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*Sabretache*



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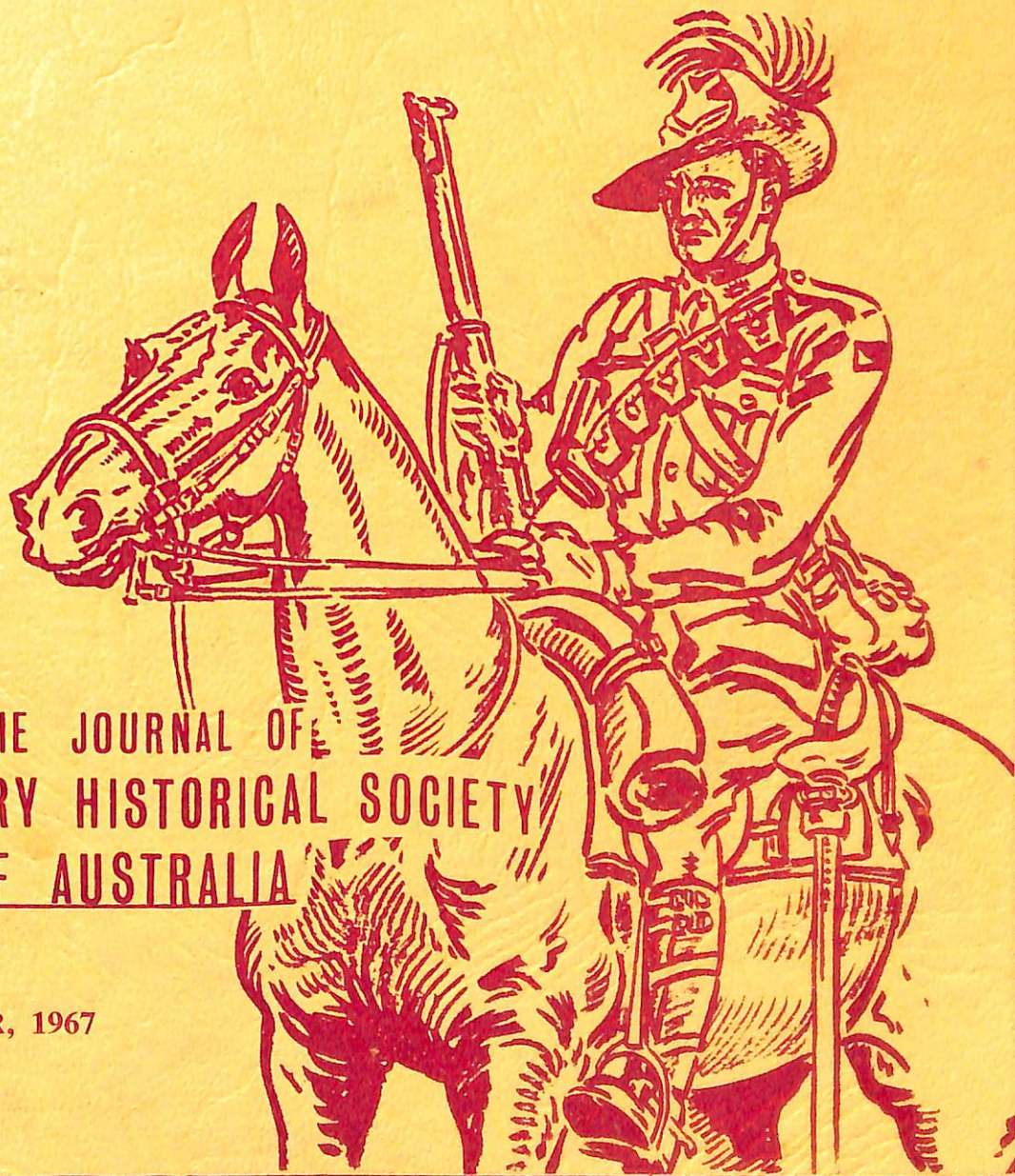
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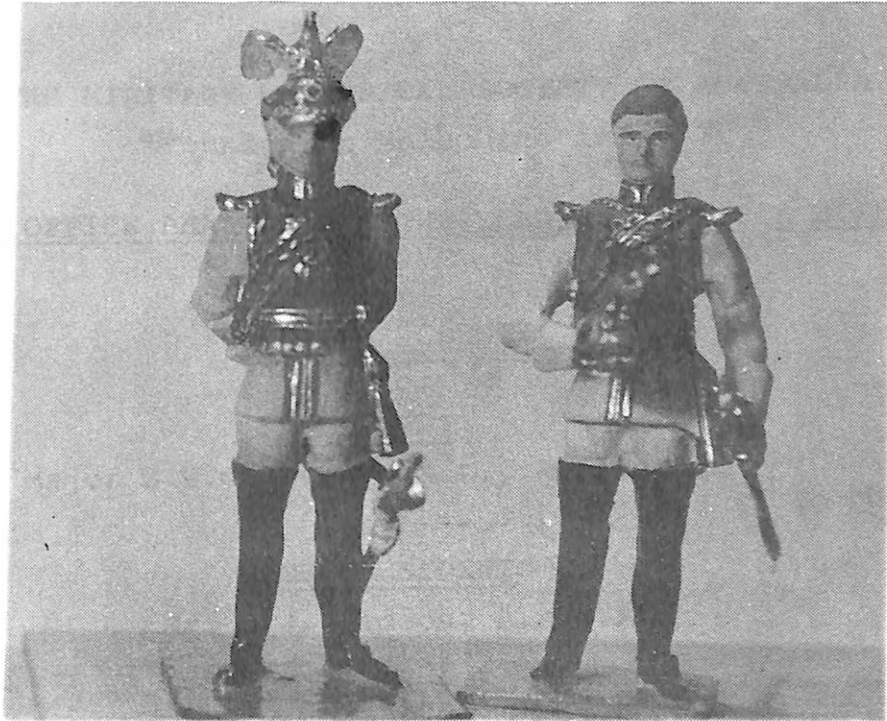
# SABRETACHE



THE JOURNAL OF  
THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF AUSTRALIA

OCTOBER, 1967



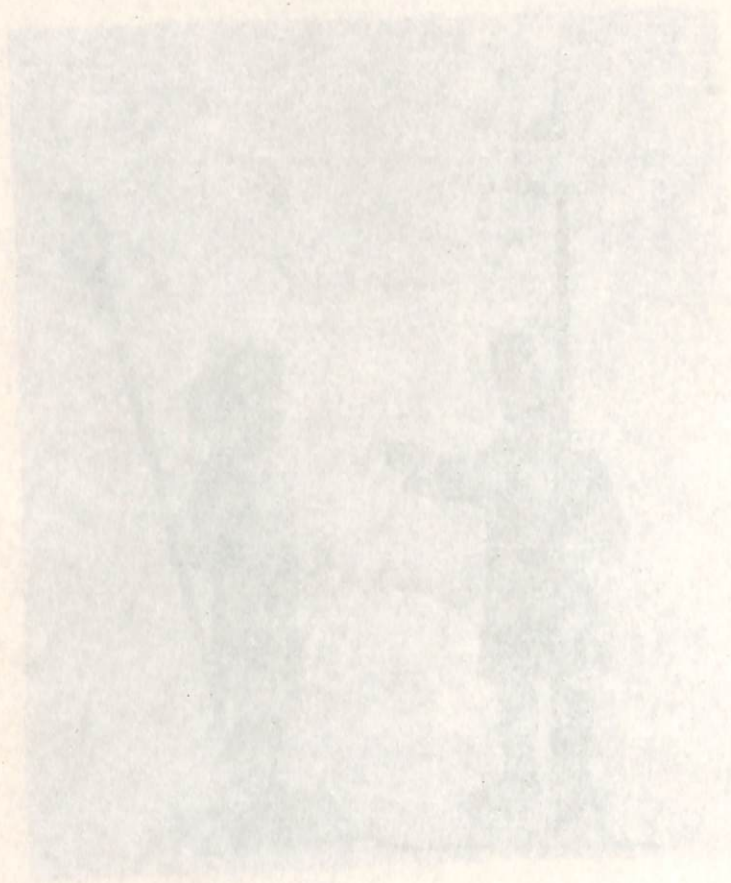
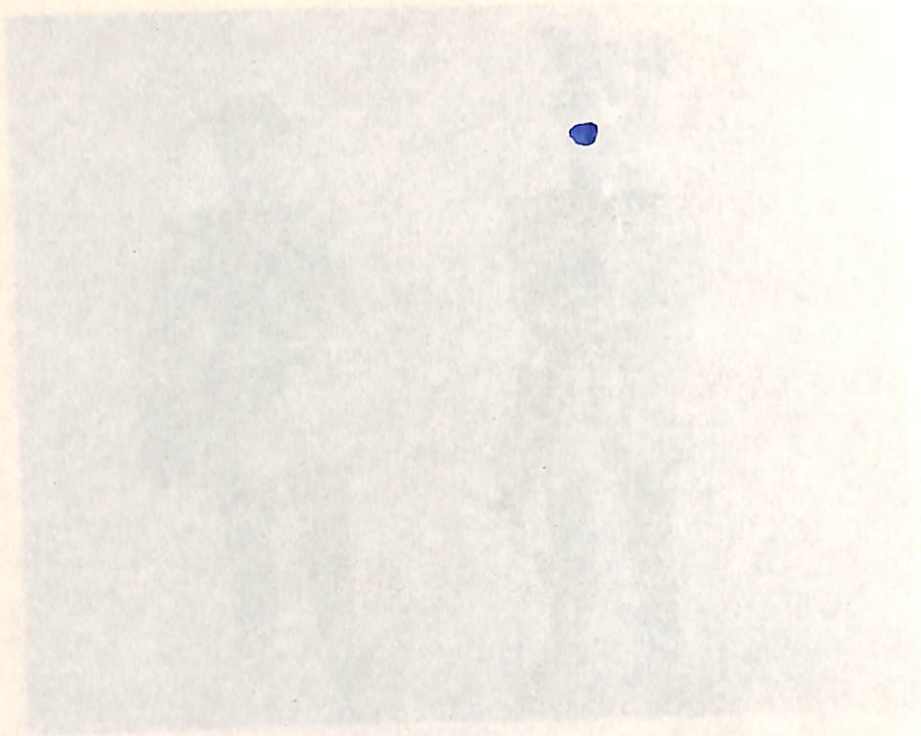


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(Founded in Melbourne in 1957)

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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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MEMORANDUM

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FROM : [Illegible]

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EDITOR'S NOTES

THE "SABRETACHE TROPHY" AWARD

At the end of the financial year 1965-66, Federal Council decided to make an annual award for the best article submitted to this journal in any one year. In order to qualify for the award, an article must be substantially the result of the contributor's own research, and must of course be documented in some way to substantiate its authenticity.

During the year ended 30th June 1967, although many excellent articles were submitted and used, many did not qualify for the award on the above grounds, and, of course, these were not intended by the contributors to be considered.

Among these latter, mention must be made of Mr. Robert Powell's excellent series of notes and information on model soldiers, and allied material. Mr. Peter Thornborough's magnificent drawings also did not constitute "an article", so we can extend only our thanks to Peter for his grand work. When one remembers that he is a student, the time taken on our behalf is all the more appreciated.

Deserving of extra special mention was Lt.Colonel Goldsmith's "THE SOLDIER AT TOWRANG", which covered precisely the sort of historical matter that we so keenly desire for inclusion in an Australian historical publication.

In the opinion of the Federal Council, Mr. P.A. Shaw's contribution, "A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE TENTH LIGHT HORSE" was very well presented, set up and documented, and it was decided after much consideration that it was deserving of the award for the year.

The trophy awarded by Federal Council was specially cast for us by Mr. Robert Powell, as mentioned elsewhere, and it took the form of an Australian Lighthorseman of the 1914-18 war in the Middle East. Dress comprises hat, singlet, breeches, leggings and boots, and the figure was inspired by the picture by W.O. David Barker "BUYING ORANGES, JAFFA", contained in the book "AUSTRALIA IN PALESTINE" opposite page 138.

Finished in bronze, mounted on an inscribed black metal base, this trophy makes an ideal and suitable award to commemorate the occasion.

The Federal Council looks forward to the issue of a similarly-appropriate award in the coming year.

Editor.

SIR RICHARD CHURCH AND THE IONIAN CORPS  
1810 - 1816

by Chris Halls.

Captain Richard Church<sup>1</sup> arrived at Zante, one of the Ionian Islands, as a member of the British expeditionary force, from Sicily.

The British troops consisted of the 35th Regiment of Foot, The Royal Corsican Rangers (in which Church held the rank of Captain), two companies of the 44th Foot, a few dragoons, and one company of Artillery; 2,500 men in all<sup>2</sup>. They sailed from Messina in Sicily in September 1809 to attack the French held Ionian Islands.

Zante was the expedition's first objective, and the French garrison, taken completely by surprise, surrendered immediately. Captain Church conducted the landing, and on 2nd October, 1809, he drew up the terms of surrender.<sup>3</sup>

Henceforth, until the cession of Corfu in 1814, Zante remained the headquarters of the British administration and centre of government in the Ionian Islands.

