff, Major General G.H.H. Irving; and the Secretary of the Military Board, Major George Maxted, D.S.O. The service at the graveside at Booroondara Cemetery at Kew was conducted by Senior Chaplain A.T. Bladen.

It is probably remembered by few to-day that two years after General Forsyth's death a tablet was unveiled in his memory in the Methodist Church in Oxley Street, Auburn. This ceremony took place on Sunday afternoon 28th September 1930 at a special service which was conducted by Chaplain-Colonel Snell in the presence of General Forsyth's widow, his son, and his three daughters. This service included an address by the Rev. J. Thomas.

2. Ibid, p.7.

3. See "The Argus", Wednesday 14th November, 1928, p.7.

It is a pleasant duty to re-light the lamp of memory and to reflect on the name and deeds of Major General John Keatly Forsyth who was one of the earlier general officers of the Australian Army, the Quartermaster General of the Australian Forces on two occasions and an Anzac who served in command and staff appointments in the field during the War of 1914-18.

A LETTER FROM THE SOUDAN

Extracted from the History of the N.S.W. Engineers

By Captain C. Stuart-Cansdell V.D.

Lieutenant Stuart-Cansdell, commanding Engineer, received a letter dated Suakin, 9th May, from Private F. Walters, of the Contingent, who wrote:-

" No doubt, Sir, you will be pleased to hear a little of our welfare and doings here. After a good voyage of twenty-six days, during which our principal occupation was with bath-brick and pipeclay, we arrived on Sunday, the 29th March, and immediately went to the front. With our valises and all our harness on, we had to trudge about two miles through heavy sand over our boot tops, and in the blazing sun.

General Graham addressed us in flattering terms, and the English soldiers cheered us right heartily.

Tents and tea were ready, and proved very acceptable. During the next two days stores and khaki clothing were served out, and we had to stain our helmets and belts with coffee so as to make them look as sandlike in appearance as possible, in order that we might not be so easily seen by the enemy.

On the afternoon of the 1st April we struck tents, and lay out on the sand until about 2.30, when "rouse" was sounded; and after obtaining a little coffee and some biscuits, we marched about a mile and a half, and were formed into a large square extending a quarter of a mile on each side, and in which were about 8,500 fighting men, all the camels, mules and transport being in the centre.

At about 8' o'clock in the evening we came upon the battlefield of the 22nd March, where some 1,200 or 1,400 men had been slain. We had to walk over the dead bodies lying in all directions.

Some had been only partly buried, legs and arms showing up through the ground everywhere, the stench being intolerable. Arriving about two miles off Tamai, we halted, and made a zareba of mimosa, or thorn bushes, and then taking possession of the hills around, on which we built redoubts, pickets were told off, upon whom there was a good deal of firing during the night.

At dawn we formed square again, and marched onwards, leaving everything except the fighting men behind. As we approached Tamai there was a deal of firing, but the enemy retired to the mountains.

There were three of our Contingent slightly wounded, and I saw one of the Imperial men carried away, apparently shot in the head. The wells were found to be dried up, and so, as we could not draw the enemy out, we retired, burning all the huts etc.

You may ask, how did we stand the fire? I say that there was less excitement and fuss, while under fire, then there is on Moore Park on Her Majesty's Birthday. Reaching the place where Baker Pasha's force was so badly cut up, we halted for the night, and made a zareba. In the morning we returned to Suakin arriving at about 4 o'clock in the afternoon of Saturday 4th April.

Several of our men had fallen out - Major Jeykell being knocked up, and Captain Parrott, who was in charge of the transport, being attacked by sun-stroke, had to be taken to hospital. Our men suffered from thirst very much. There were signal stations and signal parties every mile or so, and they did grand service. We were not called upon to do any signalling, but a party of eight men had practised on board ship, under the direction of Captain Parrott.

About 4 o'clock on Monday morning, the 6th April, we started for Handaub, marching about 6 miles, and, halting for the night, made another zareba, in which we stayed for the next day and night, when there was a good deal of firing at us, which we returned. Handoub was reached after a march of seven miles.

The enemy had occupied this place on the hills but recently, and our troops, making a zareba, pitched tents, and settled down for the night. We had sixty in a tent, but many had to be on picket or guard duties nearly every day, and we had, moreover, to sleep with one eye open, as the Arabs are in the habit of getting into the tents on their hands and knees, and cutting the soldier's throats.

After a stay here of two days we journeyed about 14 miles over the mountains to Hasheen, wither troops had gone from other places. The idea was to try and catch the enemy, but they had apparently left in a hurry. We were very thirsty on this march, it being very hot, so hot that one could not hold the stones picked up from the ground in one's hands. After staying at Hasheen about a week we advanced on Otao, where there was plenty of water.

When upon the mountains the Arabs fired at us every night. Accompanied by the friendly Arabs we went out in the daytime, and a camel corps having been formed, they went out in advance of the main body as far as Sinkat, but could not find the enemy. It is quite evident that they either do not want to fight, or else they wish to catch us by surprise or in small parties. They have found out that British soldiers are very different to Egyptian soldiers, of which Hicks Pasha's or Baker Pasha's forces were composed.

On the 27th April we were asked if we would volunteer for service in Afghanistan, and between 100 and 150 agreed to do so. Our officers said it was not likely we should be required in the Soudan much longer. Having retired back to Suakin, now we are manning the redoubts at night and practise camel-riding in the day-time, and it is an amusing show. Sometimes the camel gets up before both men are on its back. Then it has to go down again. Then, perhaps, one or two men will be seen hanging with their feet in the stirrup and head downwards. Sometimes the saddle slips off sideways, and sometimes behind. You may imagine two men with their rifles slung around them, on a large saddle sliding off behind a camel about nine feet high.

It is getting hotter every day, but colder at nights and especially towards morning. The water supply is generally very bad, on account of being carried about on mules and camels, and the doctor says if we drink it we are liable to typhoid fever, and if we drink the brackish water we are liable to dysentery, so the water has to be condensed, but there are not many of us sick, and we stand out troubles as well as, if not better, than the Imperial troops. However the sooner we get away from this place the better, as it is very uncomfortable, with sand in everything and sand for our beds, while we are in a state of perpetual perspiration resembling a Turkish bath.

John H. Smith, late of the Engineers, is one of our pioneers. One of our men has bought a white donkey which he is going to bring home to head the Contingent through the streets. I hope that the corps is progressing, and that you will not object to take us back upon our return, as I dare say we shall have learned something new.

I expect you had more work than usual at the late camp, as you were the sole officer of the Engineers. We old comrades all wish to be remembered to you, Staff Sergeant Masters and the members of the corps "

THE SOUDAN CONTINGENT

By Major R. Clark.

The Sydney Morning Herald on 11th February, 1885, published a report of the death of General GORDON and, on the following day, a letter from Sir Edward STRICKLAND appeared in the same paper. This letter drew attention to the fact that CANADA had offered aid to the Mother Country and suggested that a force of 1,000 strong be raised in N.S.W. and offered to Her Majesty. To quote a portion of the letter:

" Every Christian-born subject feels today that he has lost a friend in GORDON, therefore all Christendom will ring with praises of the gallantry of Australians in losing not a moment in tendering aid in the hour of need for the maintenance of the integrity of our nation and the ascendancy of Christianity."

This appeal made a near sensation and within a few hours of the appearance of the Herald, a Cabinet had been summoned and the offer of a force made to Her Majesty. This offer by New South Wales was followed by offers from VICTORIA and, in a very short period, Whitehall was flooded with cabled offers. However, the British Government accepted the New South Wales offer only and this force became the first armed force raised by a British Colony and despatched overseas.

