

Military Historical Society of Australia
Sabretache



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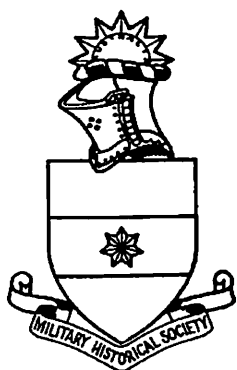
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CONTENTS

3. The Australian Graves of Crimean War Light Brigade Veterans
Edward J Boys
15. The British Garrison in Australia 1788-1841—the Commissariat
Lt Col T C Sargent
24. Cap Badges of the Rhodesian Security Forces
Graham Wilson
33. Some Recollections of RAAF Service—1945
Alan Fraser
40. Around the Water Cart
43. Society Notes
- Governor's visit to the Western Australian MHSA Branch, 15 March 2000
44. Sabretache Awards
45. Obituary— Hans Joachim Zwillenberg (1915-2000)

Contributions in the form of articles, notes, queries or letters are always welcome. Authors of major articles are invited to submit a brief biographical note, and, where possible, submit the text of the article on floppy disk as well as hard copy. See the last page for further guidelines.

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SABRETACHE

The Military Historical Society of Australia

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. The annual subscription to the Society is \$30. A membership application is on the back page.

Organisation

The Federal Council of Australia is located in Canberra. The Society has branches in Brisbane, Canberra, Albury-Wodonga, Melbourne, Geelong, Adelaide and Perth. Details of meetings are available from Branch Secretaries whose names appear below.

MHSA Constitution and Rules

The constitution of the Society adopted 1 August 1993 appears in *Sabretache* January-March 1993. The Society's rules adopted on 14 April 1997 appear in *Sabretache* April-June 1997.

Sabretache

The Federal Council is responsible for the publication of the Society Journal, *Sabretache*, which is mailed to each member of the Society quarterly.

Members' notices

Society members may place, at no cost, one notice of approximately 40 words in the 'Members' notices' section of the Journal each financial year.

Queries

The Society's honorary officers cannot undertake research on behalf of members. However, queries from members received by the Secretary will be published in the 'Letters' section of the Journal.

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The Australian Graves of Crimean War Light Brigade Veterans

Edward J Boys

The men recorded here served in one or other of the five regiments of Light Cavalry that formed the Light Brigade during the Crimean campaign of 1854-56. No muster roll exists (if indeed one was taken) of the men who actually participated in the Balaclava 'Charge' of the 25 October 1854, so only being killed or wounded in action, taken prisoner of war, decorated for a particular act during the Charge or some other documentary evidence can confirm the matter. Where any of the above is known, this is shown next to their name. But in the case of those men who did not arrive in the Crimea until after the qualifying date, 9 September 1855, there is nothing.

Following their service, all those recorded here seemingly ended their days in Australia, having arrived by various means, all of which, where known, are recorded, as is what happened to them there.

A number of gaps exist, however, and I would be very grateful to anybody who could possibly fill in the missing links and especially for photographs of any gravestones or gravesites which I do not have. I must, too, take this opportunity of thanking (and at the same time apologising for the use of it) all those descendant families who have over the years helped me, albeit in return for what I have been able to tell them of from this end. It will be appreciated, too, that I have considerably more on most of the individuals named here, space preventing further elaboration.

John GRAY—Rode in the Charge

John Gray was born at Chatham, Kent, on 25 November 1831, the son of William Gray, a painter, and his wife, Mary. He enlisted at Rochester in the 57th Regiment of Foot on 24 November 1845 at the age of 15 years. Gray was appointed Drummer in October 1849. He transferred as a Private to the 4th Light Dragoons in May 1851 and 'to serve in the Regtl. Band.'

Slightly wounded at Balaclava during the Charge, he was entitled to the Crimean medal with clasps 'Alma', 'Balaclava' and 'Sebastopol', and was discharged from Dublin in May 1861, after 12 years service: 'Unfit for further service. He has for some considerable time suffered from varicose veins of the legs. The disease has not been aggravated by vice or intemperance.'