The islands of Cephalonia, Ithaca and Cerigo capitulated within a few days of the surrender of Zante.

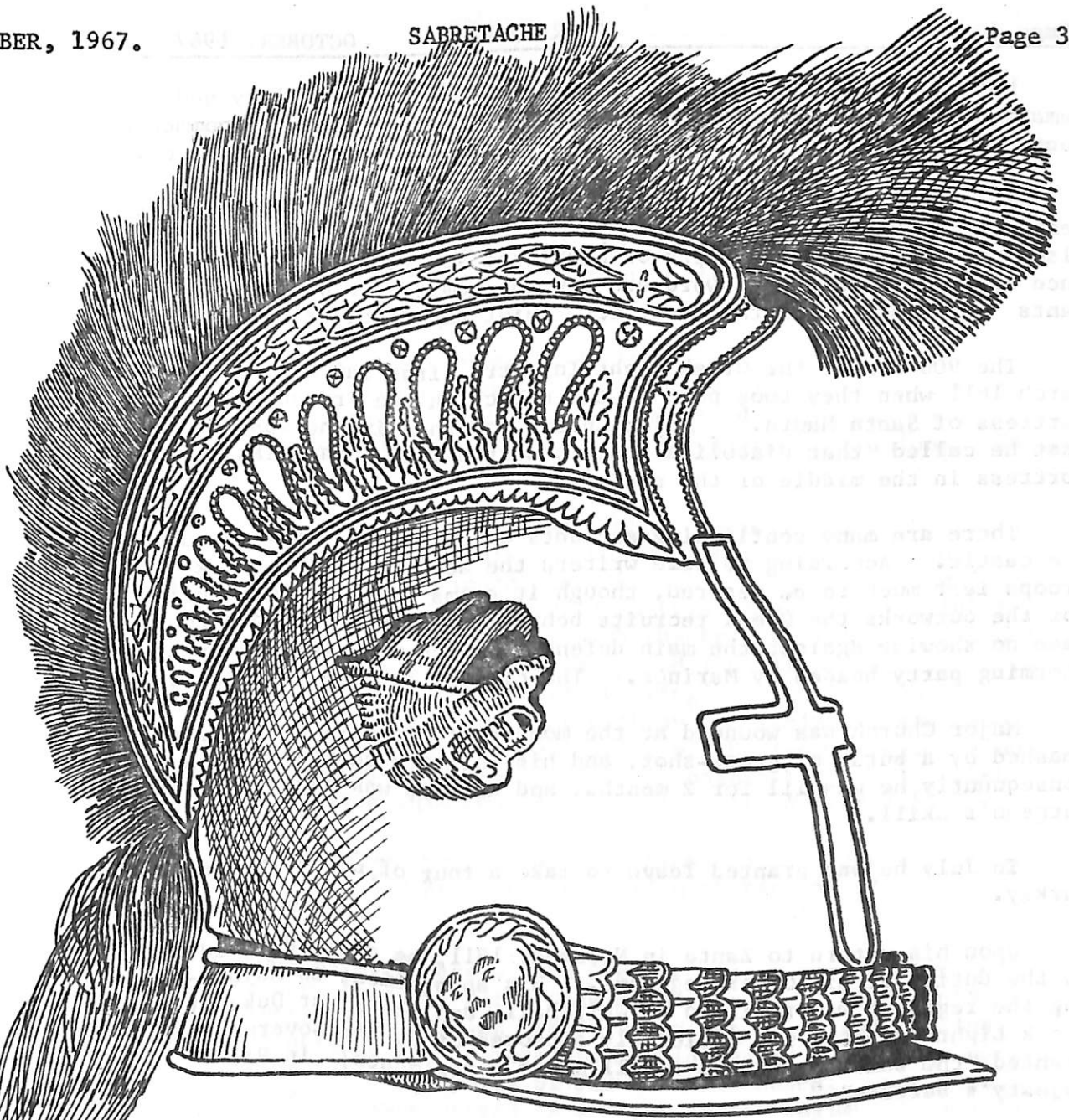
Captain Church, who had played an active part in the whole operation, then set to work collecting reports on the condition and resources of the islands. He also interviewed and interrogated Greek fishermen and refugees from the mainland to ascertain the proportion of Turks to Greeks on the adjacent coast. In a short time he had collected a great deal of extremely valuable information.

He also suggested the raising of a regiment of Greek troops to help garrison the four islands. This proposal was accepted with enthusiasm by Sir John Oswald, the British Commander.

The First Duke of York's Greek Light Infantry was raised in March 1810 and Richard Church was promoted by Sir John Stuart to the rank of Major commanding the new regiment which had a strength of ten companies. Engaged for five years the regiment was to serve in any part of Europe.

Throughout the year, Major Church was busily engaged with the recruitment and training of the Greek volunteers. These men were mainly Suliots from the mainland, who served under their own leaders commissioned into the British Army. They were a hardy breed of mountaineers, unruly and intense individualists, fierce and savage, but good fighters, and every man was a marksman.<sup>4</sup>

Young Major Church, then only 26 years of age, succeeded in turning them into disciplined soldiers.



1. THE HELMET OF GENERAL  
KOLOKOTRONIS.

Major-General Sir John Oswald commended Church's ability and remarked, "I am convinced that our [Greek] corps is but the commencement of a great plan for engaging numbers of Greeks in our service".

Major Church himself wrote at this time, "I have converted these men from the most lawless of mankind not only into good soldiers but also into praiseworthy members of civilised society. These men who once knew no law but the sword are now the admiration of the inhabitants [of Zante] for their correct, quiet and obedient conduct".<sup>5</sup>

The 900 men of the Greek Light Infantry first saw action in March 1811 when they took part in the attack on the French held fortress of Santa Maura.<sup>6</sup> Major Church led them in the assault on what he called "that diabolical castle seated like a magician's fortress in the middle of the sea".<sup>7</sup>

There are many conflicting accounts of the assault and capture of the castle. According to some writers the actions of the Greek troops left much to be desired, though it seems that in the fighting for the outworks the Greek recruits behaved well enough. But they made no showing against the main defences, which were carried by a storming party headed by Marines. The citadel fell on 16th April, 1811.

Major Church was wounded at the moment of victory. His sabre was smashed by a burst of grape-shot, and his left arm shattered by a bullet. Consequently he was ill for 2 months, and his arm was saved only by the surgeon's skill.

In July he was granted leave to make a tour of northern Greece and Turkey.

Upon his return to Zante in November 1811, he again devoted himself to the duties of his Greek regiment. His appointment as Major commanding the regiment was ratified by Whitehall, and the First Duke of York's Greek Light Infantry was officially approved of by the Government and granted "the same advantages as all other [regiments] in His Majesty's service".<sup>8</sup>

Major Church was confident that he could raise a force of six to eight thousand men from among the Greeks of the islands and adjacent mainland. Considerable enthusiasm had been aroused in Greece by the success of the first experiment, and numerous offers of support and assistance had come in from the Klepht Kapetans.<sup>9</sup>

Although Richard Church was suffering from a fever contracted during his tour of northern Greece, and his wound had not yet healed, he began to recruit for a second regiment. However, his ill health forced him to return to England in July 1812 for medical treatment.

On the occasion of his departure, the men of the Greek regiment presented him with a memorial in which they referred to him as "a zealous, benevolent and mild commander who had won them by affection from their own country to learn military science under his direction".<sup>10</sup>

In England, all the authorities concurred in admiration of Church's energy and tact. The Duke of York, Commander-in-Chief of the British Army, was fully impressed, and the recommendations of Sir John Stuart, Generals Campbell and Airey, and Colonels Bunbury and Torrens, induced the home authorities to waive the objections to his youth - he was then only 28 years old - and brief period of service and to create a special Second Lieutenant-Colonelcy expressly for him in the First Duke of York's Greek Light Infantry. Furthermore, the Duke of York fully supported Colonel Church's offer to raise another Greek regiment.

A despatch dated 29th June, 1813, from Lord Palmerston to Colonel Church gave the necessary permission and regulations for the raising of a second Greek regiment. This new regiment was to be officered by Greeks with the exception of the Lieutenant-Colonel and one British Captain.

Upon his departure from England, Church was entrusted by Lord Castlereagh with a political mission to Constantinople with orders to travel via Vienna.<sup>11</sup> At Vienna, Lord Cathcart gave him a commission (August 1813) to join General Nugent's Austrian Army in its drive to the Adriatic to open communications with the British fleet. Colonel Church wrote, "After communication is opened I shall proceed to Zante and return from thence to the continent bringing with me such troops as General Campbell may spare, together with my own regiment, and also leaving proper officers for the recruiting of the [new] regiment and the forwarding of them to us as speedily as possible ... I reckon upon good service from them even in an undisciplined state".<sup>12</sup>

The Austrians under Nugent captured Fiume on 26th August, 1813, and Church then left for Zante to draw off a contingent of troops for the Italian campaign.

The subsequent movements of the Greek regiment are rather confused. It seems, however, that the First Duke of York's Greek Light Infantry sailed from Zante late in August 1813, bound for Malta and Messina. Yet it appears strange that references to this period of foreign service are omitted from the biographies of Sir Richard Church. Nor does General Kolokotronis (who served as a Major in the regiment) make any mention in his Memoirs of overseas service.<sup>13</sup>

The only published references, known to the author, concerning this period of the regiment's history, are those contained in Hughes' book "Travels in Greece and Albania".

Hughes was at Messina from 12th August until 20th September, 1813, and he refers to having seen in that town: "men of a Greek regiment in the English service". He described them in the following picturesque passage: "Their martial air and stately walk, the contrast of their white kilt with the scarlet jacket, the buskins embossed with silver, the antique sabre, the helmet with its horse hair tuft and the sandy coloured locks flowing over their broad shoulders like the Abantes of antiquity ..." But Hughes also noted that "there was something of a savage, cunning and treacherous ferocity in their



2. Sir RICHARD CHURCH.

sparkling eyes and curling lips under their red moustachios, from which one naturally recoiled. It was found extremely difficult to subject these wild and lawless mountaineers, most of whom had exercised the profession of a robber, to the strict rules of European discipline: neither could they endure that kind of warfare which is in use amongst civilised nations, having been accustomed to ambushade and treachery".

In Hughes' next passage we may have the reason for the lack of published references to this period of their service. "Their rebellious spirit appeared not only at Malta where they looted a church, then seized a fort and fired on the garrison below, but also at Messina where they entered into an extensive conspiracy which had for its object the murder of their officers. Two of the ringleaders were shot during our residence."<sup>14</sup>

Stanley Lane-Poole writing in 1890 says that when Colonel Church was serving in Italy in 1816, he was accompanied by a corps of Greek volunteers.

Towards the close of 1817, Church departed from Naples for Apulia on his campaign against the brigands. He was furnished with a force of Neapolitan troops of various nationalities, "which was soon supplemented by a corps of his favourite Greeks."<sup>15</sup>

In September 1822, Colonel Church himself wrote concerning this enterprise "when in Apulia I formed a Greek regiment for the Neapolitan service, not only as a corps highly useful to the Government but in order to keep up communications with Greece and to continue the system of disciplining the Greeks and Albanians as much as possible towards the great work I had in view."<sup>16</sup> In this statement there is already an indication of Colonel Church's later career as Commander-in-Chief of the Greek Land Forces. It seems, however, that the Greek corps he formed for the Neapolitan service was made up of volunteers drawn from the First Duke of York's Greek Light Infantry when that regiment was disbanded in January 1816.

According to General Kolokotronis' Memoirs, each officer of the Duke of York's Greek Light Infantry received about 800 dollars upon disbandment.<sup>17</sup>

Colonel Church wrote, "These men returned home full of the desire to exercise the discipline they had acquired in the English service, for the liberation of their own country."<sup>18</sup>

Many of the later leaders of the Greek insurgents in their War of Independence (1821 - 1828) against the Turks, had in fact been among the recruits at Zante. The names of Kolokotronis, Valaeti, Vlacopoulo and Stratto all figure among the enrolments for the year 1810.



### The Greek Light Infantry.

This second Greek regiment was raised in May 1813, at Cephalonia. Four companies were raised and the regiment had a strength of 580 men with English staff and field officers. Engaged (like the first regiment) for a period of five years, the regiment was eligible for service anywhere in Europe.

The only action in which it took part was the capture of Paxo on 14th February, 1814.

In that same month, an armistice was concluded in Italy between Napoleon's Marshal Murat and the Allies. Colonel Church was sent to Naples to negotiate the situation of Corfu which was shortly afterwards surrendered to Britain.

The Greek Light Infantry was disbanded in October 1814 and in the following month, Colonel Church was called upon to report to the Congress of Vienna on the state of the Ionian Islands.

### Colonel Church and General Kolokotronis.

Colonel Church remained in Italy after the cessation of hostilities in Europe. He was undecided whether to return to England or throw in his lot with the Greeks in their struggle for independence.

General Kolokotronis wrote an impassioned personal appeal to Church for his help in the Greek cause.

"Napoli di Romania,  
24th September, 1826.