The Regimental offices in O'Connell Street were thronged with men from an early hour on Monday, 16th February 1885, although the real enlistment did not begin until Wednesday, 18th February 1885. The Medical Officers passed 308 volunteers by Thursday morning, and tents for them were pitched in the yards of Victoria Barracks, PADDINGTON. Men were enlisted under the Imperial Army Act for a definite period of two years if the Contingent's services were required for that period. Actual attestation forms are held at the War Memorial CANBERRA.

Excitement grew intense. On the 28th, fifty thousand people arrived at MOORE PARK to watch the Contingent parade. On Sunday afternoon St. Andrew's Cathedral held special services of intercession for the troops. All Australia knew that the force would leave on the following Tuesday - 3rd March 1885. In fifteen days the contingent had been raised and prepared. (Consider how long it would take to raise and despatch a force today).

Early on Tuesday morning, 3rd March, Victoria Barracks was besieged by relatives. For the first time in Colonial History wives and mothers saw their husbands and sons leaving for battle. The men, after a boisterous and enthusiastic farewell embarked on the transports "Australasian" and "Iberia" at 3 O'clock on the afternoon of 3rd March, 1885.

At 1 pm on Sunday, 29th March, the Orient liner "Iberia" steamed into SUAKIN HARBOUR carrying the first contingent of Colonial troops ever to arrive at an overseas battle station. The troops received a warm welcome from the British troops when they disembarked and after forming up, were officially welcomed by General GRAHAM who concluded his speech with the following words:

"I am proud to command such a force, and I am sure it will do the greatest credit to New South Wales and to the race of which you are an important part."

Very little actual fighting occurred but in a small action three New South Welshmen were wounded, and to them goes the honour of being the first men wearing the Australian uniform to be rendered casualties in any theatre of war. The first Australian to be wounded was 16 Pte W.C. LEAROYD of the N.S.W. Ambulance Corps, for this wound he was given E10. On the 1st May there occurred the first death. The first Australian to die on Active Service was Private Robert WEIR of the 4th Infantry Company who was buried with full military honours in the SUAKIN Cemetery.

On the termination of the campaign the Secretary of State for War sent the following message to Lord WOLSELEY:

"I have received the Queen's command to convey to the officers and men of the New South Wales Contingent her warm thanks for their services in the recent campaign and to express her great gratification that her Colonial forces have served side by side with the British troops in the field. Her Majesty wishes them a prosperous voyage home."

The Contingent embarked for home on 17th May, and pulled out of harbour the following morning and entered SYDNEY HEADS at 11 pm on Friday 27 June.

The troops were in quarantine until the following Tuesday and then received a tumultuous welcome home, although a wet one, as very heavy rain fell all day. The troops marched through SYDNEY lead by a mascot - a Sudanese donkey.

After many speeches of welcome the soaked troops dismissed - the SOUDAN adventure had ended, but many of these veterans served their country again in later wars. Some gave service until the end of the first World War, one such member was 320 Pte. E.T.CANE a member of 'B' Company who changed to the Navy for service in the Boxer rebellion and WW1:

All members of the Contingent were awarded the following medals for service in the SOUDAN:

EGYPT Medal with Clasp SUAKIN 1885

KHEDIVES Bronze Star dated 1884-86

Mayor of SYDNEY's Silver Medal.

In addition other selected members were given medals to commemorate their service. The author is trying to determine how many of these medals exist, and would appreciate hearing from anyone who has information on any recipient.

MILITARY MINIATURES.

By R. A. Powell

Australian Models. At last it has been done! - miniatures of Australian Military types made by an Australian are on sale. Not only that, but I understand at least one other maker is about to enter the field. However more of that anon. This week I received a review sample of "A.M.M Models", a range of 54 mm figures modelled and marketed by Eric Wiseman, 1 Links Road, Bowral, N.S.W. The sample I have is of an Adelaide Lancer in full dress with helmet of about 1893. The figure has an engaging stance and the head and helmet are particularly well detailed, the star shaped helmet plate being clearly distinguishable. The head is of the plug-in variety, and presumably alternative heads will be offered. I have tried the figure with both the Gammage Lancer cap and pill box hat and it looks fine. The whole attitude of the figure is rather reminiscent of Hinton Hunt models and certainly a good buy at the most moderate price of \$A125, which is less than half the cost of landing an English figure in this country. Unfortunately the model was received too late to be photographed for this issue of our magazine, but I will paint at least one of them and include a photograph in the October issue.

I understand that future releases will include Queensland Scottish Regiment 1886, Victorian Volunteer Rifles 1860, N.S.W. Field Artillery 1886, Australian Flying Corps 1917. All of these figures are illustrated in the Golden Fleece card set, and presumably further types in this series will follow.

Michael Croke is about to enter the commercial field also, and I understand that he too intends to model Australian types. Those of us who saw Michael's early models know that, at its best, his work is second to none, and we can expect some good figures from him.

Photographic Plates.

Mr. Serle, our photographer, burnt the midnight oil again last week and has photographed for us a pair of Imperial German Garde de Corps figures adapted from the original Stadden figure and pointed by Ivan Lock. Both figures wear the attractive red "supra - vest" reintroduced in 1842 for use by this elite regiment in 'Gala' order, and represent officers as they would have appeared at court functions about 1900. Ivan's collection of Imperial German figures is growing and should make an attractive show of force at our forthcoming bi-annual model soldier meeting. (Sunday August 6th). Melbourne enthusiasts can look forward during August to a visit from Geoff Barnes who will be with us for his annual holidays. We hope Geoff will bring a good selection of his Historex figures, particularly the conversions, in order that we may photograph them for inclusion in a future issue of this magazine.

The other photograph is of a duffadar and sowar (Punjabi Mussulman) of the 18th Bengal Cavalry 1897. These figures are from my own collection and are originals made by me. Modelled from a Bremner photograph, they are coloured according to the information given in Mr. Carman's 'Uniforms of the Indian Cavalry'. This figure is the first of what I intend to be a series of models of the less-frequently seen Indian Army uniforms. Commercial makers are inclined to stay with the uniform that can be painted as a number of different figures. This attitude, of course, is dictated by economics, and uniforms of a cut that are unique to one regiment are usually overlooked. Further research may prove me wrong, but I believe the kurtka with the open chest as I have modelled it is peculiar to the 18th Bengal Cavalry.

Recent figures from overseas.

English makers continue to turn out figures at what appears to be an ever increasing rate. The latest Hinton Hunt figures to reach this country have been commented on by Frank Thornborough as follows -

Florence Nightingale - a well proportioned model.

Cetewayo - The Zulu king in a typical pose with a blanket thrown about his shoulders.

Natal Native contingent (Zulu War) - A very sinewy figure of a native clad in loin cloth and bandolier and carrying Martini rifle - apparently based on a photograph in a recent issue of the journal of the Society for Army Historical Research.

Bishop Odo (1066) - Nasal helmet and mail hauberk and carrying the papal banner

Eustace of Boulogne (1066). - Clad as above and armed with mace. Others included in this series are Saxon and Norman soldiers. All are well up to Hinton Hunt's usual standard.

Norman Newton Ltd. have produced an extensive range of Stadden figures representing English cavalry of the 1750s. I hope we will be able to review these in our October issue.

Rose Miniatures (Russell Gammage) have sent me a copy of their spring supplement 1967, and any reader in Australia may have a photostat copy of this provided he sends me a request with a stamped and self-addressed envelope. (How about a few spare copies next issue Mr. Gammage). Rose models enlarged range of 'Egypt of the Pharoahs' is the most unusual and, to my mind, attractive aspect of their new releases. Nubian princesses, slave girls and palace officials with their loins girt in leopard skins complete with the animals head are exotic to say the least. All well proportioned figures they would be fine additions to any collection.

The remainder of the Rose new releases are equally fine figures, though perhaps less unusual. British heavy cavalry of the Napoleonic wars, including lifeguards, dragoons and dragoon guards, all heavy men, many wearing workmanlike overalls well creased and worn looking. They have the genuine air of heavy cavalry.

