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*Sabretache*



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# SABRETACHE



THE JOURNAL OF  
THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF AUSTRALIA

APRIL, 1971

THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

(Founded in Melbourne in 1957)

AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

The aims of the Society are the encouragement and pursuit of study and research in military history, customs, traditions, dress, arms, equipment and kindred matters; the promotion of public interest and knowledge in these subjects and the preservation of historical military objects, with particular reference to the Armed Forces of Australia.

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# SABRETACHE

**JOURNAL AND PROCEEDINGS OF  
THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF AUSTRALIA**

(FOUNDED IN MELBOURNE IN 1957)

**EDITED BY**

**B. J. VIDEON, A.A.S.A.**



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"SABRETACHE"

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This book is intended for the use of the members of the  
Army and Navy of the United States and is  
published by the War Department.

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Once again I have an apology to make for bringing out this issue very late. However it now makes up in size for its lateness and for the paucity of the previous one.

I regret that this was due to two factors, namely, some delay due to illness, and, more directly responsible, perhaps, some shortage of suitable material to make up an edition.

Those members who had already submitted articles should not feel 'put out' by this comment ..... their submissions were appreciated and are of value. But a successful and interesting edition must contain a mixture of 'lead' articles and short ones. I simply did not have the right mixture to feel happy about going to press until now.

Many of us feel at times that we are not sufficiently qualified to take up some challenge or other. Sometimes we know ourselves best, and wisely restrain an inclination to make a botch of something---at others we go ahead and try. Others are merely shy, and really do have talent, and need only the pressure to be applied, whereupon out it comes!

So I am now asking you to look at yourselves squarely and ask the questions "Can I write or submit an article to SABRETACHE? If I say I cannot, am I being unduly modest, too lazy, or telling the truth? If I AM able, why haven't I submitted one?"

As I have said so many times, the material we require in SABRETACHE is mainly Australasian in character, should be either unpublished or, if previously published, not readily available to members in other journals. As Editor, I would like illustrations (wouldn't we all?), and will seriously consider the possibilities in publishing any good pictures that are submitted. At the present time, as for so long in the past, we find that costs of publishing pictures are against us, so that the article with illustrations must be really good to justify the additional costs of printing illustrations. The melancholy truths are that:

- (a) printing costs in Australia are very high, particularly for the comparatively small number of copies we require,
- (b) if we had more members, wanting more copies, the unit cost would drop,
- (c) to get more members we require a better magazine,
- (d) if we put up the subs (as we may have to do in 1972/73), we stand to lose members, even though everything else has gone up in price since we settled on an annual sub of \$4 (and this includes wages),
- and (e) we are relying on other productions, such as commemorative medallions, to subsidise SABRETACHE, but are not getting significant support from our members, most sales being outside the Society.

I have heard frequently comments about what the Society should do. The Society is its membership, and the various Committees are doing what they can to make the Society successful (more power to them!).

Many members HAVE supported SABRETACHE with articles, whether published yet or not, and many have supported the Society by purchasing some or all of its productions ..... these are free of criticism. Others have supported us by merely paying their subs regularly and promptly, and these are much appreciated for this alone. But if any of these have something else to offer, and have failed to do so with no really valid reason, their support is not quite as solid as it might be. In this category I do not include the person who simply can not do any more..... he is already supporting us to the limit of his ability.

So have a think about it; I do not for a moment expect anyone to make a chore out of supporting a Society such as ours where membership and office-bearing are voluntary, but for those who have ability, who love a particular subject, and who could share it with others, there is an excellent opportunity in this Society!

Barry Videon,  
Editor Pro Tem.

\* \* \* \* \*

16th INFANTRY BATTALION  
(THE CAMERON HIGHLANDERS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA)

By P.A. SHAW  
(formerly of  
16 RWAR)



"Vincens"

Battle Honours:

"SOUTH AFRICA 1902"

The Great War - 16th Battalion, A.I.F. - "Somme, 1916, '18", "POZIERES", "BULLECOURT", "MESSINES, 1971", "YPRES, 1971", "Menin Road", "POLYGON WOOD", "Passchendaele", "Arras, 1918", "Ancre, 1918", "HAMEL", "AMIENS", "Albert, 1918",

"HINDENBURG LINE", "Epehy", "France and Flanders, 1916-18", "Anzac", "LANDING AT ANZAC", "Defence of Anzac", "Suvla", "SARI BAIR", "Gallipoli, 1915", "Egypt, 1915-16".

The Second World War - 2/16th Aust. Infantry Battalion, A.I.F.  
16th Aust. Infantry Battalion (A.I.F.) - "NORTH AFRICA, 1941", "Syria, 1941", "SYRIAN FRONTIER", "THE LITANI", "SIDON", "WADI ZEINI", "DAMOUR", "South West Pacific, 1942-45", "KOKODA TRAIL", "isurava", "Eora Creek-Templeton's Crossing I", "Efogi-Menari", "Ioribaiwa", "BUNA-GONA", "Gona", "LIBERATION OF AUSTRALIAN NEW GUINEA", "Ramu Valley", "Shaggy Ridge", "Waitavolo", "BORNEO", "Balikpapan".

Those Battle Honours shown in capitals are borne upon the Colours. The South African and Great War Honours are borne upon the Regimental Colour and those of the Second World War upon the Queen's Colour.

Regimental March: "March of the Cameron Men"

No. 1 Dress:           Bonnet - blue (with blue hackle)  
                          Jacket - Piper green  
                          Kilt - Cameron of Erracht Tartan  
                          Facing Colour - blue  
                          Hose - red and green

Allied Regiments of the British Army:-

The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders  
3rd East Anglian Regiment (16th/44th Foot)

### Introduction

It was the year 1936 that saw the formation of 16th Battalion (The Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia) as a unit of the Militia Forces, however it was twenty two years prior to this that the name and traditions of "16th" were born. It is therefore at this point in time, the eventful year of 1914, that the story of this unit should rightfully begin.

During the years 1918 to 1936 two other Militia units in Western Australia also bore the designation of "16th" and therefore to give some background and continuity to the story of the 16th Battalion, from its inception as an A.I.F. unit during the Great War to its emergence as a Scottish regiment in the Militia Forces, a brief mention of these earlier units has been included in this article.

### 16th Battalion, A.I.F.

16th Battalion, A.I.F. was born at Blackboy Hill Camp, Western Australia on the 16th September 1914, forming part of the 4th Infantry Brigade of Australia's newly raised force for overseas service. The battalion was to be recruited from two States of the Commonwealth - Western Australia and South Australia. Western Australia was allotted the task of raising Headquarters, M.G. Section, Signal Section and five companies while South Australia was to raise the other three companies.

Early in October 1914 Lieut.-Colonel H. Pope, an officer who had seen considerable service in the Citizen Forces, was appointed to command the battalion. Many of the other officers appointed to the battalion also came from the Citizen Forces, a large number being drawn from the 86th Infantry (Western Australian Rifles). The officers appointed to command the companies being raised in South Australia had each seen service with the Citizen Forces in South Australia.

After completion of basic training at Blackboy Hill, the W.A. component of the battalion proceeded to Broadmeadows, Victoria, in November 1914 where it was joined by the S.A. component, thus completing the unit, and also joined by other elements of 4th Infantry Brigade - 13th (N.S.W.), 14th (Vic.), and 15th (Queensland) Battalions. Here at Broadmeadows the 16th Battalion and other elements of the brigade carried out further training at battalion and Brigade level.

The battalion embarked for overseas on the troopship "Ceramic" at Port Melbourne on 22nd December 1914, reaching Alexandria, Egypt on 1st February 1915. From here the troops of the 4th Brigade moved to Heliopolis Camp near Cairo, where they were grouped with 1st Australian Light Horse Brigade, New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade and New Zealand Infantry Brigade, together with supporting units, to form the New Zealand and Australian Division. The 16th Carried out strenuous training in the Egyptian desert around Heliopolis, reaching a high standard of efficiency.

Early in April 1915 the New Zealand and Australian Division received orders to prepare to leave Egypt. This soon eventuated and together with the 1st Australian Division, they proceeded by convoy to Lemnos Island in the Agean Sea. At last they were to see action, their destination being the Gallipoli Peninsula overlooking the Dardanelles, held strongly by Turkish forces.

The 16th Battalion landed at Anzac Cove at dusk on 25th April. Throughout the day a beach-head had been established by the 1st Australian Division which had seen heavy fighting. For the next five weeks the 16th were engaged continuously in actions around the area at the head of Monash Valley. The first position occupied by the battalion in this area was on the edge of a spur which became known as "Pope's Hill", being named after their Commanding Officer. The 16th, depleted in strength, was finally relieved at the forward area by New Zealanders on 31st May.

After a spell behind the lines the battalion once more went into action against the Turks in August, taking part in the offensives north of Anzac towards Suvla, including the unsuccessful attempt to capture Hill 971. By now the men of the 16th were not only feeling the normal battle strains of war, but also the drain on physical strength due to sickness. On 13th September the majority of the battalion left Anzac for a period of rest and training on Lemnos Island, returning on November 2nd. For the remainder of their stay at Gallipoli the 16th Battalion occupied positions north of Anzac, much time being spent in preparation for the oncoming winter months. Around mid-December 1915 orders were received that the Gallipoli Peninsula was to be evacuated. This was successfully achieved without prior knowledge

of the Turks. The last elements of the 16th Battalion left Anzac on the morning of December 20th.

The evacuated troops returned to Egypt where for the following few months much training and reorganisation was carried out. It was decided to increase the size of the A.I.F. by forming two more divisions from the existing A.I.F. Troops now in Egypt. Consequently each of the sixteen oldest battalions was split into two wings, one being to retain the old battalion and the other providing the nucleus of a new battalion. On March 2nd 1916, a wing of 16th Battalion was detached to form the nucleus of 48th Battalion of the 12th Brigade. The 4th, 12th and 13th Brigades then constituted the new 4th Australian Division. These skeleton units were soon brought up to strength with incoming reinforcements. The final portion of this period in Egypt was spent by 16th Battalion with patrolling the Suez Canal zone around Serapeum. Lieut.-Colonel Pope, who was awarded the C.B. for his services at Gallipoli, was now appointed to command the 14th Brigade. Command of the 16th was now taken over by Lieut. - Colonel E.A. Drake-Brockman, a former Major with the 11th Battalion, A.I.F.

On 1st June 1916, the 16th Battalion with other elements of 4th Brigade, left Egypt destined for France, their new theatre of operations. Upon arrival in France the battalion moved north to Flanders where it soon settled down in its new environment and began training in the techniques of a new type of warfare. The first action in which the 16th took part in France was the attack on Pozieres during the Somme offensive of August 1916. In this action the battalion suffered heavy casualties, however at the same time proved the outstanding type of fighting man who comprised its ranks. Private Martin O'Meara was awarded the V.C. and eight others received the M.M. From the muddy quagmire of Pozieres the 16th returned to Flanders where they took up positions in the front line.

The new year of 1917 saw the battalion engaged in general training and fatigue duties, however in February the 16th Battalion relieved the 14th Battalion in the front line at Flers. The Germans were now in retreat and retired to their well defended and fortified positions along the Hindenburg Line. In April 1917 the 16th suffered heavy losses during the offensive at Bullecourt. From June to August the battalion took over a sector of the front at Messines and for the remainder of the year saw subsequent action in the successful capture of Passchendaele and along the line at Ypres.

With the coming of 1918 the battalion moved once more to Flanders. The weather was bitterly cold with snow and frost, but the men of the 16th were becoming used to these conditions, being their second winter in France and Flanders. After a period in the forward area the battalion was engaged in an intensive training program for several weeks, and in late March they moved south to participate in the second Somme offensive. Initially the 4th Brigade was attached to British Forces in defence of the sector at Hebuterne. For a brief period the 16th relieve the 13th Battalion at Villers Bretonneux, and later in July 1918, the battalion took part in the successful attack at Hamel. For this initiative and gallantry during this action, Private T.L. Axford of the 16th was awarded the V.C.

The allied victories of this second Somme offensive soon brought the downfall of the Germans. In the months that followed the 16th Battalion took part in a number of actions, culminating in the final breakthrough to the Hindenburg Line. During one of these final actions in August 1918, a member of the 16th added one more V.C. to the battalion's roll of distinguished award winners. This was Lieut. L.D. McCarthy, Commander of 'D' Company, who had already received the French decoration of the Croix de Guerre.

The final action in which the 16th Battalion were involved was in the capture of Le Verguier in September 1918. November 1918 saw the cessation of hostilities. With the signing of the Armistice on 11th November it was expected that a number of the A.I.F. units would be required to serve in the Occupation Army in Germany. However this did not eventuate and plans for the de-mobilisation of the A.I.F. were put into operation. 16th Battalion, A.I.F. soon lost its identity as a unit, with its members gradually returning in groups to Australia, once more to take up the threads of life in 'Civic Street' that they had left behind.

### '16th' Traditions Carried On

The disbandment of 16th Battalion, A.I.F. at the conclusion of hostilities did not mean the disappearance of its name and the traditions associated with it. It was decided by the Military Authorities in August 1918, that to perpetuate their identities and preserve the battle honours gained by the units of the Australian Imperial Force during the Great War, the designations of the units of the Citizen Forces would be changed to conform to the numerical designations of those A.I.F. units which were raised in the same States and regimental areas. This was promulgated under Military Order 364 of 1918 and came into effect on 1st October 1918.

As from this date, parts of the 88th (Perth) Infantry and 86th Infantry (Western Australian Rifles) of the Citizen Forces, were redesignated as "2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment". A portion of the Senior Cadets affiliated with these two former Citizen Force regiments became designated as "3rd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment". Throughout the war the main role of the Citizen Forces was in the training of youths undergoing compulsory part-time military service as part of the Universal Training scheme which was introduced in 1911. With the reorganisation in 1918 it was intended that the 1st Battalions of the new Citizen Force Infantry regiments would comprise those A.I.F. personnel who elected to join the Army Reserve at the conclusion of the war, and those trainees who had completed their compulsory training and were placed on the Reserve. The 2nd Battalions were formed from the existing Citizen Force units and 3rd Battalions from the Senior Cadets.

2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment was established with Headquarters, at Fremantle. The regimental area included Fremantle, Cottesloe, Claremont, Maylands, Bayswater, Victoria Park, Queen's Park and Belmont. Citizen Force units of this period adopted the now famous 'rising sun' hat badge of the Australian Military Forces, and regiments wore the unit colour patches of their former A.I.F. counterparts. Thus members of the 16th Infantry Regiment were identified by the distinguished white on blue rectangle of 16th Battalion, A.I.F., worn on the upper sleeves.

The year 1921 saw a further change in organisation of the Citizen Forces. Although the existing A.I.F. numbering system was retained, many of the numbers were reallocated to different regimental areas and various units were combined to form new units. On the 18th May 1921 the Fremantle, Cottesloe and Claremont areas of 16th Infantry Regiment became part of what was to be known as "44th Battalion." The remainder was absorbed by 28th Battalion. The designation of '16th' was transferred to the Citizen Force Infantry unit in the Goldfields area with Headquarters in Kalgoorlie and companies in Kalgoorlie and Boulder. During the 1918-1921 period this unit was known as "2nd Battalion, 2nd Pioneer Regiment". With the redesignation in 1921 the unit became the "16th Battalion", later receiving the official title of "16th Battalion (The Goldfields Regiment)". (For brief details on the origin of this unit see Appendix 1 to this article.)