My soul has never been absent from you, - We, your old companions in arms - are fighting for our country - Greece, so dear to you! - that we may obtain our rights, as men and as a people, and our liberty - How has your soul been able to remain from us? I know your love for Greece increased in the same proportion as the respect and esteem of your old companions increases with regard to yourself. They all salute you most cordially and hope even now soon to obtain your co-operation. Come! Come! and take up arms for Greece or assist her with your talents, your virtues and your abilities, that you may claim her eternal gratitude!"<sup>19</sup>

This letter, perhaps more than the official appeals of the Greek Provisional Government finally persuaded Church, and he sailed for Greece in March 1827.

His later career as Archistrategos of the Greek Land Forces lies beyond the scope of this paper.

### General Kolokotronis and the Uniform of the Duke of York's Greek Light Infantry.

In his book "Costumes of the Army of the British Empire" (1815) Colonel Hamilton Smith has one uniform plate showing the dress worn by privates of the Greek Light Infantry Regiment. The uniform,

modelled on the Suliot costume, approximates to that worn today by the Evzone or Royal Guard of the Greek Army.

The privates are depicted wearing a close fitting cap with no peak but with a brass badge in front. The scarlet jacket has cuffs of the facing colour, green, and is bound with the same as is the waistcoat. A white shirt with a turndown collar is worn which hangs below the jacket to above the knees where it meets white knickerbockers. Below the breeches are red stockings gartered black with soft leather shoes coming to the ankle. They were armed with flint-lock carbines having black slings. No bayonets were issued. A black waistbelt carried on the left side a short cross-hilted sword in a frog and a pistol in an open black holster on the right. A black pouch belt hung over the left shoulder with a flask cord of facing colour attached to a white powder horn on top of the pouch.<sup>20</sup>

Little seems to be recorded concerning the uniform worn by the officers of this regiment.

When we come to consider the uniform worn by the earlier and more interesting Duke of York's Greek Light Infantry we find very little information is available.

A portrait of "Sir Richard Church in Greek dress" is reproduced as a frontispiece to E.M. Church's biography entitled "An Adventurous Life". In this portrait Sir Richard Church is shown wearing what has been described as "a ceremonial uniform based on classical armour with a helmet with tails, a cuirass and greaves."<sup>21</sup> It has been presumed that the uniform is that of a General in the Greek Army. The date of the portrait is unfortunately not known, and while it depicts Sir Richard Church as a fairly young man, it is still possible that he was in fact in his early forties when it was painted - he was made a General of the Greek Army at the age of 43. There is, however, a strong possibility that the "Greek dress" worn by Sir Richard in the abovementioned portrait is in fact an officer's uniform of the First Duke of York's Greek Light Infantry.

The Kolokotronis statue in Athens provides interesting evidence in this connection.<sup>22</sup> This dramatic equestrian bronze statue shows General Kolokotronis resplendent in crested helm, a cuirass and greaves, Suliot shirt and jacket. In short, he is depicted wearing the same uniform as Sir Richard Church in his portrait. Both Sir Richard Church and Kolokotronis held the rank of General in the Greek Army, so we may have here a General's uniform based on Greek or rather Suliot national dress, plus armour and crested helm. However, both men also were officers in the First Duke of York's Greek Light Infantry, and the uniform mentioned is remarkably similar to that described by Hughes as worn by "the men of a Greek regiment in the English service", which he saw in Messina in August/September 1813. The soldiers seen by Hughes can only have belonged to the Duke of York's Greek Light Infantry, in which Kolokotronis served as a Major.

Hughes described their uniform as consisting of a helmet with horse hair tuft, silver embossed buskins (boots), a scarlet jacket and white Suliot kilt.

It appears therefore that, while Kolokotronis certainly wore the uniform depicted in his statue as General of the Greek Army, he had also worn it as Major in the First Duke of York's Greek Light Infantry, with the possible difference that the great helmet crest of his General's uniform was his own innovation. The "horse hair tuft" mentioned by Hughes does not accurately describe the great crest, but on the other hand, the helmet of Kolokotronis preserved in the National Historical Museum at Athens on close examination definitely shows workmanship of a type and quality not available in Greece at the time when Kolokotronis acquired the helmet. It is however typical of British officers' equipment of the time.

These two pieces of evidence cannot be reconciled, and in the absence of further data it must remain an open question whether the type of helmet worn by both Sir Richard Church and General Kolokotronis was the regulation type worn by officers of the First Duke of York's Greek Light Infantry, or an innovation by Kolokotronis.

Military authorities in Greece, including the present General (rtd.) Kolokotronis, have assured the author that the costume worn by the first General Kolokotronis was one of his own design. This may refer to his adding the great helmet crest to the officers' dress of the First Duke of York's Greek Light Infantry, but it is also possible that Sir Richard Church, when forming that regiment, designed the uniform on the advice of Kolokotronis and other Suliot leaders who wished to continue wearing their national dress while serving in a British regiment.

At any rate, this uniform had been officially approved as that of a British regiment, and was then used with little or no alteration, but with Greek badges, as that of a General of the Greek Army.

There are no badges visible in the portrait of Sir Richard Church, but it may well be the case that he is in fact wearing a British military uniform.

#### NOTES AND SOURCES

1. Sir Richard Church (1784-1873) of Quaker Irish descent, was commissioned into the 13th Foot (Somerset Light Infantry) in 1800. He served throughout Abercrombie's Egyptian campaign of 1801. Obtained a Lieutenancy in the 37th Foot (Hampshire Regiment) in 1803; gazetted Captain in the Royal Corsican Rangers in 1806. He fought at Capri in 1808 and at the battle of Maida on 4th July, 1809. Appointed Assistant Quartermaster General and Chief of Staff to Sir John Oswald, he took part in the occupation of the Ionian Islands in 1809. 1815 - 1822 he served as General in the Neapolitan Army. He was made Knight Commander of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order in March 1822. He went to Greece in 1827 and was appointed General at a critical stage in the war when the Greek Army was rent by dissension and irresolution. He rallied the Greek forces and under his generalship the war was brought to a successful conclusion. After the war he was treated rather shabbily by the Greek Government and retired in 1843. Richard Church died in Athens in 1873.

2. According to E.M. Church, Tylden gives the figure of 1,800 men of all ranks.
3. The French occupation of the Ionian Islands resulted from the capitulation of Venice to the armies of Napoleon in 1797. These islands were strategically important because they commanded the coast of Epirus and the entrance to the Corinthian Gulf. By occupying them, Britain frustrated French ambitions in the Morea (Pelopennese) and denied them the use of Cerigo as a base for privateers.
4. These Greek volunteers were mainly Klephts and former Armatoli, the former were brigands who because of their resistance to Turkish authority were considered patriots; the latter were members of the Christian Albanian gendarmerie, raised and armed by the Turks in order to restrain their Muslim countrymen. After 1739 the Turkish Government considered that the Armatoli were politically unreliable and gradually disbanded the corps. Fearing persecution many Armatoli fled to the Ionian Islands.
5. Church, E.M., An Adventurous Life, London, 1895, p.19.
6. According to E.M. Church; Tylden however gives the strength of the new regiment at 548 men, while Stanley Lane-Poole gives a figure of 950 men.
7. Lane-Poole, S., Sir Richard Church, London 1890, p.26.
8. Op. cit., p.27.
9. Klepht Kapetans were the leaders of bands of Greek brigands who lived in the mountainous regions of Greece and preyed on their own people almost as much as upon the Turks.
10. Op. cit., p. 28.
11. There seem to be no published details of his political mission.
12. Op. cit., p. 32.
13. Stanley Lane-Poole says (p.20) that no troops were available for service outside the Ionian Islands. General Kolokotronis in his Memoirs states: "Whatever foreign service I had before entered into, I only entered it upon these conditions: that I was never to be sent far from the Ionian Islands, never to fight except upon Turkish ground and never to lay aside my national dress". (p.127). Nor does Major Tylden refer to the overseas service of this regiment.
14. Hughes. T.S. (rev.), Travels in Greece and Albania, Vol I London, 1830, pp. 148. 149.
15. Lane-Poole, S., Sir Richard Church, London, 1890, p. 40.

16. Apparently Colonel Church already saw himself as the "Liberator of Greece", a title he was to earn later in the struggle of 1821 - 1828.
17. Tertzetis, G., Kolokotronis, Klepht and Warrior, English Translation, London. p. 126
18. Church, E.M., An Adventurous Life, London, 1895, p. 308.
19. Tertzetis, G., Kolokotronis, Klepht and Warrior, English Translation, London. p. 47.
20. Tylden, G. (Major), Sir Richard Church K.C.H. and the Greek Light Infantry, in the Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research, 1963, pp. 160, 161.
21. Tylden, G. (Major), op. cit., p. 161.
22. Theodore Kolokotronis was a Suliote chief. In 1806 he was driven out of Greece and fled to Zante. He served as Captain and Major in the Ionian Corps [Duke of York's Greek Light Infantry] raised by Sir Richard Church in 1810. At the beginning of the revolution he returned to Greece. In 1821 his troops stormed Karytana and Tripolitza, annihilating the entire Muslim population. On 1st March, 1822, he was appointed General of the Greek Army. In the following year, while he was holding this rank, he revolted against the Government and as a result he was imprisoned, but was restored to power when Egyptian-Turkish forces invaded the Morea in 1827.

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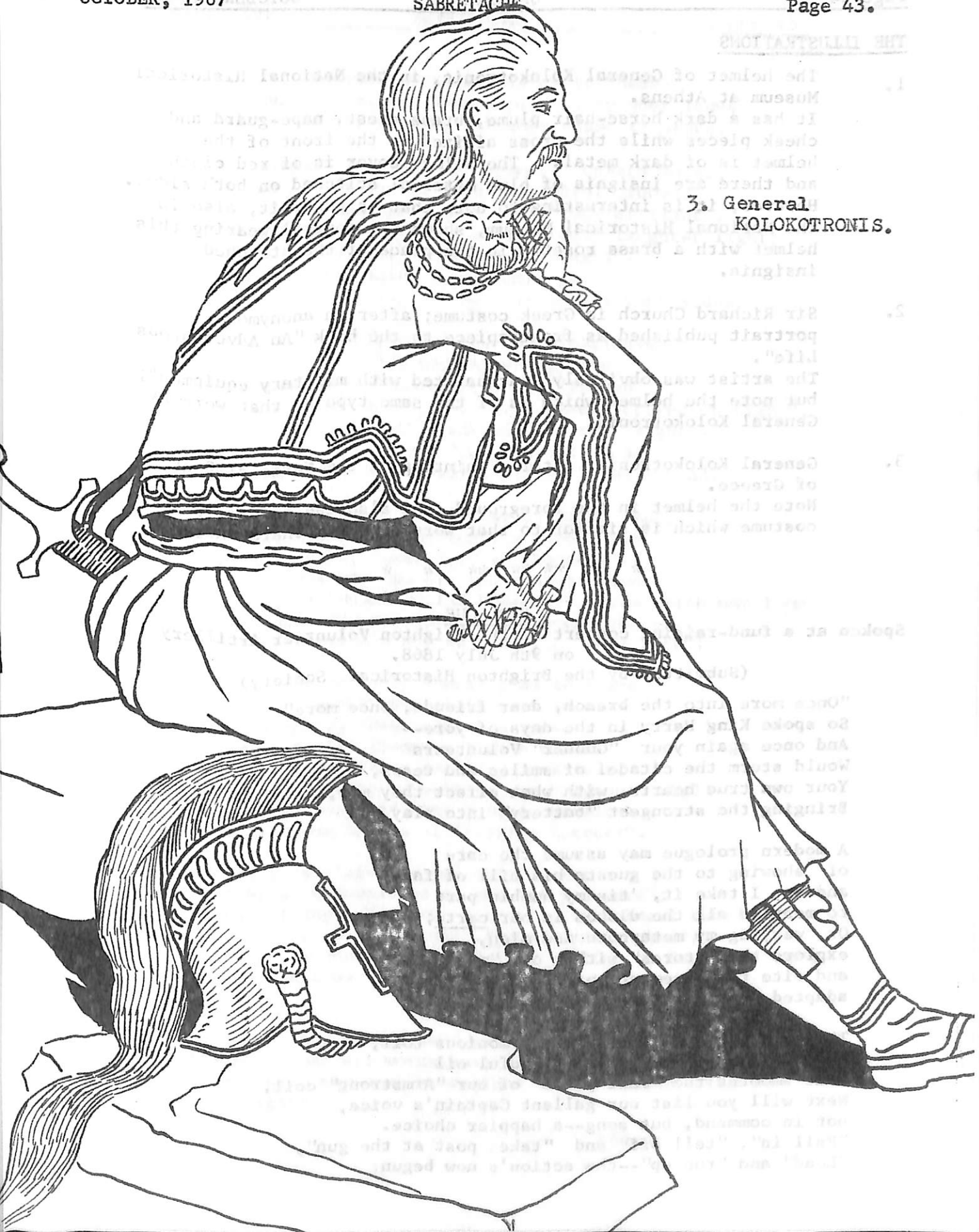
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| Hughes, T.S. (Rev.) | <u>Travels in Greece and Albania</u> , Vol I, London, 1830   |
| Lane-Poole, S.      | <u>Sir Richard Church</u> , London, 1890.  |
| Tertzetis, G.       | <u>Kolokotronis, Klepht and Warrior</u> , English Translation, London.   |
| Tylden, G. (Maj.)   | <u>Sir Richard Church, K.C.H. and the Greek Light Infantry 1810 - 1816</u> , in the <u>Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research</u> , London, 1963. |
|                     | Contains one illustration showing the privates' uniform of the Greek Light Infantry.   |

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Curator and staff of the National Historical Museum, Athens.  
 Mrs. J. Rabnett of the British School of Archaeology, Athens.  
 D.W. King, Chief Librarian, Ministry of Defence Library,  
 Whitehall, London.

