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*Sabretache*



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# SABRETACHE

The Journal of  
THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF AUSTRALIA

JANUARY 1968

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THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

(Founded in Melbourne in 1957)

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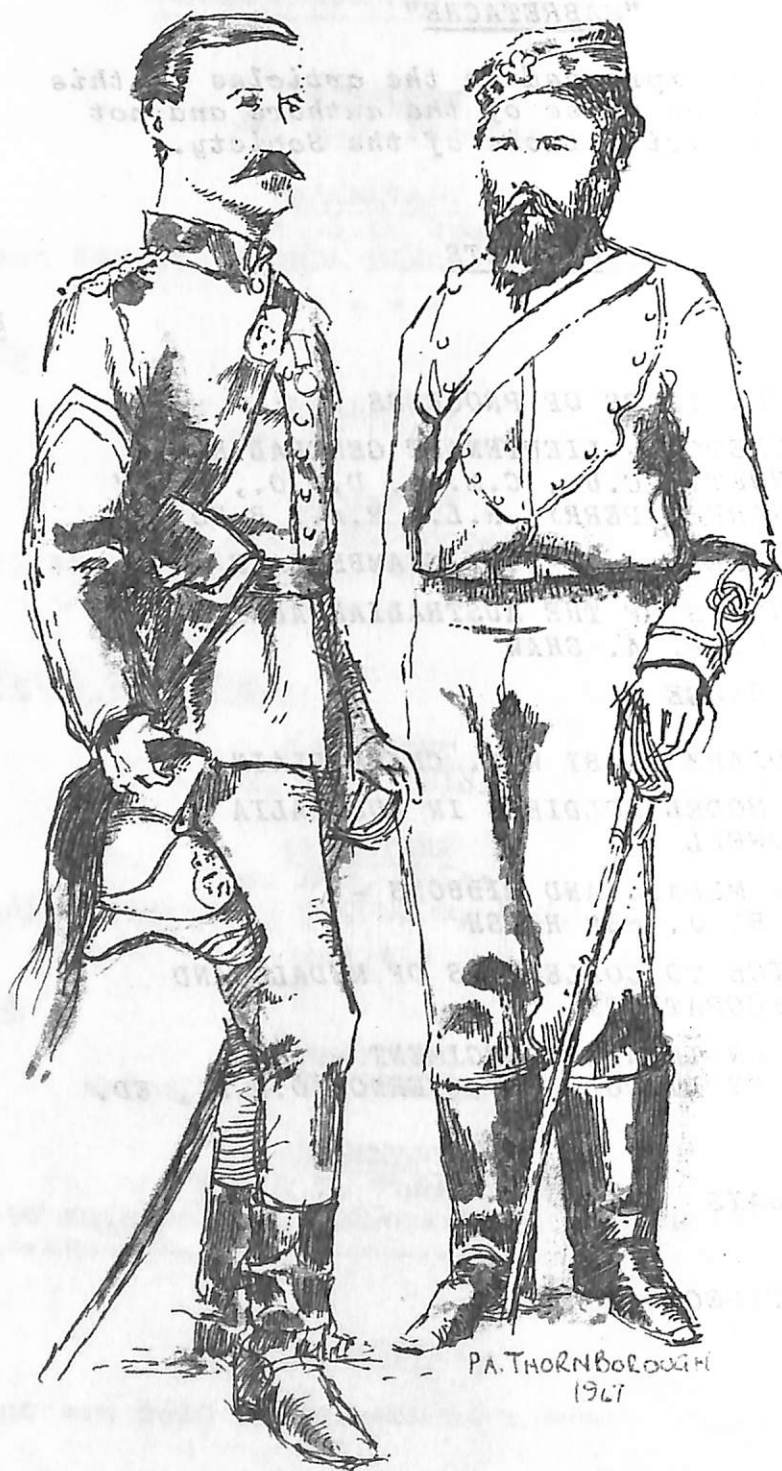
Members travelling Inter-State are welcomed at any meeting of the Branches of the Society. It is recommended that prior to travelling, arrangements be made with the Branch Secretary in the city being visited.

"SABRETACHE"

*The views expressed in the articles in this  
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EDITORIAL

TEN YEARS OF PROGRESS.

Just over ten years ago, a small band of Melbourne collectors of model soldiers and associated items met to form the Military Collectors Society of Australia. Some of those first members are still with us.

With the slow growth of the Society in its early years, it became obvious that very few more model soldier collectors existed in the parts of this country to which our journal had then been able to penetrate. The majority of the new members started to comprise collectors of militaria other than model figures.

This was unfortunate, perhaps, for the model soldier collectors, as the nature of the Society that they had envisaged and helped to create seemed to be going off onto another tack altogether.

In order to try to give a better impression of the aims and maturity of the Society, it was then thought desirable to include in the title some word to denote Research. The name thus became Military Research and Collectors Society of Australia.

Under this name the Society continued to function, growing ever so slowly, due to the fact that it had no money beyond its members' subscriptions, which were always fully committed to produce the journal SABRETACHE, which in some periods reached quite respectable proportions. In those days the whole of the work was done by the Editor, from selection, through typing the stencils, drawing illustrations, running off, collating and mailing the finished articles. By these means costs were kept to the minimum consistent with this quality of printing.

Due to an unfortunate change in the locality of the Editor's normal employment, the Society lost the free use of an ink duplicator, and, as it lacked any hope of buying one, a spirit duplicator was utilised for some time in the sticky climate of Sydney. Some of our older members will remember these editions with horror, and the fact that they were more difficult to produce than the earlier editions was certainly hard to bear when the quality of the products was compared.

About this time the Society's membership became enlarged by the addition of a branch in New South Wales, comprising some old members, but mainly new ones, some of whom were attracted from other groups then in dissolution, and some being completely new to this class of Society.



While the attractions of Branch meetings in those days added new members, some unfortunately were lost from our small overseas list because they just could not see value in the poor quality of the journal we were forced to put out, and which compared very ill with those of other Societies then in operation overseas.

Branches were added in Canberra and in Adelaide, and it became obvious that we would have to print a better quality journal. A small increase in the rate of subscription was necessitated, and the services of a professional agency were employed, in which the magazines were typed, collated and delivered to the Editor for mailing. An excellent result was thereby achieved.

This improved service naturally costs more money, and for a time the Society's funds were in very poor shape, partly due to outstanding subscriptions of members who were forgetful, partly due to resignations not being notified, and the required numbers of journals being printed needlessly.

Increasing the subscription was suggested, but deemed undesirable, and Federal Council introduced a system of financial management designed to control finances more closely, and to budget as nearly as possible for the maximum size of SABRETACHE that could be produced for the existing funds available.

Unlike some overseas Societies, whose publications are cited as examples, we in Australia do not enjoy any sort of official subsidy, and we are entirely dependent upon the subscriptions available from the relatively small proportion of the population interested in our subjects.

It soon became obvious that, in order to increase our funds, the only course available to us was to increase our membership, with a resulting reduction in the unit cost of each copy of SABRETACHE. The more copies that are produced, the less each costs.

So, in order to advertise our aims and objectives, a programme of military publications was initiated. Unfortunately, due to shortage of funds, this was unable to be undertaken on a Federal basis, and it was left to the originators to carry out the idea, the Victorian Branch.

This was done with the first book, Mr. A. N. Festberg's "AUSTRALIAN ARMY LINEAGE BOOK", which sold out, and provided a small nest-egg on which to base a more ambitious publication. This was planned to be a pictorial coverage of badges of the Australian Army, something which no one had done before.

For that very reason, no publisher would take on the job, and no backing could be obtained anywhere. It became necessary to produce what was available for the money that could be spared, and this was done by publishing only the badges of those Units which are still in existence (assuming that old Light Horse Regiments ceased when they became Armoured Units, a reasonable enough delineation).

This book was launched by subscription, but printing costs of such an unknown quantity were very high, and no great concessions were received, and none could be passed on. A book of good appearance and quality was, however, produced, and served to attract some favourable comment, as well as harsh criticism from a few who were not able to understand the problems and the magnitude of the achievement, small though it may have been when compared with the overseas publications of established publishers.

About the same time, two other Melbourne researchers, Messrs. J. Ben Hirsh ("Jewish General Officers") and W. M. Chamberlain ("To Shoot and Ride", and "New Zealand Winners of the Victoria Cross") brought out books of less ambitious format, but of widely acclaimed content, which have added quite considerably to the reputation of the Society for achieving something.

In Sydney, the New South Wales Branch has recently launched some medal rolls, which have found their way into the hands of many medal collectors, and, in addition, they now produce a monthly Branch publication, which, although in competition with the Society's quarterly, is popularly received by the New South Wales Branch members.

Privately, or outside the sphere of the Society, other members have published excellent material. Lt. Col. P. V. Vernon's book, "The Royal New South Wales Lancers 1885-1960" was a first-class job. Major R. J. Hall's recently produced "The Australian Light Horse" has been gladly procured, with its useful Appendices showing organisations and badges. Mr. Monty Wedd's series of "Golden Fleece" cards showing military uniforms of Australia attracted worldwide interest some 3 years ago. Although not in any way associated with the Society's effort, the effect of the stimulus provided by this worthwhile material cannot be fully under-estimated.

At long last then, Australia seems to be producing material of interest to the military student overseas, and not only to the ex-member of a regimental association, etc., as was previously the case.

Small though our part may have been in this field up to date, it is to be hoped that the Society's programme of research and production over the next ten years may really bring this Society into its own, so that when it becomes "of age" one year after that, it may look back on 21 years of solid achievement and progress.

The last ten years have not been easy, and there have been many differences of opinion regarding how best the Society's aims and objectives may be achieved. It is remarkable how individuals with similar ideals can disagree so readily on methods of application.

It is important to realise that the Society has managed to exist for ten years, has made a little hard-won progress, and has in some ways contributed towards the "respectability" of military collecting.

By means of the contacts established through membership, many members have added considerably to their knowledge, breadth of outlook and material possessions. Some have contributed significantly to the common good, by means of contributions to the Journal, and partaking in the various activities.

The Society's main objective is to stimulate the interest in military historical matters, and if this fact is kept in our minds, we may all derive more benefit from it.

It is interesting to note that the 10th Anniversary of the Society coincides with the 65th Anniversary of the granting of Australian nomenclature to the Infantry and Light Horse Units of the previously State Forces of the new Commonwealth.

It was thought appropriate under these circumstances to make this edition predominantly Australian in content, and the articles hereunder are accordingly dedicated to the pioneers of the Military Historical Society of Australia, and to the first soldiers in the service of the Army of the Commonwealth of Australia.

B. J. Videon.  
Hon. Editor.

\* \* \* \* \*

LIEUTENANT GENERAL HENRY GORDON BENNETT  
CB, CMG, DSO, VD.

A Biographical Sketch of a Controversial Soldier

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

i.

Before the War of 1914-18.

We remember General Bennett as a distinguished soldier of the War of 1914-18, we remember him as a controversial figure in the military life of Australia in what is now known as the inter-war period, and we remember him again in the War of 1939-45 as a senior field commander who had the misfortune to belong to a composite British-Australian force which was defeated in battle and taken into captivity where its members were treated with inconceivable brutality, although he himself escaped. General Bennett knew the exhilarations of success, he endured the slings and arrows of his enemies, and he knew the bitterness of failure, disappointment and frustration. Let us take a quick look at the main facts of his military life. Unfortunately, space will not permit an analysis and evaluation to be made of his strategical, tactical and administrative skills.

Henry Gordon Bennett was born at Balwyn in Victoria on, according to the Australian Army List, the 16th April, 1887. At first he attended the Balwyn State School of which his father, who took a keen interest in the school cadet movement, was the headmaster. Later Bennett won a scholarship which enabled him to attend the now defunct Hawthorn College near Auburn Railway Station for the last three years of his education at school, which ended at about the age of 16 years. He became an officer of the Australian Mutual Provident Society but he resigned from its service soon after his return to Australia from the War of 1914-18 and later became an Accountant and Company Director.

Bennett's commissioned service as a Militia Officer in the Australian Military Forces began in Melbourne, six years before the outbreak of the War of 1914-18 when, on the 14th August 1908, he was appointed to the 5th Australian Infantry Regiment with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. This regiment at that time was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel James McLaren. Bennett's aptitude for regimental duties reflected itself in his rapid promotion. On the outbreak of the War of 1914-18, in August 1914, he was a Major with two years' seniority.

ii.

### The War of 1914-18.

The A.I.F. came into existence officially on the 15th August, 1914 and Major General Sir W. T. Bridges, who was at the time the Inspector General of the Australian Forces, was appointed to command it. Four days later, on the 19th August 1914, Bennett was seconded to the A.I.F. and appointed to Lieutenant Colonel J. M. Semmen's 6th Infantry Battalion with the rank of Major. This was one of the battalions of Brigadier General J. W. McCay's 2nd Infantry Brigade which marched into camp at Broadmeadows near Melbourne for training, clothing and equipping before embarkation for active service overseas.

In the early hours of Sunday 18th October 1914 Bennett embarked with his battalion at Port Melbourne and the Brigade sailed the following day. On or about the 1st December 1914 he disembarked at Alexandria and marched into camp with his Battalion near Cairo where he underwent some hard training for the stern tasks to be undertaken four months later.

In Egypt Colonel Semmen's health broke down, and he was invalided back to Australia. Bennett, as second-in-command of the 6th Infantry Battalion, had expected to get the command of the Battalion. Instead Major W. R. McNicoll of the 7th Infantry Battalion was, on the 3rd April 1915, appointed to command the 6th Infantry Battalion with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. The following day Bennett moved out of camp with his Battalion to embark at Alexandria for the Gallipoli campaign. Bennett arrived at Mudros Harbour on the 11th April 1915, where final preparations were made for the landing which is now commemorated as Anzac Day. Orders were issued to Bennett's battalion, on the 24th April 1915, for the attack on the Gallipoli Peninsula north of Gaba Tepe. Three days rations and 200 rounds of ammunition were to be carried by each man. Bennett landed the next morning with his Battalion.

Bennett's promotion came quicker than he had expected. On the 8th May 1915 he was appointed to command the 6th Infantry Battalion with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, vice Colonel McNicoll, who had been evacuated, wounded. Later, Bennett suffered the same fate as his predecessor. He too was wounded and evacuated from Gallipoli to the 3rd (London) General Hospital at Wandsworth. By the time he rejoined his Battalion it was back in Egypt and the Gallipoli campaign had ended.

The Australian forces in Egypt at this time were expanded and reorganised for service in other theatres of war, and Bennett's Battalion, in common with all others, underwent further hard and rigorous training. In March

1916 Bennett's battalion, as part of General Birdwood's 1st Anzac Corps, moved from Egypt to the Western Front in Europe. His first action there was west of Le Bridoux near Armentieres, on the 13th June 1916, when the 6th Infantry Battalion carried out a raid on the 1st Australian Division's front. The first Battle of the Somme opened on the 1st July 1916. It lasted for four months and closed on the 18th November.

Bennett's performance on the Western Front as a battalion commander soon attracted the attention of his superior commanders and satisfied their exacting demands. The consequence was that on the 3rd December 1916, at the early age of 29 years, he was appointed to command the 3rd Infantry Brigade with the rank of Brigadier General. This brigade had been the first of the Australian brigades to land on the Gallipoli Peninsula on Anzac Day 1915. Bennett commanded this brigade with distinction on the Western Front for the remainder of the war and on occasions during this time he administered the command of the 1st Australian Division. He relinquished the command of this brigade officially on the 15th May 1919.

It was about this time that he sailed from England in the "Orontes" for home. After an absence of more than 4½ years from Australia he and Brigadier General "Pompey" Elliott landed in Melbourne on the 28th June 1919. This was the day of the signing of the Peace Treaty at Versailles.

iii.

#### The Inter-War Period.

Australia's re-organised post war army came into being, officially, on the 1st May 1921. It continued to be a part-time army, with a small permanent force which provided staff officers, instructors and maintenance personnel, and it was organised on the basis of five divisions and two cavalry divisions. The commanders of these formations were responsible direct to the Military Board at Army Headquarters in Melbourne. Unlike the Military Board to-day, the Military Board in this inter-war period did not have a member to represent the Citizen Military Forces.