In 1926 approval was given for the alliance of 16th Battalion (The Goldfields Regiment) with The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (formerly 16th Regiment of Foot), of the British Army. (A.A.O. 472/1926). In addition to its Battle Honour of "South Africa 1902", which had originally been granted to its predecessor in 1908 (See Appendix 1), 16th Battalion (The Goldfields Regiment) was granted those Battle Honours of the Great War which had been awarded for the services of 16th Battalion, A.I.F. (A.A.O. 112/1927). These included such names as "Anzac", "Gallipoli", "Somme", "Bullecourt", and "Hindenburg Line", so proudly associated with the name of '16th'.

In the early part of the 1920s the Universal Training scheme was confined to the more populated areas. This had considerable effect on those units recruited in the country areas, and as the pre-war Volunteer spirit of the Militia Forces did not seem to prevail at this time, many of these units gradually went out of existence. By the mid-1920s, 16th Battalion (The Goldfields Regiment) had been depleted in strength to such an extent that it could not be maintained efficiently as an active Citizen Force unit. In the latter part of the 1920s the battalion existed on paper only.

This was the case of many other units of the Citizen Forces. The Military Authorities decided that instead of completely disbanding these units, thus losing their identities and traditions, a scheme of "temporary linking" be introduced. Under this scheme, the numerical designations of those units which were not to be actively maintained would be linked with those of existing units, until such time as the former units could be re-activated under their original identities, or the former numbers allocated to newly formed regimental areas. Thus in 1930, 16th Battalion (The Goldfields Regiment) disappeared as a separate unit from the Order of Battle, its numerical designation being linked with the 11th Battalion (The Perth Regiment) which henceforth was designated as "11th/16th Battalion". (A.A.O. 25/1930).

At a special parade of the 11th/16th Battalion held at Perth Oval on 15th October 1933, the Lieut.-Governor, Sir James Mitchell presented King's and Regimental Colours for 16th Battalion (The Goldfields Regiment). The



Regimental Colour bore the South African Battle Honour together with those selected from the Great War Honours of 16th Battalion, A.I.F. As 16th Battalion (The Goldfields Regiment) was still in its state of "suspended animation", these Colours were taken into safe custody by the 11th/16th Battalion.

#### Formation of 16th Battalion (The Cameron Highlanders of W.A.)

During the mid 1930s the need was felt for increasing the strength of the Militia Forces. Over the past few years the Militia had seen considerable depletion in strength with many units forced into temporary suspension as in the case of 16th Battalion.

Early in 1936, Dr. C.W. Courtney, a former officer of 5th Battalion (The Victorian Scottish Regiment), offered to raise a Scottish regiment in Perth. This proposal aroused the interest of a number of Scottish citizens in Perth, including a Mr. John Chappel, who united with Dr. Courtney on Anzac Day, 25th April 1936, to assist with this task. Plans for recruiting and fund raising were soon put into operation and a number of Scottish citizens were approached and invited to participate in the project.

On 21st July 1936 a meeting was held in the Vestry of St. Andrews Church, Perth, from which evolved the forming of the W.A. Highland Regiment Association. It was the unanimous desire expressed at this meeting that the proposed regiment adopt the dress and name of "Cameron Highlanders". The proposals for raising the unit were approved and the enrolment of recruits commenced on the day following the meeting. It was a condition of enrolment that each recruit should pay a subscription of £2 to the Association. Within six weeks over 280 applications for enlistment had been received, the minimum required by the Military Authorities being 250. A second meeting of the Association was held, and an appeal for funds was launched, mainly for the purpose of purchasing kilts and other apparels of Scottish Military dress.

As from 1st October 1936 the 11th/16th Battalion reverted to its original title of "11th Battalion" and shortly afterwards official approval was given for the newly formed Scottish unit to bear the designation of "16th Battalion". Hence the name '16th' once more emerged as a separate identity on the Order of Battle, although no longer associated with the Goldfields area. In accordance with the desire expressed at the inaugural meeting, the W.A. Highland Regiment Association had approached the Colonel of The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, of the British Army, to seek permission for the proposed battalion to adopt the name and dress of their regiment. Approval was given in due course and the battalion became officially designated as "16th Battalion (The Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia)". (A.A.O. 175/1937). A regimental badge was adopted which basically incorporated the design of that worn by The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, with the exception of the wording and the inclusion of the numerals "XVI".

It should be mentioned here that 16th Battalion (The Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia) was not the first Scottish unit to be raised in Perth. An earlier Volunteer unit, originally known as the "West Australian Highlanders" was formed in Perth in 1903, and in fact also adopted the Cameron tartan and

dress. This unit retained its Scottish identity until around 1912. There is however, no connection between this earlier unit and the 16th Battalion raised in 1936. (For brief details on this earlier unit see Appendix 2 to this article).

The 16th Battalion (The Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia) came under Command of Major (later Lieut.-Colonel) T.S. Louch, M.C. The original founders, Dr. C. W. Courtney and Mr. J. Chappel, together with a number of other prominent Scotsmen on the Association Committee, were appointed as officers in the battalion. Initially the 16th had its Headquarters in the Barracks at Francis Street, Perth, however early in 1937 the battalion was established in a new depot over at Mounts Bay Road. (This depot at present houses the Western Australian University Regiment).

The newly formed battalion, having inherited the Battle Honours and traditions of the 16th Battalion, A.I.F., now became custodian of the Colours originally presented to 11th/16th Battalion in 1933. (See Note in Appendix 1). The battalion also adopted the white on blue colour patch of the 16th.

The 16th became one of the best recruited units of the Citizen Forces in Western Australia, both prior to and after the Second World War. The battalion also formed a very efficient pipe and drum band, its members being drawn from a number of the local Caledonian Pipe bands that existed at this time. A close affiliation was established between 16th Battalion (The Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia) and the Scotch College Cadet Unit in Perth.

Under A.A.O. 93 of 1938 approval was given for the alliance between 16th Battalion (The Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia) and The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. The alliance with The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment which had originally been granted to 16th Battalion (The Goldfields Regiment) in 1926, was also carried on by the new battalion. In February 1939, the 16th was honoured by a visit from Major-General N.J.G. Cameron, C.B., C.M.G., then Colonel of The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. Major-General Cameron subsequently became Honorary Colonel of the 16th Battalion.

It may be of interest to mention here that a similar Scottish unit was raised in Brisbane, Queensland, in 1938. This unit was known as 61st Battalion (The Queensland Cameron Highlanders) and also became allied to The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. Unfortunately the 61st Battalion was not re-activated in the Citizen Forces after the Second World War.

#### The Second World War - 16th Battalion (The Cameron Highlanders of W.A.)

With the outbreak of the war in September 1939, the Militia Forces were called out for periods of full time duty and continuous training. On 5th September one half of the 16th Battalion went into camp at Rottneest Island for one month's continuous training. The remainder of the battalion followed early in October, and by the end of the training period a high standard of efficiency had been attained by all ranks.

Upon formation of the Second A.I.F. for overseas service a large number of officers and men of the Militia Forces enlisted for service. Member of the 16th Battalion joined the 2/11th, 2/16th and 2/28th Infantry Battalions of the A.I.F. which were raised in Western Australia in 1939 and 1940. Over the period September 1939 to December 1941 the Militia provided a constant pool of trained men from which the A.I.F. drew its numbers, although during the latter part of this period the Officer and N.C.O. cadres of the Militia units were prevented from enlisting for overseas. Throughout these early years of the war the 16th saw many men pass through its ranks.

With the entry of Japan into the war in December 1941, 16th Battalion (The Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia) mobilised and commenced intensive training in the Peel Estate area, south of Perth, and later near Chidlow in the Darling Ranges. The battalion was now under the command of Lieut.-Colonel W.L. Sanderson, M.C. Throughout the following months the battalion took part in more or less continuous manoeuvres and eventually established a semi-permanent base at Dandarragan about 60 miles from the coast, north of Perth. Throughout 1942 the 16th, together with other W.A. Militia units, was engaged in coast watching activities and also received much intensive training, particularly in jungle warfare.

During 1942 16th Battalion (The Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia) was redesignated as "16th Australian Infantry Battalion (A.I.F.)" Under G.R.O. 344 of 1942 authority was given for those Militia units in which 75 per cent of their members had volunteered for service in the A.I.F., to be reclassified as A.I.F. and to use the suffix "A.I.F." in their designations. Also from 1942 onwards most Militia units ceased to include Territorial titles in their unit designations and the prefix "Australian" was adopted by all units of the Australian Military Forces.

January 1943 saw a much welcomed change by members of the 16th. The battalion returned to Perth and during February it entrained for Adelaide, en route for Darwin. The 16th, together with other units of Western Australia's 13th Infantry Brigade relieved the 3rd Infantry Brigade in defence duties of Darwin Fortress area. The battalion now came under command of Lieut.-Colonel R.J. Horley, a former officer of the 2/11th Infantry Battalion, A.I.F., who remained Commanding Officer until the end of the war. By the end of March 1943 the battalion was established at a camp on the North Australia Road, 53 miles south of Darwin, which was to be their home base for the next 18 months. During this period the troops underwent further training and were engaged in various exercises in the back country around Darwin Fortress area.

Early in 1944 the majority of the battalion went on home leave. Upon return from leave the troops received intensive training and discipline was tightened up. Rumours soon spread amongst the ranks that the battalion was at last to see action. These rumours were quickly confirmed when Malaria precautions were taken, and later stores were packed in crates, including the battalion's much treasured set of bag-pipes.

The long awaited move eventuated on 21st November, 1944 when the 16th Australian Infantry Battalion (A.I.F.) embarked on the U.S. ship "Evangeline" in Darwin harbour, their destination unknown. It was later announced that their destination was New Britain, largest island in the Bismark Archipelago. According to intelligence reports the island still contained 50,000 Japanese. (At the time of the Japanese surrender in August 1945 there were 53,200 soldiers and 16,200 Naval troops on the Gazelle Peninsula, with an additional 20,000 civilian workers).

In October 1944 a battalion of the 6th Australian Infantry Brigade landed at Cape Hoskins on the north coast of New Britain. This area had already been developed by U.S. Forces. The remainder of 6th Brigade landed at Jacquinot Bay on the South coast, early in November 1944. The Jacquinot Bay area was to be developed as the main base for the 5th Australian Division (Comprising the 4th, 6th and 13th Brigades with supporting and attached units), which had now been allotted the task of relieving the U.S. Forces on New Britain.

16th Infantry Battalion disembarked at Jacquinot Bay on 26th November 1944, as part of 13th Infantry Brigade under command of Brigadier E.G.H. McKenzie, D.S.O., M.C. 13th Brigade was given responsibility for the defence of Jacquinot Bay area. Throughout the following months members of the 16th assisted in the establishment of the base area and were also engaged in active patrolling duties. When not engaged in patrolling, the battalion underwent jungle training exercises.

Early in March 1945, the battalion was detached from 13th Infantry Brigade and temporarily attached to 6th Australian Infantry Brigade under command of Brigadier R.L. Sandover, D.S.O., a former officer of 16th Battalion. The Battalion was moved by landing barges to Kalai plantation at Wide Bay, the area which formed the southern portion of the neck to the Gazelle Peninsula. The 16th became reserve battalion for 6th Brigade whose task was to clear the Japanese from the Waitavolo and Tol plantation areas.

In April 1945 the 13th Brigade relieved the 6th Brigade in the Waitavolo area, and companies of the 16th Infantry Battalion were sent out to patrol strategic points on the Japanese Lines of Communication. The 16th became forward battalion of the brigade, with headquarters at Bulus River and companies in defensive perimeters in the area. Over the following months much patrolling was carried out, involving several clashes with the Japanese.

In July 1945 it became known that the end of the fighting was near. Final news of the Japanese surrender arrived in New Britain on 15th August 1945. In September the battalion moved to Rabaul where it remained until being finally disbanded in January 1946. 16th Australian Infantry Battalion (A.I.F.) had suffered a total of 19 battle casualties in the New Britain campaign, third highest of the Infantry battalions of 5th Australian Division.

2/16th Australian Infantry Battalion, A.I.F.

With the formation of the second A.I.F. for overseas service, 2/16th Infantry Battalion was raised at Northam Camp in April 1940, under command of Lieut.-Colonel A.R. Baxter-Cox, formerly Brigadier commanding Western Australia's 13th Infantry Brigade of the Militia Forces. The battalion commenced recruiting and training in May, and included many officers and men from the Militia, with a number of members coming from 16th Battalion (The Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia). Also included amongst the recruits for the 2/16th Infantry Battalion was a sprinkling of veterans who had served with the original 16th Battalion, A.I.F., during the Great War. The 2/16th adopted the white on blue rectangle on a grey diamond background as its colour patch insignia. The grey backgrounds to the colour patches of the units of the Second A.I.F. were to distinguish them from units of the Militia with the same numerical designations which had already adopted these colour patches.

The 2/16th, together with the 2/14th (Vic.), and 2/27th (S.A.) Infantry Battalions, comprised the 21st Australian Infantry Brigade, forming part of the 7th Australian Division.

The battalion departed from Fremantle on 25th October 1940, destined for the Middle East. At the end of November the unit was settled in at Julis Camp, Al Majdal, in Palestine, and throughout the following months desert warfare training was carried out. During this period Lieut.-Colonel Baxter-Cox was appointed to a higher command and was succeeded by Lieut.-Colonel A.B. McDonald. In April 1941 7th Australian Division moved to the Western Desert, North Africa, where it took over part of the defence of the Mersa Matruh area. The 2/16th Infantry Battalion relieved the 2/32nd, a unit which consisted partly of West Australian personnel.

However, in May 1941 the 7th Division was withdrawn from North Africa to become the main force for operations against the Vichy - French in Syria. During this operation the role of the 21st Infantry Brigade was to move up the main coastal road to Beirut. The 2/16th Australian Infantry Battalion crossed the Palestine-Syria border on June 8th 1941. By 2400 hours on June 9th the 2/16th had overran the strongly held French positions North of the Litani River, capturing many prisoners. This was the battalion's first real action and a number of its members showed great courage and initiative, being awarded an M.C., D.C.M., M.M. and M.P.M.

The 21st Brigade advanced further North through Sidon towards Damour, which presented the greatest obstacle to the final capture of Beirut. The attack on Damour was launched by the 21st and 17th Infantry Brigades on 6th July. In the capture of Damour the 2/16th Infantry Battalion and other units of the 21st Brigade had to negotiate some of the most difficult terrain that had yet been encountered by these units in Syria. During this action the 2/16th lost 27 killed and 74 wounded.

With the fall of Damour the Vichy-French forces capitulated and on July 11th 1941 arrangements for an armistice were made. The 2/16th Infantry Battalion sustained the highest number of casualties of any Australian unit in the Syrian campaign. For the remainder of 1941 the battalion carried out garrison duties and later moved North of Beirut into the Syrian Mountains.