THE ILLUSTRATIONS

3. General  
KOLOKOTRONIS.



THE ILLUSTRATIONS

1. The helmet of General Kolokotronis, in the National Historical Museum at Athens.  
It has a dark horse-hair plume, brass crest, nape-guard and cheek pieces while the cross affixed to the front of the helmet is of dark metal. The helmet-cover is of red cloth and there are insignia of blue material stitched on both sides. However, it is interesting to note that a portrait, also in the National Historical Museum, shows the general wearing this helmet with a brass rosette in the place of the stitched insignia.
2. Sir Richard Church in Greek costume; after an anonymous portrait published as frontispiece to the book "An Adventurous Life".  
The artist was obviously unacquainted with military equipment; but note the helmet which is of the same type as that worn by General Kolokotronis.
3. General Kolokotronis; after a painting in the National Bank of Greece.  
Note the helmet in the foreground, and also the general's costume which is similar to that worn by Sir Richard Church.

\* \* \*\* \*\* \* \*

PROLOGUE.

Spoken at a fund-raising concert of the Brighton Volunteer Artillery  
on 9th July 1868.

(Submitted by the Brighton Historical Society)

"Once more into the breach, dear friends, once more"  
So spoke King Harry in the days of yore--  
And once again your "Gunner" Volunteers  
Would storm the citadel of smiles and tears,  
Your own true hearts, with what effect they may,  
Bringing the strongest "battery" into play.

A modern prologue may assume the care  
of showing to the guests his bill of fare  
and so, I take it, 'tis my humble part  
to mention all the dishes in our carte;  
Or, varying my metaphore and mien,  
explore the "stores" within our "magazine"  
and cite the movements of Artillery "still",  
adapted to our forty-pounder drill.

The skilled musicians' art, harmonious toil,  
may well be likened to the needful oil  
that smooths the "vent-piece" of our "Armstrong" coil.  
Next will you list our gallant Captain's voice,  
not in command, but song--a happier choice.  
"Fall in", "tell off" and "take post at the gun",  
"Load" and "run up"--the action's now begun:

And See! Moorabbin Choral stands to "heave"  
with music-rolé, not "hand-spiked", by your leave;  
"Hält", and the concert net they cease to weave.

The "sponge" is down, the "rammer" upward moves,  
the "shell" is forced into the spiral grooves:  
Ah! 'tis no "common" shell, for, "muster-tight",  
'twill burst, and you'll explode with laughter light;  
the comic shell is "Theodore H. Dwight".  
Unlike his namesake, Abyssinians guide,  
who split up heads, he only splits your sides.

Now "seven" supplies the "lubricating-wad",  
admire the graceful action and applaud,  
our Legislative Councillor's not "abroad".  
The "cartridge home", the "vent-piece screwed up tight",  
"Lower", "trail left", adjusted is the "sight".  
"Ready" and "fire" and "independent round"--.  
What think you of the way we first break ground?

But, lo! the champions on the platform met,  
with martial pose, and warlike ardour set,  
exulting in the "exercise" of "bayonet"--  
Ah, no! this may not be; the want of room,  
in fact, a "room" styled "orderly", from which may loom  
our "Standard", rob us of the bayonet shock,--  
O for persuasion's key to open the "dead lock"!

'Twere long to tell, though glad to trace  
the other "shots" you still must face,--  
our ivy green, tenacious as a rock,  
great as Josias (Somerset) in a smock;  
Our light comedians, sounding as a bell,  
why, they, perforce, must be our "segment" shell  
to scatter puns and many a fond conceit  
from the snug depths of "Pipkins Retreat".

My drill is o'er--may you ne'er refer  
tonight's performances to the "as you were";  
"Cease firing", "replace stores", "detachment rear",  
and "limber up"; now raise the deafening cheer;  
"Charge", gunners, "charge"; "on", Brighton Gunners, "on",  
are the last words I speak to mar-my-own.

The above words are from a hand-written original, and although  
it is believed that all words have been correctly deciphered,  
the odd one which may seem mysterious to the reader COULD be  
misquoted slightly.

Editor.



SOME INTERESTING BRITISH ARMY UNITS.

The ANNUAL ARMY LIST AND MILITIA LIST of 1856 (Major Henry G. Hart's) lists at the rear some interesting regimental names. These are:-

*SAME JOURNAL*

*ARTICLES*

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1st Light Dragoons        | 2nd Light Dragoons        |
| 1st Hussars               | 2nd Hussars               |
| 3rd Hussars               | 1st Light Infantry        |
| 2nd Light Infantry        | 1st Battalion of the Line |
| 2nd Battalion of the Line | 3rd "                     |
| 4th "                     | 5th "                     |
| 6th "                     | 7th "                     |
| 8th "                     | Artillery                 |
| Engineers                 | Staff                     |

THE GERMAN LEGION.MISCELLANEOUS CORPS

- |                             |                          |                                  |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Brunswick Cavalry           | <i>Duke of Brunswick</i> | Brunswick Infantry x             | <i>SAME</i>        |
| Chasseurs Britanniques ✓    | <i>160</i>               | Royal Corsican Rangers ✓         | <i>Dec 63 P210</i> |
| Dillon's Regiment ✓         | <i>Saragossa</i>         | Greek Light Infantry             | <i>Vol. 141</i>    |
| 161 Royal Malta Regiment x  | <i>Oct 67</i>            | Meuron's Regiment ✓              |                    |
| 127 Roll's Regiment ✓       | <i>134</i>               | Sicilian Regiment x              |                    |
| 145 Watteville's Regiment ✓ | <i>155</i>               | York Light Infantry Volunteers ✓ |                    |
| Foreign Veteran Battalion x | <i>152</i>               | Foreign Corps of Wagoners ✓      |                    |

It would be interesting to have details of dress, insignia, brief details of service, etc. of these units. Can any member help?

Editor.

MEMBER IN SOUTH EAST ASIA.

Syd McDonald writes from overseas to send his greetings to his collector friends in the Society. Syd seems to be in good health and spirits since his arrival, and says that there is much to be seen. He reports that there is quite a variety of locally produced insignia available, so he presumably is "having a ball" in his off-duty hours. He would like to hear from collector friends who may care to write. His address is:

53061 Cpl. S.C. McDonald  
110 Sig. Sqn., AFPO 3  
C/- G.P.O., SYDNEY, N.S.W.

Latest news is that he may return home about February.

IN THE NEWS:WEDGE FORMATION

In the Melbourne paper "THE AGE" of 17th August, there appears a picture that will interest many students of tactics. It shows troops of the Pennsylvania National Guard with bayonets fixed and in wedge formation, moving across a field as they train in riot control techniques. A military tactic dating back to antiquity, this is another proof of the hackneyed old saying "nothing under the sun is new".

MILITARY MINIATURES

By R.A. Powell.

*also SAHP  
Vol. XLI*

THE SABRETACHE TROPHY For some years I have had an ambition to model an Australian Light Horse figure that was different from the usual parade ground type of model - I wanted my figure to typify a type of man - and an outlook on life, rather than just to depict a uniform. As with so many such ambitions, it is likely that I would have mulled this over and procrastinated for years had the society committee not forced my hand by asking for a special figure to be made up for the Sabretache trophy. The request was for a figure of a uniquely Australian military type, and the whole thing had to be completed in a month. So this was it - my Light Horseman was launched. The result was the model of a raw boned Australian in typical state of 'undress' uniform seen so often in photographs of the famous desert column in Palestine 1917. The committee is happy and I have achieved an ambition of long standing.

AUGUST MODEL FIGURE MEETING. Once again the bi-annual meeting of figure collectors resident in the Melbourne area was held at my home on the afternoon of the first Sunday in August. Some 9 collectors attended and apologies were received from Andrew Morris, and Jack Strickland both of whom were working, and Lewis Evans who had a military commitment. Ivan Lock displayed his rapidly growing collection of Imperial German figures and some recently acquired Historex figures of French marshals. I displayed some recently painted figures including a trooper of Adelaide Lancers from the newly released range of locally made figures announced in the last issue of Sabretache.

A great deal of interest was expressed in the pipe band of the Gordon Highlanders 1913 made up of Britain's figures beautifully repainted by Andrew Morris.

Alan Puttock put on a very large display of British and French cavalry in action at Waterloo, all of which were converted Airfix cavalry. The ingenuity shown in the conversion of these figures has to be seen to be believed. Alan says he tries to convert and paint 3 mounted figures a night - even at this rate his display of some hundred of massed cavalry must have taken a long time to complete.

As at the past meetings, the day was voted a resounding success. Our next meeting is scheduled for February 1968 at Ted Tomlin's Seaford home. We hope to have some 35 mm colour slides of Geoff Barnes collection to show on that occasion.

NEW FIGURES AND BOOKS. In the previous issue I stated that the Australian figures now marketed by Mr. Wiseman were modelled by that gentleman. I have now to correct that statement. I am informed that the figures are modelled by Mr. John Sykes of Sydney.

Mr. Frank Thornborough has received the Stadden-made British cavalry figures of 1750 mentioned in the last issue. These are Cavalry officer 1750, Private gentleman horse guards 1751, Horse grenadier 1751, Dragoon 1751. All of these castings are of the usual high standard we expect from this maker.

Stadden has recently added a most aristocratic looking Boer farmer to what is now a fair range of Boer war figures issued by British makers.

Further recent Stadden figures include:-

British Army 1815.

Infantry Drum Major (cocked hat)

" Fifer service dress.

" Pioneer service dress.

British Army c. 1750

Negro trumpeter of life guards.

General Wolfe.

The '45.

Duke of Cumberland.

Bonnie Prince Charlie.

Scottish clansman in kilt.

" " " breeches.

W. Zweguintzow of 15 Rue Arthur Petit, 78 Viroflay (Yvelines) France has advised me of the issue by his house of several books of particular interest to model figure collectors.

"The Russian Army - Part 1, 1700-1762" Uniforms, structure, detailed strength of units - brief description of tactics and formations. Principal battles of the period and listing of regiments present.

A descriptive bilingual text book (Russian and French) and 67 plates in black and white. Part 1 begins with the creation of the regular army and ends with the accession of Catherine II. 100 copies are to be issued of which 45 are reserved. Part II, 1763-1800 is in preparation. Price. 100 French Francs, plus 2 francs postage.

Towards the end of 1967 a translation into French (original in Russian) of Mr. Zweguintzow's "Uniforms of the Russian Army 1914" will be issued.

Also persons interested in a possible reprint of 'Flags and Standards of the Russian Army from XVIth century to 1914' are requested to make themselves known to Mr. Zweguintzow.

Mr. L. Blandford of 24 Linton Crescent, Hastings, Sussex has published 'Combat Uniforms of the German Forces, W W II' price 10/-. This consists of 6 pages each containing 5 figures. Many of the lesser known uniforms are shown including S.S. troops, Herman Goering Regt. Poncho, Mountain overall, Camouflage jackets etc.

GLIMPSES OF THE BRITISH REGIMENTS IN AUSTRALIA  
AND SOME OF THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS

A talk given by Lt.Col. P.V. Vernon E.D., on  
20th April, 1967.

The influence of the military on the development of Australia is, of course, vast. It could form the subject of a sizeable work by a qualified historian. But I am not in the class to deal with it fully. My limit is to obtain some of the fruits of research done by others and find interest and enjoyment in that. Therefore, tonight let us take a quick look at the service units that came here, some of the conditions they encountered, some of their achievements in a very wide range of endeavour.

SOURCES -

Australian Encyclopaedia.

A talk, given by Mr. M.H. Ellis to the R. A. H. S., titled  
British Military Regiments in Australia.

Other writings by Mr. Ellis.

Short History of the Military Forces in N.S.W. from 1788 to 1953.

A talk on John Macarthur given by Dr. Harold Norrie to the R.A.H.S.

Articles by Brig. M. Austin, Lt.-Col. R. Vardanega, Mr. T.G. Parsons.  
N.S.W. Calendar and Post Office Directory.

Owing to limitation of time I shall be dealing only with events in N.S.W.

Now, in general, what were the military bodies that came here? First came the Marines, 211 of them under Major Robert Rose. They were relieved by the N.S.W. Corps, a regiment raised specially for service here and therefore somewhat dissimilar from the Line regiments, which came afterwards - 24 of them, two having two tours of duty here, so you may say there were 26 tours of duty by Line regiments.

Most Australians know little of these units, despite their part in the colonising and developing of our continent. This is what Mr. Ellis says:- "Now the real fact is that, far from sending us only a few convict guards as most people seem to believe, the British Government despatched to this country, between 1809 and 1870, the very flower of the British infantry for the defence of Australasia. It sent us regiments fresh from the great battles of the Napoleonic era and officers whose names live in the histories of most of the dominions and colonies, as well as in those of our own; in the histories, also, of the Indian and Napoleonic wars of the eighteenth and beginning of the nineteenth centuries."