Bennett became one of the original brigade commanders of this re-organised post-war army. He was appointed to command the 9th Infantry Brigade in New South Wales on the 1st May 1921, and he held this appointment for the next five years. On the 18th November 1926 he succeeded that fearless wartime commander, Major General Sir Charles Rosenthal, in the command of the 2nd Australian Division, the headquarters of which were located at Victoria Barracks in Paddington, New South Wales. However, it was not until four years later, on the 1st August 1930, that he was promoted to the rank of Major General. He relinquished this command, at the age of 44 years, on the 31st December 1931 and he was not re-employed again until after the outbreak of the War of 1939-45.

It was during these years of unemployment, militarily, that he became a controversial public figure, because of his outspoken criticisms of the nature of the nation's military preparedness for war. There were, during this inter-war period, three general officers who became severe critics of the fighting capacity of Australia's post-war army. The most

pre-eminent of this trio was Australia's second most senior general officer, General Monash, but no attempt seems to have been made by the Military Board to silence him. The second critic was Major General "Pompey" Elliott who in civil life was a lawyer. After his return to Australia in 1919 he became a member of the Senate of the Federal Parliament. His main criticisms of Australia's post-war army were made in the Senate under the protection of parliamentary privilege. The third critic was Bennett himself. In "The Sunday Sun and Guardian" of Sydney on the 28th November 1937 he said, in a special article, that, "Australia has no regular army"; that "our army is inefficient and insufficient"; that "nothing effective is being done to train senior Citizen Force officers for high command"; that "it would appear ... that senior Citizen Force officers are not wanted"; and that "they are not given the full rank they are entitled to when commanding brigades and divisions". Action was taken quickly by the Military Board to stop this criticism. In "The Sunday Sun and Guardian" of the 12th December 1937 the following editorial statement was published:

"Major General H. Gordon Bennett's article on Australian defences, which was to have been the third in his series, does not appear in "The Sunday Sun" to-day. Military red tape has put its stranglehold on ... Major General Gordon Bennett."

The newspaper took up this matter with the Minister of Defence, Mr. Thorby, by letter. In the Minister's reply he said:

"The Military Board, which is responsible for the administration and discipline of the military forces has reported that Major General Bennett, by publication of articles in "The Sunday Sun" has contravened the Defence Act and Regulations and has been commanded by them to cease such contraventions."

After General Bennett's receipt of this order the public heard very little, if anything, about his views on the nation's military preparedness for war during the remainder of this inter-war period.

iv.

### The War of 1939-45.

After the outbreak of the war of 1939-45 on the 3rd September 1939, the A.I.F. was hastily reformed, and, on the 13th October 1939, General Blamey was appointed to command its 6th Australian Division and ancillary troops. The previous day he had been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General, and had thus superseded General Bennett who had been senior to him as a Major General.

Months passed and still Bennett remained unemployed. On the 18th March 1940 Lieutenant General Sir Brudenell White was recalled from retirement, promoted to the rank of General and appointed Chief of the General Staff, vice Lieutenant General E. K. Squires of the British Army who had died in the appointment. Bennett was well known to White. They had both served with distinction in the War of 1914-18 and White had been Chief of

the General Staff when Bennett had been appointed in 1921 to command the post-war 9th Infantry Brigade. After White's re-appointment as C.G.S., Bennett called to see him in Melbourne about getting a field command appointment in the A.I.F. But this interview was a fruitless and disappointing one for Bennett. White told him that, so long as he was C.G.S., Bennett would not get an appointment in the A.I.F.<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately Bennett's biographer does not give White's reasons for this decision.

On the 1st July 1940, Bennett was appointed to command the Eastern Command Training Depots which were located in New South Wales. About six weeks later, on the 13th August 1940, General White was killed on duty in an air crash at Canberra, and the appointment of Chief of the General Staff became vacant for the second time in less than six months. On the same day as Bennett's appointment to command the Eastern Command Training Depots, Lieutenant General Sturdee was appointed to command the 8th Australian Division of the A.I.F. with the rank of Major General. Immediately prior to this appointment Sturdee had been the G.O.C., Eastern Command since the 2nd November 1939. A result of General White's death was that, on the 30th August 1940, Sturdee became the Chief of the Australian General Staff and vacated the appointment of Commander of the 8th Australian Division.

Bennett was about to grasp one of the prizes for which he had been waiting. On the 24th September 1940 he was seconded to the A.I.F. and appointed to command the 8th Australian Division. His headquarters were located at Rosebery Racecourse in New South Wales. He received orders, probably in January 1941, to proceed to Malaya with his Division, less two brigades and certain units, where he would come under the operational command of the G.O.C., Malaya in accordance with the terms of a directive which the Military Board issued to him.<sup>2</sup>

Bennett's force sailed through Sydney Heads on the 4th February 1941 for Malaya. Bennett himself left Sydney that same day by air and arrived in Singapore three days later. Eight months later, on the 15th October 1941, he was appointed G.O.C., A.I.F., Malaya in addition to his appointment of Commander of the 8th Australian Division. It will be recalled in this connection that in 1914 Major General Bridges had been appointed G.O.C., A.I.F. and Commander of the 1st Australian Division. In this dual appointment Bennett was responsible to the Military Board in Melbourne and not to General Blamey in the Middle East.

On the 18th November 1941, Bennett flew from Singapore to the Middle East where he was attached to Headquarters, A.I.F. (Middle East) from the 23rd November 1941 to the 2nd December 1941. At this time General Blamey was absent in Australia, where he had gone for discussions with the Australian Government. In the Middle East Bennett visited forward areas in the Western Desert where Australian troops were engaged in military operations against the enemy. But

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1. See "The Gordon Bennett Story" by Frank Legg. Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1965, p.159.

2. See Lionel Wigmore, "The Japanese Thrust". Australian War Memorial, Canberra, 1957, p.65 for the text of this directive.

the visit was short and Bennett was highly critical of what he had seen. At dawn on the 3rd December 1942 he departed from Egypt by air to hurry back to his command in Malaya. It was during this return journey, on the night of 7th/8th December 1941, that the Twenty-Fifth Japanese Army, which numbered 125,400 men, invaded Malaya at Kota Bharu. Against this invading enemy force the G.O.C., Malaya had a total force, at the time of the invasion, of 88,600 men supported by 158 obsolete aircraft. Bennett's A.I.F., including base and lines of communication troops, numbered another 15,200 men. The G.O.C., Malaya's task became an impossible one from the outset. Bennett's biographer has said that Bennett's 8th Division was not moved into action until the campaign was more than half over - a campaign which was to last only seventy days.

The Malayan campaign terminated on the 15th February 1942. Hostilities ceased, officially, at 2030 hours British time. In accordance with the terms of surrender agreed to by the G.O.C., Malaya (General Percival), all troops were to remain in the positions they occupied at the time of the cessation of hostilities, pending further orders from the Japanese commander, General Yamashita. After the time ordered for the "cease fire", Bennett handed over his command to his senior artillery commander, Brigadier C. A. Callaghan, who had administered it during Bennett's short visit to the Middle East.

Bennett and a small party of two officers, according to the Australian official history of the campaign, "got away from Singapore Island about 1 a.m." on the 16th February 1942. After some perilous experiences, Bennett reached Broome in Western Australia, on the 27th February 1942, by Qantas plane. The next day he flew from Broome to Sydney via Charleville in Queensland. He landed at Mascot in Sydney on Sunday 1st March 1942, where he was met by the G.O.C., Eastern Command, Lieutenant General H. D. Wynter. The next morning Bennett flew to Melbourne to report to the War Cabinet. When he arrived at Army Headquarters in Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, he called first on the Chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General Sturdee. Bennett said of this meeting that:

"To my dismay, my reception was cold and hostile. No other member of the Military Board called in to see me. After a few minutes' formal conversation, Sturdee told me that my escape was ill-advised, or words to that effect. I was too shocked to say much.

He then went on with his work, leaving me to stand aside in his room."<sup>3</sup>

The Australian official history of the Malayan campaign makes no comment on this discourteous treatment of General Bennett. Nor does it explain General Sturdee's reasons for having formed this opinion that Bennett's escape was "ill-advised". If this were an official statement, it is one that one would expect the Adjutant General to have made rather than the

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<sup>3</sup> See Lieutenant General H. Gordon Bennett, "Why Singapore Fell". Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1944, p.217.



Chief of the General Staff. Bennett went on to say, in this description of his reception by the C.G.S., that:

"The Military Board had issued a circular not many months before instructing all ranks that, if captured, their first duty was to escape."<sup>4</sup>

Later on this so far unhappy day for Bennett, he attended a meeting of the War Cabinet at which General Sturdee was present. There Bennett described in his own words to the War Cabinet the events culminating in the fall of Singapore. Bennett said that:

"The Prime Minister was friendly and made a short but kind speech thanking me for my work in Malaya and assuring me of the confidence of the Government in me."<sup>5</sup>

Then Bennett raised before the War Cabinet the subject of his escape from Singapore and the criticism to which he had been subjected from an unexpected official quarter. He said, "I told the Cabinet that I left my headquarters in Singapore well after the surrender was signed, sealed and delivered, and after I had organised units in rest areas and collected arms and equipment". At the conclusion of this War Cabinet meeting the Prime Minister, Mr. Curtin, made a press statement in which he said:

"I desire to inform the nation that we are proud to pay tribute to the efficiency, gallantry and devotion of our forces throughout the struggle. We have expressed to Major General Bennett our confidence in him. His leadership and conduct were in complete conformity with his duty to the men under his command and to his country. He remained with his men until the end, completed all formalities in connection with the surrender and then took the opportunity and risk of escaping."

After this meeting Bennett returned to Sydney and went on leave to await further orders about his future employment.

On the 23rd March 1942 General Blamey arrived at Fremantle in the "Queen Mary" from the Middle East. Four days later he became the Commander-in-Chief of the Australian Military Forces with headquarters at Victoria Barracks, Melbourne. In a press statement the Minister for the Army, Mr. Forde, said that "consequent on General Blamey's appointment, the Military Board would cease to function as such, and that the heads of departments on this Board would become the Commander-in-Chief's principal staff officers". Blamey had been a full general since the 24th September 1941 and was the fourth Australian officer to attain this rank.

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4. See Lionel Wigmore, "The Japanese Thrust", p.385, Footnote 10 for the text of this circular.

5. See Bennett, "Why Singapore Fell", p. 218.

At this stage Bennett was still waiting and wondering what the future held in store for him. On the 6th April 1942 he was appointed to command the newly created III Australian Corps with the rank of Lieutenant General. This corps was located in Western Australia - a State which at that time was regarded as being in imminent danger of invasion by Japanese forces. Bennett arrived in Western Australia and assumed command on the 15th April 1942.

During the next two years the Allied forces in the South West Pacific Area improved their situation strategically and tactically, and so Western Australia's threat of invasion passed. Then began a gradual transference of troops from Bennett's corps to other commands, and Bennett himself at last gave up all hope of getting a command in a forward operational area. Compared with his successful career in the War of 1914-18, his career in the War of 1939-45 had been a disappointing and frustrating one to him from start to finish.

His biographer said that on the 4th April 1944 Bennett wrote to the Commander-in-Chief to request that he be relieved of his command and returned to civil life. This request was granted. But once again Bennett became "headline news" by the manner of his retirement. He was reported in a Sydney newspaper as having said, "I did not want to get out of the Army during the war, but I have been frozen out". Officially, he relinquished the command of the III Australian Corps on the 8th May 1944 and on the following day he was transferred to the reserve of officers. His "fighting days" were over - he was not re-employed again on the Active List. After his departure from the Corps its command had been taken over temporarily by one of his divisional commanders - Major General H.C.H. Robertson who was known as "Red Robbie". As a subordinate commander he had been a severer trial to Bennett than General von Francois had ever been to Ludendorff on the German Eastern Front in 1914-15.

v.

#### Inquiries into Bennett's Escape from Singapore.

The war did not end in the Pacific area for more than another year. In Europe, Germany surrendered unconditionally on the 7th May 1945. In the Pacific area, Japan accepted the surrender terms of the Allies on the 14th August 1945. At this date Bennett was a retired corps commander and 58 years of age. It was to him a bitter contrast to the "cease fire" in November 1918 when, at the age of 31 years, he was one of the A.I.Fs. most successful brigade commanders.

Among those who returned from Japanese captivity after VP Day, was Major General C.A. Callaghan, to whom Bennett had handed over the command of the A.I.F. in Malaya in order to effect his escape. In Moratai General Callaghan handed to General Blamey a letter from General Percival, the former G.O.C., Malaya who had written:

"I have to report that Major General H. Gordon Bennett, G.O.C., A.I.F., Malaya, voluntarily and without permission, relinquished

the command of the A.I.F. on February 15th, 1942, the date on which the capitulation of the British Forces in Malaya took place ..."<sup>6</sup>

I have not yet seen any satisfactory explanation of the motives which prompted General Blamey to take the action he did on this letter. On the 10th October 1945 he appointed a Court of Inquiry, without presumably having first consulted the Government, to re-investigate the circumstances of General Bennett's escape from Singapore.<sup>7</sup> Its President was Lieutenant General Sir Leslie Morshead; its two other members were Major General V.P.H. Stantke, who had been the Adjutant General at the time of Bennett's escape, and Major General G.F. Wootten, the Commander of the 9th Australian Division. This action by Blamey excited, at the time, great and widespread condemnation. His biographer, Mr. John Hetherington, said:

"The attacks came from many quarters. The most vehement took the form of a broadcast by Allan Fraser, Labour M.H.R., for Eden-Monaro, who said that Blamey's action suggested 'a complete contempt for parliamentary government'. Much of the criticism was in this vein."<sup>8</sup>

The court of inquiry assembled and began its proceedings at Victoria Barracks, Paddington on Friday 26th October, 1945. General Bennett's counsel submitted that there should be a public inquiry by some impartial tribunal which was entirely dissociated from the Army. But the court intimated that it intended to proceed with the inquiry in camera and it called the first witness. General Bennett, accompanied by his counsel, then walked out of the court. The court's taking of evidence was completed on the 30th October 1945 and the following day the President announced the court's findings. They were, in a nutshell, that:

"The Court is of the opinion, on the evidence, that Lieutenant General Henry Gordon Bennett was not justified in handing over his command or in leaving Singapore."<sup>9</sup>

It was no doubt in justice to Bennett and in order to correct the effects of Blamey's use of his powers that the Federal Government then appointed a Royal Commission to inquire into the circumstances of Bennett's escape from Singapore.

On the 17th November 1945 Mr. Justice Ligertwood of the Supreme Court of South Australia was appointed a Commissioner to inquire into the circumstances of General Bennett's escape from Singapore. In the Australian official history of the Malayan Campaign it was said that "The Commission opened its sittings in public on the 26th November and sat continuously until 13th December 1945. The transcript of the evidence covered 480 pages of foolscap".<sup>10</sup>

<sup>6</sup> See Frank Legg, "The Gordon Bennett Story", p.277.

<sup>7</sup> See Warren Perry, "John Hetherington's 'Blamey'". The United Service Quarterley, Sydney, Vol. 9, No. 1, July 1955; pp.39-45.

<sup>8</sup> See John Hetherington, "Blamey". F.W. Cheshire, Melbourne, 1954, p.212.

<sup>9</sup> See Frank Legg, "The Gordon Bennett Story", p. 283.

<sup>10</sup> See Lionel Wigmore, "The Japanese Thrust", Appendix 3, pp.650-652 for a summary of the proceedings of this Royal Commission.

During this time General Blamey had ceased to be the Commander-in-Chief of the Australian Military Forces. General Bennett's good faith, patriotism, courage and devotion to duty were established to the satisfaction of the Royal Commission. However, the Commissioner expressed the opinion that General Bennett had made a mistake, but honestly, about the time at which it became his duty to escape.

Bennett's biographer asked the question "Was the Commissioner right?", i.e., in regard to Bennett's timing of his escape. The Commissioner's findings on this matter were strongly challenged later by the late Lieutenant Colonel T.P. Fry, who was an eminent lawyer, a member of the Queensland Bar and Bennett's Chief Legal Officer at Headquarters, III Australian Corps.<sup>11</sup> In an article entitled "Legal Aspects of the Departure of Major General Gordon Bennett from Singapore", which was published in 1948 in "The University of Queensland Law Journal", Fry said that:

"There is something wrong with the system if the allocation of praise or punishment to a soldier for escaping, often on a sudden opportunity, usually in circumstances of great stress and strain, continues to depend upon legal points of great subtlety, which he cannot be expected to comprehend and about which legal experts themselves may differ profoundly, rather than upon the soldier's good faith and honest and faithful performance of what he conceives to be his duty to his country."