Gray was awarded a pension of 8d. per day for three years, but was later refused further pension payments, a letter being sent telling him that 'he had no claim to anything bar his discharge pension' in April 1877.

Gray lived in Chatham, England, up to 1864, but he later emigrated to Australia and settled near Fremantle, where he died on 24 June 1891, aged 60 years, from "Paralysis Alcoholism, (Acute)." He was buried in the old cemetery in Alma Street, Fremantle, which has now been levelled and a check of the Records of Burial shows that there is a gap in them of 24 years between the 31 of July 1875 and the 4 of March 1897, thus no trace of his grave can be found.

The *Colonial Military Gazette* for August 1891 said:

'Funeral of a Crimean Hero – John Richard Gray, a survivor of the Charge of the Light Brigade, was buried at Perth on the 25th of June. Gray rode in the charge with the 4th Light Dragoons and was a field trumpeter on that occasion. It was a wound received in the charge that initially caused the death of the old man. The pall-bearers at his funeral were all old soldiers.'

Information from Mr. Broomhall, the author of *The Enrolled Pensioners Force of Western Australia*, shows that 'John Gray was never an E.P.F. man. It is more than likely that he came out as a warder on one of the convict ships and I have only one entry for him.'

Accession No 390 Batty Library of Perth, WA, says: 'John Richard Gray, late warder at Fremantle (Gao!) applies for increased pension.'

Governor F Napier Broome wrote, 'As a survivor of the immortal Charge of the Light Brigade, this officer has a claim to the greatest possible consideration ...'

Some time later, Mr Broome again wrote, 'He has a Chelsea pension of 5d. per day. Has 15 years military service, November 1845 to April 1861, including the Crimea. Present at Alma and Balaclava, rode in the Charge of the Light Brigade in the 4th Light Dragoons, wounded and horse killed ...'.

The *Dictionary of Western Australian Immigrants* merely shows him as 'John Richard Gray, son of James (sic) (painter) (Widower) mar. 2nd 7/9/1872 (C/E.) Marie, d. of James, (Farmer). Warder 1872. (13 years service.) C. of E.'

Edward GRENNAN—Rode in the Charge

Edward Grennan was born at Maryborough, Co. Queen's, Ireland, and enlisted at Athlone in October of 1849, at the age of 18 years into the 4th Light Dragoons. He was discharged from Cahir, Ireland, in October 1861 after 11 years service, being:

'Medically unfit for further service. Has varicose veins. The disease started about 18 months ago and may be attributed to pre-disposition and to some extent to his military service.'

He was entitled to the Crimean medal with clasps 'Alma', 'Balaclava', 'Inkerman' and 'Sebastopol'.

He went to Australia on 1 November 1862, having gone from the Killkenny, Ireland, Pension District.

In 1895, a gentleman named Mr Creamer (of Brisbane) wrote to Mr T H Roberts asking him to nominate a Light Brigade veteran to go to Australia. There were no applicants, all being too old to undertake the journey. He wrote again in 1897, after hearing of plans to invite the men who rode in the Charge to witness the Jubilee procession:

'An old Light Brigade man died in the Immigrant's Home at Melbourne a few months since. He wrote me a very nice letter before he died. He had been bedridden for some few years or he would have come and lived with me, but it was too late when I heard from him. His name was Edward Grennan of the 4th Q O Light Dragoons. He held certificates from Lord George Paget and other officers'.

Grennan died on 14 December 1896 and was buried in the Melbourne General Cemetery. Dr Kenny, of Melbourne, has provided details from the burial records. These show him as Edward Grennan, aged 60 years, a pensioner living in Royal Park, the home belonging to the Immigrants Aid Society, and the funeral being paid for by the Secretary (and owner of the Right of Burial) to a total of £4/13/-.