Most regiments detailed for Australian duty were sent here generally fresh, or almost fresh, from long periods of active service overseas. Whatever the reason, this fact was all to the benefit of this country. Australia needed tough men, and they were certainly tough, adventurous, bold, adaptable and competent as well.

Mr. Ellis puts the average number of Line regiments in the period 1809-1870 at 69, so you will see that, as 24 were here, over one third of them sampled life in Australia. Colonel Vardanega, in his paper on Victoria Barracks presented to the Royal Aust. Historical Society in 1963, says that the battle honours and service records of the British regiments which were accommodated there read like the index of a history book, and the same remark could apply to the whole range of regiments which were here from 1809. I quote a few of those battle honours:-

Jamaica	1773	Holland and Ireland	1793
North America	1773	Corsica	1793
Gibraltar	1784	Elba	1796
Portugal	1797	Turkey, Gallipoli &	
Minorca	1799	the Crimea	1854
Egypt	1801	Salamanca	
Copenhagen	1807	Nivelle	
Spain	1808	Nive	
New Zealand	1834	Ortes	
India	1841	Toulouse	
		Peninsula	

- to quote just a few.

Let us take the Marines. The Marines, who were not "Royal" when serving here as they did not receive that title until 1802, were soldiers trained for sea service and to serve the guns on warships. Three companies came with Governor Phillip, 212 all ranks. At the end of the term of foreign service, 3 Years, NCO's and privates could return for discharge in England or be discharged in the Colony and be permitted to settle here.

The office of Lieutenant Governor was conferred on their C. O., Major Ross. For roughly fifty years the senior military commander was to hold this post.

The "Short History of the Military Forces in N.S.W., 1788-1953" mentions some of the conditions under which the Marines lived while stationed here. The ration, when available, consisted of 7lb. of bread or flour, 7lb. of beef when on hand - more often than not the beef was substituted by 4lb. of pork -- 3lb. of peas, 6 oz. of butter, ½lb. of rice, issued to each man every seven days. The wives of the Marines received two-thirds of this allowance and the children one-third, although the child's ration was later increased to half that of a grown man. However, this ration was not always available. Inadequate storehouses allowed rats and other pests to consume substantial quantities of the food, while further stores were destroyed by indifferent packing during the voyage from England, and no small amount was lost by pilfering. On 1st November, 1789, the full ration was reduced by one-third.

Not only were rations in short supply in the new colony, but clothing and footwear were unprocurable and the inhospitable nature of the country had soon reduced the reserve stocks until replacements were no longer available.

It was under these deplorable conditions that the Marines had to perform their many tasks in connection with the policing and supervision of the 600 male and 180 female convicts who had arrived with the First Fleet. Besides these tasks the Marines had to assist in the erection of barracks and buildings, the construction of roads, and even in the farming of lands in a desperate endeavour to establish the new colony.

The first British defences on Australian soil - as distinct from La Perouse's stockade at Botany Bay - were erected by Lieutenant William Dawes, in the form of a redoubt on the eastern side of Sydney Cove.

William Dawes (c. 1758-1836), a soldier and scientist, joined the Marines in 1779 as a 2nd Lieut., volunteered for service in the expedition to N.S.W., and was attached to the Marines in HMS Sirius. In July 1788 he was transferred to the Marine force on guard duty in place of 2nd Lieut. Wm. Collins who was invalided home. Dawes had primarily come here to be in charge of observations of a planet. He acted as engineer officer, designing defences for the port of Sydney. He had some knowledge of surveying and laid out both Sydney and Parramatta. In 1789 and 1790 he led exploration expeditions across the Nepean to the mountains.

His scientific ardour and his humanitarian principles, which in N.S.W. drove him into technical mutiny, were qualities uncommon among soldiers of the early settlement. Having quarrelled with Governor Phillip, he returned to England at the end of 1791.

In September, 1788, eight of HMS Sirius' 6-pr guns were landed on the west side of the Cove and a small breastwork was thrown up in front of them. At the end of 1790 plans were prepared for a proper fortification on Dawes Point, although it was not until July 1791 that the work was commenced.

Meanwhile, the Navy and the Marines were carrying out some exploration.

On 22 April, 1788, Phillip with 11 officers and men went out to search for a large river which he presumed would be found at the rising of the mountains. In the event they did not reach it because their provisions ran out.

On 26 June, 1788, Captain-Lieutenant Watkin Tench (who was to become a lieut.-general in 1821), accompanied by Arndell, the assistant surgeon of the settlement, Lowes, surgeon's mate of the Sirius, two Marines and a convict, wandering westward from Rose Hill, discovered what Phillip named the Nepean River, after Evan Nepean, Under-Secretary to the Home Department and in charge of the colonies.

The Hunter River and site of Newcastle were discovered by Lieut. John Shortland, R.N. while in search of escaped convicts. As a matter of fact, he only re-discovered the Hunter, for escaped convicts had been at the mouth of that river in 1791

The Marines were relieved during 1790-91-92 by the N.S.W. Corps, commanded by Major Francis Grose, which regiment had been raised in 1789 especially for service in this colony. It was embodied on 24 May, 1789 (SHMF) and three companies were raised. In 1792 a fourth company was raised in N.S.W. from Marine volunteers and officered by a captain and two lieutenants from the Marines.

During its period of service in N.S.W., the Corps, particularly its officers, came in for considerable criticism, due mainly to the fact (SHMF) that it participated in the traffic of rum and quarreled consistently with the Governor of the time.

Mr. Ellis thinks the Corps was maligned to an undeserved extent. In a talk given to the RAHS he said:- "The despised N.S.W. Corps, which was not so much to be despised in fact, has a record of pioneering which would be remarkable in any land. We see in our geography the names of its members everywhere - Grose Valley, Macarthur Street, Foveaux Street, Johnston Street, Paterson River, Cox River, Mount Lawson, Point Piper, Belmont, Minchinbury, Laycock Street, Rowley Street, and many more."

His note in the Aust, Encyclopaedia says:- "While it has been said that, because of the method by which the Corps was raised - mainly on a bonus system - and the kind of service for which enlisted, the Regiment could scarcely be expected to be of the first quality; but in fact the method of enlistment was the normal one employed at that time. The Corps contained men who, as agriculturists, pastoralists, explorers and naturalists, contributed greatly to the Australian development in these fields. Governors Hunter and King both had praise for the Corps".

Mr. T.G. Parsons, University of Sydney, does not agree with Mr. Ellis. See his very interesting article in the Journal of the R.A.H.S., titled "The Social Composition of the Men of the N.S.W. Corps". Governor Hunter believed that the Corps was "composed of soldiers from the Savoy (military prison) and other characters who have been considered as disgraceful to every other regiment in His Majesty's service". Mr. Ellis, in his book on John Macarthur, describes the men of the Corps as of average quality of any normal regiment raised for overseas service at the time". Mr. Parsons' article is to examine the accuracy of these judgments by a study of War Office records and other sources, and by using the sampling technique to arrive at a reasonably accurate picture of the social composition of the Corps.

Time and space do not permit one to follow the article right through just now, but toward the end Mr. Parsons states: "There were at least 50 former prisoners from the Savoy in the Corps by 1807, and the number is probably closer to 100. In September, 1807, there is little doubt that 25% of the N.S.W. Corps was composed of the criminal strata of the British population and the majority of the remaining recruits were little better".

Bear in mind that some soldiers elected to serve in the N.S.W. Corps for life, rather than be imprisoned in the Savoy.

Brigadier Austin, in an article in the Journal a year later, took issue with Mr. Parsons and claimed he had not yet proved his case. He thinks that any final judgment of the men of the Corps must wait until a very thorough examination is made of other regiments over the same period of time, together with studies of conditions of the time, civil and military. A great many officers and a great many men passed through the N.S.W. Corps. Some of them, through their deeds, are known to us, but many are not. To use Brigadier Austin's illustration, when you get a dozen eggs the one which is rotten stinks to high heaven and this is the one which remains in your memory and possibly causes you to change your grocer. But what of the other eleven? There are "bad eggs" in any army, ancient or modern, and they are usually well documented and consequently well known.

So who am I to attempt to sum up the quality of the regiment known to us at 'the Rum Corps'?

The Corps' first years in N.S.W. were relatively tranquil. Between the departure of Governor Phillip (Dec. 1792) and the arrival of Governor Hunter (Sept. 1795), its commanders, Grose and Paterson, administered the settlement, which in that time made considerable progress, becoming independent of outside sources for its grain supplies (Encycl.). This was due almost solely to the Corps' officers who began, on Home Government orders, to receive land grants and to farm them in Feb. 1793, under the leadership of John Macarthur who, as Inspector of Public Works, superintended agricultural matters. The presence of the Corps made possible the extension of settlement to the Hawkesbury, where the natives were unfriendly.

Also, during the period of government by the Corps' officers just mentioned, there was marked improvement in public health, due largely to closer discipline and the augmenting of food supplies.

It was the officers, primarily Foveaux and Macarthur, who began the development of the livestock industry in private hands.

(Still from the Encycl.) - It was the officers, also, who in 1792 initiated the overseas trade of the Colony. Led by Grose and Macarthur they formed a syndicate to charter a vessel to purchase food, comforts, livestock and spirits at the Cape of Good Hope for division among members of the Corps.

It may be noted that Governor King on several occasions emphasised his approval of the men of this Corps and wrote on 1 March, 1802, :- "the utmost order of regularity has uniformly prevailed amongst the NCOs and privates" (SHMF).

The Battle of Vinegar Hill on 4th March, 1804, with which you will doubtless be familiar, gave a small portion of the Corps a chance to prove its military efficiency. There is an account of this incident by J.H.M. Abbott in which he tells of Major Johnston's part, including the following:



"With 2 officers, 2 sergeants and 52 rank and file, Major Johnston set out from the old barracks in Lower George Street (Sydney) at 1.30 a.m. and reached Parramatta a little after 4 o'clock. This is good going along a road that was only a rough cart track--the distance is about 45 miles -- and in the uncomfortable uniforms of the day, with their throttling leather stocks. After twenty minutes rest Johnston divided his forces and set off in pursuit of the rebels. By nightfall his detachment, at any rate, must have marched more than forty (40) miles bathrough half the night and a hot next day."

Among the explorer members of the Rum Corps, perhaps the most notable in history, are Paterson, Barrallier and Lawson.

William Paterson (1755-1810), Lieutenant Governor of N.S.W., was born in Scotland and was interested in botany. He made several expeditions in South Africa. After serving in the 98th and 73rd Regiments, he obtained in 1789 a captaincy in the N.S.W. Corps. He took part in various expeditions in N.S.W. - in the Blue Mountains and the Hunter River District.

Francis Barrallier, an ensign in the N.S.W. Corps, made two expeditions into the interior. He travelled 147 miles into the mountain country, piercing Burragorang Valley to a point almost exactly as far west as Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth reached eleven years later. It was an inspiring feat; the route he took was probably rougher than his successors took, he had no horses, and there did not then exist the knowledge which enabled the Blaxland party to secure a guide to lead them up the eastern slopes of the range and put them on top of the watershed. After his service here he served in the 33rd Foot and is remembered in military annals as an engineer, in which role his crowning achievement must be the erection of Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square.

William Lawson (1774-1820), pioneer official and explorer, joined the N.S.W. Corps as an ensign and reached Sydney in 1800. He will ever be remembered for his part in the discovery of a route across the Blue Mountains. Mr. Ellis tells us he was the surveyor -- and some people believe on credible evidence, the real originator -- of the expedition which first crossed the main range of the Blue Mountains in 1813.

Of all those who served in the N.S.W. Corps, I suppose none would be more memorable than John Macarthur (spelt then M'Arthur). I shan't sketch his career here but shall offer a few sidelights on the man.

He was born in Devonshire in 1767, his father, Alexander M., being the sole survivor of 7 brothers who fought the King at Culloden in the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745. After a discreet period of years in the West Indies, Alexander deemed it safe to return to Britain and settled in or near Plymouth. John entered the Army as an ensign at the age of 15 in 1782, in Fish's Corps, raised for service in the American War of Independence. Before the corps sailed the war ended and John was placed on half pay. He engaged in farming; his inclination to take up law was blocked by the Army as he had shown promise of making a good officer and he was appointed to the 68th (Durham) Regiment in 1788. On the 5th June, 1789, he exchanged into the N.S.W. Corps.

He had already won the hand of the fairest in the district, Elizabeth Veale; it is said that his young wife, a mother, encouraged him to make this exchange, she herself being prepared to face the future with that indomitable spirit for which she is well known.

We'll skip over the incidents of the embarkation and voyage except to say that at Capetown he became seriously ill with fever, (rheumatic fever) from which he never fully recovered and the pain and illness for the rest of his life may have largely accounted for his irascibility.

He is noted for his quarrels with Governors, brother officers and others. Harold Norrie, who read a paper on Macarthur before the R.A.H.S., showed that very often he was given great provocation.