Nobody should make a judgment on General Bennett for his action in escaping from Singapore without first having studied Colonel Fry's article.

vi.

### Last Years.

Bennett survived Blamey by more than a decade. After a long drawn out illness, during which time the Governor General, Sir William McKell, presented him in hospital with a Field Marshal's baton, Blamey died in Melbourne on the 27th May 1951, aged 67 years. Bennett lived on for another eleven years. His end came abruptly and unexpectedly on Wednesday, 1st August 1962. He collapsed at the wheel of his car at Dural which is 26 miles west of Sydney and he died before medical aid could reach him.

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11. Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Penberthy Fry, E.D., Sc.Jur.D., M.A., LL.M., B.C.L. Born 19th June 1904 in Brisbane. Died 24th September 1952.

Aut Pace, Aut BelloSome of the more active highlights in the history of  
the Armed Forces of the Colony of Victoria 1851-1901

W. M. Chamberlain.

During the half century between Separation and Federation, the Colony of Victoria developed from total dependence for defence on Britain, to the stage of actively participating in foreign wars. The cause and effect of this development is clearly seen in the series of colourful events that highlight this period.

\* \* \*

At first the garrison was comprised of Imperial troops. In the year 1854 the Imperial H.Q. in Australia was transferred to Melbourne; local volunteer units began to be formed, and the only insurrection of free men in the nation's history was defeated by Imperial soldiers and police at Ballarat.

On December 3rd at 4.30 a.m. a force of 276 police and soldiers marched to the Eureka Stockade. Within, there were about 50 miners armed with rifles, *California diggers armed with revolvers and another of* asleep. *This was the climax of a situation out of which the diggers' grievances about gold licences had resulted in direct action. They had* determined to fight, and had raised their flag above the crude defensive breastwork which they now manned.

A storming party of 64 men rushed the stockade. In the first volley, several fell on both sides, but the miners were unable to resist the advancing bayonets and the cavalry and mounted police. Captain Wise and 4 privates were killed, and about a dozen soldiers were wounded. 16 miners were killed and at least 8 died of wounds. 114 prisoners were taken (13 were held for trial for high treason, but were acquitted in 1855). Ballarat was placed under martial law.

\* \* \*

The vulnerability of the Colony to seaward attack and the isolation from the main British warships in Sydney resolved the Colonists to seek their own naval defence.

On May 31st, 1856, H.M.V.S. "Victoria", Captain W. H. Norman, arrived in Port Phillip Bay.

By 1860 the 2nd Maori War was raging, and British troops were called from their Australian duties to fight in New Zealand, their places being taken by volunteers. Military settlers were also enrolled in Victoria for service in New Zealand, seeing action as part of the Waikato Regiments, but not as a Victorian-organised force. However, for the first time, men in an Australian Colonial uniform saw action in this campaign when H.M.V.S. "Victoria" was accepted for service off the New Zealand coast; a quarter of a century before the campaign in the Soudan.

H.M.V.S. "Victoria" departed Melbourne on April 24, 1860, with troops of the 40th Regiment, for Nelson, N.Z. It was engaged in general duties, transporting stores, troops and dispatches. In July a party of 30 men under Lt. Woods was put ashore, while "Victoria" returned to Sydney with dispatches, taking aboard Maj.Gen. Pratt and further troops in Melbourne, and departing July 26 for New Plymouth, N.Z.

Among its duties were the provision of the garrison of a blockhouse on the beach to prevent a flank attack by the Maoris. The Victorians also led a storming party at the capture of Matarikoriko Pah.

\* \* \*

The American Civil War was drawing to its close in 1865 when, one January morning, the Confederate raider "Shenandoah" appeared out of the mist in Hobson's Bay. It was in need of repairs and was slipped at Williamstown.

After protests from the U.S. Consul, the Governor ordered work suspended. Police and military were sent to prevent launching. Artillery from Williamstown marched to the slip and Captain Waddell, C.S.N. threatened to fight his ship from there.

"Shenandoah" was eventually relaunched, and on February 18 steamed out, firing its guns in salute. It had taken on several local volunteers and headed north, sinking several ships in the North Pacific, including the New Bedford Whaling Fleet after the end of the war.

In 1872 the "Alabama" claims were heard at Geneva. The Victorian Government was declared negligent, and Great Britain liable for all acts committed by the vessel after her departure from Melbourne. Of the total awarded to the U.S.A. (\$15m.) about one quarter was attributed to the "Shenandoah".

H.M.V.S. "Victoria" was the only warship in the Colony in 1865, but in May 1866 permission was granted to obtain an ironclad vessel and a wooden training ship. The latter was the old man-of-war "Nelson" which arrived in 1868, and the ironclad was H.M.V.S. "Cerberus", which, on arrival in Hobson's Bay on April 9, 1871, gave Victoria the most powerful ship in the Southern Hemisphere.

It acted as guardship for the port and carried out manoeuvres in Port Phillip Bay, but its guns were never fired in anger.

\* \* \*

The Colonists' reaction to the removal of British troops in time of war (e.g. to New Zealand), and the vulnerability to a raider, was to seek a more permanent defence force, preferably artillery, and after discussions and correspondence, the decision was reached by Britain to withdraw its garrisons of Infantry and allow the Colony to plan its own defence.

On May 21, 1870, the last British garrison, troops of the 18th Regt. (Royal Irish), marched out, and Victoria was left to form a Permanent Artillery for Harbour defence, and Coastal Forts, which were proceeded with at Pt. Nepean and Queenscliffe.

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On December 3rd at 4.30 a.m. a force of 276 police and soldiers marched to the Eureka Stockade. Within, there were about 50 miners armed with rifles, there was a troop of Californian diggers armed with revolvers and another of Irishmen armed with pikes - probably fewer than 200 in all, many of whom were asleep. This was the climax of a situation out of which the diggers' grievances about gold licences had resulted in direct action. They had determined to fight, and had raised their flag above the crude defensive breastwork which they now manned.

A storming party of 64 men rushed the stockade. In the first volley, several fell on both sides, but the miners were unable to resist the advancing bayonets and the cavalry and mounted police. Captain Wise and 4 privates were killed, and about a dozen soldiers were wounded. 16 miners were killed and at least 8 died of wounds. 114 prisoners were taken (13 were held for trial for high treason, but were acquitted in 1855). Ballarat was placed under martial law.

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The 80's saw the development of Militia, under the Defence and Discipline Act 1883, instead of solely volunteers which were proved not totally adequate. War fears again stimulated a further strengthening of the Defence Forces and the Victorian Mounted Rifles, Victorian Rangers and Victorian Horse Artillery date from this decade. When the Soudan campaign stirred national interest, Victoria offered a contingent, but this offer was declined.

\* \* \*

The Victorian Navy in 1884 numbered the following ships :-

|                |                                |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| "Nelson"       | (Flag)                         |
| "Cerberus"     | (Turret)                       |
| "Victoria"     | (Gunboat) (Second of the name) |
| "Albert"       | ( " )                          |
| "Childers"     | (1st Class Torpedo Boat)       |
| "Nepean"       | (2nd Class Torpedo Boat)       |
| "Lonsdale"     | (2nd " " " " )                 |
| "Commissioner" | (Torpedo launch)               |
| "Customs"      | ( " " " )                      |
| "Batman"       | (Harbour Trust Steamer)        |
| "Fawkner"      | ( " " " " )                    |
| "Gannet"       | ( " " " " )                    |

Together with the Naval Brigade, the force had a total of 72 guns ranging up to the 10" M.L. rifles of "Cerberus". "Victoria", "Albert" and "Childers" had sailed from England in February 1884, and on arrival at Malta, "Childers" had been ordered to join the British Naval forces at Suakin. It proceeded there via Crete, and arrived March 16, too late for active service, and on the 22nd resumed its journey with "Victoria" and "Albert" to Australia, arriving in Melbourne on June 5, 1884.

\* \* \*

In the 1890's some development of land forces took place, including the formation of the Hastings 40 Pdr. Battery, Victorian Rangers, (drawn by bullocks), but retrenchment of the armed forces became necessary during the economic crisis early in the decade. Ships were sold or laid up. The V.M.R. were called out during the maritime strike.

In December 1892, the Echuca Company, Victorian Rangers, were invited by the residents of Moama, N.S.W., to visit the town. The Victorian/N.S.W. Border was subject to customs regulations, as Victoria was "Protectionist" and N.S.W. "Free-trade". It was also contrary to Military Regulations for a volunteer force to "invade" another Colony.

However the Premier in Sydney was asked to contact the Victorian Premier, and after formal letters, the respective Governments and Commandants were agreeable. 240 officers and men from detachments throughout Victoria marched over and conducted manoeuvres, the first time in history that an armed force from Victoria had entered N.S.W. It was less than a decade before Federation.

\* \* \*

The late 90's saw a revival of interest in defence. The Victorian Scottish Regiment was formed in 1898. The deteriorating situation in South Africa

was watched by the Colonists, and offers of assistance were sent to Britain some months before hostilities began.

Five contingents were sent from Victoria, the first departing on the "Medic", October 28, 1899. (1 Coy. V.M.R., 1 Coy. Vic. Infantry (later mounted), were specially raised). Also, in 1900, the 2nd Contingent (2 Coys. M.R.), 3rd "Bushmen" (2 Coys. M.R.), and 4th "Imperial" Contingent (5 Coys. M.R.) were dispatched.

In 1901 the 5th V.M.R. (8 Companies of Mounted Rifles) was dispatched. A group of nurses accompanied the 3rd Contingent, as did Camerons Scouts, a privately-raised band. In this campaign Victorian troops proved their worth, nearly 200 officers and 3400 men serving. 13 officers and 113 men were killed or died on service, and over 100 decorations were won for gallantry in the field.

\* \* \*

The 1st Contingent became part of the Australian Regiment in South Africa and saw action in the Colesberg area in January-February, 1900, taking serious casualties at Pink Hill on February 12. It proceeded to Bloemfontein in the advance on the Boer Capitals and was joined by the 2nd Contingent. Together, the Victorians advanced to Pretoria, turning the enemy's flank on May 29 at the Witwatersrand. They were at the Battle of Diamond Hill on June 11-12, and proceeded in the advance to the Portuguese - East African Border, arriving at Komatipoort in September.

The Bushmen were part of the Rhodesian Field Force, having joined the War via Beira. Part were in action at the severe battle at Koster River on July 23, and a detachment was besieged at Elands River, August 4-16. They fought in N.W. Transvaal and at Rhenoster Kop on November 29, then transferred south to check De Wet's Commando entering Cape Colony, taking heavy losses in the dogged pursuit. Then they returned north to the capture of the last Boer capital, Pietersburg.

The Imperial Bushmen operated in the Western Transvaal, cleared the enemy from Ottoshoop and operated about Zeerust. On November 9 they surprised a laager at Wonderfontein and in December took Delarey's Commando by surprise. In 1901, they distinguished themselves in operations in Cape Colony, surprising the enemy at Phillipstown in February.

The 5th V.M.R. operated in Eastern Transvaal and on June 12 suffered the heaviest casualties of any Australian Unit in an action in this war when attacked at Wilmansrust. It saw much fighting against Botha's Commando, moving into Zululand in September. On January 4, 1902, it rode to the rescue of the beleaguered force at Omerwacht, and engaged in arduous trekking in February.

\* \* \*

The Naval Brigade intended for South Africa included 200 Victorians, drawn from H.M.V.S. "Cerberus" and the Victorian Naval Brigade, and 260 men from the N.S.W. Naval Brigade. The Brigade was diverted to China in 1900 to join an International Force in suppression of the Boxers. It departed Sydney August 8, aboard the transport "Salamis".

On September 9 it reached Taku, and on the 16th, Tientsin, where the British garrison had already been relieved. The Victorian contingent remained here and performed police work. A Company of Victorians was chosen as part of Gen. Gaselee's punitive expedition to Pao-Ting-Fu, a force including British, Germans, French, Italians and Australians. It departed October 12, arrived at Pao-Ting-Fu October 19-21, encountered no opposition, and on October 27 marched back to Tientsin, arriving November 6.

They punished villages en route, and destroyed arms and ammunition, causing virtual cessation of active military operations in Northern China. They were relieved in March 1901, returning to Australia on the "Ching-tu", arriving Sydney April 25.

\* \* \*

On January 1, 1901, the six Colonies became the Federation of Australia. The later Victorian Units to go to South Africa were enlisted as members of the Commonwealth Horse and so helped establish a national tradition.

By 1903, the forces had been reorganized and incorporated in an Australia-wide defence organisation.

\* \* \*

#### REGIMENTAL MARCHES OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY

Submitted by P. A. Shaw.

The following is a list of regimental quick marches which has recently been prepared as an AAO. -

- a. Musical arrangements are produced and distributed by the Director of Music, AHQ.
- b. The march is provisional or subject to copyright clearance.

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1st Armoured Regiment                   | - | "Radetsky"  |
| 2nd Cavalry Regiment                    | - | To be advised   |
| 3rd Cavalry Regiment                    | - | Combination of "Garry Owen" & "The Girl I Left Behind" (a)  |
| 1st/15th Royal New South Wales Lancers  | - | "El Abanico"  |
| 2nd/14th Queensland Mounted Infantry    | - | "Regimental March of the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars"       |
| 3rd/9th South Australian Mounted Rifles | - | "Fair Thee Well, Inniskilling"                              |
| 4th/19th Prince of Wales's Light Horse  | - | "Australian Light Horse"                                    |
| 8th/13th Victorian Mounted Rifles       | - | "The Victorian Rifles"                                      |
| 10th Light Horse                        | - | "Marching through Georgia"                                  |
| 12th/16th Hunter River Lancers          | - | "Our Director"  |
| Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery  | - | "British Grenadiers"  |
| Royal Australian Engineers              | - | "Wings"   |
| Royal Australian Survey Corps           | - | "Wandering the King's Highway" (a)                          |
| Royal Australian Corps of Signals       | - | Combination of "Begone Dull Care" and "Click go the Shears" |

The Royal Australian Regiment -  
 1st Battalion - "Waltzing Matilda" 5th Battalion - "Dominique"  
 2nd Battalion - "Ringo" 6th Battalion - "Spirit of Youth"  
 3rd Battalion - "Our Director" 7th Battalion - To be advised  
 4th Battalion - "Inverbrackie" 8th Battalion - "Let's Go" (a)  
 9th Battalion - To be advised.  
 Pacific Islands Regiment - "Bonnie Dundee".  
 The Special Air Service Regiment - "The Happy Wanderer".  
 The Royal New South Wales Regiment -  
 1st Battalion (Commando) - "Sari Marais"  
 2nd Battalion - "Breganza"  
 3rd Battalion - "New Colonial"  
 4th Battalion - "My Regiment" (Blanken Burg)  
 17th Battalion - "Boys of the Old Brigade"  
 19th Battalion - "Colonel Bogey"  
 41st Battalion - "Cock O' The North".  
 The Royal Victoria Regiment -  
 1st Battalion - "Our Director" 6th Battalion - "Waltzing Matilda"  
 2nd Battalion - "I'm Ninety Five" 22nd Battalion - To be advised  
 5th Battalion - "Cock O' The North" 1st Independent Rifle Company -  
 (Pipes or Brass). "Men of Harlech".  
 The Royal Queensland Regiment -  
 9th Battalion - "El Abanico" 42nd Battalion - "Blue Bonnets  
 over the Border"  
 25th Battalion - "Sussex by the Sea" 49th Battalion - "Colonel Bogey"  
 31st Battalion - "John Peel" 51st Battalion - "The Far North Queensland Regiment".  
 The Royal South Australia Regiment -  
 10th Battalion - "The Song of Australia"  
 27th Battalion - "Scotland the Brave"  
 43rd Battalion - "Waltzing Matilda".  
 The Royal Western Australia Regiment -  
 11th Battalion - "Sussex by the Sea"  
 16th Battalion - "March of the Cameron Men"  
 28th Battalion - "Colonel Bogey"  
 The Royal Tasmania Regiment -  
 1st Battalion - "The Southlanders"  
 50th Battalion - To be advised.  
 Papua and New Guinea Volunteer Rifles -  
 "Imperial Echoes".  
 2nd Commando Company - "Cockleshell Heroes" (b)  
 Sydney University Regiment - "Men of Harlech"  
 Melbourne University Regiment - "The Thin Red Line"  
 Queensland University Regiment - "Pour Bacchus"  
 Adelaide University Regiment - "Highland Laddie"  
 Western Australian University Regiment - "Sons of the Brave"  
 University of New South Wales Regiment - "Blue Blood"  
 1st Division Army Aviation Regiment - "Eagle Squadron"  
 Australian Intelligence Corps - "The Rose and the Laurel"  
 Royal Australian Army Service Corps - "Wait for the Waggon" (a)  
 Royal Australian Army Medical Corps - "Here's a Health Unto His Majesty" (a)  
 Royal Australian Army Dental Corps - "Puff the Magic Dragon"

Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps - Combination of "Village Blacksmith" and "Wild Colonial Boy" (a).  
 Royal Corps of Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers - Combination of "Lillie Burlero" and "The Boys in the Back Room" (a).  
 Royal Australian Army Educational Corps - Combination of "Gaudeamus Igitur" and "The Young Soldier" (a).  
 Australian Army Catering Corps - "Sugar and Spice".  
 Royal Australian Army Provost Corps - "Gendarmes Duet" (b).  
 Australian Army Psychology Corps - "The Campbells are Coming".  
 Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps - "The Girls in Grey".  
 Women's Royal Australian Army Corps - Combination of "Soldiers of the Queen" and "Girls" (a).  
 Corps of Staff Cadets, Royal Military College - "The Staff Cadet".  
 Company of Cadets, Officer Cadet School - "Portsea" (a).  
 Officer Training Unit - "On the Road to Gundagai" (a).  
 Army Apprentices School - "The Army Apprentices School March" (a).  
 1st Recruit Training Battalion - To be advised.  
 2nd Recruit Training Battalion - "With a Little Bit of Luck" (b).  
 3rd Recruit Training Battalion - To be advised.  
 HQ. Northern Command - To be advised.  
 HQ. Eastern Command - "St. Kilda".  
 HQ. Southern Command - "March of the Heralds".  
 HQ. Central Command - "The Wizard of Oz" (b).  
 HQ. Western Command - "Westralia".  
 HQ. Tasmania Command - "Old Towler".  
 HQ. Northern Territory Command - "Under the Double Eagle".  
 HQ. Papua-New Guinea Command - "Atholl Highlanders".