Early in 1942, with the ever increasing Japanese threat, the 7th Division returned to Australia in order to prepare for operations in the South-West Pacific area. The 2/16th carried out months of intensive training in jungle warfare, and finally on 12th August 1942 the battalion, now under command of Lieut.-Colonel A. Caro, arrived at Port Moresby. On 17th August the 21st Infantry Brigade began to move forward up the Kokoda Trail, their objective being to engage the Japanese at Kokoda and assist in blocking their advance across the Owen Stanley Ranges.

The 2/16th Australian Infantry Battalion made their first contact with the Japanese in the Aburar-Alola area, forward of Eora Creek on August 29th. Action in this area saw many deeds of individual gallantry by members of the battalion. Lieut. Ron Christian, a former member of 16th Battalion (The Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia), was awarded the M.C. Under consistent pressure from the Japanese Forces, the 2/14th, 2/16th and remnants of the 39th and 53rd Battalions (Militia), withdrew across Eora Creek, making a strong stand at Templeton's Crossing. Further withdrawal down the Trail was forced with fierce fighting in the Efogi-Menari area. The advance of the Japanese was finally stopped at Ioribaiwa - the turning point of the Japanese thrust in the New Guinea campaign. The 2/16th, depleted in strength, was finally relieved at Ioribaiwa in mid-September 1942. The retreat from Kokoda tested men to their utmost limit in physical endurance. In his book "A Thousand Men at War - the Story of the 2/16th Infantry Battalion", M. Uren aptly describes the hardships of the Kokoda Trail:

"The troops trudged laboriously along the single track in the darkness, some of them half asleep, and most of them so utterly exhausted that they were only dimly aware that they were moving."

In November 1942 the 2/16th, as part of 21st Infantry Brigade, again went into action. This time in the Buna-Gona area of New Guinea. The battalion received severe casualties during this operation. Early in 1943 the 7th Division returned to Australia for a much welcomed rest. Throughout the following months the 2/16th carried out jungle training in the Atherton Tableland area of Queensland. Also during this period the badly depleted unit strength was gradually built up.

In September 1943 the 7th Division was again recalled into action in New Guinea. Japanese forces had built up in the Lae area. The division proceeded by air to Nadzab and then moved to Kaiapit. From here commenced the advance against the Japanese up the Ramu Valley. The 2/16th Infantry Battalion under command of Lieut.-Colonel F.H. Sublet saw much action during this operation, finally taking part in the capture of Shaggy Ridge.

Early in January 1944 the 2/16th was relieved from the defence of Shaggy Ridge and once more, with other elements of 7th Division, returned to Australia. Throughout the remainder of 1944 and the early part of 1945 the battalion carried out training in Australia. The operation in Ramu Valley in 1943-44 was the last action the 2/16th Infantry Battalion saw in New Guinea, however was not the final clash this unit had with the Japanese. In July and August 1945, and 2/16th participated in the combined operations

of the 7th and 9th Australian Divisions in Borneo, seeing action in the Balikpapan area of Dutch South-East Borneo.

The 2/16th Australian Infantry Battalion had created one of the finest fighting records of the War, being the second highest decorated unit of the Second A.I.F. with three D.S.O.s, three M.B.E.s, six M.C.s with one bar, five D.C.M.s seventeen M.M.s with one bar and fifty eight Mentioned in Despatches.

#### Post-War 1948-1960

Following the disbandment of the 16th Battalion in January 1946 after their action in New Britain, a short dormant period existed until 1948 when the Citizen Forces was reactivated. This year saw the reformation of the battalion under the linked title of "16th/28th Infantry Battalion (The Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia)", thus retaining its Scottish identity and also perpetuating the former 28th Battalion of the Militia Forces.

The battalion came under command of Lieut.-Colonel F.H. Sublet, D.S.O., M.C., a former commander of 2/16th Infantry Battalion, A.I.F. At a special parade of the 16th/28th Infantry Battalion (The Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia) held on the Esplanade, Perth, on 26th August, 1951, a new set of Colours was presented for 16th Battalion by Major-General J.S. Whitelaw, C.B., C.B.E.

Lieut.-Colonel Sublet was succeeded by Lieut.-Colonel T.G. Nisbet in March 1952. Also during this year, with the inflow of National Service trainees into the Citizen Military Forces, the 28th was reactivated as a separate battalion, regaining its former territorial identity as 28th Infantry Battalion (The Swan Regiment). 16th Infantry Battalion (The Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia) continued its alliances with The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders and also The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment. (With the reorganisation of the British Army in 1959 this latter regiment became part of 3rd East Anglian Regiment (16th/44th Foot) and approval for the alliance of this new regiment to continue with the 16th Infantry Battalion was given under A.A.O. 48/1959).

The early 1950s saw considerable expansion in the battalion strength. Battalion Headquarters was still retained at the Mounts Bay Road depot and Companies were raised at Fremantle, Merredin and Kalgoorlie. In April 1956 a new depot was opened at Canning Highway, Victoria Park, which housed the battalion's Support Company. Command of the 16th Infantry Battalion was taken over in July 1954 by Lieut.-Colonel J.R. Fletcher, M.B.E. He was later succeeded by Lieut.-Colonel R.M. Davis who eventually attained the rank of Brigadier, commanding the 13th Infantry Brigade, C.M.F. The last officer to command the battalion prior to the 1960 reorganisation was Lieut.-Colonel B. G. Davies.

In addition to the Great War Battle Honours of the 16th Battalion, A.I.F., already granted, 16th Infantry Battalion (The Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia) now became entitled to those Battle Honours awarded for the services of 2/16th Australian Infantry Battalion, A.I.F., during the

Second World War. These Honours, together with its own Battle Honour for the New Britain campaign, were officially approved for the 16th Infantry Battalion under A.A.O. 135/1961.

The year 1960 saw major changes in organisations in the Australian Army, with the adoption of the Pentropic establishment and the introduction of a State Regimental system into the C.M.F. component of the Royal Australian Infantry Corps. Under this reorganisation, which came into effect on 1st July 1960, 16th Infantry Battalion (The Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia) was amalgamated with its sister W.A. battalions - 11th/44th Infantry Battalion (The City of Perth Regiment) and 28th Infantry Battalion (The Swan Regiment) - to form "1st Battalion, The Royal Western Australian Regiment".

#### Cameron Traditions Retained by The Royal Western Australia Regiment

Although 1960 saw the disappearance of the 16th Infantry Battalion from the Order of Battle, its traditions and Scottish identity were retained by the new regiment. The Pipes and Drums of 16th Infantry Battalion (The Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia) became redesignated as the Pipes and Drums of 1st Battalion, The Royal Western Australia Regiment. Many members of the 16th became absorbed into 'B' Company (The Cameron Company) of the new battalion, which together with the Pipes and Drums became established at the Victoria Park depot. Both the Pipes and Drums and 'B' Company retained the Cameron dress, and for a number of years members continued to wear the former bonnet badge of the 16th Infantry Battalion.

The alliance of The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders was continued with the new regiment. Under British Army reorganisation in 1961 The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders was amalgamated with the Seaforth Highlanders to form Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons). This regiment still remains allied with The Royal Western Australia Regiment, having a particularly strong association with the present 16th Battalion, The Royal Western Australia Regiment.

The Queen's and Regimental Colours of 16th Infantry Battalion (The Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia) were paraded for the last time at a ceremony held on 25th November 1962, when H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel-in-Chief of Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons), presented new Colours to 1st Battalion, The Royal Western Australia Regiment. The former Colours of the 16th and the other W.A. Infantry Battalions were finally laid up at the State War Memorial, King's Park, on 29th November, 1964.

In 1965 the Australian Army reverted to the Tropical organisation which meant a decrease in the establishment strength of the infantry battalion. With this reorganisation the existing battalions of C.M.F. Regiments were split to form a number of new battalions. Consequently, on 1st July, 1965, 1st Battalion, The Royal Western Australia Regiment was split to form a new 1st Battalion together with a 2nd Battalion. The new 1st Battalion however, retained the Pipes and Drums and also 'B' Company (The Cameron Company). Under this reorganisation several of the State C.M.F. Infantry



Regiments adopted a scheme of numbering their battalions with the former State Infantry Battalion designations which had existed prior to the introduction of the Regimental system in 1960. This would therefore maintain a closer link between these Regiments and their predecessor units. The Royal Western Australia Regiment introduced this system of renumbering on 1st January 1966, whereby 1st Battalion, having the Scottish elements, was redesignated as "16th Battalion, The Royal Western Australia Regiment" and 2nd Battalion was redesignated "11th Battalion, The Royal Western Australia Regiment", now becoming the senior battalion of the Regiment.

Once again the kilted soldier could associate himself with the title of "16th" and a stronger link with the former unit was now established. 16 R.W.A.R. also adopted the former regimental march of the 16th Infantry Battalion - "March of the Cameron Men". It was with much regret, particularly from amongst members of the kilted Company, that 16 R.W.A.R. saw the disappearance of the Pipes and Drums from the battalion early in 1968. Under the Army's reorganisation and grouping of C.M.F. Bands in Western Command this band became redesignated as "Western Command C.M.F. Pipes and Drums". Although no longer an integral part of The Royal Western Australia Regiment, this band continues to wear the Cameron dress and still proves popular in both military and public circles.

A strong regimental spirit is still maintained by the 16th Battalion Cameron Highlanders Association of W.A. which consists of ex-members of the 16th Infantry Battalion (The Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia) and past and present members of 16th Battalion, The Royal Western Australia Regiment. This Association is a successor to the original W.A. Highland Regiment Association formed in 1936.

At present 16th Battalion, The Royal Western Australia Regiment, under command of Lieut.-Colonel P.R. Smith, is established at the recently extended Victoria Park depot. It is hoped that with any future changes in C.M.F. organisation, 'B' Company (The Cameron Company) of 16 R.W.A.R. will be able to retain its Scottish identity and thus preserve a proud tradition that has existed in the Infantry in W.A. for almost thirty five years.

#### Appendix 1 - 16th Battalion (The Goldfields Regiment)

This unit had its origin in "The Goldfields Battalion of Infantry" raised in Kalgoorlie and surrounding areas in June 1900, as part of Western Australia's Volunteer Defence Force. Within three months the Battalion consisted of over 200 trained men. Such rapid progress in Volunteer recruiting was no doubt due partly to the strong feelings of militarism and patriotism brought on by the South African War. In September 1900 the battalion was redesignated as "5th Battalion, Western Australian Infantry Brigade". A number of members of this battalion enlisted for service in the latter part of the South African War.

With the organisation of the Commonwealth Military Forces in 1903, 5th Battalion, W.A. Infantry Brigade became "The Goldfields Infantry Regiment of Western Australia". Under M.O. 123 of 1908 this regiment was granted the Battle Honour of "South Africa 1902" in recognition of the services of members

of 5th Battalion, W.A. Infantry Brigade during the South African War. The regiment also received King Edward VII's Honorary Union Banner for service in South Africa. This Banner is at present laid up in the Kalgoorlie Council Chambers.

Following the introduction of Universal Training in 1911, a complete reorganisation of the existing Military Forces took place. In 1912, as part of the newly formed Citizen Forces, The Goldfields Infantry Regiment of W.A. became "84th Infantry (Goldfields Regiment)". It existed under this identity until the 1918 reorganisation under which Citizen Force units were renumbered to perpetuate the units of the A.I.F. In 1918 the 84th Infantry was redesignated as "2nd Battalion, 2nd Pioneer Regiment", thus perpetuating the 2nd Pioneer Battalion, A.I.F. 3rd Battalion, 2nd Pioneer Regiment was formed from the 84th Infantry Senior Cadets. With further changes in 1921, 2nd Pioneer Regiment together with personnel from 23rd Field Ambulance, Australian Army Medical Corps, also based at Kalgoorlie, were reformed as "16th Battalion. The unit later gained its territorial title as "16th Battalion (The Goldfields Regiment)".

Note: As there was no territorial connection between 16th Battalion (The Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia) and 16th Battalion (The Goldfields Regiment), it is the writer's opinion that the 16th Battalion (The Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia) had no justification in claiming the battle Honour "South Africa 1902". In most cases the South African Honour is only carried by those Australian units which can claim to have been represented there. It is due to the fact that this Battle Honour was borne on the original Colours which were presented for 16th Battalion (The Goldfields Regiment) in 1933, and later taken into custody by the Scottish Battalion, that this Battle Honour was carried on by the Camerons. A further anomaly is the fact that on the later set of Colours presented to 16th Infantry Battalion (The Cameron Highlanders of W.A.) the South African Honour is erroneously shown as "South Africa, 1899-1902".

#### Appendix 2 - The West Australian Highlanders, 1903-1912

Lieut.Colonel J. Campbell who had retired from the post of Colonel Commandant for Western Australia in 1902, being an ex-member of The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, had for some time desired the formation of a Volunteer Scottish unit in Perth. He received much local support and a formal approach was made to the Colonel of The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders for approval of the proposed unit to adopt the Cameron tartan and dress.

The unit was formed in March 1903 with a nominal Company strength of 60 all ranks. It became known as "The West Australian Highlanders" and adopted the badge and dress of The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. Approval was given to form a Pipe band additional to the normal establishment. The West Australian Highlanders were administratively independent, however for parade purposes were attached to 4th Battalion, Western Australian Infantry Brigade which had Headquarter in Perth.

Abbreviations Used

A.I.F.	-	Australian Imperial Force
A.A.O.	-	Australian Army Orders
G.R.O.	-	General Routine Orders
M.O.	-	Military Orders

References

- (1) "The Old Sixteenth - Being a Record of the 16th Battalion, A.I.F., during The Great War 1914-1918". Capt. C. Longmore
- (2) Australian Army Lists.
- (3) "Australian Army Lineage Book" A. N. Festberg (Published by the Victorian Branch, Military Historical Society of Australia).
- (4) "The Volunteer Movement in Western Australia 1861-1903" G.F. Wieck
- (5) W.A. Government Gazette.
- (6) Notes on the 16th Battalion by Lieut. I. Medcalf in "Historical Records of The Cameron Highlanders 1932-48 - World War II, Vol. II"
- (7) "A Thousand Men at War - The Story of the 2/16th Infantry Battalion" M. Uren.
- (8) History of Australian Army in the War of 1939-45 - "Greece, Crete and Syria" G. Long; "South-West Pacific Area-First Year" D. McCarthy; "The New Guinea Offensive" D. Dexter; "The Final Campaigns" G. Long

The writer would also like to acknowledge the assistance given by Lieut.-Colonel J. Chappel, an original founder of 16th Battalion (The Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia) for verification on several points.

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THE GENERAL MONTHLY RETURNS

by Maj. T. C. Sargent.

The National Library of Australia, and the Library of N.S.W. started in 1947 a project, known as the Australian Joint Copying Project, with the aim of micro-filming for Australian use the major part of records relevant to Australia in the Public Record Office, London. The records included material from the War Office, the Colonial Secretary's Office, Trade, Treasury and other departments. The project was later widened to include records from many other sources in addition to the Public Record Office.