This maker's new Russian guard infantry 1800 are well detailed and meticulously sculpted as always, but are less attractive to me because they are modelled in a rigid parade ground marching step. Nevertheless, good figures.

Edward Suren has enlarged his 30 mm range with what he terms his 'Dolly Grey' range, which includes Indian cavalry 1890, British infantry 1890 and a Zulu war range. Once again S.A.E. will bring a photostat of this list to any reader desiring it. Historex, 23 Rue Petion, Paris 11^o France. This company has issued its list No. 8, which covers the following.

1. Marshals and colonel generals of the guard - Berthier, Bessieres, Mortier, Davout and Soult, all mounted.
2. 3 general officers 1804 - 15.
3. 4 personnel of general staff.
4. Aide de camp to the Emporor.
5. Garde d'honneur - senior officer, officer, standard bearer, trumpet and trooper.

These well-known 54 mm plastic figures have to be seen to be believed. Each tiny piece is cast separately, buckles, straps etc. and the detail is astounding. Mr. Eric Wiseman has written to the editor extolling the virtues of these figures - lack of space prevents us from quoting his letter in its entirety, but among the points Eric makes is the fact that head-gear, being cast as a separate piece, can be removed from or placed on the head as the purchaser desires. This is a good point - to do this with any other figure, whether metal or plastic, entails the purchase of two figures. For the man who does not solder, of course, they represent the ideal medium of conversion. The Historex figure, too, is cheaper than its finely-detailed metal counterpart - yet not as cheap as it appears they could be when one considers that in U.S.A. 100 finely cast

plastic figures can be bought for less than the price of one multi-part Historex of the same scale. English multi-part figure kits 6" high can be purchased at about 2/- in England. I do not know the exact cost of Historex kits at present, but in 1964 a packet containing 3 Historex 54 mm foot figures cost me 35/- Aust. The disparity in price seems somewhat anomalous, at first sight.

However, the collector must always pay more for the quality figure, and this he undoubtedly receives from Historex. Accompanying each kit is a printed sheet (or sheets) detailing the colouring of the figures, and giving the historical background of the model. The worker does not need any further reference material when modelling with these figures.

I hope we will not have to wait long before the company fulfils its plans to expand its range beyond the Napoleonic era - a period already so well catered for by the trade. Some pre-revolutionary French troops in this medium should prove most popular.

THE MINIATURIST'S NOTEBOOK.

By R.A. Powell.

This month we continue with a mixture of material for the model soldier enthusiast's notebook. Firstly we have part 2 of our reprinted material on the Russian army of 1886 by Capt. Grierson. Peter Thornborough has drawn two excellent plates, the first field officers of the Russian Guard cavalry 1900, and the second is of the first Commonwealth of Australia uniforms 1903. Also, I have an article on a volunteer corps of the 1860's - the Brighton Volunteer Artillery. Next issue is in the planning stage, but Peter Thornborough has done a further plate on Russian Guard Cavalry, and I hope to have at least two more plates of Australian Cavalry, as well as a further part of the Russian Army 1886.

Uniforms and equipment of the Russian Army

Part 2

(from "The Armed Strength of Russia" by J.M.Grierson Publ.1886)

GRENADIERS AND INFANTRY OF THE LINE.

TUNIC - In the Grenadiers and Infantry of the Line the double-breasted hooked dark green tunic is not cut to the figure, but is worn loose and only gathered in by the waist-belt. It has no coloured cuffs, and the stand-up collar is dark green with a patch of coloured cloth on each side of the throat, and red piping all round the top; there is no piping on the tunic. The shoulder-straps are of coloured cloth, and bear in the Grenadiers the cypher of the Chief of the Regiment; in the Line, in the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 35th, 39th, 50th, 67th, 68th, and 145th Regiments the cypher of the Chief of the Regiment; in the others the number of the Division. Two bars of white lace are worn on the collar in the 1st, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, and 16th Grenadiers, and 2nd, 5th, 68th, and 80th Line Regiments.

TROUSERS - Of dark green cloth without piping, cut short and loose, and always worn inside long boots reaching to the knee.

GREATCOAT - As in the Guard.

HEAD-DRESS - A low cap of black Astrakhan fur, with a cloth top, and ornamented in front with the Imperial Eagle in copper, a red, yellow, and black cockade at the top, and above the Eagle a scroll with the name of some battle in which the Regiment has distinguished itself, if such has been granted it. This head-dress is only worn on parade in time of peace.

FORAGE CAPS - Of dark green cloth of the same pattern as in the Guards. It has a coloured bank and red piping round the band and round the top. It is worn always on active service. The band bears in front the number of the Regiment with the Russian letter T (G) after it in the case of the Grenadiers. Regiments of which the Emperor is Colonel, (the 1st, 12th and 13th Grenadiers, and the 2nd, 68th, and 145th Line Regiments), and the 80th Line Regiment as a special distinction, wear, instead of the number, the Imperial Crown on the band of the forage cap.

The distinctive colours run in series through the Divisions, so that by looking at the shoulder-straps to find the number of the Division and at the cap band, a Regiment can at once be identified. These colours are in each Division:

	Patch on collar of Tunic	Shoulder Straps of Tunic	Patch on Collar of Greatcoat	Cap Band
1st Brigade (1st Regiment	Red	Red	Red	Red
(2nd Regiment	Lt.Blue	Red	Lt.Blue	Lt.Blue
2nd Brigade (3rd Regiment	White	Lt.Blue	White	White
(4th Regiment	None	Lt.Blue	Dk.Green	Dk.Green

Summer clothing and other articles as in the Guard.

COLOURING DESCRIPTION FOR PLATES.

RUSSIAN GUARD CAVALRY - FIELD OFFICERS C. 1900.

Emperor's Uhlans.

Cap. Black leather, scarlet top, gold lace and lines, gilt badge and chin scales (badge has a silver star mounted on the Eagle) - white plume National cockade.

Tunic. Dark blue - collar, cuffs plastron and piping scarlet. Gold lace and buttons. 2 bars of lace on collar, 1 on each cuff. Epaulettes - gold with scarlet shoulder pieces. Cross belt - gold lace. Holster - brown leather. Pistol Lanyard - white, worked with three rows of alternate black and orange dots.

BREECHES.

Blue - grey with scarlet stripe.

BOOTS. Black - steel spurs.

SWORD - Gilt hilt - black grip - silver sword knot - scabbard steel - slings gold.

GLOVES. - White.

Chevalier Guard.

HELMET - Gilt - silver and light blue enamel star, Eagle, trim and scales. National cockade on left side.

TUNIC - White, laced in silver with scarlet lines. Collar and cuffs-scarlet. Epaulettes - silver with scarlet shoulder pieces. Cross belt - silver lace with scarlet edging. Cuirass - gilt with white leather belt, silver buckle. Aigulette - silver.

BREECHES - Blue grey with scarlet stripe.

BOOTS - Black - steel spurs.

SWORD - Gilt hilt - silver sword knot - steel scabbard - silver slings.

GAUNTLETS-White.

Sash on right shoulder - Order of St. Andrea - light blue.

TERRITORIAL TITLES & MUNICIPAL AFFILIATIONS

By Sergeant G. R. Vazenry.