\* \* \*

#### SOCIETY LAPEL BADGE

To commemorate the tenth year of the Society's existence, the Federal Council has decided to purchase, subject to receipt of a satisfactory number of orders, a long-required lapel badge.

The design is the Shield of the Society in full coloured enamel, with the "Rising Sun" above (but not the mediaeval helmet), and the scroll beneath.

PRICE will be \$A1.50 each, and a choice of stickpin, clutch grip, or R.S.L.-type fastening is available.

Please submit orders to - The Federal Secretary without money, stating the type of fitting required. Branch orders should be submitted in bulk. If and when the badges are ordered and available, the fact will be notified in SABRETACHE and remittances requested.

These badges will be of excellent workmanship, by the manufacturing jewellers LEGA PTY. LTD., and you will be able to be proud to wear this ornamental emblem.

\* \* \*

ASIAN BATTLE DIARY

W.M. Chamberlain.

The Australians and New Zealanders in Korea and South East AsiaNotes on the Chronologies.

Of the many forms of presenting history, Chronology has probably most shortcomings. At best it is a collection of factual events in a systematic progression. There is no place in Chronology for the discussion, the contrast of two points of view, or the hindsight analysis of events spanning time and place. At its worst it degenerates into a collection of headlines that may or may not form a connected sequence.

I am fully aware of the drawbacks of confining oneself to such a methodical scheme, but have had to weigh them up against the one big advantage which Chronology has - of portraying an outline of the events of a lengthy time period in a comparatively small space. Furthermore, we are too close to these events to see them in the way that history will see them, following consideration of records not yet available.

I believe that part of the Society's function, in addition to unearthing and preserving the past traditions of the Armed Services, is to record as they happen the events of the present. In the turmoil of controversy, one is apt to forget the Australians and New Zealanders who have fallen in the line of duty in the little wars. There seems to be a need for a brief record of their achievements.

This period has been a particularly interesting one, as the Australian and New Zealand Armed Services have taken over from Britain an increasing role in assisting Commonwealth and Allied countries within the Asian sphere. This service has been characterised by garrison and cantonment life, training duties and active participation in hostilities in Korea, Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam. References in this compilation have included the few authoritative books relating to these campaigns, Official Commonwealth and New Zealand Year Books, Australia in Facts and figures, and contemporary newspaper reports.

Items have been summarised and expressed in present tense. Some events are not capable of reduction to a date other than month of occurrence, and in some cases only the date of announcement of an item has been available. The entries mainly relate to the activities of the Military Forces, due to the support nature of Naval and Air operations. Therefore the latter have not been shown separately, but in each case naval and air units have been precisely identified. When the collective noun "Australians" is used reference is to Army Units.

Korea1950

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| June 25 | N. Korea invades S. Korea.  |
| 29      | 77 Sqdn. R.A.A.F. at Iwakuni ordered to prepare for combat. H.M.A.S. Bataan, Shoalhaven at disposal of U.N.   |
| July 2  | Mustangs of 77 Sqdn. escort American B-26, B-29s (5th U.S. Air Force) in attack on North Korean airfield of Yong Po. (First non-American unit in action.) |

- 1950 Korea (Contd.)
- July 3 H.M.N.Z.S. Tutira, Putaki sail from Auckland. Until cease fire 2 frigates maintained in area. (Patrol, escort, control R.O.K. minesweepers.)
- 26 Announced Australia to send ground troops to Korea.
- Aug. 2 H.M.A.S. Warramunga leaves Australia for Korea.
- 2 77 Sqdn. 1745 hours on combat ops. 40 Pilots, 812 sorties (napalm used for first time).
- (End) 77 Sqdn. has destroyed 35 tanks, 182 trucks, 44 other vehicles, 4 locos.
- Sep. 17 Small advance party of Australians reaches Korea.
- 27 3 Btn. R.A.R., embark Tokyo for Pusan (Volunteers from Australia and 67 Btn).
- 30 Australians join British Battalions in Songju-Waegwan area. (27 Brit. Com. Brig. Argylls, Middlesex.)
- 77 Sqdn. in repeated strikes to stop breakthrough of Pusan Perimeter and support B29s. over North Korea.
- Oct. 2 3 Btn., first operational patrols - no contact.
- 5 3 Btn. Airlifted to Kimpo. to join invasion of Nth. Korea.
- 9 U.N. forces cross 38th parallel.
- 10 77 Sqdn. moves from Iwakuwi, Japan, to Pohang, Korea, with 30 Trspt. Unit (91 Wing).
- 12 U.S. Task Force, including H.M.A.S. Warramunga, lays barrage against Chongju (E. coast).
- 17 Australians in action near Sariwon, knock out T34 tanks.
- 7 Australians wounded in bayonet charge at Yongyu, 150 enemy killed, 239 captured.
- 22 Australians secure Chongchon R. bridgehead at Sinanju.
- 27 Australians conclude the Battle of Broken Bridge, lose 8k.22w.
- 29 Australians advance to Chongju and dig in. (Most Northerly point reached by Brit.-Com.-Brig.) (Nearest the Australians were to the Yalu River.)
- Nov. 1 Chinese enter the war.
- 2 U.N. withdrawal to Sinanju.
- 5 77 Sqdn. supports 3 Btn. R.A.R.
- 23 Australians into reserve after 54 days in the line.
- 24 N.Z. advance party departs Wellington.
- 28 Australians in action again. Fall back on Sunchon, Chasan.
- H.M.N.Z.S. Rotoiti relieves Pukaki. Personnel engaged in 3 commando landings during service.
- Dec. 2 Australians attack at Yopa-ri, disperse enemy.
- 3 Australians withdraw to Hayu-ri, then Singye (4th Dec.).
- 10 Main force (N.Z.) departs aboard "Ormonde".
- 11 Australians withdraw to Uijonbu.
- H.M.A.S. Warramunga, Bataan help evacuate 8,000 U.N. wounded from Pyong Yak, Taedong R.
- 1951
- Jan. 2 Brit. Com. Brig. re-assembles, Seoul.
- 4 U.N. forces abandon Seoul.
- 5 Australians at Changhowon-ni, 70m. South of Seoul.
- 16 Australians ambush Chinese.
- 22 16 Fld. Regt. R.N.Z.A. joins Australians. 163 Battery supports 3 Btn. R.A.R.

- 1951 Korea (Contd.)
- Jan. -- 77 Sqdn. use Napalm and mg. fire, N.W. of Ichon.
- Feb. 4 British Brigade moves to Yoju.
- 14 Hand to hand fighting with Chinese.
- 23 Australians and Canadians meet stiff opposition. Hill 614.
- 25 Barrage assists Australians to capture Hill 614.
- Meteors arrive in Japan by carrier.
- Mar. 11 Australians take Chisan.
- 14 U.S. troops re-enter Seoul.
- N.Zs. cover fire for Australians attacking Hill 410.
- Several Mustangs hit by ground fire.
- Apr. 5 U.N. forces cross 38th parallel.
- 10 77 Sqdn. begin training on Gloster Meteor VIII jets at Iwakuni.
- 11 General Macarthur relieved.
- 11 Australians at Karim in Op Rugged. N.Z. Arty. clears nearby hill.
- 13 Australians move forward to establish Kansas Line - roughly 38th parallel.
- 15 Australians fighting to gain "Sardine" and "Salmon" features. N.Zs. shell "Sardine" Hill 951 (Sardine) taken.
- 16 "Salmon" taken.
- 22 Chinese offensive begins, 20th Chinese Army breaks through 6 R.O.K. Div.
- 23 Brit. Com. Brig. moves up to stop gap. Austs. beat off repeated attacks. N.Z. support.
- 24 Australians ordered to withdraw after 31K 58W at Kapyong. Helped halt Chinese advance until U.S. reinforce front. 3 Btn. R.A.R. awarded Presidential Unit Citation. Chinese offensive fails. N.Zs. cover withdrawal. After Kapyong Australian Inf., N.Z. Arty. and Trspt. Platoon in new 28th Brit. Com. Brig. Australians turn over officers and men from Reinforcement Holding Unit in Japan.
- H.M.N.Z.S. Hawea relieves H.M.N.Z.S. Tutira.
- May 9 H.M.A.S. Murchison leaves for Korea.
- June - H.M.A.S. Bataan returns, relieved by Murchison.
- 77 Sqdn. return to Korea. Meteors operate in Mig Alley.
- July 28 Brit. Com. Brig. under 1 Brit. Com. Div. First time in history troops from Britain, Australia, Canada, India, N.Z. under one operational Division (N.Z. provides A.S.C. Sigs. Engrs. as well as Artillery). With 25 Canadian Brig. 29 British Infantry Brig., man Kansas Line.
- Aug. Op. Boomerang. Fifteen Australian casualties in raid across Imjin R.
- 2 N.Z. Force embark aboard Wahine, Wellington (Vessel ran aground at Darwin, Aug. 15. Troops later flown to Japan.)
- 2 H.M.A.S. Anzac sails for Korea.
- mid 77 Sqdn. top cover for U.S. F80 Shooting Stars, near Yalu R.
- Aug-Sep. Meteors in action with MIG fighters.
- Sep. Brit.Com. Div. crosses Imjin, establishes new defence line.
- Aug. 31 H.M.A.S. Sydney sails for Korea with H.M.A.S. Tobruk.
- Sep. 2 H.M.A.S. Warramunga returns. (Anzac, Tobruk replace Bataan, Warramunga.)
- Sep. H.M.N.Z.S. Taupo relieves Rotoiti, which had helped repel landing on island off E.Coast, sinking majority of junks carrying enemy troops.



1951Korea (Contd.)

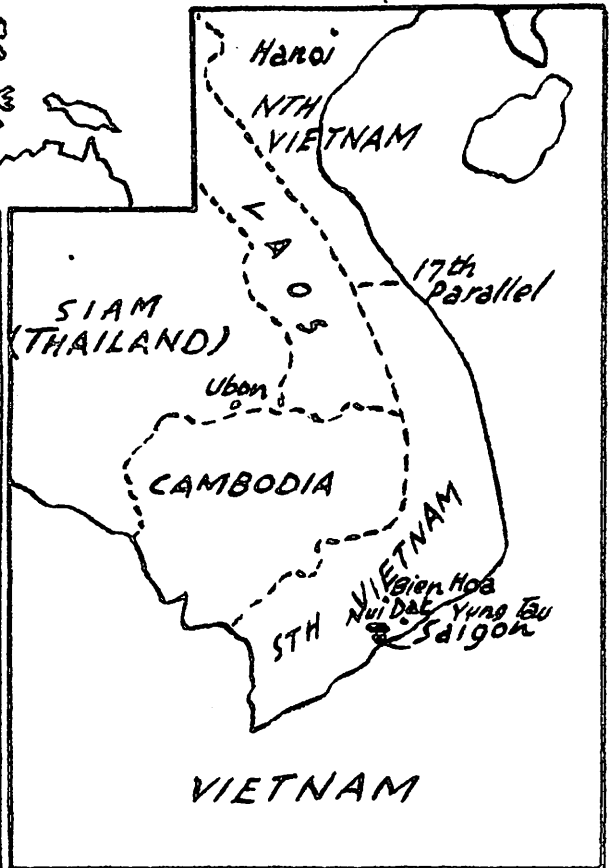
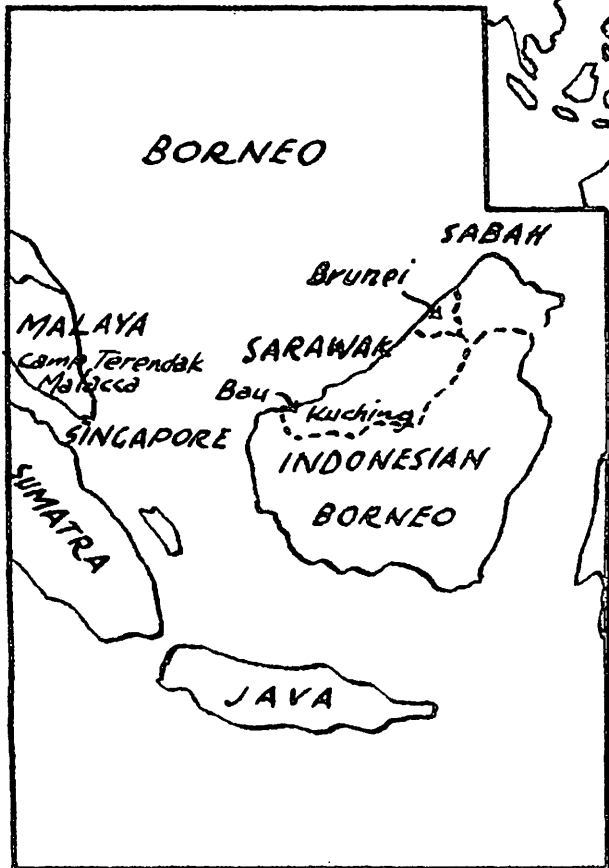
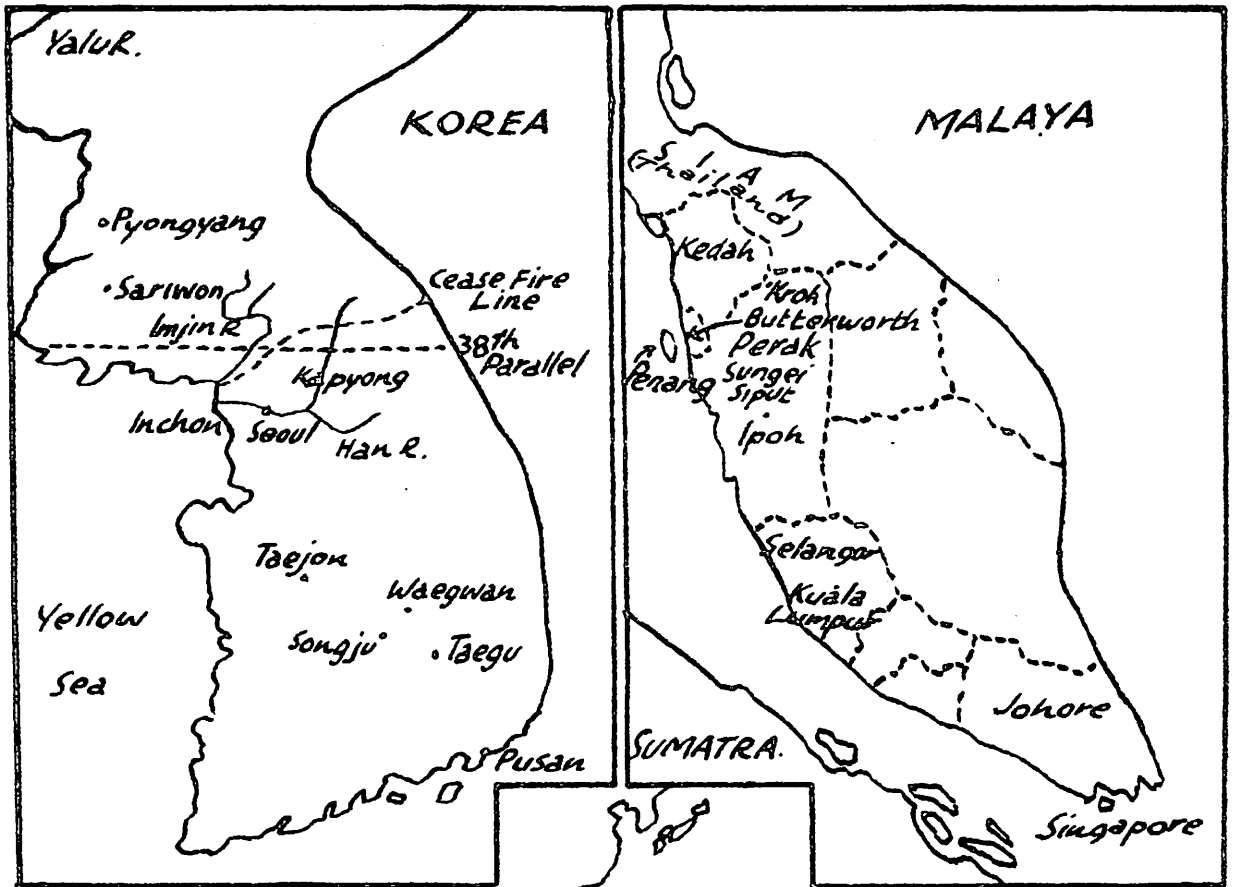
- Oct. Op. Commando.  
 3 Hill 355 (Little Gibraltar) captured by Australians.  
 4 Attack on Hill 317, Brown Knoll, Baldy, N.Zs. shell Hill 317.  
 5 Hill 317 captured.  
 7 Fight for the Hinge. In 6 days fighting, 20 Australians killed 89 wounded. Chinese withdraw. New front Jamestown Line.  
 - H.M.A.S. Sydney relieves H.M.S. Glory. Sea Furies of 805, 806 sqdns. blast troop concentrations. Fireflies 817 Sqdn. bomb gun emplacements.
- Nov. 3 Chinese offensive begins.  
 12 H.M.A.S. Sydney completes 1,000 sorties since September.
- Dec. 1 Twelve Meteors in sweep N. of Pyong Yang attacked by 40-50 MIGS. Three Meteors missing. Two MIGS shot down.  
 - 77 Sqdn. taken off interception. Patrol Kimpo (Seoul Area) and ground-attack duties.  
 - H.M.A.S. Tobruk, Murchison in bombardments.