The State libraries of Australia and New Zealand also joined the project, although whereas the National Library and the Public Library of N.S.W. acquired all the material micro-filmed, these other libraries generally have been interested only in the records of their own state. There is therefore, in each state library, an impressive collection of micro-film material of great value to those interested in Australian history.

Among the reels of micro-film from this project which are held in the Battye Library, Western Australia, are several of military historical interest, but of particular interest and value to the researcher are those of the "General Monthly Returns". The distribution list of copies of this series shows that relevant reels are held by State Libraries or Archives in each State, and that the National Library, and the Library of N.S.W. hold copies of all.

In view of the significance of these micro-films it is proposed here to give an outline of:

- a. the reference system
- b. the standard format of the returns
- c. the type of information they contain.

The Battye Library holdings of W.A. material are in micro-films reels Nos. 907-912, covering the period 1837 to 1863. (The NSW series from 1812-53 are held in Reels to 920).

Reel 907 starts on 1st September 1837 and covers War Office Records Serials from WO 17/1234 to WO 17/1237, ending with the return for 1st September 1842. It will therefore be appreciated that the micro-film itself follows no particular annual sequence. However examination of the film shows that the War Office serials or volumes do; with the following effect:

Reel 907	WO 17/1234 - Returns for 1837	Starting 1 Sept. 1837
	17/1234*- " " 1838	
	17/1235 - " " 1839	
	17/1236 - " " 1840	
	17/1237 - " " 1841	
	17/1238 - " " 1842	Ends with Return for 1 Sept. 1842.
Reel 908	17/1238 - " " 1842	Starts 1 Oct. 1842
	and so on	
	to 17/1241 - " " 1848	Ends 1 June 1848
Reel 909	17/1241 - " " 1848	Starts 1 July 1848

These relationships should be sufficient to assist any researcher wishing to enter the records at a particular date.

Each Monthly Return consists of 18 pages. These appear not to have been numbered when written, but each frame of the micro-film, some of which contain one page, some two, follow a numbering system relative to each yearly War Office serial. For instance, the page reproduced to illustrate this article, showing the "Distribution of the Troops etc" for 1st September, 1837 is numbered in the top right corner '5'.

Other similar pages of the monthly returns follow this sequence.

Reel 907	WO 17/1235	1st Sept. 1839	-	page 85
		1st Oct. 1839	-	page 95
		1st Nov. 1839	-	page 105
		1st Dec. 1839	-	page 115

Reel 907	WO 17/1236	1st Jan. 1840	-	page 5
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The exception to this system appears to be again that the part of 1837 and all 1838 returns are numbered right through in volume 17/1234. Generally the Returns conform to about 10 frames for each month.

The format of the Returns, and type of information which can be obtained from them, is treated below page by page, as found for the Report for 1st September, 1837, and others.

Page 1. - Commandant's certification. This is not a pre-printed page, and appears to be merely a covering certificate to the following effect:

"I certify that all parts of this General Monthly Return have been carefully examined, and are found to be correct, -

F. C. IRWIN  
Major and Commandant,"

(Irwin was Commandant from 1829 to 1852)

Page 2 -

1. Main Page Heading -

Return of the General and Staff Officers at present serving in Western Australia under the Command of Brevet Major F. C. Irwin 63rd Regt. K. H. Commandant of the troops in Western Australia is -  
Headquarters Perth - 1st of September, 1837.

2. Column Headings -

a. General or other officers in Command

- (1) Rank and Names
- (2) Stations

b. Aides-de-Camp as attached

- (1) Rank and Names
- (2) Regiments

All returns sighted by the writer are endorsed "None" on this page. The page for 1st September 1837 is stamped with date of receipt by War Office - 7 June 1838.

Page 3

1. Main Page Heading -

"Other staff officers, including those of Adjutant General's and Quarter Master General's and Quarter Master General's Department, of the Commissariat, Medical, Barrack, Paymaster General's Departments, etc. and the names of the Judge Advocates, Chaplains, etc. etc."

2. Column Headings -

- a. Nature of Appointment
- b. Rank and Names
- c. Regiments
- d. Stations

All sighted have been endorsed "None".

Page 4

1. Main Heading -

"General Monthly Return of Officers belonging to the several Corps serving in Western Australia under the Command of Brevet Major F.C. Irwin 63 Regt. K. H. Commandant of the Troops in Western Australia 1st of September 1837.

2. Column Headings and Figures shown in Return

- a. Corps - 21st Fusiliers
- b. Headquarters - Perth
- c. At the Regimental Headquarters, or on detached Duty at the Station

(1)	Colonels	-
(2)	Lieut.-Colonels	-
(3)	Majors	
(4)	Captains	1
(5)	Lieutenants	3
(6)	Second Lieutenants	1
(7)	Paymasters	-
(8)	Adjutants	-
(9)	Quartermasters	-
(10)	Surgeons	-
(11)	Assistant Surgeon	1
(12)	Veterinary Surgeon	-

Page 5

## 1. Main Heading -

"General Monthly Return of Serjeants, Trumpeters, Drummers, Farriers, Rank and File of the several Corps, serving in Western Australia .... etc. etc., under the command of Brevet Major F.C. Irwin 63 Regt K.H. Commandant of the Troops in Western Australia 1st of September, 1837.

## 2. Column Headings and figures shown in Return.

a. Corps - 21st Fusiliers

b. Effective Strength - Exclusive of those sent or left at Home.

(1) Sergeants	6
(2) Trumpeters or Drummers	1
(3) Farriers	-
(4) Rank and File	
(a) Fit for Duty	108
(b) Sick	-
(c) On Command	-
(d) In Prison	1
(a long-hand entry)	
(e) Total	109
(5) Troop Horses	-

c. Alterations which have taken place among the Serjeants, Trumpeters, Drummers, Farriers and Rank and File (exclusive of those sent, or left at Home) during the last month.

## (1) Increase

(a) Joined	From England	-
	Recruited	-
	From Desertion	-
(b) Transfers received		-

## (2) Decrease

(a) Dead	-
(b) Discharged	-
(c) Deserted	-
(d) Transfers given	-
(e) Sent Home	-

DISTRIBUTION of the Troops serving in <i>Western Australia</i>													
1st <i>September</i> 183 <i>7</i> .													
Stations	Commanding Officers at each Station	Corps or Detachments composing the Garrison at each Station	No of Troops or Companies	Effective Strength							Rank and File		
				Field Officers	Captains	Subalterns	Staff	Serjeants	Trumpeters or Drummers	Fairriers	Fit for Duty	Sick	Total
<i>Scott's</i>	<i>Captain W. H. Armstrong</i>	<i>Detachment 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment</i>	"	"	1	2	1	2	1	0	9	0	9
<i>King's Cove</i>	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	0	"	9	0	9
<i>Port Augusta</i>	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	0	"	7	0	7
<i>Vasse</i>	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	12	0	12
<i>York Dist</i>	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. S. B. Mortimer</i>	"	"	"	1	"	1	"	"	"	35	0	35
<i>Nojinup</i>	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. C. H. Armstrong</i>	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	7	0	7
<i>Williams</i>	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	6	0	6
<i>Half House</i>	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	2	0	2
<i>Boulton</i>	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	0	"	6	0	6
<i>Tanning</i>	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	5	0	5
<i>Murray</i>	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	4	0	4
<i>Binjarah</i>	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	6	0	6
<i>in Prison at Fremantle</i>	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	0	1
Total...			2	0	1	11	1	6	1	0	109	0	109

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TABLE I  
Showing the results of the  
analysis of the samples

No.	Sample	Moisture	Acid	Alkali	Phosphorus	Calcium	Iron	Other
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
33	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
34	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
36	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
37	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
38	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
39	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
41	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
42	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
43	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
44	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
46	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
47	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
48	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
49	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

TABLE I  
Showing the results of the  
analysis of the samples

Page 6

## 1. Main Heading --

"Distribution of the Troops serving in Western Australia - 1st September, 1837".

A facsimile reproduction of this page is reproduced opposite, by permission of the National Librarian, the National Library of Australia. The value of this page will be immediately apparent.

Page 7

## 1. Main Heading -

"Return of the Number of Soldiers employed as Servants to the General and Staff Officers in Western Australia."

This page is generally endorsed "None" except that later one servant is shown employed by the Commandant.

Page 8

## 1. Main Heading -

"MEMORANDA. Stating the cause of any Extraordinary Number of Casualties which may have occurred, and any other observations which the General Officer may think it necessary to make for the information of the General Commanding in Chief, in reference to the Health, and State of the Troops."

Generally endorsed "None".

Page 91. Main Heading - "PROOF"

A restatement of personnel movement as shown on Page 5, 2c.

Page 10

## 1. Main Heading -

"Return showing the Regiments or Detachments which have arrived at the Station during the preceding Month, specifying the Date of Disembarkation, and the Effective Strength."

## 2. Column Headings -

Show date of arrival, Regt, Rank and Name of Officers, numbers of or, including women and children, ship, and from what station.

Page 11

## 1. Main Heading -

"Return showing ....." departures, in similar detail to p.10.

Page 12

## 1. Main Heading -

"LIST OF DEATHS which have taken place among the Officers during the preceding Month".

## 2. Column Headings -

Show rank and names, Corps, date of decease, Remarks - including place and cause of death.

Page 13

## 1. Main Heading -

"REGIMENTAL AND STAFF OFFICERS who have obtained LEAVE OF ABSENCE during the preceding Month.

## 2. Column Headings -

Show rank and name, Corps, period of leave, cause and condition of grant.

Page 14 (Top Half)

## 1. Main Heading -

Regimental and Staff Officers who have obtained Leave of Absence during the preceding Month, to return to England".

## 2. Column Headings -

Show basically as for page 13.

Page 14 (Bottom Half)

## 1. Main Heading -

"Regimental and Staff Officers who have left the Station during the preceding month, in consequence of being Promoted, or Removed to other Regiments or Stations Abroad."

## 2. Column Headings -

Show rank and name, Corps, date of embarkation, for what place, remarks.

Page 15.

## 1. Main Heading -

"General Orders, Circular and other Official Letters, etc., received from England since last Return.

## 2. Column Headings -

Show date of letter, originator, date of receipt, purport.

This is a particularly useful page.

Page 16.

Shows Officers present and absent.

Page 17.

## 1. Main Heading -

"Officers Absent"

It is merely a repeat of part of the previous page.

Page 18.

## 1. Main Heading -

"List of Officers who are Absent without Leave from Regiments in this Command."

## 2. Column Headings -

Show rank and name, regt., absent from, remarks.

---

\* Reports from 1 Sept. 1837 to 1 Dec. 1838 were included in the one WO Volume.

\* \* \* \*

FORT GLANVILLE (at the Semaphore, S.A.)

by F. Garie

In 1876 various colonies of the British Empire, having lost their detachments of British troops to the needs of the Mother country, looked to the British Government for advice on their defences.

This was necessary due to the fact that apart from the main eastern states of Australia, South Australia had only units of Field Artillery, Mounted Rifles and Infantry. Something was needed as a deterrent against enemy Naval vessels. Consequently Lord Carnarvon (Secretary for the Colonies) in 1876 selected two of the most knowledgeable authorities on modern defence, namely - Sir W.F.D. Jervois and Col. P.H. Scratchley R.E., to discuss with the Colonial governments a policy of Naval defence and also to advise on a correlated scheme of defence. In 1878 a report was published which in essence wanted an Australian Squadron to handle enemy ships at sea and each colony to have garrison facilities as well.

Sir W.F.D. Jervois in 1878 was given governorship of S.A. for the convenient purpose of having freedom of travel between the states and with the help of Scratchley, defences in Australia and New Zealand were begun in earnest.

The disposition and types of Batteries: North, South and Glenelg were planned by Jervois who made them self-defensible (not needing land-force support). Plans of a new design, apart from those of an earlier one in 1875 were drawn up in Melbourne by Scratchley and the resident engineer of S.A., Mr. A.B. Moncrieff. These plans were for the south fort because it was considered to be the most important of the three forts. Funds were not sufficient to construct both forts, and for a similar reason the third Glenelg fort had to be left for the future.

On completion in May '78 the plans were sent to Col. Downes in S.A. for approval and subsequently by the Cabinet.

Tender for the erection of the Semaphore fort (as it was known at that time) were called in July '78, and was won by John Robb, a contractor of renown from Victoria for an amount of £15,894. Alterations due to the loading system of the actual Elswick guns being slightly different from the Harding-Elswick drawings caused a reduction in price. Altered plans were arranged with Scratchley and Moncrieff, and work began in September 1878.

Levelling of the sandhills and excavating for the foundations were made with the supply mainly of:-

- 400,000 of the best Melbourne bricks brought to the fort via a special rail spur
- 3,000 Cubic feet of quality timbers
- 15,000 Cubic yards of lime concrete
- 7 Tons of bombproof covers

and the armament, the fort was operational in April '80. Upon recommendations by Jervois the rear defence wall (previously only a stockade) was built and finished in January '82.

In military terms the fort is of the lunette or blunted-redan type with a rampart 50' thick, backed by 5' of concrete and 2' of brick retaining wall; flanks of the inner trace backed by the retaining wall only.

The front and flanks were defended by a dry ditch 12' deep x 15' wide with a concrete escarp (the front wall), and the counter escarp unrevetted. The front and northern ditches were defended by a loopholed caponiere at the northern salient and for the southern ditch, by an extension of the stockade. This loopholed stockade situated outside the rear defence wall on the gorge side of the fort, defended the way to the laboratory and apparently the washhouse. The rear defence wall and the central barracks were loopholed. Outside the fort, the grounds covered an area of 14 acres which were used for bivouacing men in addition to the Permanent Force (P.F.) on occasions of drill or sham fights. The 10" guns are situated at the centre-front of the fort and between them, undercover, is the protected loading gallery; below this gallery and communicated to it by lifts are the shell and powder rooms. The 64 Pdr guns had for their use an expense store each. Extra ammunition was assembled in the laboratory at the rear of the fort.

The cost of the fort and associated works, excluding the armament and equipment, was about £23,600.

Supporting the fort's defence were 6 field-gun epaulments constructed in the sandhills off the military road which connected them with the fort.

Returning to the arrangements made by S.A. for its defence we find that the government was fortunate in its use of top personnel viz:-

Sir W.F.D. Jervois - A Major-General of the R.E. and late Governor of the Straits Settlements who arrived in S.A. in June '77 for purposes previously stated. Jervois left S.A. in 1883 for New Zealand.

Lt.-Colonel Peter H. Scratchley R.E. (Colonel in S.A.) - The director of Construction for the main military arsenals of the War Office, who arrived in S.A. in January '78. He returned to England in 1883.

Major M. F. Downes R.H.A., promoted to Lt.Colonel for duty in S.A. (Colonel in S.A.). He arrived in October '77 to replace the acting Commandant of the Volunteer Military Force of S.A.(V.M.F.). He was directly responsible for defence costs to the State Treasurer and had rejected plans made by Col. E. H. Steward in 1867, for guns mounted behind iron shields as being too expensive.