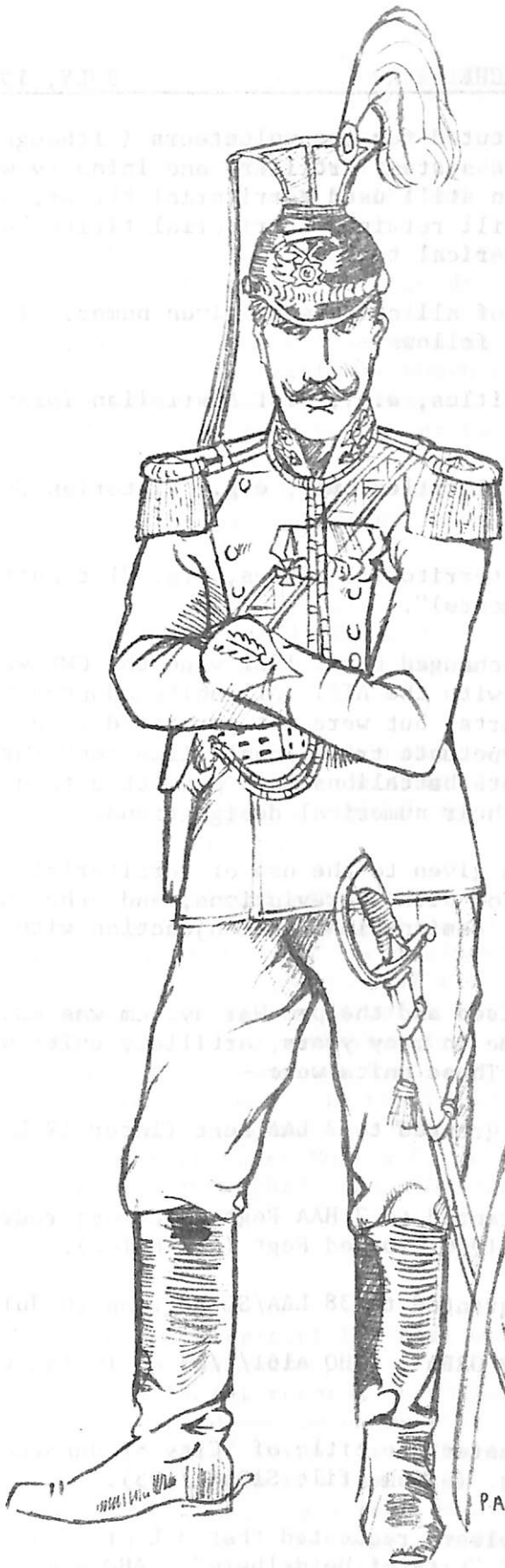
As the question of policy on this subject arises from time to time, the following notes have been compiled to assist those who may have to deal with the subject.

British Army

1. The earliest reference that has been found regarding territorial titles concerns a scheme of applying county names to regiments of infantry in the British Army in 1782. Again, in 1881, numerical designations were replaced by territorial titles for regiments.
2. Territorial titles have, in the recent past, been allotted to British artillery regiments, while certain batteries of regiments have been permitted to adopt commemorative titles, which are not, in the strict sense of the word territorial titles. They are used to commemorate events, e.g., battle; "The Minden Battery". In certain cases they are used to honour a person.
3. I have heard of a TA transport column that uses a territorial title.

Australian Army

4. When the volunteer forces were formed circa 1854, all cavalry, artillery and infantry units were known by titles which related to the area in which they were located, e.g., "Pahran and South Yarra Rifles", "Sandridge Battery", and Melbourne Cavalry".



P. THORNBROUGH
1967

FIELD OFFICERS

RUSSIA - IMPERIAL GUARD - c 1900

EMPEROR'S UHLANS

CHEVALIER GUARDS

5. In 1885 a militia system was substituted for the volunteers (although the volunteers still carried on). Under this system, artillery and infantry were allotted numerical titles but in addition still used territorial titles, e.g. "4th (Mt. Alexander) Bn". The cavalry still retained territorial titles but as they were a small corps, did not use numerical titles.

6. On the 1903 re-organization, units of all corps were given numerical titles and in some cases, territorial titles as follows -

- (a) Militia infantry - numerical titles, e.g., "1st Australian Infantry Regiment";
- (b) Volunteer infantry - territorial titles only, e.g. "Victorian Scottish Regiment";
- (c) Cavalry - both numerical and territorial titles, e.g. "1st Australian Light Horse Regiment, (NSW Lancers)".

7. The system remained more or less unchanged until 1921 when the CMF was re-organized on a divisional basis in line with the AIF. All units adopted the numerical titles of their AIF counter-parts, but were not permitted to use territorial titles. About 1927, to "perpetuate traditional alliances" (or something), cavalry and infantry regiments/battalions were permitted to use territorial titles, in brackets, after their numerical designations.

8. At this time consideration had been given to the use of territorial titles only, but for simplicity of identification with abbreviations, and other unknown reasons, it was decided to use numerical designations in conjunction with the chosen territorial title.

9. After World War 2 the CMF was re-raised and the pre-War system was used, but a few years later, for the first time in many years, artillery units were permitted to adopt territorial titles. These units were -

- a. "City of Caulfield Regiment" - granted to 2 LAA Regt (later 19 LAA Regt) on 4 Apr 52;
- b. "City of Geelong Regiment" - granted to 2 HAA Regt which was redesignated 8 HAA Regt, 8 Med Regt and in 1960, 10 Med Regt (see below);
- c. "City of Hamilton Regiment" - granted to 38 LAA/SL Regt on 10 Jul 53.

These three titles were shown in the AMF ORBAT. (AHQ A161/1/63 of 10 Aug 61 refers -S Comd file S106/1/145).

10. At a later date, 15 Fd Regt was granted the title of "City of Dandenong and Gippsland Regiment", which is still used. (S Comd file S106/1/195).

11. On the 4th Nov 59 the City of Heidelberg requested that 3 L of C Sig Regt (now 2 Sig Regt) be granted the title of "City of Heidelberg". AHQ memo A161/1/63 of 5 Oct 61 granted permission for the unit to use this title, which is still current (S Comd file S106/1/145). This is the only known case of a non-cavalry/artillery/infantry unit being permitted to use a territorial title, and at the same time being granted the freedom of a city.

12. Note that all the units mentioned in paragraphs 9, to 11 above were Victorian units. No case is known of any other non-cavalry/artillery/infantry unit of the AMF being granted this distinction.

13. By 1960, 19 LAA Regt and 38 LAA/SL Regt were no longer in existence and their titles were dropped. Also in this year 8 Med Regt located in Geelong, and 10 Med Regt in Melbourne and Frankston, amalgated as 10 Med Regt located in Brighton, Frankston, Geelong and Warrnambool. 8 Med Regt was shown on the AMF ORBAT as "not raised". As there was now only a battery of 10 Med Regt in Geelong, the title "City of Geelong could no longer be used.

14. It should now be noted that any territorial title can be used only so long as the unit concerned is located in the area in which the title was conferred.

15. S Comd file S106/1/144 shows that the Comd 2 AGRA (Fd), prior to disbanding his HQ in 1960, submitted a proposal to S Comd that each troop of 10 Med Regt be allotted a title, e.g. "City of Geelong Troop". This was rejected.

16. At a later date, 10 Med Regt was relocated at Geelong with a battery at Colac. At this time the unit should have applied to again use the title "City of Geelong", which is still recognized by the City; the unit failed to do so.

17. In 1960 all infantry battalions became companies of the State Regiment (RVR). Each company was allotted an alphabetical designation within its battalion of the Regiment, and in addition, each company was allowed to adopt a territorial title, which in some cases had no relation to history. These lasted until 1965 when another reorganization took place and all titles were withdrawn from the infantry companies. The only title now allowed was the Regiment title, i.e. "Royal Victorian Regiment". An exception to this rule was 1 Indep Rifle Coy RVR which was raised in Mildura from a company of 2 RVR. This Company was permitted to adopt the title "The North West Murray Borderers", but the title was not to be shown in the AMF ORBAT. (AHQ 604/R2/3 of 13 Apr 65, S Comd file 582/S1/2 refers).