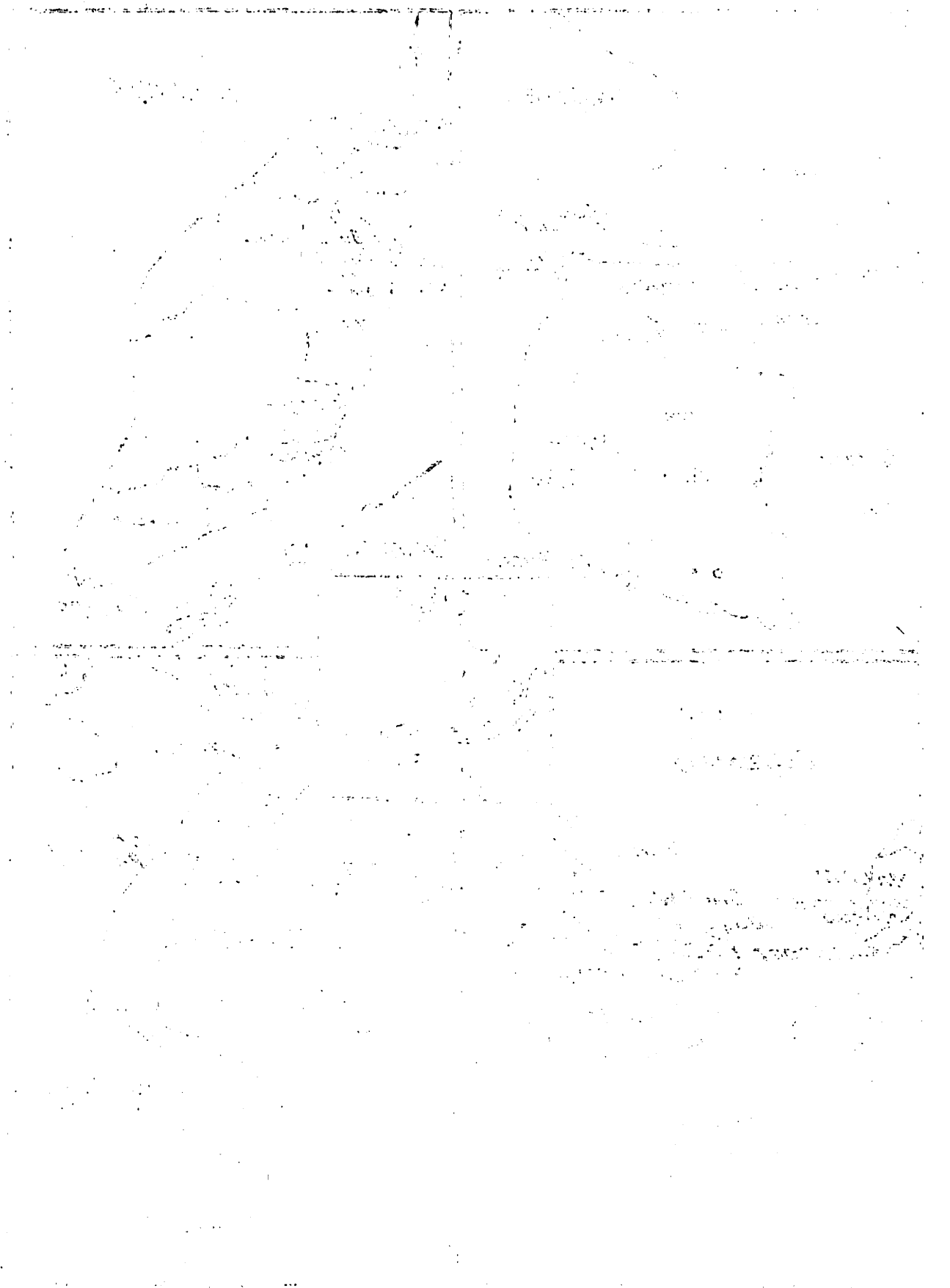
1952

- Jan. H.M.A.S. Bataan (2nd tour) relieves H.M.A.S. Murchison. H.M.A.S. Warramunga begins 2nd tour.  
 18 Australians back on line at Little Gibraltar.
- Feb. R.A.A.F.-developed Napalm rockets first used at Chaeryong.
- Mar. 3 1 Btn. R.A.R. leaves Sydney, arrive in Korea in April.
- May 8 MIG shot down by a Meteor.
- June - 1 Btn. in Jamestown Line.  
 19 First action for 1 Btn.  
 - H.M.A.S. Condamine relieves H.M.A.S. Warramunga.
- July 2 Op. Blaze. 1 Btn. in first major op. Raid on Hill 227 with flame throwers 3k.34w.1dow.
- Aug. 29 77 Sqdn. part of a 420 F/Bomber force attacking Pyong Yang.
- Sep. H.M.A.S. Anzac (2nd Tour) relieves H.M.A.S. Bataan.
- Oct. 20 1 Btn. to reserve. Later in Oct. patrol Little Gibraltar.
- Dec. 1 and 3 Btns. co-operate in patrol activity. Op. Fauna.

1953

- Jan. 24 3 Btn. patrols cut off by Chinese, fight out.
- Feb. 2 Btn. leaves Melbourne.
- Mar. 1, 2 and 3 Btns. parade together for first time. 1 returns to Australia, replaced by 2.  
 3 H.M.A.S. Culgoa leaves Sydney to relieve H.M.A.S. Condamine.  
 16 77 Sqdn. attack enemy convoy, destroy 24, damage 74 trucks, South of Wonsan.  
 - 30 Trspt. Unit replaced by 36 Trspt. Sqdn.
- Apr/May Napalm rocket attacks on troop billets, villages, supply centres.
- May 4-16 2 Btn. in front line - Hill 355.
- June H.M.A.S. Tobruk relieves H.M.A.S. Anzac.  
 6 2 Btn. Patrol ambushed on The Mound.
- July - 2 Btn. on The Hook, relieve French Btn. Chinese make repeated attacks - main objective Boulder City. 3 Btn. reinforces 2 Btn. 6000 shells fall in Btn. areas (5k.24w.)  
 24 Australians beat off attacks against U.S. Marines on Hill 111.  
 27 Armistice signed Panmunjon.  
 29 2 Btn. move from The Hook to the Kansas Line then to Truce Line.





1954Korea (Contd.)

- Apr. 1 Btn. relieves 2 Btn.  
 Nov. 3 Btn. returns from Korea.  
 Dec. 77 Sqdn. returns on H.M.A.S. Vengeance.  
 - Naval forces reduced. 1 destroyer or frigate to remain.

1955

- Mar.14 R.A.A.F. Trspt. Flight formed to link Japan and Blom Force, Korea.  
 Nov. H.M.A.S. Condamine returns. Last ship to be sent direct to Korea.

1956

- Australian Army commitment only a detachment.  
 - R.A.A.F. cease active link with 5th U.S. Air Force.  
 July. 7 Last three Dakotas depart. Seventy R.A.A.F. Personnel depart later in July.  
 Mar.13 1 Btn. in last parade, Korea.  
 Mar.15 B. Com. Div. disbanded.  
 Jun.30 Administrative responsibility passes from Australia to Britain.

1957-58

- Last Detachments of Austs. and N.Z's. return from Korea.

1950Malaya

- May 31 Decision to send R.A.A.F. Sqdn. to Malaya. Dakotas to be used for dropping supplies. (No. 38 Sqdn.)  
 Jun.17 Advance party leaves Schofields Air Base.  
 19 Arrives Changi.  
 27 Announced No.1 Sqdn. (Lincoln Heavy Bomber) R.A.A.F. to be sent to Malaya.  
 29 Main body No.38 Sqdn. arrives. Operational from this date.  
 Jul. 6 R.A.A.F. equipment and personnel under command Far East Air Force.  
 12 Operational flying begins (Ambulance flight).  
 23 First supply dropping mission.  
 - Four Lincolns arrive Tengah, Singapore, Nos.1 & 38 Sqdns. form No. 90 Wing, R.A.A.F.

1951

- No.38 Sqdn. aids in supply dropping and communications First Australian-built Lincoln completes 100 bombing missions.  
 Nov. No.1 Sqdn. flies 83 sorties; 250,000 lbs. of bombs have been dropped since arrival in 1950.  
 Nov.30 No.38 Sqdn. moves to Kuala Lumpur.  
 - Two Lincolns made thousandth air strike of 1951 in Selangor State, followed up by ground forces.

1952

- No.38 Sqdn. drop first British paratroops used in Malayan campaign. (S.A.S., Malayan Scouts Regt.).  
 July No.1 Sqdn. - 71 sorties in July against targets all over the Federation.  
 - No.38 Sqdn. drop 50,000 lbs. supplies, also carry out missions to Borneo and Ceylon.  
 Nov. Australian Army Observer Unit sent to Malaya.  
 Dec. No.38 Sqdn. have flown more than 1½ million miles in 18 months. Withdrawn from Malaya because of large transport commitments in Korea.

- 1953
- Jan. No.1 Sqdn. flies 50 day, 5 night ops. Malaya (Contd.)
- Feb. No.1 Sqdn. drops heaviest concentration in 1 day, 100,000 lbs. on 100 acres of jungle in North Johore.
- Apr. 105 sorties wiping out bandit camps.
- Drop 170,000 lbs. bombs in Op. Commodore. Attempt to trap Bandit Committee in Jungle.
- Oct. Biggest leaflet dropping ops. in S.E. Asia since 1945.
- 1954
- No.1 Sqdn. continues operations, Malaya.
- 1955
- Apr.2 Announced 3,500 Australian Servicemen to be sent to Malaya this year. R.A.A.F. 1,500- (1 Bomber, 2 Fighter Sqdns., 1 Airfield Cons.Sqdn.), Army, 1,000 (2 Btn. R.A.R.), R.A.N., 2 Frigates or destroyers, and Aircraft Carrier occasionally (up to 2,000 men).
- Announced early 1955, R.N.Z.N. will continue to maintain a frigate in the area. H.M.N.Z.S. Kaniere relieved H.M.N.Z.S. Pukaki after exercises May-June 1955. Also announced by N.Z. that an S.A.S. Sqdn. will be recruited to serve with British No.22 S.A.S. Regt.
- Apr. No.14 Sqdn. R.N.Z.A.F. moved from Cyprus to Singapore. Also Half Trspt. Flight on occasional visits. During year fighters took part in ops. against terrorists.
- May No.41 Sqdn. R.N.Z.A.F. moves from N.Z. to Singapore. Medium Trspt. (Courier flights, ground support ops.).
- June H.M.A.Ss. Quadrant, Arunta, Anzac, Warramunga, Tobruk in Malayan and Asian waters. Exercise with British Far East Fleet. Arunta, Warramunga remain in Northern waters as part of Australian contribution. to Commonwealth Strategic Reserve.
- Jun.30 Announced R.A.A.F. advance party of 30 officers, men, to fly to Malaya in July.
- No.2 A.C. Sqdn. first air unit to go to S.E.Asia Strategic Reserve.
- Sep. 1 Vanguard (456 all ranks) 2 Btn. R.A.R., No.2 A.C.Sqdn., six nurses, leave for Malaya. Army personnel to be attached to 28 Brit.Com.Inf. Brig. Group.
- 12 Advance Party 26 Off., 144 O.R., Aust. Army, arrives Singapore.
- 13 Reaches Penang (Minden Barracks). R.A.A.F. stations at Butterworth.
- Oct. 8 More than 800 men of 2 Btn. R.A.R. sail from Brisbane. (10 Alsatian War Dogs accompany them).
- 19 2 Btn. arrive, Penang.
- Nov. 6 Officers, 127 O.R. leave N.Z. for Malaya.
- 23 R.A.A.F. Lincolns join new blows at Reds. in Malaya.
- 29 R.A.A.F. Sisters leave for Malaya.
- 30 H.M.A.Ss. Anzac, Tobruk, on way to Malaya, arrive Dec. 3.
- Dec. Australians (R.A.A.S.C.) ambushed about 50m. S.E. of Ipoh.
- 1956
- Jan. 1 Australian Army fires first shots against terrorists. Artillery barrage by 105 Fld.Batt. in Kedah State. Australians part of a force operating against Kulim No.2 and Kulim No. 4 (Communist Organisations).
- 3 First patrols return, no contact.
- 4 Offensive continues in Bongsu Mountains.
- 11 Australians capture first terrorist.

1956Malaya (Contd.)

- N.Z. S.A.S. joins parent unit in op. role.
- 23 N.Z. troops in first mission in Malaya.
- Feb. Three Australians accidentally shot by own men.
- 24 R.A.A.F. bombers strike at Hideouts only 6 miles from Kuala Lumpur.
- Nearly 1m. lb. of bombs dropped, 196,000 on two targets in Johore in 1 day (Record for R.A.A.F. in 5½ years).
- Mar. First Australian killed in action in jungle battle. Patrols kill one, wound two enemy in Bongsu Forest.
- 13 Patrol uses tracker dogs in S. Kedah.
- Apr. Ops. conclude S.Kedah. Wellesley Province. Btn. moves to Perak for Op. Shark North.
- May 2 First New Zealander K.I.A. in S.A.S. action.
- 14 Australians in action N. of Ipoh, 4 wounded in grenade attack on Sungei Siput.
- Jun.13 Australians and Malay Police in action N. of Ipoh.
- 23 War enters 9th year. 6,000 Reds, 1800 Security Forces, 2,400 Civilians have been killed.
- 23 3 Australians K, 1 W. in ambush near Sungei Siput.
- Aug.10 Australians in action at Kroh, near Thai Border.
- Sep.28 6 Australians injured in premature shell burst.
- 30 H.M.A.Ss. Anzac and Tobruk fire 128 shells in bombardment of E. coast of Johore.
- Oct.26 Australian patrol in engagement Sungei Siput.
- Nov.11 Announced H.M.A.Ss. Queenborough, Quickmatch to relieve H.M.A.Ss. Anzac, Tobruk, - Will remain until June.