Colonel E. H. Steward R.E., was the military representative or agent and adviser of all military goods in England and was paid a commission for same by other states as well as S.A. He also reported on the progress of the manufacture, trials and shipment for such things as the 10" guns (herein to be described), the H.M.C.S. Protector and any latest equipment available

To arrive at the reasons for the eventual construction of fort Glanville (named so on 27-1-80) we must return to 1878.

In early 1878 peaceful relations between England and Russia were nearing a reverse due to the intervention of a British Fleet into the Dardenelles to curb the intended Russian continuance of war into the Ottoman Empire, particularly Constantinople. This intervention more or

less caused an end to the Russo-Turkish war of 1877-8, although it was feared that Britain and Russia might become more aggressive. On this latter note there passed between S.A. and England telegrams warning of a possible war and so in February '78, vide Col. Downes the Chief Secretary of S.A. sent a telegram for the immediate purchase of war materials for the defence of S.A. This material was to be mounted in the Scratchley/Jervois design Semaphore and Port Adelaide batteries. The material in the main was:-

	(	2	10"	18T	Woolwich	guns	with	carriages,	platforms	and	racers.
	(	2	9"	12T	Woolwich	gun	carriages,	platforms	and	racers.	
Muzzleloaders	(	2	64	Pdr	64cwt	Woolwich	guns	with	common	standing	garrison
	(					carriages.					
	(	4	16	Pdr	Field	guns	with	limbers	and	waggon.	
	(										
		100,000			Martini-Henry	rifle	cartridges			and	
		500			Martini-Henry	rifles.					

Jervois at this time was more concerned with an ironclad, so in early '78, he journeyed to England for the purpose of purchasing an ironclad, but as none were available "off the shelf" so to speak, and the possibility of purchasing one from a South American country falling through, Jervois settled for the latest in Garrison armament. As Woolwich was heavily committed to the British government's need, particularly that of the Navy, Jervois was directed to Sir W.G. Armstrong & Co. at Elswick where he found plans for a powerful 10" muzzleloading gun capable of being loaded "under-cover", i.e., a protected barbette gun with a Mechanical loading system for convenience, efficiency and safety in loading. Jervois being impressed, ordered 2 of these 10" guns in lieu of the order for the 10" Woolwich guns, and leaving the matter with the South Australian Agent General and Col. Steward, he returned to S.A. in August '78 to resume his capacity as governor and defence adviser.

Fortunately again for S.A., the Elswick Ordnance Company (E.O.C.) division of Sir W.G. Armstrong & Co., began immediate production of the 10" guns. These 10" 20 ton guns of 1878, shipped vide the S.S. Aberyswith Castle, arrived at the Semaphore in September 1879 and were shipped by rail to the fort where they were 7 months later parbuckled up a wooden ramp for the final installation upon their carriages. These guns had an accurate sited range of 4800 yards with a 410 lb. Palliser shot, at a muzzle velocity of 1630 fps with a full charge of 130 lbs of S.P. (Selected Pebble - gunpowder).

The two 64 Pdr 64 cwt Mk III muzzleloading guns of 1872 manufacture were received vide the SS Garonne in early '79 but had 1878 Pattern Siege overbank carriages in lieu of the type ordered. The 2 pairs of guns described above were first fired in October '80.

A 32 Pdr 56 cwt Smooth Bore Cast Iron Muzzleloading gun purchased some years before was parked on the parade ground of the Fort for drill purposes.

A Swedish .45 calibre Martini-Henry chamber Mk I S barrel Nordenfelt machine gun was sent in late '85 with an English made field carriage especially for S.A.

A 12 pounder Whitworth Muzzleloading field gun was also parked in the fort and was used for field exercises and saluting.

As far as it has been determined these last 3 weapons are no longer in existence.

The cost of the 10"s, 64 pdrs, and Nordenfelt was at least £12,300.

On matters relating to the personnel and activity at Fort Glanville we find initially in 1877 that Col. Downes was successful in reorganising the defence force of V.M.F. into a new force the South Australian Military Force (S.A.M.F.) under Act 125 of 1878. The force then consisted of:

- |    |                        |          |                           |  |
|----|------------------------|----------|---------------------------|--|
| 2  | Troops of Cavalry      | 30 men   | ( $\frac{1}{2}$ strength) |  |
| 2  | Batteries of Artillery | 140 men  | -                         | "A" battery Adelaide &<br>"B" battery Fort Glanville |
| 10 | Company's of Infantry  | 800 men. |                           |  |

The need of a P.F. was emphasized by Downes in 1878 and again louder in 1880, but it was not until funds were available in 1882 that the P.F. was raised. This was named simply the "S.A. Artillery". When it was raised, the ranks were limited in number due to the lack of accommodation for the men in excess of  $\frac{1}{2}$  strength; however when the North Fort was completed the number grew and on federation it was at full strength i.e., 50 men excluding Officers.

Col. Downes remained as Commandant of the S.A.M.F. until his transfer to Victoria in May '85. During his term, the Commanding Officer of the P.F. stationed at Fort Glanville was appointed, a Lt. J.M. Gordon R.A. ex New Zealand, who remained the C.O. of Fort Glanville for most of its existence until federation prior to Lt. Gordon, a Sergeant-Major and assistant cared for the fort.

Col. Downes was replaced by Col. J.F. Owen R.A. (Brig.Gen in S.A.). Incidentally this was the same person who certified the proofing of the 10" Guns in England. After Brig. Gen. Owen's 5 years were up he left for an appointment to Queensland, and was replaced by Col. Downes again who remained with the S.A.M.F. until his replacement by the much promoted Gordon in 1893.

During Col. Gordon's term Fort Glanville's importance declined due to the Largs Bay Coy., developing a deep modern harbour at Port Adelaide and also the North Fort (Largs Bay Fort) was consequently furnished with Breechloading Guns of a greater range than those of Fort Glanville. The H.M.C.S. Protector, S.A.'s only colonial gunboat added to this decline.

Nevertheless practice continued with the 10" guns using only the Woolwich system of loading, because the Elswick mechanical system proved unsatisfactory with time. The 64 Pdr guns were obsolete from a decade before and were presented in 1904 as memorials to the Adelaide City Council.



Gun drill was performed on average about 6 times a year and was held on Saturday afternoons. On other occasions the P.F. men and Volunteers would participate in shams or drills at the Largs Bay Fort or other places for field training.

The only "major" events known to date were, in order of occurrence:-

1. The Russian visit of 1882. This visit did not affect the fort in any military way. A squadron of 3 Russian ocean vessels of war had surprisingly bypassed the notice of the lighthouse keepers (as had the German naval visit of a short time before), but was a friendly visit, and was perhaps a reason for beginning the North Fort as soon as possible.

2. In April '85 the third "Russian Scare" occurred which was due to the news of the capture of Penjdeh by Russian troops in Afghanistan. The forts were manned ready for action, and an approval given for the purchase of guns for the third fort - Glenelg. Shortly however, a communication arrived stating that peace was again preserved.

3. In late '85 a false alarm of Mutiny at the Largs Bay Fort occurred, which involved merely the C.O. of Fort Glanville assisting the C.O. of the Largs Bay Fort in sorting out a misunderstanding of subordinacy.

4. On a Sunday in 1887, due to the foolhardiness of a Sergeant-Major Slane, a low pressure explosion occurred in the No. 2 Artillery store (Basement of Barracks) at Fort Glanville. This resulted in severe injury to 5 people and in part, the retirement of the Serg. Major.

5. In October 1890 the P.F. were ordered to march under arms to Port Adelaide to assist the Government in quelling a strike. The ringleaders of the strike, on recognizing the government's action then declined to continue the strikes. No violence occurred and the P.F. returned to Fort Glanville.

It may be of interest to note that the only horses owned by the S.A.M.F. were those belonging to the most senior officers, a total of 4 horses.

Two humorous comments of that time, one made by Col. Downes in 1883 on the P.F. uniform being so bad, "it would be just as useful to stitch up brown paper"; the other made in 1880 by some person/s unknown in the form of chalked letters on the barrel of a 10" gun and on the main magazine door - viz - "White elephant" and "wine cellars" respectively.

Upon Commonwealth takeover in 1904 the use of Fort Glanville as such no longer persisted and thus an era of Colonial Military history was at an end.

Today, only the bare fort building, the 2 10" guns minus carriages and the 2 64 Pdr guns with carriages minus wheels remain, awaiting action by the Government to commence proper restoration.

REFERENCE SOURCES

S.A. Parliamentary papers	)	
Chief Secretary Office letters	)	
Treasury Dept. Letters	)	
Agent General memos	)	
Public Works Dept. letters	)	State Archives
SA Govt. Gazette	)	
Historical records of S.A. Permanent Artillery	)	
Garrison Artillery Manual 1892 (S.A.)	)	
Adelaide Observer Register and Advertiser	)	
The Australasian Sketcher	)	Newspapers
Illustrated Adelaide News	)	
Australian Encyclopedia	)	
Australian Defences and New Guinea 1887	)	Reference Library
The Chronicles of a Gay Gordon	)	
Fort Record Book 1902		C'wealth Archives SA
Report of the Committee of Inquiry 1901		Capt. Frank Adlam M.B.E.

\* \* \* \*

VICTORIA CROSSES AWARDED IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR 1899 - 1902

Seventy-three awards were made during the South African War. Of these, fifty-five went to British Army Units and twenty-three to Colonial Units. In this article the nationality of the unit, and not the individual has been taken into account.

ACTIONS FOR WHICH CROSSES WERE AWARDED

Elandsplaagte : 4  
 Defence of Mafeking : 3  
 Defence of Ladysmith : 6 (Includes : 3 at Wagon Hill and 2 at Caesar's Camp).  
 Magersfontein : 3  
 Colenso : 7  
 Paardeberg : 2  
 Korn Spruit : 5  
 Others : 43.

AWARDS TO BRITISH ARMY UNITS

Royal Engineers : 2	E. Surrey : 1
Royal Field Artillery : 4	West Riding : 1
Royal Horse Artillery : 5	Essex : 1
Royal Army Medical Corps : 4	Foresters : 2
	Berks : 1
5th Dragoon Guards : 1	K.O.Y.L.I. : 1
10th Hussars : 2	Manchesters : 2
14th Hussars : 1	
17th Lancers : 1	Gordon Highlanders : 6
18th Hussars : 1	Highland Lt. Inf. : 2
3rd I.Y. : 1	R. Scots Fusiliers : 1
	Cameron Highlanders : 1
King's : 3	K.O.S.B. : 1
Devons : 1	
W. Yorks : 2	King's Royal Rifles : 2
Green Howards : 1	Rifle Brigade : 2
R. Irish Regt.: 1	5th Royal Irish Lancers : 1

AWARDS TO COLONIAL UNITS

Australians : 5, Canadians : 4, New Zealanders : 1, South Africans : 13.	
Fitz Clarence. C	Capt. R. Fusiliers att. Protectorate Regt. 14.10.99, Actions at Mafeking on 14,27.10.99 & 26.12.99
Johnstone, R.	Capt. Imp. Lt. Hse Elanslaagte 21.10.99
Mullins, C.H.	a.a.
Martineau, H.R.	Sgt. Protectorate Regt. Game Tree Kopie 26.12.99
Ramsden, H.E.	Tpr. a.a.
Albrecht, H.	Tpr. Imp. Lt. Hse Waggon Hill, Ladysmith 6.1.00
Maxwell F.A. DSO	Indian Staff Corps att. Robert's Horse Korn Spruit, S.A. 31.3.00
Richardson, A.H.L.	Sgt. Lord Strathcona's Corps Wolve Spruit, Standerton 14.7.00
Howse, N.R.	Capt. NSW Medical Staff Corps Vredefort, S.A. 27.7.00
Wylly, G.C.E.	Lt. Tasmania Imp. Bushmen Warm Bad, Tvl. 1.9.00
Bisdee, J.H.	Pte a.a.
Cockburn, H.Z.C.	Lt. R. Canadian Dragoons Komati River 7.11.00
Holland, E.	Sgt. a.a.
Turner, R.E.W.	Lt. a.a.
Hardham, W.J.	Farrier-Major 4th NZ Contingent. Naauwpoort, Cape. 28.1.01
Clements, J.J.	Cpl. Rimington's Guides. Strijdenburg, S.A. 24.2.01
Bell, F.W.	Lt. W. Aust. M.I. Brakpan, S.A. 16.5.01
Rogers, J.	Sgt. S.A. Constabulary Thaba'Nchu, S.A. 15.6.01
English, W.J.	Lt. 2nd Scottish Horse Vlakfontein, S.A. 3.7.01
Young, A.	Sgt. Major Cape Polic Ruiters Kraal 13.8.01
Maygar, L.C.	Lt. 5th Victoria M.R. Geelhoutboom 23.11.01
Crean, T.J.	Surg. Capt. 1st Imp.L.H. Tygerskloof 18.12.01
Martin-Leake, A.	Surg. Capt. S.A. Const. Vlakfontein 8.2.02

N.B.

Sgt. J. Rogers was an Australian serving with the S.A.C.  
Surgeon Captain A. Martin-Leake won a bar to his V.C. whilst serving with the R.A.M.C. in France 1914.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE 65th REGIMENT IN AUSTRALIA

Submitted by Mr. J. E. Price from a letter and attachment sent to him by Major J. H. Mott, O.B.E., (retd), from the RHQ of the York and Lancaster Regiment, England.

NOTE: The following extracts are from the Regimental History by Wylly, Volume I, and show how the Regiment moved in "dribs and drabs" and was scattered over a very wide area of New Zealand and Australia.

The 65th Regiment now began its preparation for another tour of foreign service, from which it was destined not to return to England for nearly twenty years.

Almost from the beginning of British occupation of Van Diemen's Land, what we now call Tasmania, in 1802, it had been largely used as a penal settlement, and from 1840 up to 1853, when transportation to Van Diemen's Land finally ceased, it was the receptacle for all convicts, not only from the United Kingdom, but from India and the Colonies. In 1845 the convicts in the island totalled many thousands and it was necessary to maintain there troops in order to ensure internal security, while opportunity was taken of the periodical reliefs to employ the outgoing Regiment to supply convict guards in the ships taking out men who had been sentenced to transportation.

The 65th was now ordered to Van Diemen's Land and being required to furnish convict guards, it sailed in small separate detachments as follows:- On the 26th August, 1845, two parties sailed: Captain R. O'Connell and forty-four other ranks left in the SAMUEL BODDINGTON, while in the PESTONJEE BOMANJEE were Lieutenant T. R. McCoy and forty-nine non-commissioned officers and men: on the 10th December Captain R. Newham's company embarked in the JOSEPH SEMES: and on the 24th February, 1846, Major A.F.W. Wyatt, Ensign J. Barton and fifty other ranks sailed in the PALMYRA, followed on the 21st of the following month by Lieutenant J. Gordon and Ensign R. B. T. Thelwall, with a guard of equal strength, in the LORD AUCKLAND: on the 1st May the MAITLAND took out Lieutenant B.W.R. Trafford, Quartermaster T. Paul and thirty-two sergeants, rank and file: on the 4th another fifty sailed in the JOHN CALVIN Captain G. F. Murray and Lieutenant G. Meyler: while another small party left England in the CHINA under command of Captain W. Johnston and Lieutenant H. F. Turner.