Conclusion

18. Although territorial titles were, until 1961, confined to cavalry, artillery and infantry units, much research by many persons who have had access to official records (both Australian and British), has failed to produce any evidence to show that territorial titles should be confined to any particular Corps, or in fact, to the Arms. The 1961 decision was a break through and indicates that, as long as the municipal authority proposes, or agrees, there is no bar to any unit having a territorial title. The only precedent is that only cavalry, artillery and infantry units have used titles (up to 1961). (A minute from Mr. H.C.DOWSETT OIC Military History Section AHQ, on S Comd file S106/1/144 refers).

The AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH MILITARY FORCES 1903.

CHANGES OF TITLES OF REGIMENTS AND CORPS

submitted by A.N.Festberg, from official records.

Regiment or Corps	Permt. Mil.or Vol.	District	Title prior to Re-organi- zation under the C'wealth.
ROYAL AUST.ARTILLERY)	P	NSW	NSW Regt, R.A.A.
)	P	V	Vic.Regt. R.A.A.
)	P	Q	Q'land Regt. R.A.A.
)	P	S.A.	S.A.Permanent Artillery
)	P	W.A.	W.A.Permanent Artillery
)	P	Tas.	Tas.Permanent Artillery
AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE			SEE AUST.ARMY LINEAGE BOOK
AUSTRALIAN FIELD ARTILLERY			
No.1 NSW Battery	M	NSW	"B"Bty.NSW Field Artillery
No.2. " "	M	NSW	"C" " " " "
No.3 " "	M	NSW	"I"Coy.1st Inf.Regt.NSW
No.4 " "	M	NSW	"G"&"H"Coys.1st Inf.Regt. NSW.
No.1 Vic.Battery	M	V	"A"Bty.Vic.Field Artillery
No.2 " "	M	V	"B" " " " "
No.3 " "	M	V	"C" " " " "
No.4 " "	M	V	Western Artl.(Vic.Garrison Artillery)
No.5 " "	M	V	Victorian Field Artillery
No.6. " "	M	V	Hastings Bty.Vic.Rangers
No.1 Q'land Battery	M	Q	No.1 Bty.Q'land Field Artly
No.2 " "	M	Q	No.2 " " " "
No.1 S.A. Battery	M	S.A.	"A"Bty. S.A.Field Artillery
No.1 W.A. Battery	M	W.A.	No.1 Bty.W.A. " "
No.2 " "	M	W.A.	No.2 " " " "
No.1 Tas.Battery	M	TAS.	Launceston Artillery(V.)
No.2 " "	M	TAS.	Southern Tas.Artly.(V) Launceston Artillery (V)
AUSTRALIAN GARRISON ARTILLERY.			
No.1 NSW Company	M	NSW	No.3 Coy.NSW Gar.Arty.
No.2. " "	M	NSW	No.4 " " " "
No.3 " "	M	NSW	No.5 " " " "
No.4 " "	M	NSW	No.6 " " " "
No.1 Victorian Company	M	V	(Geelong Artillery
No.2 " "	M	V	(" "
No.3 " "	M	V	(
No.4 " "	M	V	(North Melbourne Artillery
No.5 " "	M	V	Williamstown Artillery
No.6 " "	M	V	(
No.7 " "	M	V	(Harbor Trust Artillery
No.1 Q'land Company	M	Q	Brisbane Garrison Battery
No.2 " "	M	Q	Townsville Garrison Battery
No.3 " "	M	Q	Torres Straits Garrison Bty.

Regiment or Corps	Permt. Mil.or Vol.	District	Title prior to Re-organization under the C'wealth
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No.1 S.A.Company	M	S.A.	Nos.1 & 2 Coys.S.A.Garrison Artillery
No.1 W.A.Company	M	W.A.	No. 1 Coy. W.A.Garrison Artillery.
No.1 Tas.Company	V	Tas.	Southern Tas.Artillery

CORPS OF AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS.

No.1 Field Company	M	NSW	No.2 Coy.NSW Engineers
No.2 " "	M	V	Field Coy.Vic.Engineers
No.4 " "	M	NSW	No. 1 Coy.NSW Engineers
No.5 " ")	M	Q	Brisbane Coy.Sub.Miners
	) M	TAS	Tas.Engineers (V)
	(P	NSW	Permanent Section No.3 Coy. NSW Engineers
No.1 S.M.Mining Coy. (	M	NSW	No.3 Coy.NSW Engineers
	) P	V	(Permanent Section Submarine (Mining Coy.Vic.Engineers (Submarine Mining Coy.Vict. (Engineers
No.2 S.M.Mining Coy.)	M	V	)Submarine Mining Section
	(P	Q	) Queensland Regt. R.A.A.
No.3 " " (	M	Q	)Brisbane Coy. S.M.Miners.
No.1 Electric Coy. M	NSW		No.4 Coy.NSW Engineers
No.2 " " M	V		S.M. Mining Coy.Victorian Engineers
No.3 " " M	TAS		Tasmanian Engineers (V.)
Field Telegraph Section M	NSW		No.4 Coy. NSW Engineers
INFANTRY			SEE AUST.ARMY LINEAGE BOOK

AUSTRALIAN ARMY SERVICE CORPS.

No.1 Light Horse Supply Column	M	NSW)
No.2 Light Horse Supply Column	M	NSW)
No.1 Infantry Supply Column	M	NSW)
No.2 Infantry Supply Column	M	V)
NSW Garrison Coy	M	NSW)
Victorian Garrison Coy. M	V)
Q'land Garrison Details	M	Q)
S.A.Garrison Details	M	Q)

AUSTRALIAN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

No.1 Mounted Bearer Company	M	NSW	NSW Army Medical Corps
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Regiment of Corps	Permt. Mil.or Vol.	District	Title prior to re-organization under the Commonwealth
No.5 Mounted Bearer Company	M	Q	Queensland Army Medical Corps
No.1 Infantry Bearer Company	M	N.S.W.	NSW Army Medical Corps
No.2 Infantry Bearer Company	M	V	Ambulance Corps, Victoria
No.3 Infantry Bearer Company (Half)	M	Q	Queensland Army Medical Corps
No.1 Field Hospital	M	NSW	NSW Army Medical Corps
No.2 Field Hospital	M	NSW	" " " "
No.5 " " "	M	Q	Q'land Army Medical Corps
No.6 " " "	M	S.A	S.A Medical Staff Corps
NSW Garrison Company	M	NSW	N.S.W. Army Medical Corps
Q'land Garrison Com- pany	M	Q	Queensland Army Medical Corps
S.A. Garrison Company	M	S.A.	S.A. Medical Staff Corps
Tas. Garrison Company	M	TAS	Tas. Army Medical Corps

ALLIANCES BETWEEN AUSTRALIAN CORPS/REGIMENTS AND BRITISH AND OTHER
COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES' CORPS/REGIMENTS.

AAO No. 5/1967

The following consolidated list of alliances which currently exist between Australian Corps/Regiments and British and other Commonwealth Countries' Corps/Regiments is notified.

This AAO Supersedes all previous AAO's on this subject.