A Roman Catholic, he was interred in Grave No. 58a in Plot D. on 16 December 1896. The erected ledger stone, cross and headstone are of roughly dressed bluestone. The only inscription on the ledger stone is 'To One of the Noble Six Hundred', but on the marble slab on the headstone is written, 'In memory of Edward Grennan, native of Queen's Co. Ireland, who as a soldier of the 4th Light Dragoons fought at Alma, Inkerman and Sebastopol and also with the Light Brigade at Balaclava. He died at Royal Park, Melbourne, 14th December 1896, aged 61 years. May God have mercy on his soul.'

James NEAL—Rode in the Charge

James Neal was born in the parish of St. Luke's, London, he enlisted at Hounslow on 8 August 1851 into the 8th Hussars at the age of 18, his trade being that of a hatter. He served in all ranks from Pte to Quarter-Master Sgt. But reverting to Sgt. 'at his own request', he was appointed to Sgt. I/c. Musketry before being discharged 'Free to pension after 21 years service' from Longford, Ireland in November of 1873.

His wife was Eliza Neal. She is shown on the Regtl. 'Married roll' from 9 October 1856. There were no known children in the family. His wife was an Acting School-Mistress in the Regimental School at one period.

Neal was to live in Coupar, Scotland, but was living in Perth, Australia, from 1875. He was entitled to the Crimean medal with clasps 'Alma', 'Balaclava', 'Inkerman' and 'Sebastopol'.

Neal was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, being recommended for it on 12 January 1855 and receiving a gratuity of £10. It is not known under what circumstances this was awarded. He was also awarded the Mutiny medal with clasp 'Central India', and the Long Service and Good Conduct medal.

John Thomas BAMBRICK—Rode in the Charge

John Thomas Bambrick was born in Shajupre, India, on 6 February 1832, the son of Troop Sgt Major John Bambrick of the 11th Light Dragoons and his wife, Harriet Ann. He was baptised at Meerut on 14 March 1832. He enlisted into the Rifle Brigade in September 1849, joining the 2nd Bn at Parkhurst on the Isle of Wight, and transferred to the 11th Hussars on 1 March 1850, before again being transferred to the 2nd Life Guards on the 31 of July 1857. He was discharged from Windsor in September 1858.

Bambrick was entitled to the Crimean medal with clasps 'Alma', 'Balaclava', 'Inkerman' and 'Sebastopol'. He was awarded the Knight of the Legion of Honour (5th Class), shown in the *London Gazette* for 4 August 1856 as for 'bravery at Balaclava.' It states:

'Rode next to 1495 Sgt. Robert Davies at Balaclava and endeavoured to help him capture a Russian gun that the crew was trying to get away from the field of battle. His horse was later killed under him.'

He emigrated to Australia and died at Bourke, NSW, on 17 October 1893, recorded as being aged 65 years. However, his date of birth would have made him only 61. The cause of death was stated as 'Asthma, (2 years)'. He was buried in Grave No. 91. Church of England Section, in Bourne Cemetery. No plan of this cemetery is now in existence and no memorial stone was erected.

Samuel SAMER—Rode in the Charge

Samuel Samer was born at Littlebury, Essex. Although no baptismal entry can yet be found for him, he was most probably a son of John Seamer and his wife, Amy (née Abrahams), who were

married at Littlebury on 18 April 1824. He enlisted at Coventry on 26 November 1849 into the 11th Hussars at the age of 18.

Severely wounded in action at Balaclava and being invalided to England (via Malta), he was discharged from the Invalid Depot at Chatham in May of 1855:

‘Being considered unfit for further military service. Disabled by the contraction of right elbow joint and loss of power of hands from a gun-shot wound of firearm received at Balaclava.’

He emigrated to Australia (Melbourne) some time in 1857. He was entitled to the Crimean medal with clasps ‘Alma’, ‘Balaclava’, and ‘Sebastopol’.