1957

- Jan.22 H.M.A.Ss. Queenborough, Quickmatch, bombard suspected terrorist hideouts on S.E. coast of Johore.
- Mar.19 Announced H.M.A.Ss. Melbourne, Tobruk, Anzac, to join Strategic Reserve.
- May 16 105 Fld. Batt. fire 300 shells in operation.
- 18 Midnight raid by No.1 Sqdn. on jungle hideout kills Communist leader Teng Fook Long.
- 25 Two Lincolns drop 11 tons of bombs on suspected hideouts. A loud-speaker plane calls on terrorists to surrender.
- Jun.18 Recruiting starts for N.Z. Infantry Btn. for Malaya.
- 24 H.M.A.Ss. Melbourne, Quickmatch, Queenborough, return from Malayan waters.
- 25 Two Australians killed, 1w. in action near Siamese border. British and Australian Artillery bombard targets on Malayan side of border.
- 27 Whole 2 Btn. in action after terrorist band.
- Jul.11 Announced Australian bombers have dropped nearly 32m. lbs. of bombs in 7 years.
- Aug.27 H.M.A.S. Tobruk shells suspected communist hideouts, S.E.Coast Johore.
- 31 Malaya achieves independence.
- Oct.10 Transport "New Australia" arrives at Singapore with 850 troops, 227 wives & children after collision with a tanker in Torres Strait. 3 Btn., 1 Fld.Batt. 2 Fld.Tp.R.A.E. relieve 2 Btn., 105 Fld.Batt., 4 Fld. tp. R.A.E.
- Nov.29 1 Btn. R.N.Z. Regt. sails for Singapore.

- 1958.** Malaya (Contd.)
- Jan. 9 3 Btn. in clash at Sungei Siput.
- 10 Since commencement of year 5,000 rounds fired in bombardment of terrorist positions around Ipoh (100 A.Batt. R.A.A. & Singapore Batt.).
- 18 More than 10,000 British, Australian and Malayan soldiers and police fanned out over 1200 sq.miles of country in Op. Ginger, aimed at 276 terrorists in Sungei Siput and Batu Gajah areas.
- 25 H.M.A.Ss. Voyager, Warramunga relieve Tobruk, Anzac.
- Apr.24 3 Btn. first "kill" in action on Anzac Eve.
- May 31 1 N.Z. Btn. in action.
- Jul. 2 No.2 (Canberra) Sqdn., from 82 Bomber Wing, arrived Butterworth, Nos. 3 and 77 to go later.
- 8 Five Lincolns of No.1 Sqdn. arrive Darwin from Tengah, after 8 years active service. Just under 4000 sorties, 34m. lbs. of bombs dropped.
- After 10 years war only 1000 (approx.) terrorists left. Peak was 1950 about 11,000 insurgents.
- Aug.16 N.Z. patrol in action in Ipoh district.
- 19 H.M.A.S. Quiberon arrives Singapore. Voyager, Warramunga return.
- 21 Sailors from H.M.S. Cheviot work with N.Z. Regt. (Exchange Service).
- Sep. Night attack by 3 Btn.
- 4 Canberra bombers in action for first time. Drop thousands lbs. of bombs on terrorists hideouts in N.Malayan jungle.
- Second raid with Canberras of R.A.F., R.N.Z.A.F.
- Nov.11 Last of 19 Avon Sabre jets of No.3 Sqdn. land Butterworth. Fly in via Darwin, Dutch New Guinea, Philippines, Borneo to Malaya.
- 24 Am. three Communist leaders killed by 3 Btn. patrol and Borneo Iban trackers near Lasah, N. Malaya.
- Dec. 100 A. Fld. Batt. has fired 50,000 shells since Nov.1957. Now harrassing terrorists in jungle near Grik, N.Malaya.
- 29 No.41 Sqdn. R.N.Z.A.F. logs second millionth mile flying in 3½ years in Far East.
- 1959**
- Jan.14 R.A.A.F. Hercules Transports leave with 10 tons freight for R.A.A.F. units based at Butterworth. First ops. for Hercules.
- 27 H.M.A.S. Queenborough sails from Sydney for 3 months with SEATO.
- Feb.18 R.A.A.F. uses new Hercules to transport 12 Sabre jets to Malaya.
- Mar.16 H.M.A.S. Tobruk, Anzac, sail for Malayan waters.
- Mar.26 H.M.A.Ss. Melbourne, Voyager arrive Singapore to serve until June.
- May 5 Patrol of 3 Btn. contact enemy in Perak.
- 16 H.M.A.S. Quiberon, Queenborough, return from Malaya.
- June Australian and N.Z. patrol in action near Thai border, led by a Maori.
- Aug.13 Sabres of R.A.A.F. in action for first time strafing terrorist hideouts located by ground troops. Support N.Z. and Australian Canberras in first air-strike for 7 months. First action for No.3 Sqdn. since 1939-45 and for No. 77 Sqdn. since Korea.
- Aug.31 Advance party 1 Btn. leaves by air.
- Sept.31 1 Btn. leaves Brisbane aboard liner Flaminia.
- Nov. 2 Btn. N.Z.R. replaces 1 Btn. N.Z.R.
- Dec.19 3 Btn. returns to Australia.
- 25 800 Australians and Gurkhas seek 40 diehard guerillas, Central Malaya.
- H.M.A.Ss. Vendetta, Quickmatch, arrive Singapore to relieve Tobruk, Anzac.

1960Malaya

- H.M.A.S. Quickmatch replaced by Queenborough.  
 Mar.31 Australians begin ops. N.Kedah.  
 May Australians set trap for 7 uniformed terrorists, N.Perak.  
 June H.M.A.Ss. Vampire, Quiberon, replace Vendetta, Queenborough.  
 Jul.31 Malayan Emergency ends officially.  
 Nov.- H.M.A.Ss. Quiberon, Vampire replaced by Quickmatch,  
 Dec. Voyager.

1961

- Jan. H.M.A.S. Melbourne leaves for longest cruise of S.E.Asia.  
 Sep. 2 Btn. R.A.R. and 1 Btn. R.N.Z.R. replace 1 Btn. R.A.R. and  
 2 Btn. R.N.Z.R.

1962

- Jan. 103 Fld.Batt. R.A.A. equipped with 105 m.m. pack howitzers,  
 Malaya.  
 Jun. 2 Eight R.A.A.F. Sabres, No. 79 Sqdn. arrive at Ubon, Thailand.

1963

- May 14 Troops of 2 Btn. R.A.R. actively hunting Communists near Thai  
 Border.  
 - 3 Btn. R.A.R. & - Btn. R.N.Z.R. replace 2 Btn. R.A.R. and 1 Btn.  
 R.N.Z.R.

1964

- Action against Indonesians during Malaysian Confrontation (q.v.)

1965

- 4 Btn. R.A.R. replaces 3 Btn. Transfer to Borneo for action  
 against Indonesians. 111 L.A.A. Regt. arrives Butterworth.

1966

- Apr.13 110 L.A.A. Regt. to relieve 111 L.A.A.Regt., Butterworth.

1967

- Feb.15 No.3 Sqdn. arrives home after 9 years at Butterworth to re-equip  
 with Mirage Fighters. Replaced by No.75 (Mirage).  
 Apr.14 Canberras to transfer to Vietnam from Malaysia.  
 28 H.M.A.Ss. Hawk, Gull, return to Sydney after more than 1 year in  
 Malaysian area. (Since Jan. 1966).  
 Nov. 8 Btn. R.A.R. replaces 4 Btn. R.A.R.

(Continued in next edition.)



EARLY DAYS OF MODEL SOLDIERS IN AUSTRALIA

by R. A. Powell.

In the several articles on this subject that have appeared in the Model Press in recent years, the writers have concentrated on activity within their own State or capital city. Probably this is natural, for each can write only from his own experience, and modellers in this country have always formed themselves into self-contained cells, usually in a capital city, and having little knowledge of interstate activity. In this brief survey, I intend to set down a few facts concerning early days of collecting in Australia, as I know them.

It is impossible to say when the first adult Australian began to collect miniature figures, but it is a fact that the story of the hobby in this country goes back as far as the earliest days of the British Model Soldier Society and beyond. Major Theo Svensen, a resident of Brisbane, collected toy soldiers as a child in Norway in the 1880's. Many of these were made up from the sheets of paper cut-out figures printed in Germany at that time. It must have been these cut-outs that gave Theo, himself an accomplished artist, the idea of drawing in Indian ink and water colouring his own little figures. When Theo left Norway to take up residence in Brisbane in 1890, he brought his figure collection with him and it still parades in his Brisbane home. But the troops have not increased in number in recent years - The Master's hand has grown a little shaky for such demanding draughtsmanship. As well as his own paper or card troops, Major Svensen's collection includes metal figures by Mignot and other European makers, most of them purchased in Paris in 1890 when Theo visited that city as a 12 year old boy. (Oh to be a 12 year old boy with a love of military uniforms travelling Europe in 1890!)

Theo served his adopted country first as a volunteer in the Queensland State forces; then in the Boer war; he landed at Gallipoli in 1915 and, somehow managed to talk himself into uniform again in 1939! Today he marshals his model troops, mostly representing the armies of Europe in the 1890's, and describes himself as 89 years young.

Another of the pioneers must be Mr. William Brennan of Sydney. Mr. Brennan's great interest has always been the collection of Britain's metal figures, and his collection runs to some 10,000 of these. Since the demise of the Britain's metal figure, Mr. Brennan has diversified his collection and added some Staddens and products of latter day makers. Interested in military bands, he has about 42 in his collection and recently acquired a set from Austria made about 1888 of the Deutchmeister Regiment band, and several bands by Mignot of troops of the French first and second empires. It is possible that in the late 1920's Messrs. Brennan and Svensen, each unknown to the other, were the only adult collectors in Australia, however my Father entered the scene about this time, firstly repainting Britain's figures and then by the Mid-1930's modelling original figures in dental wax and casting them in plaster moulds. I remember as a small boy in 1935 sitting beside the fish pond in our garden while my Father delivered a monologue on the difficulties of casting a horse in a plaster mould.

In 1937 a world dental congress was held in Melbourne and our troops were displayed in the Hobbies Section of the congress. The Melbourne 'Sun' covering the event wrote that model soldiers made by a dentist 'should be well drilled'.

Tony Turner of Perth began collecting model soldiers in his childhood in England - the Best-Britain's of course! I am not sure when Tony came to Australia, but he was casting his own figures in the 1930's. Tony casts from Britain's originals or his own rebuilds of these. Always an extremely active collector, his collection numbers several thousand figures, mostly the armies of Europe of the 1880-1914 era, and fills an entire room in his home.

Another kitchen table modeller from way back is Mr. Ted Millett, creator of the Eureka Military Museum in the Victorian township of Ballarat. Of course Ted is busy these days with his Museum and the restoration and up-keep of 'Montrose Cottage', but in years past he has cast his own model soldiers and has quite a large collection packed away. Just when Ted did his modelling I do not know, but I imagine he must have been active during and before World War 2.

The story of the world-wide upsurge of interest in model figures in the years following the war is well known. The biggest collections in Australia today were begun between 1945 and 1955. People like Rod Marmont in Sydney, Dr. Peter Kaye, Nigel Tulloh, Ken Pryor and Bruce Snowfoot in Melbourne - all were busy in those years converting Britain's figures and buying the new high standard unpainted castings being produced in America by Bussler and by such makers as Stadden and Gammace in England. I think the very large Thornborough family collection would have been begun in that decade.

At about this time several collectors visited England and in the enthusiasm of their return, an attempt was made to form a branch of the British Model Soldier Society in Melbourne. It is difficult to measure the quality of artistic work against a fixed scale. But if we take the average Stadden figure as an acceptable standard, then the first original figure of this standard made in Australia was that of Peter Wootton. I have written at some length of this man's work previously. I fear that, since nothing has been heard of him for several years, he has given up figure making. I first made Peter's acquaintance early in 1962, when he was starting in the Hobby - he was a natural artist and I regard his officer of German S.S. Panzer Troops as the finest figure in my collection. I never had the pleasure of meeting Peter in person, but we corresponded regularly and it is clear from his letters that he modelled many figures that were never produced. Early Australian Troops and even a figure of Capt. Bligh are mentioned as having been ready to cast.

From these few, widely-scattered collectors, the hobby has, in the past three or four years, grown significantly and the continuing support given Melbourne Meetings alone assure its future in Australia.



PA THOMAS  
1967

FIELD OFFICERS

RUSSIAN IMPERIAL GUARD. 1913

By Frank Thornborough.

Emperor's Hussars. (Gala Dress)

Busby- Black fur, Silver Star, National Cockade, White Plume, Scarlet Bag, Gold Lace & Cords, Gilt Chin-chain.  
Tunic- Scarlet, Gold Lace, Corde and Aigulette.  
Pouch Belt- Gold Lace.  
Sash (Girdle)- Silver, Black and orange.  
Pelisse- White, Black fur, Gold lace and cords.  
Pantaloons - Dark Blue, Gold galoon and stripes.  
Boots- Black, Gold bosses.  
Sword- Gilt hilt, Silver, black & orange knot, Steel Scabbard.  
Gloves- White.

Guard Horse Artillery. (Full Dress)

Shako - Dark Blue/Green, Black base, Gold lace top, Silver Star, Gold Cords, National Cockade, Plume White, Gilt Chin-chains.  
Tunic - Dark Blue/Green, Black collar, cuffs and plastron, Scarlet Piping, Gold epaulettes on Scarlet ground, Gold lace.  
Pouch Belt - Gold lace.  
Sash - Silver, with three rows of alternate black and orange dashes.  
Trousers- Dark Blue/Green, Gold lace stripes.  
Sword - Gilt hilt, Silver, black and orange knot, Steel scabbard, Gold lace slings.  
Boots - Black.  
Gloves - White.

Horse Grenadiers. (Parade Dress)

Helmet - Black with brass trim, Silver Star, Transverse Plume Black, Scarlet flan with Gold lace.  
Tunic - Dark Blue/Green, Scarlet Cuffs, Collar, and Plastron, Piping Scarlet, Gold epaulettes with Scarlet ground.  
Pouch Belt - Gold Lace, Black Pouch with Silver Star.  
Pistol Lanyard - White with black and orange 'V's.  
Sash - As for Horse Artillery.  
Breeches- Blue/Grey with Scarlet stripe.  
Boots - Black.  
Gloves - White.

\* \* \*

UNITED NATIONS MEDALS AND RIBBONS

Submitted by J. Ben Hirsh.

The Korea and UNEF ribbons are worn with the special Korea and UNEF medals respectively, while all other ribbons are worn with the UN standard medal.

SYMBOLISM OF RIBBON COLORS.

- Korea Alternate blue and white narrow stripes - UN colours.
- UNTSO - UNOGIL Blue background, two narrow white stripes - UN colours.
- UNEF  
Sinai/Suez  
1957 - Wide UN blue band with yellow symbolising the Sinai desert; the thin blue lines represent the Suez Canal and a green stripe symbolizes the Nile Valley.
- ONUC  
Congo The basic idea in this ribbon is to retain the UN colours making it easy to identify the ribbon as UN. To distinguish the Congo from other UN Missions, green was included as symbolic of hope, thought to be appropriate in a young nation. In addition, it was felt that the green would also symbolize the Congo Basin. White stripes indicate the peacekeeping mission of the UN in the Congo.
- UNTEA The background of this design is primarily UN blue. A thin dark green stripe represents the jungle and swamp-land and a pale green stripe is symbolic of the coral beaches. To indicate the snow-capped mountains, there is also a narrow white band.
- Note: The manufacturers of the ribbon were unable to reproduce the required coloring for coral and we were obliged to accept a light shade of green instead.
- UNYOM  
Yemen Varying shades of brown indicate the dry and rugged mountainous mass in Yemen, the lighter shades representing the desert. There is a UN blue stripe on either side of the motif.
- UNMOGIP  
Kashmir Varying shades of green indicate the Himalayan Range and Kashmir Valley with a white stripe to represent the snow-capped mountains. The UN is represented by a UN blue stripe on either side.
- UNFICYP  
Cyprus The design includes a thick white band with two dark blue bands symbolizing the Mediterranean. The United Nations is represented by a thick UN blue band on either side.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO COLLECTORS OF MEDALS AND SERVICE DECORATIONS

I have been requested by the Secretary of the Department of Defence to bring to the notice of collectors of Medals and Service Decorations the need for them to comply with the provisions of the Defence Act, 1903-66, by obtaining a Permit to possess them.