By this time an epidemic of measles had broken out among the children of the Regiment at Chatham, and, on the representations of the medical authorities, it was decided that no married people of the 65th should embark, but should for the present remain behind in England: and so it happened that Lieut-Colonel C. E. Gold, who only a very few months previously had succeeded Colonel Senior in command of the Regiment, was prevented from sailing with the 65th, which left England under the command of Major J. Patience.

The headquarters finally sailed on the 18th May in the JAVA, which had on board fourteen officers - Major J. Patience, Captains J.F. de Teissier, St. L. Barry and W. P. Young, Lieutenants C.A. Cuthbert, T. Barnard and R. H. MacGregor, Ensigns F.P. Drought, C.J. Ewen, R.M. Slegg, and W.F.T. Marshall, Surgeon R. K. Prendergast, Paymaster J. W. Marshall and Lieutenant and Adjutant C. Rhatigan - and six hundred and twenty-four non-commissioned officers and men. The JAVA touched at Teneriffe on the 8th June and arrived at Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land, on the 5th October, the JOHN CALVIN, having on board Captain Murray's detachment, coming into harbour two days later, when the officers and men on board her were transhipped to the JAVA, which then sailed on to Sydney, that port being reached on the 13th October. During this long voyage - close upon six months - one sergeant and six private soldiers died.

For some years prior to the arrival of the 65th Regiment in this distant part of the world, there had been trouble between the European settlers in New Zealand and the Maoris, the original inhabitants, on the subject of the possession of land, the question being rendered more than usually difficult of solution, from the fact that the land belonged not to the chief but to the tribe: while the English traders and speculators claimed the ownership of large tracts of land which they had purchased at the price of the few muskets and barrels of powder.

It was not long before the English and the Maoris came to blows, and in June 1843, there was a serious conflict, when several Englishmen and Maoris were killed. The trouble now spread to the north where a chief named Heke stirred up strife, and a year later he entered the settlement of Russell in the Bay of Islands, plundered a couple of houses and cut down a flag-staff bearing the Union Jack. Troops were now sent for from Sydney and with their arrival matters calmed down.

Many agitators, especially of the French and American nations, were, however, at work making mischief among the Maoris, and in March, 1845, the chief Heke and his warriors surprised Russell, and the small post furnished by the 96th Regiment suffered something like a disaster, the Maoris being greatly encouraged by their success in having defeated British troops. More regular troops were now sent for and on their arrival active measures were taken against Heke and his followers, but more than one attack made upon stockaded posts occupied by the Maoris was beaten back with serious loss. Desultory fighting, with varying success, continued for several months, until the summer of 1846, when the first party of the 65th arrived in the country. A serious offensive was now projected against a Maori chief of the name of Rangihaeata, who was in occupation of an immensely strong pah at a place called Porirua, not far from Wellington in North Island.

On the 1st August, 1846, the detachment of the 65th, which had left England nearly a year before under Captain O'Connell, arrived in New Zealand and was landed to join a small body of troops, some two hundred and fifty in all, drawn from the 58th and 99th Regiments, and this small force advanced under Major Last, 99th, to the pursuit of Rangihaeata in the Eorokiwi Valley. Considerable opposition was met with, but ultimately the Maori chief was driven into the jungle and his followers were broken up into small groups of half-starved, spiritless men, incapable of giving further trouble.

On arrival of the JAVA at Sydney with the headquarters of the Regiment, that vessel was re-chartered to take the troops on to New Zealand, and, having watered and re-victualled and taken on board such of the 65th as had previously arrived at Sydney, the JAVA sailed on, arriving on the 19th November in the Bay of Islands and anchoring at Korrorka. On the 21st two companies were disembarked under the command of Captain Young and occupied the post at Wahapu, in relief of a detachment of the 58th, and on the following day the JAVA sailed for Auckland, where four companies were landed to form part of the garrison. Further moves took place before the end of the year, a detachment of two officers and one hundred and twenty-two other ranks under Captain Johnston moving on the 16th December to Wellington, and a smaller one of thirty-one non-commissioned officers and men proceeding on the 18th under Lieutenant Gordon to the same place.

In the meantime - on the 19th September - the greater number of the married people of the Regiment, who, owing to the outbreak of measles had been detained in England when the 65th embarked, had sailed from Gravesend in the SIR ROBERT PEEL under Lieut.-Colonel Gold, and reached Auckland on the 14th January, 1847, when Colonel Gold assumed command both of the Regiment and of the Northern District. On the 1st of this month the 65th was thus distributed:

At Auckland, the Headquarters	were	13	Officers	and	359	Other Ranks		
At Wahapu	"	6	"	"	205	"	"	
At Wellington & Southern District	10	"	"	308	"	"		
At Sydney	"	2	"	"	32	"	"	
	TOTAL:	31	"	"	904	"	"	

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### THE 'UNOFFICIAL' CORONATION CADET CORPS

by W. Wynne

Those who remain of the Australian Coronation Cadet Contingent of 1911 will always remember that day, 60 years ago when they stood stiffly to attention as King George V left and returned to Buckingham Palace. There will be a thought of sadness for many comrades who afterwards fell in the two world wars, and a reminiscent grin for the episodes that even then marked out the Australian as a man of adventure and initiative.

There were nearly 200 of us, 15 to 19 years of age, recruited from senior and junior Cadet Corps from city and country schools in New South Wales. We embarked on the Themistocles at Sydney on April 21, 1911, and sailed around the Cape under strict troopship conditions. Discipline was

as rigid as the wire-netting mattresses in the tiered bunks that filled the cargo deck, and several hours each day were devoted to marching and drill practice on deck.

Our commander was the late Major George Wynne, a veteran of the Boer War and the Boxer Rising, and a well-known Sydney journalist. He planned that we should be official troops, and as such, be assigned a place with the representative soldiers lining the processional route, and thereby qualifying for military Coronation Medals. But the late Senator Pearce, then Minister for Defence, and our commander apparently did not see eye to eye, so we sailed as a private venture. Hopes of later recognition were prejudiced by a birthday-greetings message George Wynne sent direct to the King while we were in the Indian Ocean. As I recall it the message, while being quite respectful, had a sort of 'one George to another' ring about it. The King didn't seem to mind, judging by the cordial reply he sent, but the by-passed Australian Defence Department was not impressed.

Denied official accommodation in London, we somehow found ourselves under canvas in the Crystal Palace grounds, where there was ample entertainment and room for initiative in the Pageant of Empire, the many side-show devices, and the chocolate-vending machines.

Coronation morning came with us 'troops' still, as far as we knew, unrecognised, with no place in the scheme of things, and no hope of medals. Nevertheless, our buglers blew 'reveille' long before dawn. Buttons were polished, equipment cleaned again and puttees wound and re-wound about our legs.

We de-trained in a strangely quiet London. The route was closed with huge wooden barriers, and the white gravelled roadway crunched as we marched in column of fours. Great wooden gates swung open for us, the vanguard of the picked troops of the Empire, in London for the coronation.

Our commander seemed in doubt where to put us. After consultation with his adjutant he apparently decided there was not better place than opposite the gates of Buckingham Palace, near the stand from which members of the Royal household watched the unofficial procession. There we formed two deep and obeyed the order to 'stand at ease'.

Presently, just as the sun was coming up, a magnificent body of men, led by an officer on a charger, bore down on us. The officer claimed a documentary right to the place we occupied, but Major Wynne insisted that the place had been allocated to us. There was an argument, but he eventually agreed to reduce his frontage by doubling up his men if we would do the same. A similar solution satisfied another contingent which claimed, with equal certainty, some of 'our' space on the other side. We were the happiest troops on the route.

When the crowd behind us became restive as the early hours went by, permission was given for a regimental band - from memory I think it was the Grenadier Guards - to march once up and down Constitution Hill. We had never seen such glittering magnificence and we tingled to the wonderful martial music.

Major Wynne was a man who would not be outdone by anybody, and half an hour later, he gave the order, "Officers and Band to the front - left wheel - quick march!"

Yes, we had a band. It comprised one big drum, two kettle-drums, four battered copper school bugles, and one piper, Alexander Mouat, who we called 'One-tune Mouat'. It seemed to our untrained ears that his bag-pipes knew only one tune, Cock o' the North, which never seemed quite to finish before it slipped back to the beginning again, ad infinitum.

Our drummers played and our buglers tooted the School Bugle March as we went down the Hill. Our piper played his endless tune on the way back.

The contrast with the music of the Guards' Band must have been ludicrous, but smiles from the crowd gradually turned to handclaps. Maybe it was our proud bearing and magnificent marching. Our motley band had led us a thousand times around the ship's deck, and precision marching had become second nature to us.

There was one contretemps. When an enthusiast in one public stand jumped up and roared "Good old New Zealand!" Major Wynne forgot his military manners and shouted back, "New Zealand be hanged, it's Australia!"

Among the Contingent were many who were junior champions in various sports, including lifesaving, and amongst our gear was what was probably the first lifesaving reel to go to England. Exhibitions of surf lifesaving, given at Hove, caused quite a sensation. A rifle team also gave a very good account of itself by winning some medals at the 1911 Rifle Meeting at Bisley.

Before setting off for home on the Demosthenes, the contingent attended the Spithead Review and visited many historical battlefields in England and on the Continent, including Waterloo, in Belgium. When we arrived in South Africa, the South African Government made a special train available to the contingent to enable us to visit the Boer War battlefields where Australian troops had served. Places visited included Colenso and Ladysmith.

We arrived back in Sydney in October, 1911, still with little chance of being officially recognised and being granted Coronation Medals, and the contingent was disbanded on October 19, 1911.

After repeated representations, His Majesty eventually granted his Coronation Medals to us, and they were presented to the Corps at a parade in Queen's Square, Sydney, on January 30, 1912 by His Excellency the Governor General, Sir Thomas Denman, Bart.

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NOTES FROM SOCIETY BRANCHESW. A. BRANCH

Since its inauguration in March 1968, under the instigation of Major Clem Sargent, this branch has made steady progress and at present has a membership of 15. As these are the first notes to be submitted on the activities of this branch, a brief mention on some of the highlights of the activities of the branch over the past three years has been given.

The branch has had the good fortune to be able to hold its meetings at a most suitable venue - the United Service Institution Library at Swan Barracks in Perth, where members enjoy a relaxed and informal atmosphere at branch meetings. This library contains an extensive medal collection consisting of over 300 items, the majority of which are displayed and labelled in a most pleasing manner. Most of the credit for the setting up of the display of this valuable collection can be given to one of our Branch foundation members, Captain John Le Tessier, E.D. (An article on the origin and development of this collection appeared in "Sabretache" Vol. XI No. 2., October 1968).

In August 1968 the W.A. Branch organised a special visit to the W.A. Museum where members were able to inspect the uniforms, weapons and other items of the former G. Wieck and U.S.I. collections held by the museum in storage. With the opening of the museum's new wing at Fremantle dealing with early Colonial and State history, a number of these items are at last being put on public display. It is hoped that as more space becomes available, much more of this unique collection can be displayed.

In August of the following year a combined meeting was held with members of the United Service Institution at which Major Sargent gave a most descriptive and well illustrated talk on the Peninsula War. This meeting proved of interest to members of both Societies.

In November 1969 branch members with wives and friends enjoyed a Sunday picnic excursion to the Murray River district, south of Perth. The South-west area of Western Australia has many connections with early state history. The aim of this excursion was to retrace part of the journey from Mandurah to Pinjarra, taken by Governor Stirling and his party, including a detachment of the 21st Foot, in October 1834. Branch members tried to locate the original site of the Battle of Pinjarra where Stirling's party clashed with natives. The research and organisation for this excursion was carried out by Brigadier J.B. Roberts, M.B.E., E.D., and an interesting day was had by all.

Since the affiliation of the W.A. Branch of the Military Historical Society of Australia with the Royal W. A. Historical Society, the Branch President and Secretary have attended a number of conferences and conventions held by this Society. Members of the W.A. Branch who wish to carry out research have access to the records and documents held by this Society. The Branch also receives the Journals and newsletters of the Royal W.A. Historical Society.

What has now become an annual event on the branch calendar is the branch Social wind-up evening, usually held in late November. For the 1970 wind-up, members and their wives enjoyed themselves at a barbecue evening held at the home of John Le Tessier.

For our second meeting of 1971, members once more took the opportunity of meeting on a social basis and attended the film "Waterloo", being shown at a local theatre in Perth. This type of gathering and of the type held for the Pinjarra excursion in 1969 provides some variety to the normal type of branch meeting and it is hoped that in the future a number of these events can be included in the branch itinerary

P.A. SHAW,  
Branch Secretary 1970  
(Retiring).

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#### A.C.T. BRANCH

The A.C.T. Branch held an exhibition of militaria, combined with a Wine and Cheese Tasting on the night of Saturday 22nd May, 1971.

The function was an outstanding success, due to the individual efforts of Branch members who devoted considerable time and effort to the preparation of exhibits.

All aspects of Society activities were covered, and model soldiers shared the limelight with wargame panoramas and glittering medals and badges. Books, edged weapons and firearms were also featured.

The Branch is particularly grateful to those members of the N.S.W. Military Historical Society who travelled from Sydney for the occasion, and who brought with them many interesting items which were displayed in an area specially set aside for them. Particular thanks are due to Mr. Len Barton, the President of the N.S.W. Society, who devoted a good deal of time and effort to assist us.

Unfortunately distance prevented similar support from Victoria, but a small token display was provided in the shape of as many uniforms as could be fitted into a small suitcase, able to be carried as passengers' luggage by Mr. B.J. Videon on a recent business trip to the Capital. The Branch had hoped to obtain from him a display of R.A.A.F. material to illustrate the fact of the R.A.A.F.'s 50th Anniversary, but this was not possible, due to the fact that this material was already on loan to the A.W.M.

The comment made by many visitors to the display was: "When is the next function being held?". This sort of comment is an indication of the success of the evening.

J. J. FREWEN,  
Branch President.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCHBranch Patron

The South Australian Branch has been honoured by the acceptance of an invitation to Major-General R. N. L. Hopkins to become Patron of the Branch.

General Hopkins has had an interesting career, and he is at present writing a history of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps.

The following details will be of interest to many members:

OUTLINE RECORD OF SERVICE

Major General R. N. L. Hopkins C.B.E. (Ronald Nicholas Lamond)

b. Stawell, Victoria, 1897.

Son of Surgeon Captain W. F. Hopkins who was Medical Officer with First Victorian Contingent to South African War 1899 and died of enteric fever in South Africa 1900.