"His was the first stable home in Australia with a wedded wife, when most of the ruling class, civil and military, lived squalidly with convict concubines" -- (Ellis). He was affectionate and loyal to his family, and they to him. To his friends and those he thought worthy of help he was considerate and generous. To others he was hard and contemptuous of their opinions. To his enemies and critics he was vitriolic, implacable and vindictive - although Harold Norrie is one who seeks to demonstrate that he was not vindictive.

He traded in rum - but not excessively - as did everyone else who could, including Government and clergy, but he soon turned to farming and developed a genius for sheepbreeding. In addition, he encouraged his sons in other activities, including pioneering in winemaking and the first distilling of brandy in Australia.

In his later years, his physical and mental health broken, he became even more difficult, but still loved by his family, and died alone in the Cottage at Camden Park. In 1809 he wrote of his 15 year old son, John, "Under this softness I can discover an indescribable fierceness of independence and an obstinacy to pursue what he has once determined on, which neither reason nor dread of future consequence are likely to operate upon him to relax". So true of himself!

Says Mr. Ellis : "He probably did the country greater material service than any other man in its annals".

William Cox (1764-1837), was born at Wimborne in Dorsetshire. He joined the Wilts militia in 1793; in 1795 obtained a commission in the Army. In 1797 enrolled in the N.S.W. Corps as lieutenant, being appointed Paymaster in 1798, the year he sailed for Australia.

He was interested in farming. He began to buy land soon after arrival here. In 1801 he owned 1380 acres. In 1803 he owned also 100 cattle, 2000 sheep, "£4000 worth of trading property". His land purchases had strained his credit and he went bankrupt. He was subsequently cleared of all suspicion over this, was returned to his regiment and promoted captain.

Then he settled as a farmer at Clarendon and resigned his commission. He was made magistrate at Windsor, where he became highly respected, and took up more land - at Mulgoa.

In July 1814 Macquarie made Cox Superintendent of Works for a new road over the Blue Mountains. On this job his working party was 30 strong, including 20 convict labourers, and there was a guard of eight soldiers. Within six months he had made 101 miles of road; on 21 January 1815 he reported to Macquarie that the road was completed. Following this, the pass down Mt. York and the river just beyond were named after him.

In 1827-28 (I see by your sub-branch's newsletter), he was a director of the Bank of N.S.W. He was married twice and had nine children. The family included some of the most enterprising pioneers in the history of Australian settlement.

Returning to the N.S.W. Corps itself, on the very eve of its departure, it became a Line Regiment, being designated the 102nd Regiment. It was disbanded in 1818.

Prior to its departure from Australia, from among the privates with long service, Macquarie selected enough to bring his own regiment, the 73rd, to within 19 of its full establishment, and enlisted another 100 as a 'veteran' or 'invalid' company for garrison duty in N.S.W. This company was actually incorporated in the 73rd and was placed in the charge of an officer of that regiment. They were distinguished from the 73rd by their blue facings, but were clothed in the same manner. In 1817 its members were past their prime but it was, however, still nominally in existence in 1822, having been attached to each regiment of foot successively stationed here and was not finally disbanded until 1823.

The first of the Line to arrive was the 73rd Foot. You may see it referred to in the Australian Encyclopaedia, in the Short History of the Military Forces in N.S.W. and by Mr. Ellis in his paper on the British Regiments, as a Highland Regiment. My friend, Mr. Peter H. Bullock, has looked into this question; see his explanatory article in the Journal of the R.A.H.S. in 1957. He quotes reliable sources in pointing out that, although it had been the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Highland Regiment of Foot, re-designated 73rd (Highland) Regiment of Foot, it had been re-organised before sailing for Sydney. The Regiment, with Lachlan Macquarie as one of its officers, had been seventeen years in India. Mr. Ellis states they had fought the mosquitoes which, in their cantonments on Culaba at Bombay, had long ago driven them out of kilts into trews. They had fought Haidar Ali. They had fought against Tipoo Sahib, his son, and had led the storming columns which broke his power at Seringapatam in 1799. In 1805 they were ordered home, possibly due to the need to recruit new men. The remaining members of the unit arrived home in 1806 and were stationed at Perth. A draft of 800 men (says Bullock) was taken into the Regiment, and in 1807 Colonel Lachlan Macquarie attained command.

Early in 1809 the Regiment was converted from a Highland Regiment to a normal regiment of foot. The title was changed to 73rd. Regiment of Foot. The kilt and remaining items of Scottish dress were replaced by the normal British infantry uniform. The facings and lace were unchanged. At the same time a 2nd. battalion was raised as the Army was expanding at the time. This 2nd. battalion served with great distinction in the Peninsula and at Waterloo. Perhaps the confusion over the name of the Regiment while it was in New South Wales may be due to the natural desire of the officers and men to retain their Scottish customs, and Bullock says they retained their badge and button designs for some years. In 1862 the Regiment became the 73rd. (Perthshire) Regiment of Foot. In 1881 it reverted to its original form and once again became the 2nd. Battalion, the Royal Highland Regiment.

The 1st. Battalion of the 73rd, then, under Lt-Col. M.C. O'Connell, embarked on 8 May 1809, for service in New South Wales, and anchored in Port Jackson on 28 December 1809. It landed on New Year's Day, 1810, and detachments were sent out in the course of three months to Van Dieman's Land, Norfolk Island and Newcastle. SHMF.

The Battalion carried out many important tasks that were of considerable benefit to citizens and defences. For example, early in 1811 a party from the 73rd. were detailed to build a road from the hamlet of Sydney to South Head and completed the task in ten weeks. (This thoroughfare considerably helped in the development of the Eastern Suburbs and is now known as Old South Head Road). A small obelisk stands on the Watson's Bay waterfront to commemorate the work. SHMF:

The officers of the 73rd. were apparently keen racegoers, for in 1810, October, they combined with the better class of people in Sydney and arranged a race meeting. The races were held on a track prepared on what is now known as Hyde Park, with the straight along what is now known as Elizabeth Street. In the following year a three-day meeting, officers of the Regiment being successful in training the winners of some of the more important races. All this appears to be the origin of the first race club, known as the Sydney Turf Club, the foundation of which might be placed to the credit of the officers of the 73rd. SHMF.

During the early part of 1814 the 73rd. embarked in three drafts for further service in Ceylon.

Relieving the 73rd. came the 46th. Regiment, the South Devons, later the 2nd. Battalion of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry ((Ellis)) who in earlier years had helped to conquer Canada; who had fought in the American War of Independence at Brooklyn and Brandywine; who had helped to take Guadeloupe and Martinique two or three years before they were to sail for New South Wales.

ELLIS.

This Regiment left England on 23 August 1813, and arrived at Sydney on 11 February 1814, under the command of Lt-Col George Molle who in accordance with established practice was duly commissioned as lieutenant-governor.

According to the S H M F the 46th. was used mainly as a guard for the protection of the population at Sydney and Newcastle against hostile natives, escaped convicts and bushrangers who had become such a serious menace that the settlers in the outlying areas were in constant danger of attack and worked their holdings under the greatest difficulties.

We read of the courage and initiative of Captain James WALLIS of the 46th. His company, while on duty at Liverpool, was detailed to punish hostile natives; the actual punishment is reported to have been of a mild nature, but for the service rendered the company was rewarded by a gift of fifteen gallons of rum by order of the Governor.

In 1816 Captain Wallis was appointed Commandant of the settlement at Newcastle, and Magistrate while in command. The salary he received for this duty was five shillings per day which was afterwards increased by Governor Macquarie's order to 7/6d per day.

He made remarkable improvements in Newcastle and utilised the convicts for cutting cedar, hewing coal, and burning shells for lime. He was also responsible for a large number of improved buildings and other works at the settlement. There is the following inscription on the stone at the entrance to the first church erected at Newcastle:

"G.R., erected A.D. 1817, Lachlan Macquarie Esq.,  
Governor, by James Wallis Esq., Captain 46th. Regt.,  
Commandant."

The strength of the 46th. at this time was only 372, including NCOs and Drummers. Governor Macquarie became very concerned at the depredations being committed by runaway convicts, bushrangers, and natives who were manifesting a "spirit of hostility" particularly in the Newcastle area. He strongly recommended to the Colonial Secretary an increase to a minimum of 800 rank and file.

The S H M F states that it is not known whether this recommendation was wholly approved but there was some increase which enabled several detachments to be sent to Van Dieman's Land where they had plenty of work in the bush in pursuit of gangs of bushrangers.

Under orders from England the Regiment embarked and proceeded to Madras in 1817 and served in India for fifteen years before returning home.  
SHMF.

The 48th Regiment, the Northhamptons, after considerable and distinguished service in the Peninsula War, returned to England and a single battalion corps of the Regiment was sent to New South Wales under the command of Lt.Col. J. Erskine, disembarking at Sydney in July, 1817.

The 48th. had been with Wolfe on the Heights of Abraham. They had seen Braddock die at Fort Duquesne. They had on Wellington's authority saved the day at Talavera.

ELLIS

Detachments of it took over the Newcastle settlement from the 46th. and carried on the excellent work of construction already commenced by Captain Wallis.

The Battalion corps was ordered to Madras in 1824, served there until 1835, and eventually rejoined the Regiment in the following year.

SHMF

Then came the Buffs - 'Forward the Buffs' - the 3rd. Regiment of the Line, the East Kents - among the most ancient of British Regiments. They stem from the old Holland Regiment, formed in 1572 in Queen Elizabeth's reign. They had fought in great battles of Marlborough's wars, from Schellenburg and Blenheim onwards, in the American War, the Peninsula War and at Waterloo.

ELLIS

In August 1821, detachments of the Buffs commenced to embark at Deptford, with parties of convicts, for New South Wales, and thereafter at intervals, according to the numbers of convicts, continued to embark by detachments, the last of which arrived at Sydney on 27 August, 1823.

Their headquarters were in Sydney but the Regiment was never concentrated there, for detachments were continually 'coming and going' from and to various out-stations. The Colony was reported to be in a lawless state, the country districts being infested with parties of bushrangers recruited mainly from the ranks of escaped convicts. So, as well as guarding the prisoners in the recognised settlements, chief of which was Port Macquarie, the Buffs were often called upon to support the Police in rounding up these gangs of outlaws.

Between 1822 and 1827 detachments of the Buffs were stationed at Port Dalrymple in Tasmania, at Parramatta, Liverpool, Newcastle, Port Macquarie, Wellington, Botany Bay and Bathurst. The Regiment was augmented in strength and in 1826 it comprised very nearly 1100 of all ranks. The excellence of the tasks performed by some of the small detachments won the approbation of Governor Darling who issued an order expressing his gratitude for their zeal and conduct.

St. Thomas' Church, Port Macquarie, was built with the help of the officers of the Buffs in 1824.

SHMF

In 1826 the establishment of the Regiment was increased to eleven companies (63 sergeants, 22 drummers, 58 corporals and 950 privates). Conditions of service were hard and discipline severe. The Governor reported of the NCOs : "They are in general old soldiers and they perform their duties in a very proper manner". Of the men he wrote : "Their conduct in general is good but there are some individuals who are addicted to drinking which it is difficult to restrain in the Colony. They are clean and healthy". That discipline was severe was borne out by the number of floggings awarded where troops were charged and found guilty of drunkenness or of insubordination and violence while drunk.

One officer, Major A.C. Innes, obtained his release, became a stock breeder and eventually established a sheep station, Furracabad, near Glen Innes, which present-day large and prosperous town was named after him.

The Buffs were ordered to Calcutta in 1827; it sailed by detachments and so was not actually reunited as a Regiment until the following year.

The next Regiment to arrive was the 40th. (2nd. Somersetshire) Regiment - in Australia from 1824 to 1829, but practically the whole of this tour was in Van Dieman's Land, after which it was sent to India. It was again in this country from 1852 to 1860 but this time it was used for the maintenance of law and order on the goldfields in the Colony of Victoria.

Before the Buffs had left the Colony there had come to New South Wales the 39th (Dorsetshire) Regiment - 1825-1832 - and the 57th. (West Middlesex) Regiment - 1826-1831. The 39th's headquarters were in Sydney and detachments were sent to Van Diemen's Land, King George's Sound and to Fort Wellington on the North Coast.

The attention of the Governor, Lt.Gen. Ralph Darling having for some time been drawn to the importance and advantage which would result from a greater knowledge of the interior, he yielded to the entreaties of Capt. Charles Sturt of the 39th. and permitted him to proceed with his suggested explorations. As you know, he discovered the Darling River and was the explorer of the Murray River and of the central deserts.

This was the Regiment, also, of Edward Macarthur who had come to Australia with his parents as an infant-in-arms in 1790 and who rose to the rank of Lieut. General and who was Lieutenant Governor of Victoria.

While here, portion of the 39th. had fun and games in the Bathurst district, several detachments being employed to restore order when a body of escaped convicts created a serious disturbance. On 16 October, 1830, Captain John Douglas Forbes was placed in command of the Mounted Police and succeeded in transforming a very slack body into an efficient and highly disciplined force.

New colours were presented to the Dorsets by Governor Darling in the Barrack Square on 16 May, 1831, being the anniversary of the Battle of Albuhera, where the Regiment had distinguished itself twenty years previously. This is another regiment which proceeded from these shores to India.