The relevant sections of the Defence Act are reproduced below:-

DEFENCE ACT 1903-1966. (Provisions relating to service decorations.)

- " 'Service Decoration' - Means any order, medal, badge, clasp, bar or other insignia that was or may be conferred for valour, distinguished conduct or service, long service, good conduct, devotion to duty, efficiency, participation in a campaign or other warlike operation or for any other reason on a member of the Defence Force or of any armed force of any part of the Queen's dominions or of any Power allied or associated with the Commonwealth in any war or warlike operations in which the Commonwealth is or has been engaged, and includes the ribbon of any such order, medal, badge, clasp or other decoration and any colourable imitation, representation or miniature of any such order, medal, badge, clasp or other decoration. "
- " SOB - (1) Except as provided by or under this section, a person shall not -
- (a) make, sell, supply, offer to sell or supply or display for sale or supply a service decoration;
  - (b) exchange, pledge or otherwise dispose of a service decoration; or
  - (c) buy, receive in exchange or by way of pledge or otherwise, or have in his possession a service decoration.
- PENALTY: One hundred dollars.
- " (2) Nothing in the last preceding sub-section prevents -
- (a) the disposal of a service decoration to the Commonwealth;
  - (b) the disposition by will, or the acquisition by devolution in the case of an intestacy, of a service decoration;
- or
- (c) a member of the family of a person upon whom a service decoration has been conferred, or a banker or other person to whom the decoration has been entrusted for safe-keeping, having the decoration in his possession. "

" (3) A person on whose behalf or at whose place of business a service decoration is sold, supplied or offered or displayed for sale or supply in contravention of sub-section (1) of this section is, unless he

proves that the sale, supply, offer or display was contrary to his instructions, guilty of an offence punishable, upon conviction, by a fine not exceeding One Hundred Dollars. "

"

(4) The Minister, or a person or an authority authorised in writing by the Minister to grant permits under this sub-section, may grant permits in writing -

(a) to specified persons to make and sell or otherwise dispose of service decorations; or

(b) to public institutions and bona fide collectors to acquire, retain and dispose of service decorations,

subject to and in accordance with such conditions and restrictions as the Minister or the authorised person or authority thinks fit to impose.

"

(5) A person shall not -

(a) unless he is lawfully entitled to wear a service decoration (proof of which lies upon him), buy, wear or make use of that decoration;

(b) falsely represent himself to be a person who is entitled to wear or have in his possession a service decoration; or

(c) deface or destroy, by melting or otherwise, a service decoration.

Penalty: One hundred dollars.

"

(6) Where a person has committed an offence against this section, any service decoration in respect of which the offence was committed is forfeited."

\* \* \*

Applications for Permits should be addressed to the Secretary, Department of Defence, Canberra, A.C.T., 2600. Mention should be made in the application that you are a member of this Society.

The co-operation of the members concerned is requested.

J. K. Lyons  
Federal Secretary.

\* \* \*

FIRST AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY REGIMENT

NOTES FROM LETTERS FILED WITH COPY OF "HISTORICAL RECORD AND JUBILEE"  
(AUTHOR ANON.), PUBLISHED 1904, IN MITCHELL LIBRARY - M.L. REF.355 0991/F.

Submitted by Lt.Col. P.V.Vernon, O.B.E. ED.

Lady Young, wife of His Ex. the Governor of N.S.W., presented to the Sydney Battalion of Volunteer Rifles regimental and camp colours. An account of the ceremony is said to be in the Sydney Morning Herald of Mon., 20th May, 1861.

Description in the Herald (according to Capt. James H. Watson's letter).-

A richly worked regimental flag and the usual set of camp colours ... beautiful specimens of needlework, made from silk of the finest texture ... The regimental colour, which is about 5 feet square, consists of a blue cross on a white ground, with the Union Jack in one corner, and the five stars, representing the Australian Colonies, prominently depicted. The camp colours are of red silk blazoned with a bugle and the inscription initials of the corps, the saluting flag having a white cross.

Captain Watson also wrote of another account in the Herald, "but of a different date", thus .-

A regimental flag, field of white, cross of Australian blue, on which are placed five stars and the Union Jack in the upper corner. The saluting flag has a crimson field with a bugle suspended and the letters SVR in white silk. The four camp colours are also crimson and ornamented in the same way.

The colour plate in the "Historical Record and Jubilee of the First Australian Infantry Regiment" depicts the colours allegedly presented by Lady Young differently, viz.-

1. A Queen's Colour (presumably), being a fringed Union Jack, bearing in the centre a crown underneath which is the numeral '1'.
2. A regimental colour, white field, red cross (St. George), Union Jack in upper canton, crown above numeral '1' in centre, below which (straddling arm of red cross) 'S B V R' within a wreath.

... Were Lady Young's flags withdrawn and others substituted? asks Captain Watson.

Captain Watson wrote to Lady Mary Windeyer for information about the colours presented in 1861. Lady W. replied from Tomago, Hunter River, 29 May, 1906: "... wondering what had been the fate of the flags which were made in my drawing room and presented by Lady Young ... I think the flags were rather of a home made description and that afterwards we were not very proud of them. In fact, I think they were laughed at ... my husband got up the Volunteers of this State ... regret that after hunting for old papers I have left very little time to reply to you."



DESPATCHES

From Major T.C. Sargent.

The Editor,

During a recent visit to the Eastern States I was fortunate enough to see some of the latest editions of the N.S.W. Branch publication "Despatch".

The Branch is to be congratulated on its ability to produce such a useful publication each month, but I could not help regret that the information in "Despatch" was not available to all members of the Society per medium of the National publication "Sabretache".

I understand that the N.S.W. Branch has also published some very useful medal rolls. It is regrettable that they too have not been available to the Society as a whole, rather than to a limited number of members. Would it be possible to republish some of the N.S.W. articles in Sabretache, and to make available the result of the enthusiastic research of the N.S.W. members to all Society members?

(Editor's Note: The New South Wales Branch have offered the Federal Editor the privilege of reproducing material from the Branch magazine. In view of the fact that numerous members of the Society will have seen it through the Branch paper, it is not considered profitable to re-issue it again in the Federal publication.

Federal Council has drawn the attention of the Branch to its earlier professed intention to publish material of local branch interest only. It is regretted that this policy now seems to be in abeyance.

The fact of the issue of medal rolls by the N.S.W. Branch was mentioned in a previous edition of SABRETACHE. Unfortunately we do not at present have all details of rolls which have been published, with prices etc., but these may be obtained from the Secretary of the New South Wales Branch on application.

\* \* \*

From Major T.C. Sargent.

The Editor,

Reference "Glimpses of the British Regiments in Australia etc." by Lt. Col. P.V. Vernon ED. in the October, 67, edition of SABRETACHE, and in particular the reference to Colonel Shadforth of the 57th Foot.

The following is the obituary of Colonel Shadforth which appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald of 5th August, 1863 -

THE LATE COLONEL SHADFORTH

We have to record the death, at the residence of his son, "Eveleigh House", Camperdown, of Colonel Shadforth, an old and highly-respected colonist. For

some weeks past, the Colonel, who had reached the advanced age of ninety-one, had been confined to his room, and on Monday afternoon last (4th August) he expired, without pain, in the presence of some members of his family. The following brief sketch of the life of the deceased officer will be read with general interest throughout the colony: Colonel Shadforth was descended from an old Northumberland family, and of that county he was a landed proprietor at the time of his death. He was born in 1772, but, though a younger son, his parents were in sufficiently easy circumstances to obviate the necessity for his following a profession, and it was not until 1798, when twenty-six years of age, that he was induced by his cousin, now General Shadforth, and schoolfellow, now General Sir E. Blakeney (then home on furlough), to enter the army. Contrary to his expectations, he was ordered as soon as he joined, to the West Indies, where he remained till early in 1802, when he joined the 57th Regiment at Gibraltar. Thence-forward he was engaged in most of the events of that stirring period of the Peninsular war, including the battle of Busaco, actions of Pomba and Redinha, and siege of Badajoz, until the battle of Albuera, fought in 1811. He was there wounded in the arm, and had his knee so severely shattered by a bullet, that pieces of the bone have on various occasions since come away, and the wound never healed, but required daily dressing up to the time of his death.

Albuera, for the number of men engaged, was the most bloody battle of the Peninsular war, and the 57th bore a prominent part there, more than 400 out of 570 being killed or wounded, including the Colonel and twenty-two out of twenty-seven officers engaged. Parliament gave a vote of thanks for this victory, in proposing which the member who made the motion in the House of Commons added the words, "more especially to the 57th Regiment, where every wound was in front".

The severity of his wounds prevented Colonel Shadforth from taking further active part in the war, though he remained in Spain till his regiment was ordered to America, whither he accompanied it. On Napoleon's return from Elba, the regiment was ordered to Europe but arrived too late to take part at Waterloo, though it formed a portion of the army of occupation at Paris.

In 1826 Colonel Shadforth brought the 57th Regiment out to this colony en route for India, but the marriage of two members of his family induced him to remain here. He was connected with most of the commercial companies that came into existence about this period, as well as with almost every charitable and literary institution, including the Savings Bank, of which he was one of the earliest promoters and Directors. Colonel Shadforth's two eldest sons both entered the 57th Regiment. The elder of these - the Usher of the Black Rod - is still on half-pay; the second attained the command of the regiment, and fell at its head in the unsuccessful attack upon the Redan.

From Major T.C. Sargent.

The Editor,

Your query for information on the "German Legion", and "Miscellaneous Corps" in the October, 1967, edition of SABRETACHE could provide a life-time's research for any Society member, especially in view of the scarcity of material available in this country on these regiments.

The following are a few points on the first units you have listed.-

### The German Legion

The King's German Legion were raised in 1803 from the survivors of the old Electoral Army of Hanover for service in the British Army under the colours of their hereditary ruler King George III. They were disbanded in 1816. The units listed were formed progressively up to 1806. Maximum other rank strength was reached on 15 June, 1812, with a total of 14,175; the total number of other ranks who served in the Legion is about 28,000. From 1803-16, a total of 1,350 officers, military officials and medical officers served in the legion.

The order of precedence of the arms was different to that in the British Army. It ran - Engineers, Artillery, Cavalry, Infantry.

The Engineers consisted of officers only, of whom a total of 13 served in the Corps.

The Artillery Regiment consisted of two troops of Horse Artillery and four companies of Foot. They were equipped with 6, -9-, 12 pounder guns and 5½ and 8 inch howitzers. Normally only 6 and 9 pounders and the 5½ howitzers were used in mobile operations.

In the Cavalry there were originally three Light Dragoon and two Heavy Dragoon Regiments. In the reorganisation of 1813 the Light Dragoons became Hussars (having worn this uniform since being raised) and the Heavy Dragoons became Light Dragoons. They were uniformed and equipped accordingly.

The KGL Cavalry were renowned for their care of their mounts, and excelled in reconnaissance and outpost duties.

The Infantry Battalions were originally formed with six companies but on gaining strength were brought up to ten companies.

The Light Battalions were equipped with a rifled weapon; the Line Battalion weapon was a smooth bore musket of larger bore than the rifle.

Battle Honours awarded to the Legion were:

#### Artillery:

Horse Batteries - Gohrde; Waterloo  
Foot Batteries - Peninsula; Waterloo

**Cavalry:**

- 1st & 2nd Heavy (later Light) Dragoons - Garzia Hernandez; Peninsula; Waterloo.  
 1st Hussars - El Bodon; Peninsula; Waterloo.  
 2nd Hussars - Barlssa (Should be Barossa); Peninsula.  
 3rd Hussars - Peninsula; Gohrde; Waterloo.

**Infantry:**

- 1st & 2nd Light Battalions - Venta del Pozo; Peninsula; Waterloo.  
 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Line Battalions - Peninsula; Waterloo.  
 3rd, 8th Battalions - Waterloo.  
 6th, 7th Battalions - Peninsula.

The uniforms of the Legion units were basically the same as those worn by similar units in the British Army. However the light Battalions were dressed in green, as rifle-men. There also appear to have been some basic differences in the dress of the Hussars (SAHR Journal XL1, Note No. 1386 and Vol. XL11, Note 1405.

**Authorities**

The majority of the detail above has been taken from the article by Lt.Col. R.E.F.G. North, which appeared in the Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research (Vol. XXXIX). A further article on the uniforms of the 2nd Dragoons appears in the same edition of the Journal.

**Miscellaneous Corps**

The Greek Light Infantry were dealt with in detail in Chris Hall's article on "Sir Richard Church and the Ionian Corps, 1810-1816" which appeared in the same edition of SABRETACHE as the Editor's query.

As for the remainder, I must beg time to do some further research.

\* \* \*

From Mr. Robert Gray.

1. Could anyone give me a list of any members of the N.S.W. Soudan Contingent who served in the N.S.W. Naval Brigade in China?
2. Can anyone tell me when regimental numbers were changed to army numbers? Were regimental numbers used in Australia? If so when were they changed?
3. The firm of Stokes & Sons Pty.Ltd. was commenced by Mr. Thomas Stokes who arrived in Victoria from England in 1852. He commenced business as a die sinker in Melbourne in 1855 and the following changes in the name of the firm have since been made :-
 

|                 |            |                        |            |
|-----------------|------------|------------------------|------------|
| Stokes & Martin | 1872-1884, | Stokes & Son           | 1885-1897. |
| Stokes & Sons   | 1897-1910, | Stokes & Sons Pty.Ltd. | 1910- .    |

 The firm is wellknown as a manufacturer of Military Insignia, & in 1956 it struck a handsome medallion to commemorate "100 Years Progress".

\* \* \*

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

An interesting tale was printed in the October 1938 edition of "The Bayonet" (South Australia), in a story entitled "Loyalty and Service - How citizens have played their part -- A glimpse into the State's military history" by Colonel Walter Dollman.

Colonel Dollman was writing of "B" Company, Adelaide Rifles, originally of the 1st Battalion Adelaide Rifles in the State Forces, when he said:-

"The most notable citizen who served in this famous unit was, of course, Charles Cameron Kingston. He represented West Adelaide in the House of Assembly, and for many years a Cabinet Minister. He was for six years Premier of South Australia. He was elected to the first Commonwealth Parliament and was the first Minister of Customs.

During the period of his service with B Company, in which he held the rank of Sergeant, Mr. Kingston was Chief Secretary, a portfolio which, in those days, included the control of the Defence Forces. At the time Major General Downes was Commandant of South Australia and it is related that during the progress of an Easter camp the suggestion was made that the duration of the period should be extended by one day. As this would involve additional expenditure it was necessary to obtain Ministerial authority. This could only be obtained from the Chief Secretary in other words, from Sergeant Kingston of B Company.

The Commandant thereupon sent a staff officer to the C.O. First Battalion, who sent for the Captain of B. Company. The matter in question was explained to that officer, who returned to his lines and sent for Sergeant Kingston, who was orderly sergeant for the day. Sergeant Kingston was then instructed to report to the Commandant's quarters. The Sergeant clicked his heels, saluted, and hastened forthwith to the sacrosanct region of Staff Headquarters. Here an orderly demanded to be told his errand. "The Commandant wishes to see me" was the explanation.

"Is there an officer with you?" asked the orderly.

The sergeant glanced round, "Apparently not" he said, "Is that necessary,"

"I will enquire" was the answer, "what is your name?"

A few minutes later he reappeared and in deferential tones said, "The Commandant will see you sir". The Commandant came to the door of his tent. "Come in Sergeant" he said. He then took his seat at the table and the sergeant walked in and saluted.

"I wish to consult you in your Ministerial capacity" said the General. He vacated his seat. Sergeant Kingston removed his cap and seated himself in the vacant chair. The general explained the position and formally made a request for permission to have an extra day's training. The request had been prepared in writing and the Minister's authority was required. The Minister asked many questions and then assured that

the Commandant's recommendation was in the best interest of the forces granted the application and appended the famous signature that was notorious throughout Australia for its illegibility.