Staff Cadet, Royal Military College, Duntroon	1915-17
Lieutenant, 6th A.L.H. Regt. (A.I.F.) Palestine	1918-19
Various appointments in Australia including	
Brigade Major, 6th Cavalry Brigade (S.A.)	1923-25
Cavalry Instructor, R.M.C. Duntroon	1926
Staff College, Quetta,	1927-28
Various cavalry and staff appointments in Australia.	1929-36
Armoured training in United Kingdom	1937-39
C.O. 2/7th Aust. Div. Cav. Regt. (A.I.F.) (Aust)	1940
D.D.S.D.(A.F.V.) at Army Headquarters, Melbourne (Organising armoured training in Australia)	1940 (Nov)
G.S.O.1., 1st Aust. Armoured Division (A.I.F.)	1941 (July)
Director, Military Operations and Plans, AHQ	1942 (Jan)
B.G.S., New Guinea Force.	1942 (Sep)
7th Amphibious Force U.S.N. (Army adviser): (awarded U.S. Legion of Merit) ( all landing operations for Aust and U.S. Forces in the S.W.P.A. up to Morotai)	1943-44
First Commandant, Australian Staff College Carbarlah, Queensland.	1945

Commander, Australian Component and 34th Aust. Inf. Bde, British Commonwealth Occupation Force, Japan.	1946-48
Commandant, Central Command (South Aust.)	1949
Deputy Chief of the General Staff, AHQ.	1950
Commandant, Royal Military College, Duntroon	1951-54

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R.A.A.F. GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR

by B.J. Videon.

The year 1971 is the Golden Jubilee Year of the R.A.A.F.

On 31st March, 1921, the Australian Air Force was formed as a separate Force, and the title "Royal" was conferred on it three months later.

The story of the R.A.A.F. since its formation need not be summarised here, as there are numerous recently issued books available that can do this much more effectively. But that the R.A.A.F. is proud of its history need not be doubted, and much has been made of this, its first significant anniversary since its 21st, which occurred unfortunately in wartime.

To celebrate its Golden Jubilee, the R.A.A.F. has gone to a great deal of trouble to produce or sponsor various publications, arrange flying and static displays, and to generally bring before the public and the serviceman alike the fact of this milestone in its history.

The best of the publications is unquestionably the book produced by the Australian Government Printing Service. Entitled "The Golden Years", this 144 page book tells in word and picture the story of the R.A.A.F. from its earliest beginnings to the present day. Printed on first-grade paper, with plenty of colour, it is the best buy of the year at \$2 per copy (Australian currency) in hard cover, or \$1.50 soft cover. Those who have not managed to get a copy should make every endeavour to do so before it is sold out. Hard covered versions are in limited supply, but it is understood that the R.A.A.F./Womens Association is still able to offer copies of the soft-covered version. Presumably postage should be added to any orders required to be mailed. Overseas members may be lucky if they write to an Australian Member for help.

Kookaburra Press has published "AIRCRAFT OF THE R.A.A.F. 1921-71" by Geoffrey Pentland and Peter Malone, an excellent hard-covered book of 147 pages, showing in black and white, with some coloured plates, the aircraft which have served the R.A.A.F. over the last fifty years. Also by Geoffrey Pentland, through the Lansdowne Press there has appeared a somewhat similar volume, entitled "AIRCRAFT AND MARKINGS OF THE R.A.A.F. 1939-45", which will be of great interest to the collector and painter of plastic aircraft models as well as to the student of R.A.A.F. aircraft and history.

Both books sell at \$7.50, and enquiries at any good book shop should lead you to one or both. I recommend them to your attention.

"Aircraft" magazine of April 1971 is a Souvenir edition featuring the "50 Golden Years" of the R.A.A.F./at 30 cents it is available also at most booksellers and good newsstands.

"R.A.A.F. News", the R.A.A.F.'s own newspaper, brought out a "Golden Jubilee" edition in March 1971, and with its coloured front and back pages, and a coloured centre section showing R.A.A.F. aircraft of the 70's, this is a good edition to have, if you can get hold of one.

The B.P. Oil Company has issued two interesting and colourful give-away wall charts showing R.A.A.F. aircraft of yesteryear and today, and these also are recommended to you. Enquire at your local B.P. office.

Many Australian newspapers gave the celebrations wide coverage, and the centre pages of the "Sunday Mail" (Sydney) of 18th April showed several aircraft in colour, and gave a brief story of the event being celebrated. "The Sun" (Sydney) produced an excellent black-and-white chart showing every aircraft used by the R.A.A.F. The illustrations are clear and clearly identified, and this also is a most worthwhile addition to your aircraft information collection.

At the Australian War Memorial (in addition to the previous fine show in the Aeroplane Hall, where one can see full-sized aircraft, relics, paintings, Harold Freedman's large murals showing aeroplanes from first to last, etc), there is a special exhibition put in by the R.A.A.F. in honour of its 50th. This is shown to best advantage in a separate room in the new wing of the building, where all fittings and display material enhance the quality of the items shown.

The exhibition includes photos, some paintings, a few relics, model aircraft (including some magnificent large models of aircraft of 1914-18), the design of the postage stamp and first day covers to be issued on 9th June commemorating this anniversary, and a quantity of badges and uniforms. The badges were lent to the display by the writer, and comprise 24 large boards showing almost all of the insignia worn on uniforms from the formation of the R.A.A.F. to the present day, plus a selection of duty brassards and squadron badges for working and flying suits. The uniforms are three, namely a tunic and cap of the style worn prior to 1938 with gold braid for Squadron leader's rank marks on cuffs, gold wings, and gold "scrambled eggs" on the cap peak, with the old officer's badge showing the Southern Cross; a postwar tunic and cap for Air Chief Marshal rank (A.C.M. Sir Frederick Scherger, KBE, CB, DSO, AFC, who is remarkable as being the first and only Australian to reach this rank), and a tunic and cap for an officer in the new blue-grey material soon to become normal wear.

It is interesting to note that H.R.H. Prince Philip, during his visit to this exhibit, unerringly spotted the fact that the cap badge on this last uniform was of the type including the old eagle, and not the Australian Wedgetailed Eagle, which should be worn now by officers. He was right to comment on this,

of course, but could not have been aware of the old Australian habit of making do with old items until they have all been used up, before making uniform issues of the new. All three Services tend to display a hotch-potch of uniforms and insignia following the release of new types, and this may often be seen for years.

Also among the items on display in this area was the Society's commemorative medallion honouring the R.A.A.F.'s 50th. Well lit in the front of an attractive case, with appropriate words beneath, it looks really well!

At the A.W.M.'s new shop, now removed from its place near the entrance to a more spacious site inside the building, one may purchase a variety of excellent prints, cards etc., including at present one wall chart showing the first of Harold Freedman's aircraft murals. At 25 cents per copy, this is good value, and the other murals will follow as soon as suitable photos are available from which to print.

An attractive production for the Jubilee was the recent LP record released by RCA Victor, entitled "Jubilee". This record features the R.A.A.F. Central Band under the baton of Squadron Leader R. Mitchell, playing a mixture of tunes, mainly of a non-military character, and including some Australiana such as "Click go the shears". This is a top-quality record, by a world class band, but why this particular selection was chosen to represent the Golden Jubilee of the R.A.A.F. I shall never comprehend. A further disappointment is the cover, which shows a pile of the band's instruments at the near end of a runway. This also is quite a good 'gimmick', but what has it to do with the Jubilee? However, for the true music-lover, this record is one you should have; it is pleasant, soothing, and played as only a first-class band can play. It is unfortunately in the top price bracket, but if you want quality, you must be prepared to pay for it!

In the philatelic field, we have seen so far a postmark advertising the Golden Jubilee of the R.A.A.F., some circular stickers for envelopes showing on the current R.A.A.F. roundel the words "R.A.A.F. GOLDEN JUBILEE 1921-1971", and from one Base, a specially printed airmail envelope with similar motif printed thereon. As mentioned above, there will also be a special stamp, taken from a painting by well-known aviation artist Ray Honisett, and two varieties of First Day Covers, and these will appear on 9th June.

For the motorist, there is a similar sticker to that for use on envelopes, but larger, and this is made in two types, one for use inside glass, the other for use on outside surfaces. Both these stickers unfortunately feature a pale blue ring in the roundel, which should be much darker in colour. However, it is an official and interesting item to have.

Through A.S.C.O. one may procure teaspoons, sets of good-quality drinking glasses and felt pennants issued for the Jubilee Year, and we understand there may also be a wooden shield showing a cast version of the R.A.A.F.'s official badge with supplementary scrolls telling of the Jubilee. Chase up your nearest A.S.C.O. for details.

So, for the air force collector, there is a good deal of material to be sought out, if you want to make a set, and there may even be items that I have not yet seen, available to the general public.

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BOOK REVIEWS, ETC.

"THE ROYAL MARINES" in the Pitkin 'Pride of Britain' series, published by Pitkin Pictorials Ltd., 11 Wyfold Road, London, SW6, obtainable from the Corps Museum, Royal Marine Barracks, Eastney, Southsea, Hants, U.K. Price 20p (4/-) postage extra.

King George the Fourth's choice of the 'Great Globe Itself' for the emblem of the Royal Marines was most appropriate, for there are few places on the earth's surface that they have never been. This booklet attempts in some two dozen pages to retell their colourful history. From a facsimile of the Privy Council proceedings, dated October 1664, authorising the raising of a Regiment of Marines, we skip a couple of pages to the historic flag-raising ceremony at Sydney Cove, on the 25th (their misprint, not mine) January, 1788. There is action galore, from Bunker Hill, 1775, to the Brunei Revolt in 1962 and their assistance in times of civil distress, as a photograph shows them landing relief supplies for the victims of the recent East Pakistan Floods. The Marines are there. Their story is excellently, although somewhat crowdedly told.

The colour prints are pleasing to the eye, the photographs sharp in detail. For the uniform enthusiast, the battle historian, or for one whose interests lie in general militaria, this publication is a must.

J. E. Price

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"THE FIRST QUEENSLAND MOUNTED INFANTRY IN SOUTH AFRICA 1899-1900"

Prepared by Major R. Clark

Published by The Military Historical Society of Australia, A.C.T. Branch  
Price \$2.00. Obtainable from A.D.T. Branch Secretary.

At long last a well printed publication has been produced which clearly shows the medal and bar entitlements for the 1st QMI Contingent. The medal details are based on the original rolls prepared by the Contingent Commanders for submission to the War Office in London. The many medals with missing or loose bars may now be verified.

In addition, those of us who are interested in military history are given a detailed account of the unit's service in the Boer War. The remarks on subsequent service by members of this contingent, brings out the number of

distinguished Australian Soldiers who saw their first active service with 1st QMI. The attractive cover and photographs add to this publication which I believe is a must for all Society members. We will all no doubt anxiously await the appearance of the author's other publications which are listed hereunder. Our Branch of the Society is pleased to sponsor such a publication by one who is recognised as the leading authority on medals awarded to Australians.

Major J. J. Frcwen.

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"A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF AUSTRALIANS AT WAR", a Paul Hamlyn publication. 323 pages, coloured plates, hard cover, quarto size. Price: \$Aust 4.95.

Paul Hamlyn has brought us a great many low-priced publications in recent months, aimed at the popular reading market, and this book falls into this category.

It does not quite measure up to the claims made in the inside of the dust jacket, but it does trace in a very readable fashion the history of the Australian soldier from the Colonial days to South Vietnam.

A special bonus is the fact that there are quite a lot of very interesting plates in both black and white and in colour showing the Colonial Forces. These old plates have that exquisite air of the faintly comical that we nowadays see in many of the illustrations of Victorian soldiers, but let there be no mistake....these men were in earnest, and they founded the spirit that came to the top in the wars in which Australians were to become involved in after years. The embarkation of N.S.W. troops for the Soudan, scenes of drilling in old-fashioned barracks, self-conscious groups of officers and men putting down the Irish Rebels at Castle Hill in 1804, the storming of the Eureka Stockade, and top-hatted gentlemen of the N.S.W. Artillery drilling in civilian dress are all fascinating stuff.

Add to that a good coverage of the various Wars, in picture, painting, sketch, cartoon and the written word, and you have an excellent addition to your library shelves.

If you are looking for errors, you will find the odd one or two, but this is to be expected in this class of publication, and to make up for it, you have the excellent range of illustrations referred to above.

I like it, and I think you will too.

B. J. Videon

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"HAT BADGES OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY 1948-1971", by A.N. Festberg, published by Australian Military Publications Service, of 14-16 Fitzroy Street, St. Kilda, Victoria, 3182. A soft-covered book of A4 size, bound with plastic clutch spine, 76 single-sided pages giving alternative plates and descriptions of badges, with introductory remarks.

This book does what Mr. Festberg had hoped to do with his previous book "AUSTRALIAN ARMY INSIGNIA 1903-1966", namely, to illustrate all the badges approved in a given period for use of the Australian Army. Mr. Festberg has learned from his failure with the previous book, that at the present time it is more important to give more detail than less detail in a higher quality publication. Don't be misled, however, because this work is quite well produced, with large clear illustrations taken from official sources, printed by the off-set method. Every second page gives the details of height, date of drawings, and a comment on the collar badge design. The plates are grouped in periods, and within those periods, in the sequence of the Order of Battle.

No badge design in the period is missed, and there are some designs at the end which will be new to most readers.

The price is \$3 Australian Currency PLUS postage and packing where necessary, 30 cents, either in Australia or overseas. It has been commented upon by a number of Society members as excellent value for the money, and with this view I heartily concur. Perhaps with this volume we may yet see the start of the series of military publications on Australian subjects for which we have been striving for so long. If it is a "goer", and I think this one will be, there are other good titles to follow. But don't wait too long to order your copy, as this book, printed in this way, is, of necessity, a limited edition.

B. J. Videon

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"MILITARY ORIGINS" by Major Lawrence L. Gordon, Kaye and Ward, London, 256 pages, hard cover, U.K. price 35/- (£1.75). Edited by Lieutenant Colonel J. B. R. Nicholson.

Have you ever been asked "what was the first.....", "how long was the...." etc, etc, the questions so beloved of the serving or ex-soldier who has been faultily briefed by his unit or his friends? If you have, you almost certainly will find in this book the answer! If you haven't, well, you will enjoy finding out anyhow!

It is a long time since I have had the pleasure of reading such an interesting accumulation of information as this, containing as it does chapters headed "Royal Bodyguards", "Heraldry", "Early English Armies", "Cavalry", "Artillery", "Engineers", "Medical Services", "Personal Firearms", "Military Music", "Military Finance", "Aeronautics", "Miscellany", and, most important, "Index". Well illustrated with a number of coloured plates and line drawings, it must appeal to all who want to know more than descriptions of militaria.

Inside the dust jacket the point is made that this book is the result of 30 years or more of interest in military history and as an instructor in the British Army. I am not at all surprised, because it must have taken all of that time for the author to research the amazing collection of facts set out here.

Until I acquired a copy, I didn't know I needed it, and you will think exactly the same way when you see it. Enquire at your major book dealer for details of the Australian price, or write direct to the publishers, at 194-200 Bishopsgate, London EC2, England.

B. J. Videon

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"REGIMENTAL BADGES OF NEW ZEALAND", by D.A. Corbett, 2 Spencer Street, Remuera, Auckland 5, New Zealand. 254 pages, hard cover, and profusely illustrated. 1000 copies printed.

In writing to congratulate the author on the fine job he'd done, it seems that I omitted to write a review on the copy for which I had subscribed, and for this I apologise.

The book is set up more or less in the fashion of Edwards' "Regimental Badges", but it is better in a number of ways, including:

Illustrations are actual photos and not sketches, collar badges (and some other insignia of various units) are illustrated too, locations of sub-units are given, regimental histories seem to be more detailed, coloured backings for sub-units are given, and there is a host of detail on puggaree colours, the Volunteer System, Order of Precedence and various Organisations of the New Zealand Army.