1. The Royal Australian Armoured Corps-Royal Armoured Corps
2. 1st Armoured Regiment- Royal Tank Regiment
3. 1st/15th Royal New South Wales Lancers
 - 1st the Queen's Dragoon Guards
 - 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars
 - The Fife and Forfar Yeomanry/Scottish Horse (TA)
4. 2nd/14th Queensland Mounted Infantry
 - The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars
 - 14th/20th King's Hussars
5. 3rd/9th South Australian Mounted Rifles
 - The Queen's Own Hussars
 - 5th The Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards
6. 4th/19th Prince of Wales's Light Horse
 - 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards
7. 8th/13th Victorian Mounted Rifles
 - The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars
 - 14th/20th King's Hussars
8. 10th Light Horse
 - 10th Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own)
 - The Queen's Own Warwickshire and Worchestershire Yeomanry (TA)

- | | | |
|-----|--|---|
| 9. | 12th/16th Hunter River Lancers | The Royal Scots Greys (2nd Dragoons)
16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers |
| 10. | The Royal Regiment of Australian
Artillery | Royal Regiment of Artillery |
| 11. | The Royal Australian Engineers | Corps of Royal Engineers |
| 12. | The Royal Australian Corps of
Signals | Royal Corps of Signals |
| 13. | The Royal Australian Regiment | (The Royal New Zealand Regiment)
(The Royal Malay Regiment) |
| 14. | 1st Battalion The Royal
Australian Regiment | Grenadier Guards |
| 15. | 2nd Battalion The Royal
Australian Regiment | Coldstream Guards |
| 16. | 3rd Battalion The Royal
Australian Regiment | Scots Guards |
| 17. | 4th Battalion The Royal
Australian Regiment | The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars |
| 18. | 5th Battalion The Royal
Australian Regiment | Irish Guards |
| 19. | 6th Battalion The Royal
Australian Regiment | Welsh Guards |
| 20. | 7th Battalion The Royal
Australian Regiment | |
| 21. | The Special Air Service
Regiment | Special Air Service Regiment |
| 22. | The Pacific Islands Regiment | 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles |
| 23. | The Royal Queensland Regiment | The King's Own Royal Border Regiment
The King's Own Scottish Borderers
The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment)
The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders
(Princess Louise's)
(The Lincoln and Welland Regiment
(Canada) |
| 24. | The Royal New South Wales
Regiment | Royal Marines
The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment
The Welch Regiment
The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) |
| 25. | The Royal Victoria Regiment | The Royal Fusiliers (City of London
Regiment)
The Staffordshire Regiment
(The Prince of Wales's)
The Gordon Highlanders
(The Royal Regiment of Canada (Canada)) |
| 26. | The Royal South Australia
Regiment | The King's Regiment (Manchester and
Liverpool)
Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and
Camerons)
(Otago and Southland Regiment
(New Zealand)) |
| 27. | The Royal Western Australia
Regiment | The Gloucestershire Regiment
The Royal Sussex Regiment
The Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth
and Camerons) |

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| 28. | The Royal Tasmania Regiment | Royal Anglian Regiment
The Lancashire Regiment (Prince of Wales
Volunteers) |
| 29. | Queensland University Regiment | |
| 30. | Sydney University Regiment | 2nd Battalion The Royal Green Jackets
(The King's Royal Rifle Corps) |
| 31. | University of New South Wales
Regiment | The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's
Own) |
| 32. | Melbourne University Regiment | 3rd Battalion The Royal Green Jackets
(The Rifle Brigade)
(Otago University Medical Company (New Zealand)) |
| 33. | Adelaide University Regiment | The Royal Ulster Rifles |
| 34. | Western Australian University
Regiment | 1st Battalion The Royal Green Jackets
(43rd and 52nd) |
| 35. | 2nd Commando Company | 45 Commando Royal Marines |
| 36. | 16 Army Light Aircraft Squadron | Army Air Corps |
| 37. | The Australian Intelligence
Corps | Intelligence Corps |
| 38. | The Royal Australian Army
Chaplains' Department | Royal Army Chaplains' Department |
| 39. | The Royal Australian Army
Service Corps | Royal Corps of Transport |
| 40. | The Royal Australian Army
Medical Corps | Royal Army Medical Corps |
| 41. | The Royal Australian Army
Dental Corps | Royal Army Dental Corps |
| 42. | The Royal Australian Army
Ordnance Corps | Royal Army Ordnance Corps |
| 43. | The Royal Corps of Australian
Electrical and Mechanical
Engineers | Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical
Engineers. |
| 44. | The Royal Australian Army
Educational Corps | Royal Army Educational Corps |
| 45. | The Royal Australian Army
Provost Corps | Corps of Royal Military Police |
| 46. | The Royal Australian Army
Nursing Corps | Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing
Corps |
| 47. | The Women's Royal Australian
Army Corps | Women's Royal Army Corps |

RESEARCHER'S CORNER

Can anyone please supply me with a description of the following buttons ? :-

56 Battalion, 58/32 Battalion, 12/40 Battalion.

Did the 37 Battalion ever wear the badge of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders during the period 1939-1941 ?

What is the M.O. for the raising of the 19 Australian Light Horse Regiment Victorian Mounted Rifles ?

R. Gray, 5 Elder Tce., Glengowrie, South Australia.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH MILITARY FORCES 1903.

This was the first Commonwealth pattern uniform worn by the troops of this country after Federation of the various Australian Colonies in the year 1901. Our drawing was made by Mr. Peter Thornborough from contemporary official photographs.

Uniform details.Figure 1. Sergeant Australian Light Horse. Full dress of a New South Welsh Regiment.

Hat. Khaki felt hooked up with hook and eye, socket with black cock's plumes feathers and a regimental badge in white metal on outside of looped up rim. Brown leather chinstrap.

Hat. Puggaree. Khaki of 7 folds, centre fold is white.

Jacket. Khaki with slits at side $4\frac{1}{4}$ " up. 5 white metal buttons on front and one smaller on each pocket. White gorget with red line down centre on front edge of turn down collars. White piping on cuff. Waist sash white. Aiguilletes and shoulder pads white. Pantaloon of same shade of khaki as jacket. Puttees of khaki, boots brown with steel spurs. Chevrons - silver. Unit designation, numeral over A L H in embroidery (Light Horse Regiments numbers 1 to 3 each wore a unique regimental uniform)

Figure 2. Australian Infantry Full Dress.

Hat. Khaki felt, black rosette and regimental badge on turned up side. Khaki puggaree of seven folds with dark green centre fold.

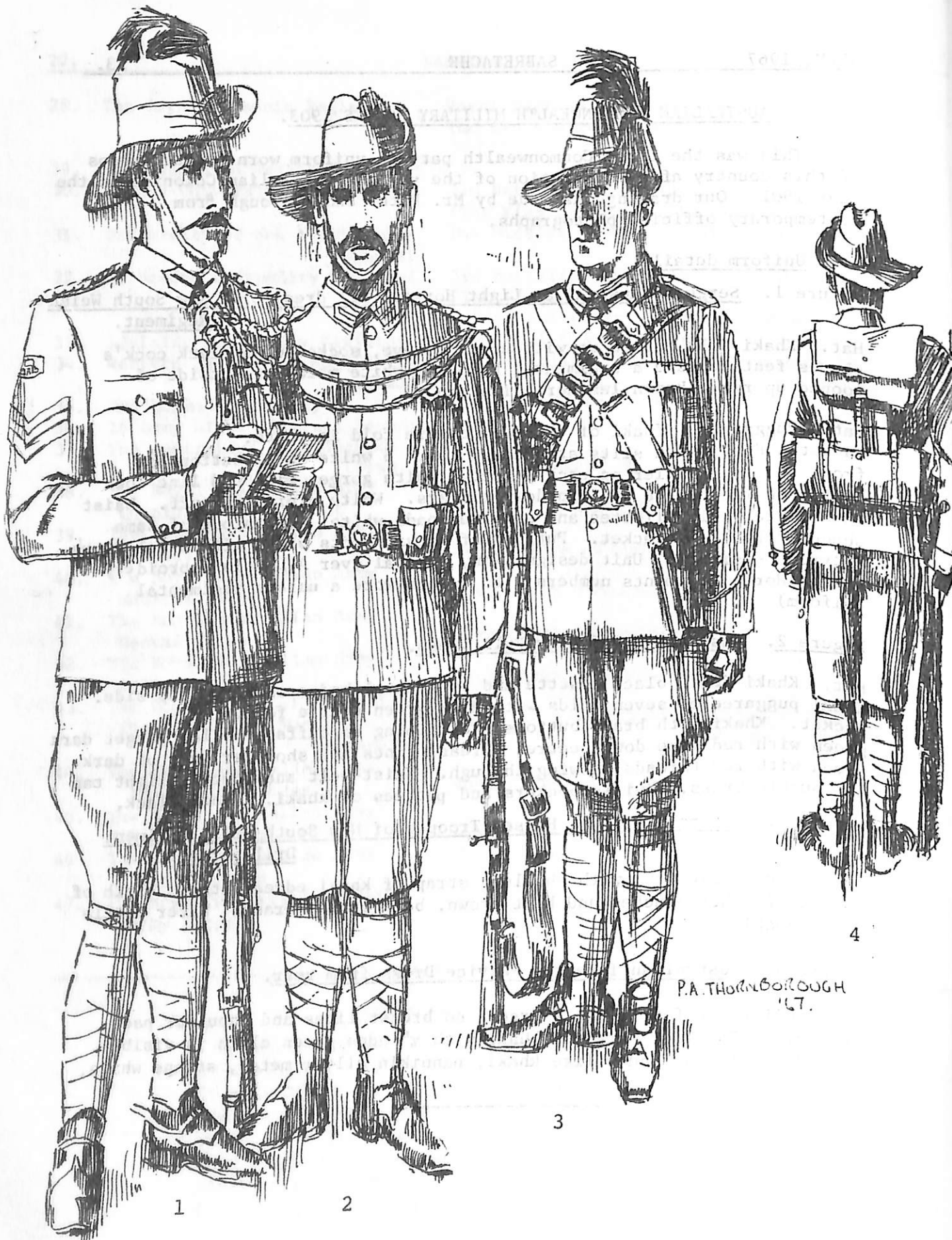
Jacket. Khaki with brass buttons. Red piping on cuffs. Collar gorget dark green with red line down centre. Breast lines and shoulder pads of dark green with red threads showing through. Waist-belt and pouches light tan and buckle brass. Knickerbockers and puttees of khaki. Boots black.