The 57th., which I said were here from 1826 to 1831, were the "Die Hards", a name which originated at the Battle of Albuhera when their Colonel's last words to them were "Die hard, Middlesex". At Albuhera the 57th. lost 428 out of 616. A. BRYANT

The anniversary of this battle was something they had in common with the 39th., with whom they shared barracks in Sydney. Like the 39th., they sent detachments to a number of very distant settlements.

Their C.O's name was Shadforth - whence the name of a street in Mosman. One sees names in nearly all of these regiments which are perpetuated geographically; another officer of the 57th. thus honoured was Captain Logan who was killed by natives while making a survey in the country near Moreton Bay.

In 1831 the Regiment sailed for Madras.

The 63rd. Regiment of Foot, formerly the 1st Battalion of the Manchester Regiment, received its title of West Suffolk Regiment in 1782, after service in Jamaica. It was in Australia from 1829 to 1833. After landing convicts in Sydney its service was entirely in Van Diemen's Land, according to SHMF.

On 19 December 1830, the C.O. issued a "Garrison Order" announcing his warm approbation of the soldierlike appearance of the 63rd. at their half-yearly inspection. He also expressed great satisfaction at their "great accuracy and celerity, their musketry, the healthy appearance of the men and cleanliness of the barracks".

Before Captain Erskine's Company sailed for Madras in 1833 a complimentary address was presented to him by the principal inhabitants of the settlement for the conduct of the detachment during their service here and set out that, but for their assistance, the colonists would have been much exposed to attacks from the natives.

In New South Wales the 39th. was followed by the 17th. (Leicestershire) Regiment, 1830-1836 and the 4th. (King's Own) Regiment, 1832-1837.

The former (17th.), after a long and arduous service in India, had enjoyed only a brief tour of duty at home before being ordered to New South Wales. They came here under the command of Lt.Col. H. Despard. Its HQ remained here but it sent detachments to Van Diemen's Land.

A very interesting publication in those days was the "N.S.W. Calendar and General Post Office Directory", first published in 1832. The Mitchell Library has copies of, I think, 1832, 1833, 1834, 1835, 1836, 1837, 1839. Their information includes military dispositions, sometimes sketchily, sometimes in fair detail.

In the 1833 Edition, we find that regimental headquarters were:

4th. Regiment at Parramatta

17th. Regiment at Sydney

63rd. Regiment at Hobart Town, V.D.L.

The names of all officers and where stationed are given. There is a "Distribution of Forces", giving exact strengths at each station - e.g. dealing with the 4th. Foot:

"Parramatta - HQ of the 4th. - two field officers, three captains, seven subalterns, four staff, nineteen sergeants, ten drummers, and 292 rank and file.

Sydney - four rank and file."

Also given are the officers and the distribution of the Mounted Police. The Commandant was Capt. T. Williams, 4th. (or K.O.) Regiment of Foot, and there were three other officers. The Governor's Bodyguard was one sergeant, six rank and file. Total effectives are given as: 1 Captain, 3 Subalterns, 8 Sergeants, 89 rank and file.



Then, in the 1836 Edition the 4th. is accounted for in this extract from the Distribution of the Forces :

	Total
Parramatta (HQ)	317
Cox's River	82
Moreton Bay	83
Emu Plains	53
Newcastle	52
Bathurst	29
Seventeen Mile Pinch and Springwood	57
Staff employ (adc to Gov.)	1
Mounted Police	58
England and on passage out	<u>8</u>
Total Effectives	<u>741</u>

From the same volume we glean the 17th, which was under orders for India, had 742 effectives; the 28th, mostly on passage out from England, had a strength of 749; the 50th, with HQ at Windsor was 686 strong, and the 21st, with its HQ at Hobart Town, 742. Of the 21st's strength, 128 were at Swan River. The 4th, 17th, 28th and 50th, between them, were providing for the Mounted Police - 4 officers and 134 others.

"ADVERTISEMENT, SYDNEY HERALD, MAY 4th, 1837.

THEATRE ROYAL, SYDNEY.  
Tuesday, 9th May, 1837.

His Majesty's servants of the 4th (The King's Own) Regiment  
will perform  
"CALIPH OF BAGDAD"

Band of The King's Own will comprise the Orchestra.  
Boxes and places may be engaged at Mr. Ellard's Music Saloon, at the Orderly Room of the K.O. Regt., or at the Sergeant Major's Quarters directly opposite.

Box and Pit tickets, 6/- each.

Net profits to charitable purposes."

That must be nearly enough on individual regiments. We'll take a quick look at the main barracks in Sydney which served them for 35 years. Replacing older barracks which were in Lower George Street, overlooking Sydney Cove, to the North of the present Grosvenor Street, Macquarie had the George Street Barracks built in 1813. They extended from the northern side of the present Barrack Street to the southern side of what is now Margaret Street, and from York Street on the west to George Street on the east. The present Wynyard Park, together with that area of the barracks as far as George Street, formed the parade ground and was separated from that thoroughfare by a substantial wall. The entrance gate to the Parade Ground and Barracks stood in the vicinity of the George Street entrance to the present Wynyard Station.

Here is a little story from the Short History of the Military Forces :

In 1846, while the 99th Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire) Regiment, formerly styled the Lanarkshire Regiment, was quartered in the George Street Barracks, being under the command of Colonel Despard, the unit was not only unpopular with the authorities, but had shown signs of mutinous conduct. So seriously was this state of affairs viewed that the 11th (North Devons) were brought from Tasmania to keep the peace and restore discipline amongst the unruly element of the 99th.

One of the most popular regiments to have served in the Colonies, the 11th. disembarked at the Quay wharf and marched with fixed bayonets up to George Street to the old city barracks.

Tact and firmness on the part of Colonel Bloomfield, C.O. of the 11th, together with the splendid discipline of his regiment, won the day. "Open at once to comrades in uniform in the name of the Queen" is the command that tradition ascribes to this Officer in a moment of crisis.

Slowly and sullenly the order was obeyed. To the surprise of the mutineers, the guard of the 99th. turned out and presented arms in a soldierly fashion. The fine impression made by the North Devons appears to have been sufficient to quell incipient mutiny and appeal to the best element in the 99th. The amazing fact is recorded that, instead of resenting the presence of the newly arrived troops, those inside the barracks square raised "three hearty British cheers" in which the women and children joined.

Only the ringleaders and some of their following refrained from taking part in this ovation to comrades in uniform. In a short time good feeling between the 99th. and the 11th. prevailed and it remained until the former left Sydney for duty elsewhere.

The 11th. was so popular in Sydney that they were returned in answer to a public petition to have them quartered in Sydney again. And so it came about that they were the first unit to be quartered in the freshly completed Victoria Barracks in 1848. Their reception, after disembarkation, by the populace who lined the route along George Street and to Paddington Hill, as they marched along with colours flying, fifes and drums playing, is one of the finest tributes to the British soldier in the military annals of New South Wales.

The last Regiment to serve here was the 18th. Foot (Royal Irish).

Now, any conception of early Australian history which does not pay tribute to the benign effects of military occupation falls far short of realism, to quote Mr. Ellis.

For the first sixty years of its history, New South Wales in particular, and most of the other colonies which existed separately during that span of years, were governed by officers trained in the British Line regiments in accordance with standardised British colonial methods and experience - methods closely interlocked with military methods. The British soldiers who were sent here in the early decades of the XIXth. Century were remarkably skilled in the technique of what they were called upon to do, including civil administration.

Their experience stretching over years had been gained in lands distant from Europe and peopled by backward or barbarous people. They had to rely a good deal on local resources, establishing rule-of-thumb governments over the civilian population within their own ambit. On campaign they fed themselves and often armed themselves locally instead of relying on their industries at home. And because of the difficulty of swift communication with London, under whose commissions and instructions they acted, military commanders were apt to be governors and autocrats with almost absolute power when swift action was called for, and to proceed according to the dictates of expediency or necessity rather than according to the rigid demands of law.

In Australia there was no intelligent indigenous population with its own laws and way of life to be considered, as there were in Asian provinces. In New South Wales, for example, the Governor, whatever the theory of subservience to English law, had almost complete power over the lives, freedom of action, liberty of speech and movement of people who were dependent upon his good graces for their very life and food and clothing. The police were military. The criminal courts were military. The public works were supervised by the military. Soldiers built the roads, explored the country and beat off the bushrangers and blacks. They were the only possible Magistrates in areas where the main white settlement consisted of the local guard.

It was well for the new inhabitants of this country that most of the military officers sent here for the defence of the colonies were accustomed to assessing the nature and productivity of the terrain, to establishing communications with speed and to making the best of the worst pioneering conditions.

They, as a class, were almost universally and naturally adventurous. They had a flair for reconnaissance and an insatiable curiosity about what lay beyond the horizon.

Governor Macquarie set out to build the Blue Mountains road in 1814 as though it were all in the day's work - and so it was in his military experience. As a company commander of the 77th. Regiment in wars in India he himself had many times been up at dawn in the tropic heat driving 100 men to do a very similar piece of labour. The early Australian garrisons had a good deal of road-building to do, and as it meant extra pay it was not an unwelcome task. The men of the 73rd. may have rejoiced when given the opportunity to share in the laying-down of the first Australian highway, that to South Head - and on that occasion they received their wages largely in the popular currency of the day - rum.

The soldier about the early years of the XIXth. Century must have developed stamina to go about his wars in the dress and equipment of the day. In his regimentals he may have felt somewhat like a deep sea diver - heavy swallowtail coat, vest and pantaloons, a hat none too comfortable and giving no shade, a hairdressing arrangement which called for the use of a liberal quantity of tallow finishing in a queue which hung down his sweating spine. His high collar was prevented from wilting by a leather stock which also ensured that he should keep his head well up and eyes front. Tight gaiters up to his knees had twelve buttons each. He wore

a wide cross belt and carried knapsack and roll. He had his musket and bayonet, weighing together 11 lb. 4 oz. and sometimes carried 60 rounds of ammunition. The bore, I understand, was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  - that is, the bullets went  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to the 1 lb. and the gauge was .753 inches. That was a bigger bore than the continental weapons had, prudently so arranged so that our men could use captured continental ammunition while the French could not use ours. Wellington firmly would have nothing to do with attempts to reduce the bore in the early decades of the century.

Much toughening experience had been gained by many of the regiments, which came here, in the Peninsula War and in India. In the Peninsula Wellington's armies had no modern facilities of commissariat and transport. There were no canteens as we know them, and no home leave. There, and in India, the conditions might be likened somewhat to pioneering conditions in the Australian bush and each officer and man had to organise himself just as if each of them was engaged in an arduous exploring expedition on his own account. Each was dependent on himself for a full stomach and a warm sleep - hence they became very self-reliant. Nevertheless, in the Peninsula Majors and Captains were sometimes to be seen travelling on horseback, huge tricorne hats on their heads, cotton umbrellas held aloft, their wives following, perhaps with scrounged poultry, bedding and kitchenware in a cart, notwithstanding the C-in-C's repeated prohibition of the carriage of private effects, including ladies. And speaking of wives, the soldiers' wives who came here were as well endowed with the pioneering spirit as their menfolk.

Of the service of the British Regiments in Australia, it is not easy, as a general rule, to find out much about any particular one. Their existence has usually been so long, relatively, that in their published histories the Australian interlude is not given - cannot be given - much space.

From the very first, the British officers and men and, of course, the Governors, began to influence the trends of life in this country. Many of their achievements and notes on many of their individuals, could not be fitted into a talk of the length of this one.

Some of the militia infantry battalions of Australia were proud to be allied to famous regiments which served here, these alliances mostly dating from the nineteen thirties. I understand there is a chance that in further re-organisation of the British Army in the not far distant future, regiments whose names have been bywords for many years may entirely disappear - including those to whom we owe something for their work in our country.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

18 Taylor Avenue,  
East Burwood, Vic., 3151

2nd September, 1967

The Editor,  
"Sabretache".

Dear Sir,

I support Major Clark's plea for accuracy in his letter in Sabretache, July 1967, page 29, but I should like to add that it is only by the pooling of the results of each member's research, whether or not perfect, and by friendly criticism, that the gaps in our knowledge can be gradually filled in.

In this spirit and for the sake of the good name of the Society, I wish to correct some misconceptions in Major Clark's letter:-

(I) He claimed that the question posed by Mrs. J.R.S. Thompson's letter (Sabretache, Jan. 1967) was not answered. The letter was from Mr. Thompson (not Mrs.) and it was answered personally. The answer confirmed that the unit in question was 3rd N.S.W. M.R. and included a brief outline of its service.

(II) The question stated, "Perhaps you could advise me if the unit could have actually been the 3rd New South Wales Mounted Rifles as I can only find reference to 3rd Commonwealth Horse serving in South Africa. It may be an error in the title made by the newspaper concerned." (Sabretache Jan, '67, p100)

The portion of the reply relating directly to the question was reprinted in Sabretache, Jan, 1967, page 104.

(III) Mr. Thompson did not request details of the transport on which the draft was sent, and although of interest, Major Clark's suggested reply erred. The date he gave (May 12th, 1901) was the date of arrival at Durban, South Africa, not the departure from Australia, which was April 5th, 1901 (Authority: Lt. Col. P.L. Murray: Official Records of the Australian Military Contingents to the War in South Africa, page 123).