The order of appearance of the badges may seem a trifle confusing at first, but this will be simplified if you read the introductory text before going, as I did, to the badges first!

Mr. Corbett has clearly done his homework extremely well, and has profited by the shortcomings in all previous badge books, with the result that he has brought out the badge book to suit the badge collector's every need. Not only that, he has done it in a form that will grace any bookshelf.

An alphabetical Index to regimental titles completes a very good book.

At \$9 (New Zealand currency), it is not cheap, but if you are a badge collector, you won't be able to do without it.

B. J. Videon

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THE INDIAN STATE FORCES  
(Their Lineage and Insignia)

by H. H. THE MAHARAJA OF  
JAIPUR

Imported from India, our copy from Ward Lock Ltd., \$7.55.

Every reader, I suppose, knows about the Army of British India, but how many know anything about the Indian State Forces. These "Armies" were raised mainly for ceremonial duties in the princely states. However with the outbreak of WWII total mobilization came to India. Most princes, so the Maharaja tells us, mobilized their forces and placed them at the disposal of the King-Emperor. All costs were borne by the princes themselves. Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck writes in his foreword

about them:

"They were an invaluable asset to the Commonwealth forces and they deserve to be remembered as such with honor to themselves and with gratitude to the Princes who raised and maintained them."

The book is well written - each unit with its badges is described and a brief lineage provided.

Surely, as far as Australians are concerned, an informative book.

If you find it difficult to obtain please write to me C/- "SABREJACHE".

A. N. Festberg

\* \* \* \* \*

HITLER'S SS

by Richard Grunberger,  
Weideufels and Nicolson.

Collectors and admirers of the Nazi period will welcome this little volume.

Our younger members especially should buy a copy, then their eyes may be opened when they discover that not all about the notorious SS was glamorous. The Chapters called "Knights of the Long Knives" and "The Final Solution" will show them the evil that was instilled in them and was the basis of NAZISM.

Unfortunately the Australian agent did not bother to inform me of the sales price. The English one is £1.50.

A. N. Festberg

\* \* \* \* \*

Two important books by General Yigal Allon, Deputy Prince - Minister of Israel, have reached Australia. Both deal with the Israel Defence Forces and as such are authoritative histories.

Unfortunately it has not been possible to obtain review copies from the U.K. publisher's Australian representative in Sydney.

A. N. Festberg.

\* \* \* \* \*

BOOKS DUE OUT SOON

"AUSTRALIAN ARMY LINEAGE BOOK" by A.N. Festberg.

This book will be completely up-dated and re-arranged edition of the original Lineage book put out by the Society some years ago, and, since then, constantly in demand!

Mr. Festberg is having this edition printed commercially, and, in its new format, it will be a valuable addition to the historian's and the badge-collector's bookshelves.

Publicity will be mailed by the publishers when the book is ready.

"WHAT ARE THOSE MEDALS WORTH?" by Major Rex Clark.

This will be a catalogue with valuations and details of medals awarded to Australians, and will be illustrated. It will give a comprehensive coverage of Orders and Decorations, Campaign Medals, Long and Meritorious Service Medals, Coronation Medals, Unofficial Medals, U.N. Medals, Polar Medals etc. The quantity of each medal awarded will be given.

Major Clark has been described as Australia's foremost authority on medals to Australians, and this book to be sponsored by the A.C.T. Branch of the Society, will contain a Foreword by Major J. J. Frewen, the Branch President, himself a respected authority on medals.

\* \* \* \* \*

MILITARIA DEALERS - - J.B. Hirsh Books and Militaria

In the October 1970 issue, we wrote up the South Australia dealer, The Armoury.

In this issue we mention a former Federal Secretary, Mr. J.B. (Ben) Hirsh, who is now working full-time as a militaria dealer, and seems to be doing very well at it.

Ben has been operating for some time -- he actually started a mail-order service in September 1968, went into a shop early in 1970, where he sold materials with militaria as a sideline. He is now conducting the business from his home at 12 Hawson Street, Glenhuntly, Victoria, 3163. (Phone 211.5469), and is fully engaged in dealing in medals, decorations and orders, badges, uniform pieces, police insignia, bayonets, headgear and books, postcards, cigarette and trade cards and military prints.

Much of the stock is imported from overseas, as there is not a great deal of material available from local sources, but, of course, Ben will purchase good material offered at reasonable prices.

The mail order service has proved very satisfactory, and between 8 and 10 lists are mailed each year to a wide clientele. The cost of a subscription to these lists is \$1 Australian per year.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### WARGAMERS

In Melbourne, the Secretary of the Wargamers Club is

Mr. John Williams,  
4 Raleigh Street,  
ESSENDON, 3040.

A journal is issued.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### DESPATCHES

(Letters, queries and comments from readers)

From Mr. Bernard Caillard, 5 Montague Avenue, GLEN IRIS, Victoria, 3146.

Dear Sir,

I am a collector of Australian silver, and recently bought a 19th Century cup, with a military inscription. Although pretty obviously made in Australia, the cup has no silversmith's mark, and I am hoping that it may be possible to identify it's having been presented in Australia from the inscription. I have already looked up it's date in the Melbourne and Adelaide papers, without any success, but have been told that you may be able to help me.

In particular, of course, the question is whether Captain Commandant Holmes of the Engineers was stationed in Australia, and if so where.

The exact inscription is as follows:-

ENGINEERS' CHALLENGE CUP

Given by

Captain Commandant Holmes

Won by

Sergeant Chapman No. 2 Engineers

6th August, 1873

---

From Major Rex Clark, 140 Belconnen Way, Scullin, A.C.T.

Over nearly twenty years I have had the pleasure of showing many interested collectors my medal collection. During the last few years I have found that I no longer have time for my hobby so I ceased to be an active medal collector. In order to prevent interested members from visiting to see a collection that doesn't exist I would like to have my change of interests known.

My interest is now in Australian Military History with a special emphasis on details of medals awarded to Australians. When time permits I am always prepared to help any collector with information on medals awarded to Australians.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### SOCIETY ADVERTISEMENT

The Society still has for sale the following items at very low prices, ideal to start a collection, or for swaps:

Naval Tally bands (new)	@	10 cents each
HMAS LONSDALE		(175)
HMAS MELBOURNE		(20)
HMAS AUSTRALIA		(10)
RANR (NS)		(10)

Obsolete Army formation signs	@	5 cents each
3rd Division q/c		(2 gross)
AHQ (last type)		(24 only)
2nd and 4th AGRA		(about 40 each, some pairs)
Southern Command q/c		(20 only)

WRAAC summer weight corporal chevrons at 5 cents each about 50

Army hat badges 30 cents each  
 Infantry Corps q/c (about 50)  
 Armoured Corps (10: only)

Army hat badges 20 cents each  
 Rising suns q/c (some polished) (about 20)

Australian Army buttons @ 10 for 40 cents (our selection)  
 We have a mixture of large and small sizes, but can  
 not guarantee any particular selection due to odd  
 quantities involved. Good value however at this price.

Few odd Victorian ARP wartime lapel badges at 5 cents each.

For orders below \$1 please add postage from 5 to 20 cents to suit  
 weight of badges plus packing.

Australian Light Horse Figure \$1 each including postage.

RAAF Golden Jubilee Medallions @ \$4 each or \$10 set of 3.  
 Previous medallions issued by Society (see October 1970 SABRETACHE).

B.J. Videon, 20 Thomasina Street, East Bentleigh, Victoria, 3165.

\* \* \* \* \*

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS

(50 cents per advertisement of reasonable size)

WANTED FOR AVIATION MUSEUM COLLECTION

Unusual and old British, Australian and foreign air forces insignia and  
 uniform items. Particularly pilot wings "AMF" crowned and uncrowned of the  
 Australian Flying Corps, metal shoulder title "CFS", cloth shoulder title  
 "Central Flying School", A.F.C. Tunic either single-breasted army style of  
 WW1, or "Maternity Jacket" of the C.F.S., Royal Flying Corps "Maternity  
 Jacket", WW1 W.A.A.F. or Women's Branch of R.F.C. uniform items.

Foreign flying helmets and goggles, old (pre-WW2) British and  
 Australian ditto, particularly WW1; also WW1 flying boots and gauntlets;  
 khaki drill summer type Australian WW2 flying suit.

Please write giving details of condition, price, etc., to

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

\* \* \* \* \*

ADVERTISEMENT

**THE ARMOURY**

296 BRIGHTON ROAD, NORTH BRIGHTON 5048

Specialising in Antiques

PISTOLS  
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MEDALS

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We are Australia's only Specialist Dealers in the above field and wish to purchase single items or complete collections.

RING 96 5126 10.30 a.m.-4 p.m. or A.H. 53 5028 or 96 2855

or write or call THE ARMOURY  
296 Brighton Road, North Brighton, opposite the Brighton High School.

Send 50 cents now for our latest list, stamps or money order! 44 illustrations, and over 500 items listed. Gigantic medal and badge list.

Don't be left behind. Keep your badge collection up to date. Some new badges are already out of date, and there will be no more issued. When these stocks go, that's it!

DON'T MISS OUT ..... BECOME A SUBSCRIBER!

\* \* \* \* \*



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EMBANK ARCADE,  
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MELBOURNE,

P.O. BOX 1986 R,  
G.P.O. MELBOURNE, 3001,

Phone 62 1172

We have much pleasure in announcing the publication  
of the latest work by Major R. Clark, entitled

**AUSTRALIAN AWARDS OF THE KING'S SOUTH AFRICA MEDAL.**

This publication not only lists the name and number  
etc., of the recipients, but states also the other units in  
which they served and the alternate naming on the Medals.  
We are the sole Australian agent for this work which is  
available at

\$4.20 post paid. A must for the serious collector.

We stock a large range of British and Foreign Medals,  
Decorations and Orders. Please write for our current  
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We would like to purchase collection of Medals, or  
single pieces, particularly British.

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- (423) Maj.-General, R.N.L. HOPKINS, C.B.E., 24 Wilsden Street,  
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(South Australia Branch Patron)

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- (423) Maj.-General, R.N.L. HOPKINS, C.B.E., 24 Wilsden Street,  
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(South Australia Branch Patron)

ii.

- (424) Mr. P. A. EAGLESTON, 7 Roby Street, WHYNNUM NORTH, QLD., 4178.  
(Helmets, rifles, flags etc., from Australia, U.K., U.S.A., Japan & Germany of the W.W. 2 era)
- (425) Mr. J.H. IRWIN, 13 Borva Street, DUTTON PARK, QLD. 4102.  
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(Service decorations)

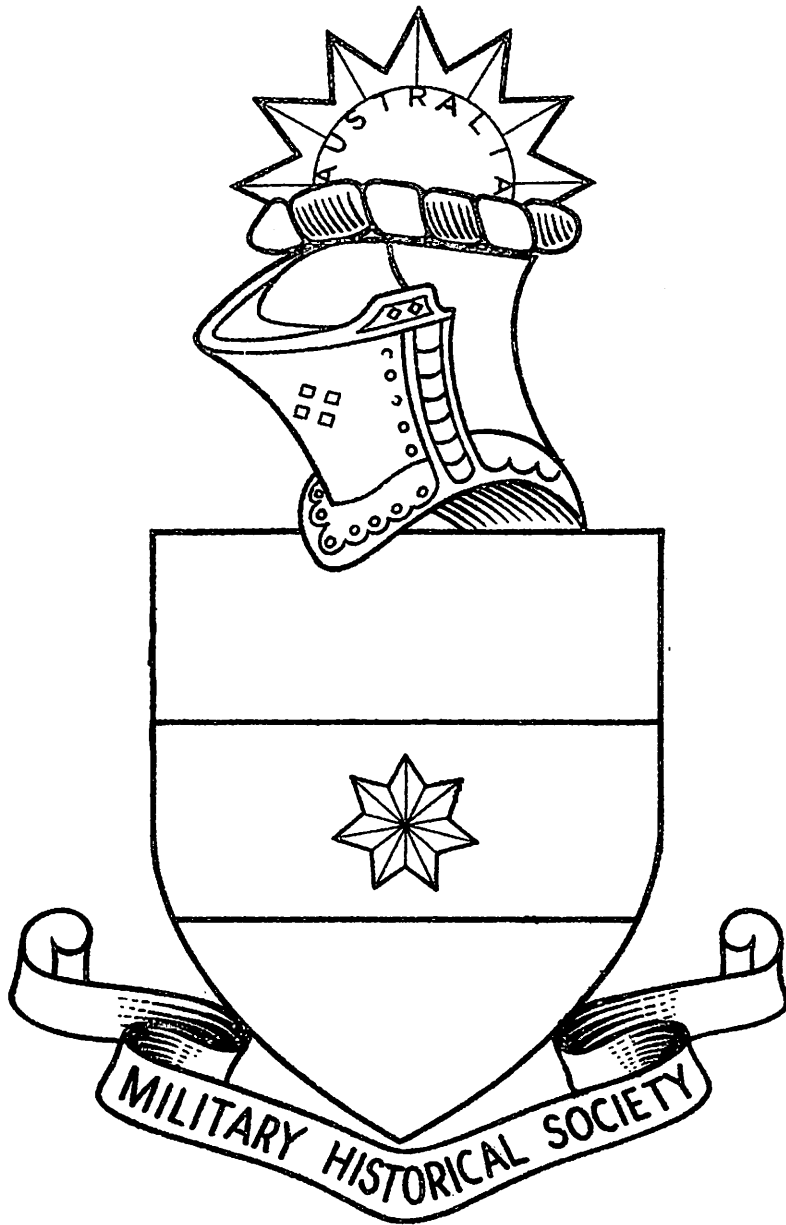
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#### DIRECTORY AMENDMENTS

##### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- (339) 2/Lieut. P. J. DENHAM to 3 Gordini Cres., HOLDEN HILL, SA, 5088.
- (309) Mr. J. GRANT to P.O. Box 15, SOUTH PERTH, W.A. 6151.
- (325) Mr. R. HARMS to Coin Exchange, 244 Payneham Road,  
PAYNEHAM, S.A. 5070.
- (10) J.B. HIRSH, BOOKS &  
MILITARIA to P.O. Box 20, GLENHUNTLY, VIC. 3163.
- (55) Dr. W.A. LAND, MB.,BS.,DDM. to 6 Flinders Avenue, ST. IVES, NSW 2075.
- ( - ) MINATURE FIGURE COLLECTORS OF AMERICA, C/- Mr. B. G. STONIER, to  
102 St. Paul's Road, ARDMORE, Penna.  
19003, U.S.A.
- (98) Staff/Sgt. D. ALLAN to 6 RAR, Lavarack Barracks, TOWNSVILLE,  
QLD. 4813.
- (405) Mr. K. W. PRYOR, to 9 Cedar Crescent, BORONIA, VIC. 3155.
- (254) Mr. P. P. VARNE to P.O. Box 136, BENTLEY, W.A. 6102.

\* \* \* \* \*



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  - The Federation Star of Australia;
  - A scroll bearing the Title of the Society.