Figure 3. Australian Light Horse, Trooper of New South Welsh Regiment Drill order.

Same as figure 1 with shoulder strap of khaki edged with $\frac{1}{4}$ " cloth of white. Leather pouches and belt brown, belt buckle brass. Water bottle cover khaki.

Figure 4. Australian Infantry Service Dress from rear.

Uniform as for figure 2 except no breast lines and shoulder pads are worn. Shoulder strap of khaki with $\frac{1}{4}$ " edge green cloth is visible. Rolled great coat and valise khaki, pannikin silver metal, straps white.



P.A. THORNBOROUGH
'67.

"AUSTRALIAN ARMY 1903"

THE BRIGHTON VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY CORPS.

It is lamentable how little is known of the uniforms worn by volunteers in this country during the 50's and 60's of last century. I have had no opportunity to carry out research in other states, but have done some work in Victorian volunteers and I know of no instance of dress regulations, tailors patterns of one of these very early uniforms having been preserved.* The frequent references to uniforms in contemporary local papers are more tantalising than helpful - so little of my volunteer information goes beyond the vaguely worded newspaper cutting filed away awaiting amplification. After reading Mr. Weston Bates' "A History of Brighton", a latent interest in the local volunteer artillery was aroused and so I took myself off to the Brighton Historical Society to dig into the records. Having spent my boyhood in the city, during which I had been a wartime A.R.P. cyclist messenger, based on the old drill hall where the 40 pounders of the volunteers had been housed 130 years before, I felt myself peculiarly qualified to ferret out anything hidden in the local records. Alas, despite the enthusiastic and knowledgeable assistance of Mrs. Landells, Secretary of the Society, I managed to learn little more than the brief facts outlined by Mr. Bates.

In 1860 the demands of the Maori war caused the withdrawal of Imperial troops from the colony, and the volunteer movement, which had flagged since the enthusiasm born of the Crimean War, received fresh impetus. The Government Gazette for 1860 names 14 separate rifle corps in the Melbourne suburban area, and corps in Geelong and Ballarat. Each of these corps functioned under its own regulations drawn up and agreed to by majority vote of the members. The rules followed very much the same pattern from one corps to another and make strange reading in this day of compulsory national service and paid Citizen Military Forces. The Brighton Company of the Victoria Volunteer Rifles (for as such the corps began life) voted to pay 5/- annually for the privilege of attending drill twice weekly and 5/- fine was imposed for such misdemeanours as talking or lacking attention on parade or attending parade in a state of intoxication. Fines for officers were double those of O.R.'s and failure to pay meant expulsion from the corps.

The Brighton Rifles adopted these rules at a general meeting held at the Prince Albert Hotel on Monday 1st October 1860, just a fortnight after the first swearing in.

In their first year the corps, under command of Captain Mair, enrolled 3 N.C.O's and 76 men which left them only 21 short of their establishment of 100 (Proc. of Vic. Legislative Assembly session 1860 paper 18 P619.)

At this time the corps wore a uniform of a cut that has since become familiar as that worn by the Confederate States Army. Light grey in colour with light grey kepi, black waist belt and cap pouch, the jacket was single breasted without frogging on the chest. (Photo in 'Southern Cross' Newspaper 2/6/1900 showing full corps taken in December 1860).

*NOTE: Mr. B.J. Videon has dress regulations of 1863, but these are so sketchy as to be positively frustrating.

By the mid 1860's several bayside rifle corps had been reorganised as artillery of emplacement, the Brighton corps being among them, the entry in the Government Gazette dated Tuesday February 27th 1866, which sanctioned the transformation, is worth reading in its' entirety for the insight it affords into the apparently cooperative attitude of the authorities towards the volunteer movement of the day. -----

EXTRACT FROM VICTORIA GOVT. GAZETTE

Tuesday Feb. 27. 1866.

VICTORIAN VOLUNTEER FORCE.

The colonel of the local staff having represented it to be the wish of the majority of the Brighton Volunteer Rifle Corps that that corps should be changed into a volunteer artillery corps, and having recommended the desired change, the Governor in council, under the power conferred by the 3rd section of "The Volunteer Statute" 1865, has discontinued the services of the abovenamed corps as rifles, and has accepted the offer of those services as an artillery corps, the date of such acceptance to be 1st January 1866 and the corps to be designated "The Brighton Artillery Corps of the Victorian Volunteer Force".