The foregoing demonstrates the difficulties that can face the historian, and as one who has discovered the virtual impossibility of obtaining complete accuracy, due to human error, doubtful sources, faulty proof-reading, etc., I feel that it is always unwise to claim that one's work is flawless. I am sure that Major Clark will agree.

However, I welcome the opportunity of having the assistance of other members in answering questions relating to the Australian service in the South African War, and list below several questions to which I have been unable to find conclusive answers:-

1. Were lances used in action by Australians elsewhere than at Klip Drift?
2. Were Colonial flags carried by Australian units in the field?
3. Why was the title 6th V.M.R. apparently not used on service?

I should appreciate answers (with the names of the authorities) for inclusion in a future edition of "To Shoot and Ride".

Yours etc.,

W. M. Chamberlain.

FROM MR. ROBERT GRAY

Sir,

In the January 1967 issue of "Sabretache" on pages 81 and 83 there appears an interesting article on the New South Wales Irish Regiment. In this article it states that the regiment lost its territorial title when as the 55th. Battalion (linked with the 53rd. Battalion) it became part of the A.I.F.

The "Australian Army Lineage Book" by Mr. A.N. Festberg gives these particulars:-

Territorial title "New South Wales Irish Rifles" and motto : Faugh - A-Ballagh approved AAO 132/1927.  
 N.S.W. Irish Rifles new N.S.W. Rifle Regiment. AAO 510/1930.  
 Territorial title re-confirmed and new motto "Anime et Fide" approved AAO 175/1937.  
 55th. Battalion linked with 53rd Battalion. Now 55th./53rd. Battalion. Effective 1st August 1937. AAO 282/1937.  
 55th./53rd. Battalion now 55th./53rd. Australian Infantry Battalion (A.I.F.) 31st. October 1942.

From the above information it appears that the territorial title "Irish Rifles" was changed to the "Rifle Regiment" in 1930.

R. GRAY.

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I am interested to hear of miniature figures of air forces personnel that might be available in any country. As I think that the aerial forces will become more and more significant in all ways, it appears to be the time now to try to ascertain just what has been done in modelling air force figures.

Replies could be sent either to the Editor, or to Mr. R.A. Powell, and when it appears that a complete list can be established, it will be published for the interest of collectors in SABRETACHE.

B. J. VIDEON.

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FROM SWEDEN

The attached letter may be of interest to travelling collectors, and/or to local manufacturers. It is reproduced verbatim.

"DRABANTEN

The Swedish Society of Collectors of Historical Miniatures.

Chairman: Gosta Stenhorn, Gragatan 8, Stockholm So, Sweden.

Dear Sirs,

22-5-67.

It is my pleasure by request of the Society to inform you that an exhibition of historical miniatures from private Swedish collections arranged by the Society in The Nordiska Museet, Stockholm, will open on the 1st of October and run to the end of March 1968. The exhibition will cover all historical periods and show as many makes, old as new, as possible. Makers and firms are welcome with a small sample of their most distinguished products. Lars Ahldin, Editor."

BOOK REVIEWS

By Maj. J. B. Gale.

PAUL HIERONYMUSSEN, ORDERS, MEDALS AND DECORATIONS OF BRITAIN AND EUROPE, London, Blandford Press, 1967, pp. 256. Aust. Price: \$5.75.

Since the Second World War at least, the medal collector in this country has had little in the way of comprehensive, reasonably priced and up-to-date reference books, covering both British and foreign awards, to assist him. The field has been limited virtually to Dorling's "Ribbons and Medals", the frequency of issue of which, in reprints or revised editions, point to a need for books of this type.

Paul Hieronymussen's new book is, therefore, more than welcome, particularly because of its good coverage of Orders and Decorations of European Countries, although a word of warning is needed here - the titling of the book is somewhat misleading from the normal connotation given to its wording by British readers, as campaign medals are not included. These normally take up most of the space in British books on the subject.

The book is described aptly as a "Pocket Encyclopaedia" and describes "... the Official Orders of all European countries which may today be conferred on the countries' own citizens and also on citizens of other countries". It is divided into three parts - an historical introduction, an atlas of 80 colour plates illustrating 450 items, and a detailed "Encyclopaedia of Orders" to which is appended a British Supplement. As well as the colour plates more than 60 line drawings are interspersed throughout the text, which is a mine of information and which generally is free of errors (a few minor errors do appear). However, the real value in the book is the 80 colour plates. These can be described only as magnificent and they represent the best colour reproductions of Orders and Decorations this reviewer has seen, and make the book a bargain buy at the price of \$5.75. It should be a "must" for the library of all medal collectors.

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J. CHRISTOPHER HEROLD, "THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO", a Cassell Caravel Book, Cassell, London, 1967, pp. 155. Aust. Price: \$3.35.

OLIVER WARNER, "NELSON AND THE AGE OF FIGHTING SAIL", a Cassell Caravel book, Cassell, London, 1963, pp. 155. Aust. Price: \$3.35.

E. ORLANDI (ED.) TR. BY C.J. RICHARDS, "THE LIFE AND TIMES OF NAPOLEON", Portraits of Greatness series, Paul Hamlyn, London, 1967, pp. 76, Aust. Price: \$2.50.

For the military historian who is interested in military books and prints, a glance at bookshop counters for the younger readers may have its rewards at times, as good material is often published for this market.

The three books under notice were all found in the younger readers' section of one bookshop (it does not follow, of course, that this is

where they would be found in all bookshops), but their level and quality should make them of interest to the serious military collector.

The first two books were issued under the general editorship of "Horizon" magazine, a top-quality hard-cover artistic periodical, and each is profusely illustrated with over 120 drawings, paintings and prints, mainly contemporary. In each case, about 40 are in colour. The texts are quite full and adequate, although not of the detail needed for a specialised study of each subject.

The book on Napoleon is similar in concept, although the text is more general, and contains more than 100 illustrations, 75 in colour. From the illustrations point of view, it is probably the best of the three.

At the prices, however, each book is a bargain, and in these times of high production costs of books, one is amazed that books of this quality can be marketed so cheaply.

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#### BOOK REVIEW

By B. J. Videon.

#### "THE NEW ZEALAND WARS 1845-1866"

It is my pleasure to review a most excellent small publication by Mr. H.G. Longley, a New Zealand Collector of medals.

This booklet has been wholly compiled, set up, printed and published by Mr. Longley, and he has done an excellent job indeed.

Printed on good quality paper, with a white card cover bearing a coloured representation of the New Zealand Medal 1845-1866, this book measures 8" high x 5-1/8" wide, and has 24 pages.

The Index lists:-

Description of Medal

Notes on Awards to R.N. and R.M.

General Notes on the Medal,

Table showing Dates and Ships engaged

Principal actions involving H.M. Ships, and

the Medal Rolls of the various ships involved (22 in number), plus names of men of the Colonial Forces.

Mr. Longley has obviously gone to a lot of trouble to make this a useful and valuable reference book for the serious collector who wants to verify New Zealand War Medals issued to the Royal Naval and Royal Marine personnel and others involved in this War. In addition, he has established a standard of publication that may well serve as a pattern for similar works of this kind. If this booklet is a success, we understand that it will be followed by others covering as many units and campaigns as possible.



The Victorian Branch of the Society has placed a preliminary order on behalf of its members for twelve copies as a token of appreciation of a job well done.

Prices: Single Copies. \$A1.86 each by surface mail;  
5 copies or more, Wholesale. \$A1.24 each by surface mail.  
Air Mail postage extra.

Orders may be placed with Mr. H.G. Longley, at 37 South Road, Henderson, Auckland, New Zealand.

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#### ABOUT BOOKS

By B. J. Videon.

"JEWISH GENERAL OFFICERS" - By J. Ben Hirsh, Military Historical Society of Australia, Victorian Branch, Price \$5.00 in Australia, add 25 cents for all overseas orders.

Since its initial release a few weeks ago, Mr. Hirsh's excellent book about Jewish General Officers has been selling remarkably well, particularly in view of the somewhat limited field of interest, as far as the average military historian and collector is concerned.

It received a particularly fine review in "THE AUSTRALIAN JEWISH NEWS" of 29th September, 1967, and it is readily apparent that Mr. Hirsh has filled a definite need as far as the Jewish community is concerned. It can also be said that he was most fortunate in his timing, as the production of this book so soon after the recent conflict involving Israel and the Arabs, enabled him to include the details of the successful General Moshe Dayan right up to the minute.

This book is not a story, it is a Biographical Dictionary and, as the reviewer in the above mentioned paper says, the facts are there, and they speak for themselves.

A colour plate of Australia's General Sir John Monash is a fitting frontispiece, and the whole production is attractive.

At the price, this limited-edition work is a valuable addition to the shelves of any historian interested in the lives of military leaders.

Available from Mr. Hirsh, at 186 Kambrook Road, CAULFIELD, Victoria, 3162, Australia.

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"FELDGRAU" - Advertising material for this periodical has been received, and it is produced below. Knowing the standard of Dr. Kliemann's work, there can be no doubt that this will be of value.

#### "FELDGRAU"

Journal for modern military history, organisation, uniforms, arms and equipment.

This periodical was published for the first time in 1953. It was specially intended to publish articles about the 2nd World War in view of the uniforms of the Army, Navy and Air Force. 14 volumes were

issued, and illustrated articles were published on often unknown material which make these volumes a valuable reference work.

With the 15th volume of 1967 a new era in history of this periodical will begin. Under the new editor Dr. Kletmann the former aims and intentions will be maintained: the period of about 1871 up to the end of the 2nd World War 1945 and additionally the military history, organisation, uniforms, equipment, arms and weapons will be researched. Of course, Germany will have the foremost consideration but also other states of the world during this period will be included. In connection with certain subjects the years before 1871 may also be discussed.

The aim of Feldgrau will be to bring out illustrated articles on the abovementioned period based on scientific works and research. The following topics are included:

Military Museums,  
Regimental colours and guidons,  
War decorations,  
Edged weapons,  
Foreign armies,  
Critical book reviews.

In this field Feldgrau will be a unique journal and experienced authors will contribute to create a comprehensive and lasting work.

Price: For 1 year's subscription (6 Papers) - £2 stg. or \$5.50 U.S.  
Post Paid.

Verlag Die Ordenssammlung - Historia-Antiquariat  
1 Berlin 12 (Charlottenburg) 753 Pforzheim  
Wielandstrasse 16 Postfach 1313

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IN THE NEWS

By B.J. Videon.

ARMY PUBLICITY.

It is interesting and pleasing to note that the Australian Army has recently brought out further very well-produced publicity material in the shape of badge charts and cards.

When the chart "BADGES OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY" (Army Publicity No. 120) was brought out a couple of years ago, it was something of a major breakthrough from the previous tradition of scanty and poorly printed material. Chart No. 120 was well produced and printed in gold and white on a green background, and showed all the new and proposed badges of the Australian Army's Corps, Services and Regiments at that time.

A few months ago, this chart was replaced by one that is basically similar, entitled "ARMY", printed in gold and silver on a red ground, and showing recently amended badges in the Army series. Army has now surpassed itself by producing a really well set-up chart of "AUSTRALIAN ARMY BADGES OF RANK" (Army Publicity 503), showing not only rank badges, but also Specialist Qualification badges including

the Army's aviation badges. Badges are shown in colours as nearly true as possible (except where a different colour is worn by different branches), on a green background, the whole effect being extremely pleasing.

Intended for the use of the Directorate of Army Recruiting, these charts are not only attractive, but also (at last), accurate indications of how the badges actually look. Congratulations to those responsible for this work!

No less accurate and pleasing is a set of 28 cards showing Australian Army cap badges, in accurate colour and design, on a background representing the main Corps colour. Of overall size  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $2\frac{1}{4}$ ", these make an attractive and useful addition to a cartophilist's collection, if he is able to procure them.

These cards also appear to be intended primarily for the use of Recruiting Personnel.

It would be interesting to see similar productions by the other Services.

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#### MATCHBOX LABELS

In addition to their Army badge series of matchbox labels, followed by their more recent series showing ships' badges of the Royal Australian Navy, the Federal Match Company produced a set of quite amusing and accurate cartoons showing peculiarities of the various corps covered by their match labels in the army series. A sample of each matchbox label was pasted to the corner of each appropriate cartoon. These cartoons were (and probably still are) available from the Federal Match Company, Sydney, on payment of \$1.00 per set plus postage. An interesting addition to one's reference library.

Bryant and Mays (Melbourne) have now produced a further set in their rather frequently-produced series, and the latest set covers various types of transport. The standard of production falls somewhat short of the Federal sets, but these labels are quite interesting too. A number of them show early models of aircraft, such as balloons, gliders etc., that may be of some interest to the aviation enthusiast, even though all the illustrations have appeared elsewhere.

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#### POSTAGE STAMPS

The idea of military subjects on postage stamps is not new, and it is probable that many military collectors have also kept up with new issues of military stamps.

Four new stamps went on sale at Australian Post Offices on 30th August, and will be available until 30th November. They are issued by the Territory of Papua and New Guinea, and commemorate the allied victory at Milne Bay.

These are recommended for your inspection at your nearest post office or philatelic dealer.