The Chief Secretary then handed the document to the General, who thanked him; the General resumed his seat. The Chief Secretary put on his cap and became Sergeant Kingston once more. He clicked his heels, saluted and passed out to resume his duties as orderly sergeant."

There can be few armies in which a Sergeant was his own General's superior!

\* \* \*

### IN THE NEWS

By B. J. Videon.

#### DANISH MINIATURES.

A price list has been received from MODEL & HOBBY, Frederiksborggade 23, Kobenhavn K., Denmark, listing a series of miniature weapons in the 54 mm scale, at the price of Danish Crowns 1.50 each. Weapons include Spanish 18th Century musket, Winchester 66 carbine, Brown Bess, Martini-Henry, etc. etc. In the same scale are also listed a series of Automatic weapons of the 1st World War, many of which sound very interesting, e.g., German Maxim -08 (sledmount) with 2 ammunition boxes and water cool tube for 12.50 D.Cr. Prices of these items range from 1.50 to 55.00. German Machine Gunners of 1916 in the same scale are also listed -- these are shown as carrying various items of equipment, and range in price from 27.50 to 49.00 D.Cr. For the tank enthusiast, there are two tanks -- Renault for 9.85 D.Cr., and British Mark IV for 14.50 D.Cr. in the HO scale. We suggest you write for the latest information on these figures.

#### PATRICIAN ART PRODUCTS LTD.

This British firm has added to the excellent series I, previously mentioned in SABRETACHE, the following colour plates:

Series II (Nos.7-12) Size 15½" x 9½" without mounts @ 3/6 each.  
Size 17½" x 12" with mounts @ 4/3 each,  
together with history.

14th Regiment of Foot; 90th Regiment of Foot (Rifles);  
Lieut.-General in Service Dress 1810; 12th Regt. of  
Light Dragoons; 2nd Regt. of Dragoons (Scots Greys);  
Royal Horse Artillery.

Series III (Nos. 13-18) size 8-5/8" x 11-3/4" with mounts and  
history for 2/8 each.

Captain 1st Foot Guards 1688; Lieut. Royal Artillery  
1743; Major, Wiltshires 1760; Cavalry Major of the  
British Legion in North America 1780; Captain, Marines  
1790; Officer of 79th Regiment of Foot (Cameronian

Series of Historic Costumes (couples) size 10" x 12½" without mounts @ 3/6 each.

Size 12½" x 15" with mounts @ 4/3 each.

Nos. 1-6. Regency Dress 1815; Georgian Dress 1760;

Stuart Dress 1706; Restoration Dress 1670; Early Stuart Dress 1625; Elizabethan Dress 1580.

If these are as excellent as Series I, they should be ordered at once! Patrician Art Products, Havenfield Hall, Alkham Valley, Folkestone, Kent, England. NOTE -- POSTAGE IS EXTRA.

#### "RUBSAMEN CALENDARS.

Verlag. Wilh. C. Rüb<sup>u</sup>samen, of 7000 Stuttgart-West, Reinsburgstr. 102, West Germany has published again a calendar for 1968, in the series Reiter Rosse Bunter R<sup>o</sup>cke, and the theme this year is "Guards in the 19th Century". At the reasonable price of DM 12.50 each, this is a good buy, judging by previous issues.

They also offer another in the series "Der Grosse Uniformkalender" -- for DM 19.80. In this large size (40 x 58 CM), this also seems a good buy, with many old and unusual uniforms illustrated.

#### INDIAN MEDAL DEALER.

A small price list has been received from SANTOSH KUMAR, 8/10-G Block, Connaught Circus, NEW DELHI 1, India. It shows a number of medals including Geo. V Afghanistan E.F. (Native) for £2.15.0 ea.; Geo. V Waziristan E.F. (Native) for £2.15.0, Geo. VI North West Frontier 1936-37 E.F. (Native) for £3. etc. etc. Packing and postage 5/- extra for each medal. Payment by draft on New Delhi banker with order.

We suggest that anyone interested should make enquiry first, to ensure his requirements are held.

#### WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DRESS REGULATIONS 1895.

Those interested may see these in the "Supplement to the Government Gazette of Western Australia" of Friday, 26th April, 1895 (Supplement dated Monday, 29th April, 1895, No. 23).

These occupy 22 pages of foolscap size, and you may be able to arrange to obtain a photostat from your Public Library.

#### SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS.

"TO SHOOT AND RIDE" - The Australians in the South African War.

The limited edition of this publication has been sold out, and until there are sufficient orders to justify a reprint, it is regretted that we are unable to arrange to supply further copies. Orders received will be held in case a reprint becomes possible.

"VICTORIA CROSS WINNERS OF NEW ZEALAND"

The first edition of this book has also been sold out, but the second edition is now available for \$3.00 per copy, from the Federal Secretary.

The second edition includes citations of winners of the New Zealand Cross, which, to the best of our knowledge, have not been published elsewhere than in the New Zealand Gazettes from 1869 to 1910.

#### GERMAN DECORATIONS BEING REPRODUCED.

Some months ago a Sydney suburban paper carried a report describing how German decorations and medals are being reproduced for collectors by an Austrian factory. The report claims that original dies are being used, and that many collectors are unable to distinguish originals from reproductions.

These insignia are appearing in many coin and medal shops in Sydney and Melbourne, and probably also in other parts of Australia.

Collectors who insist on genuine originals will now need to be quite astute if they are to protect the authenticity of their collections. This writer has seen some of the medals, and was unable to pick them from originals, the only clue being the brand-new appearance in most cases.

It is unfortunate that these reproductions appear to be highly overpriced in the majority of cases, but no doubt there will be many who will be glad to get samples to fill gaps previously left in their collections.

In the Sydney paper in question, Mr. Harry Larkin, of the Illawarra Coin Centre, Hurstville, N.S.W., claimed that the replicas which he is stocking are cheaper than the originals. We suggest that those interested should enquire for themselves.

#### EUREKA MILITARY MUSEUM.

Wellknown Member Edward J. Millett has achieved a major success with his recently-opened Eureka Military Museum, adjacent to his restored Montrose Cottage. Flying proudly above it is a replica of the flag used by the Eureka miners in their stand against the forces of law and order, The Southern Cross.

The Museum was constructed by Mr. Millett from local bluestone, to match the materials of the old cottage, and he has achieved a most pleasing effect therefrom.

Inside the museum the walls are lined with glass cases containing a priceless collection of weapons associated with the history of Australia to 1900, together with a collection of military uniforms and accoutrements of the Australian Colonial Forces that is unique for its quality and condition.

Uniforms are displayed on full-sized dummies, and it is interesting to note the excellent effect achieved by the use of "faceless" heads which are in fact wig-stands made commercially from polystyrene foam.

Mr. Millett has demonstrated the depth of his long experience with various museums in Australia by keeping his cases free of overcrowding -



but highlighted by interesting and topical posters, etc., interspersed between the major items. A selection of relics of Ballarat's Goldrush Days serves to lead into the military theme, as it will be recalled that troops of the 40th Regiment were called in to help to quell a rebellion of miners at the Eureka Stockade 113 years ago. Fittingly, a uniformed dummy of the 40th Regiment stands adjacent to the gold-mining relics.

Montrose Cottage itself is unique. Built about 1856, Mr. and Mrs. Millett acquired it in 1963 in almost derelict condition. They have spent most of their time and much money since then in renovations and restoration to the condition in which it would have been in the 1860's if in good condition at that time. Authenticity has been the keynote, and not a piece of furniture or equipment can now be said to be missing from the home, nor is any piece either out of date or out of character. One can almost imagine that a family of 1860 has stepped out to go to church, and will shortly be expected back, to carry on with the business of living!

The museum and cottage are opened to the public for inspection for a modest charge between 10 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. each day EXCEPT FRIDAYS. The address is - 23 Eureka Street, BALLAARAT.

Don't miss it -- it is worth going out of your way to see it!

#### AMERICAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE.

For those interested in The American War of Independence, G. J. Coles Stores are selling at 70¢ each, 4 coloured plates 10 x 4" in plastic frames, of -

1. Continental Army Private
2. Washington's Bodyguard
3. American Dragoon
4. Colonel of Artillery

These plates are of excellent quality, and good value at the price.

\* \* \*

#### PERSONAL

#### LOSS OF AN OLD FRIEND.

It is with very great sorrow that we record the sad loss of our old friend Hugh Harper, late of Edinburgh, Scotland, one of our very early members.

His son, Mr. Douglas Harper, writes that Hugh passed away at his home on 4th November, 1967, and that the family would prefer that no letters of condolence be sent.

We believe and hope that Hugh enjoyed a full and interesting life with the help of his hobby. He was known to many of us as "A GOOD BLOKE".

\* \* \*

PASSING OF DR. AUSTIN COOPER.

We also regret to record the death recently of Melbourne member Dr. Austin Cooper. Although he was unable to attend meetings, Dr. Cooper was always interested in our efforts, and kept his long-standing membership up to date.

We trust that he too found in his hobby the solace that many of us need from time to time when the going may be "rough".

\* \* \*

CONGRATULATIONS.

It gives us particular pleasure to note the award in the Birthday Honours list, of the O.B.E. to our old friend Lt.Col. P.V. Vernon, E.D.

Phil. will be known to many of us as the producer of the excellent book "THE ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES LANCERS 1885-1960", but his long-standing contributions to the Society and to the New South Wales Branch are also worthy of note. Frequently over-worked, often weary, Phil. has always taken time off to deal with historical matters that seemed to require attention.

His outstanding contribution to the establishment of the New South Wales Lancers Memorial Museum through the Linden House Appeal has been his biggest "spare time" job in recent years, and it is for this that he has been honoured.

Congratulations and Well Done.

\* \* \*

BOOKSHISTORIES - PERSONAL NARRATIVES - UNITED STATES ARMY

A Checklist - By C.E. Dornbusch.

A copy of the abovementioned bibliography compiled by our prolific fellow member, Mr. Charles Dornbusch, and published in 1967, is to hand.

The Preface opens with: "Well over a thousand additional titles and periodic references justify a revision of HISTORIES OF AMERICAN ARMY UNITS, WORLD WARS I AND II AND KOREAN CONFLICT, WITH SOME EARLIER HISTORIES, 1956".

The Checklist, in large quarto size, is presented in 2800 (including Addenda) continuously numbered entries arranged alphabetically by the unit's designation and then in numerical sequence by the unit's number.

No local distributor, nor the price, have been mentioned to the writer. It is suggested that any enquiries might be made directly to The Hope Farm Press, Strong Road, Cornwallville, N.Y., 12418, U.S.A.

\* \* \*

P. V. Vernon.

"AIR ORGANISATIONS OF THE THIRD REICH, VOL. I"

By Roger James Bender.

This American publication is a worthy addition to the library of any person interested in uniforms, badges and flags of the Luftwaffe and its auxiliaries.

Hard covered, with 192 pages, profusely illustrated in colour and black and white, with numerous photographs, some showing equipment which I had never previously seen illustrated.

Colour seems to be accurate, although in some cases there are variations from colours shown in my own records.

Some of the organisations covered are - DLV, NSFK, Condor Legion, SA Standard Feldernhalle, Technical Emergency Corps, SS Paratroopers, Herman Goring Panzer Division, Band, Administration and Forestry Service in addition to the normal Luftwaffe formations.

Standards, pennants and flags are shown, in addition to aircraft markings, including those of the foreign legions.

Price in Australia is \$11.20, although a German correspondent writes that he obtained his copy from R. J. Bender Publishing, P.O. Box 1425, Mountain View, California, U.S.A. 94040, for \$U.S.9.75, a very big difference!

J. Ivan Lock.

\* \* \*

COMMEMORATIVE MEDALLION

In deference to the suggestion of various numismatic members, the Society has decided to consider the striking of a medallion to commemorate 65 years since the granting of "Australian" titles to Australian Regiments, and 10 years of The Military Historical Society of Australia.

The medallion will be a limited production of 100 specimens in bronze, with suitable Army and Society motifs. Price will be \$3.(Aust.) each, and, once again, the excellent LEGA workmanship will guarantee quality.

Those interested are asked to send orders WITHOUT MONEY at this stage, to the Federal Secretary. Money will be called up, if and when required.

This will be a unique issue, so BE IN IT!

\* \* \*

ADVERTISEMENTS(50 Cents per Advertisement)

## WANTED:

A WORLD WAR 2 GERMAN HELMET.

P. Epps,  
12 Hackett Street,  
GREENMOUNT, W.A.  
6056.

\* \* \*

## WANTED:

PAIR OF COLLAR BADGES OF 46th BRIGHTON RIFLES  
(Officers Service Dress) - 1939.WW2 W.A.A.A.F. UNIFORM ITEMS, SUMMER AND  
WINTER (But not fawn woollen "battledress"  
blouse).

B. J. Videon,  
20 Thomasina Street,  
EAST BENTLEIGH, 3165,  
VICTORIA.

\* \* \*

## WANTED:

Mr. E. J. Millett requires to complete specimens in his  
Military Museum, the following items :-

- 1 SMALL SHOULDER STRAP BUTTON OF QUEENSLAND MILITARY  
FORCES PRE-FEDERATION BRASS;
- 1 QUEENSLAND FORCES WAISTBELT CLASP;
- 1 CAP SIZE QUEENSLAND FORCES BUTTON.

The design required is "QUEENSLAND" and "VR". Will purchase,  
or trade pre-Federation buttons, badges, bayonets or swords depending on  
what is offered.

Also required, 1854 pattern button of 40th Regt. and  
12th Regt. British Army, with numeral only.

E. J. Millett,  
Eureka Military Museum,  
23 Eureka Street,  
BALLARAT, VICTORIA, 3350.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

(Organized Crime and Racketeering Unit)

Page 1

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

TO : SAC, NEW YORK  
FROM : SAC, PHOENIX  
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

Reference is made to...

Date: [Illegible]

On [illegible] at [illegible] Phoenix, Arizona...

The above information was obtained from [illegible]...

Very truly yours,  
[Illegible Signature]

cc: [Illegible]

This information is being furnished to you for your information...

Very truly yours,  
[Illegible Signature]

Enclosed for your information are [illegible] copies of [illegible]...

Very truly yours,  
[Illegible Signature]

[Illegible Signature]  
[Illegible Title]

WANTED TO SWAP - PUBLICATIONS

I require the following publications urgently,  
in any condition as long as they are complete -

Commonwealth Military Orders 1904 & 1905  
AAOs & MBIs 1939  
General Orders before 1942 and after 1946  
MBIs 1943  
AAOs prior to 1949 issued after World War 2  
MBIs/GROs for the period 1940 to 1947 inclusive

I have the following publications which are  
surplus to my requirements which I would like to exchange  
for the above -

AMR&Os 1955 reprint with amendments to No 64,  
in good condition.  
AMR&Os 1942 reprint with amendments to No 59,  
in fair condition.  
AMR&Os 1927 issue with amendments to No 6 in  
poor/fair condition.  
Amendments only to AMR&Os, Nos 38 to 59  
Army List of the AMF, Part 1, Active List Feb 1939  
Various issues of the Gradation Lists after 1945  
Various issues of the Corps Lists of Officers,  
(ARA) after 1955  
Infantry Training 1914  
Infantry Training, Vol IV, Part 1, The Battalion,  
1961  
The Drill Manual, 1963  
Standing Orders for the Equipment of the AMF  
and Senior Cadets, Part 1, General 1940  
Standing Orders for the Equipment of the AMF  
and Aust Cadet Corps, Pam 7, Technical  
Maintenance of Equipment, 1961  
Notes on the British Army 1962  
Defence Reports 1963 and 1966  
Pentropic Division in Battle, Part 8, Infantry  
Aust Army Journal No 129, Pentropic Division

Anyone interested in this subject is invited to  
contact me -

Sgt G R Vazenry  
HQ S Comd  
Victoria Barracks  
Melbourne 3004

Telephone - 6985407  
(after hours) 46-2232

Dear Mr. [Name],

I have received your letter of the 15th and am sorry that I cannot reply to you more quickly.

The matter is being considered and I will let you know as soon as a decision has been reached.

Very truly yours,

[Name]

[Address]

[City]

[State]

[Country]

[Phone Number]

[Fax Number]

[E-mail Address]

[Website]

[Social Media]

[Other Contact Info]

[Closing Remarks]

[Final Signatures]