Geo. Verdon

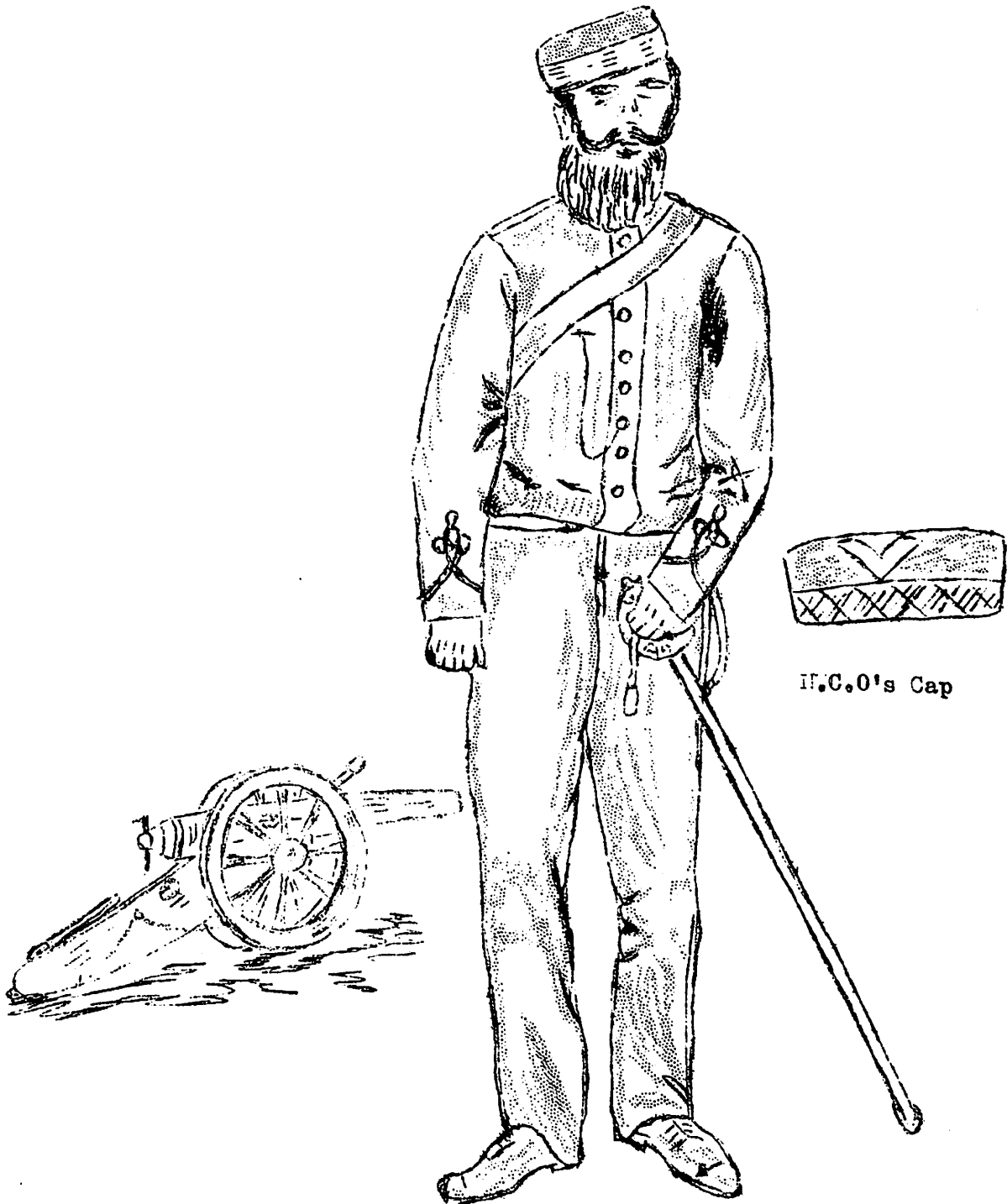
Treasurer.

Treasury,
Melbourne. 19th February, 1866.

The artillery uniform was photographed whilst the corps was encamped at Sunbury in 1867. All ranks are wearing a garibaldi blouse with pill box hats, white waist belts and cross belts. Other ranks are wearing a long triangular bayonet reaching to below the knee, possibly that fitting the Lancaster rifle with which many volunteers were armed at the time. Sergeants chevrons are worn on both upper arms as well as a small brass chevron on the front of the pill box cap. O/R blouses are single breasted and of one colour whilst officers have a panel of facing colour on the centre button line.

I have discovered little concerning the colour of this uniform. I understand that the grandson of Sergeant Thomas Wilson, a founder member of the corps, until recently was in possession of his grandfather's uniform. He has described it to his friend Mr. Landells as having been of navy blue serge with broad yellow stripe on the trousers. The pill box was blue with yellow band and the usual yellow Austrian knotting cord on the crown. The photograph taken at Sunbury shows clearly that the officers' lace is reflecting more light than O/R's, from which I think it safe to assume that officers wore gold where O/R's wore yellow.

It is quite impossible to determine anything of the collar details from either of the two photos taken at Sunbury as the men, without exception wore heavy beards. The use of yellow facing colour in an artillery unit was most unconventional and under these circumstances it is impossible to say what colour the vertical facing band on the officers uniform would have been. It is certainly several shades darker than the tunic colour and is possibly red. The piping on each side of this panel is white or yellow in appearance.



I.C.O.'s Cap

BRIGHTON VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY CORPS
OFFICER.

Brigade Sergeant Major Ivy interviewed by the "Southern Cross" newspaper in 1900 said that the first gun used by the rifle corps was 6 pdr. Later replaced by a 12 pdr howitzer, which was followed by a 32 pdr smooth bore and finally in 1871 the corps was armed with a battery of 4 - 40 pdr breech loading 4.5 armstrong guns, which weighed 4 tons 12 cwt. and required 30 men to work them. Sighted at 3,800 yards they would carry to 5,000 yards.

The corps at its peak numbered 150 men, but, as with other volunteer units of the time, interest waned in the 70's and the government gazette 24/8/77 confirmed the disbandment of the corps due to its having insufficient effectives.

The 40 pdr Armstrong guns passed to the Hastings battery by whom they were being worked as late as 1900.

DESPATCHES.

LIGHT HORSE AND THE SWORD.

I note with interest the statement by Mr. Robert Gray in the January 1967 issue of "SABRETACHE" that the sword was not on general issue to Light Horse until after World War I".

By the end of that war, the greater part of the Australian Light Horse overseas was in fact equipped with the sword. The changeover from the bayonet was admittedly a slow process. In November 1917 Brigadier Wilson, commanding the 3rd Light Horse Brigade, commented that the sword would have been of great value during the pursuit of the Turks after the breakthrough at Gaza. It was not until mid-1918, however, that the decision was made to so arm the 3rd, 4th and 5th Light Horse Brigades. The sword was subsequently used in action by the Australian Mounted Division, including the advance to and capture of Damascus in late 1918.

In the National War Memorial, Canberra, there is a fine painting by H. Septimus Power called "Into Damascus, October 1918", showing Light Horse on the march, with drawn swords.

In the Anzac Mounted Division, consisting of the 1st and 2nd L.H. Brigades, plus the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Bde, the conversion proposal was not favoured, and these troops finished the war equipped with the bayonet.

The following extract from the Official History is of interest:

' Officers and men entered with great zest into their sword exercises. Sportsmen all, they forgot their weariness as they played about with the new weapon. Their actual training did not exceed a few hours; but day and night they practised among themselves until in two or three weeks they reached a degree of efficiency which astonished the few British regular non-commissioned officers in charge of their instruction. -----

The secret of their success was, of course, their exceptional skill in the saddle and the tractability of their seasoned horses'.

Reference: Official History of Australia in the War 1914-18, Vol VII.

Lt. Col. D.V. Goldsmith.

Dear Sir,

The article in "Sabretache", April p.131 re. R.A.A.F. Aircraft, is, at least, in part incorrect. 450 Sqdn never flew Miles Magisters as an operational aircraft. We had one of these, which was used to fly Aircrew back to Cairo for recreation. The article does not mention that 450 also flew Mustangs (in Italy), and 3 Sqdn had Kittyhawks before they were armed with Mustangs. I can only speak of these two Sqdns but I doubt very much the reliability of this article.

L. L. Barton.

Dear Sir,

I note in the January issue that in reply to the letter from Mrs. J.R.S. Thompson we did NOT answer her question. I think to improve the standing of the Society we should accurately answer as many queries as possible. The answer that should have been given her would be:

"3150 Tpr George Valentine CLEARY went to South Africa as a draft to the 3 NSWMR Contingent leaving Australia on the transport ship ANTILLIAN on 12 May 1901."

I would be happy to answer any question on the Boer War as I am greatly interested in our participation in it.

Major R. Clark.

From an unnamed correspondent - a new twist!

In which year did the British Army decide that the Labrador Tracker dogs should be black and male only.

Also who was responsible for this decision?

The Australian Army is following this ruling unquestioningly.

They say that camouflage has nothing to do with this.

Major Bryden of Inglewood, N.S.W. who is in charge of the kennels and training of the dogs, seems to think that they are more intelligent than the gold. This is Rubbish!

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Information concerning the possibility that the R.A.A.F. had a
 collar badge for Camouflage personnel during WW2, and
 an allegation that there was also a cap badge to match (a
 major departure from R.A.A.F. custom)

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