The *Melbourne Argus* of 2 June 1899 provided the following obituary:

‘Samuel Seamer (sic) whose death occurred on Wednesday last at the Kew Lunatic Asylum was one of the Light Brigade in 1853 (sic). Samuel Seamer was born 74 years ago at Littlebury Green, in the village of Saffron Walden, Essex. At the age of 17 he went to Kent and enlisted into the 11th Hussars. It is extremely possible that he saw service in some other lands besides the Crimea, for in his description record taken at the time of his entry into the Lunatic Department his wounds appear so many that one campaign could scarcely account for them all.

‘Seamer had a large scar on the left shoulder, apparently a slash from a sword, a bullet wound distorting the bones of his right forearm, a stab wound in the left temple, in all probability the injury which caused him to lose his reason, a stab wound on the outer part of the left thigh and other small wounds over his body and arms. What a stirring picture could be conjured up by these scars, and yet the records are silent on the matter. Seamer was pensioned off in 1856 and drew 8d. per day from the Imperial Government until he arrived in Australia a year or so after. Here it quickly made itself manifest that he was suffering from some mental disorder and eventually his dementia became so pronounced that he was committed to the Lunatic Asylum.

‘During the 39 years he passed there the old man could tell but very little about himself. He was not, like most patients, sane on all subjects save one. The past seems to have been a blank for him and he could give no account of his history, although at times his uncontrolled imagination saw the Valley of Death before him once again and caused him to cry out to his old comrades, many now long since dead and gone, whom he felt riding by his side, to tackle the Russians once more. But as a rule the old man was quiet and moody and had nothing to say and it is now long since that he called upon the ghostly regiments of his youth. During his last few years he sat in silent melancholia ...’

He was buried in Grave No 1177, Compartment A of the Church of England Section of the Cemetery at Boroondara and a memorial stone was erected. The title of the plot belongs to the Master in Lunacy and although the burials of those under his control were usually public and unmarked, his grave is a private one. From this he either left an estate sufficient to cover these expenses or arrangements were made with relatives.

Henry Dyson NAYLOR—Rode in the Charge

Henry Dyson Naylor was born at Mildenhall, Suffolk, he was baptised in Mildenhall Parish Church on 12 July 1835, the second son of Thomas Naylor, and his wife, Eliza. His parents were married at Mildenhall on 13 October 1832. He enlisted at Westminster on 1 November 1851, at the age of 16 years 5 months. Wounded in action at Balaclava, he was ‘sent on board ship without seeing the surgeon’, and was discharged from Chatham Invalid Depot on 23 October 1855.

Naylor was entitled to the Crimean medal with clasps 'Alma', 'Balaclava', and 'Sebastopol'. His records state:

'Unfit for further service from disfigurement of the face by fracture of lower jaw at Balaclava. Also from gun-shot wound of shoulder.'

He was originally awarded a pension of 1/- per day but this was later increased to 1/6d per day following '15 years service in the Enrolled Force' in Western Australia, on 18 January 1881, and further increased on 4 April 1893.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* for 8 May 1894 provides:

'We learn from Australia of the death of Henry Dyson Naylor, aged 60. At the time of his death he was a Cpl. in the Fremantle Infantry Corps. He enlisted at the age of 16 years, and three years later he rode in the Charge of the Light Brigade, being seriously wounded, one of the wounds being caused by a cannon rammer which struck him in the loins – this caused him pain until his death, which was largely due to the effects of his wounds. He was sent home from the Crimea, and discharged in 1855. Naylor was then employed as second coachman by the Maharajah Duleep Singh. He then went to Western Australia in charge of prisoners in 1862, and for some years was employed as a night warder at Fremantle Prison, The local Militia gave him a military funeral, and most of the shops closed as a mark of respect ...'

He died in Fremantle on 26 March 1894, from 'Influenza, Mob Cordis, Exhaustion', aged 59 years.

In *Queen Victoria's Maharajah* by Duleep Singh at pp 60-61 it is stated:

'Another servant, a handsome young dragoon, who had been in the Charge of the Light Brigade, at Balaclava, was one of the sights of Perthshire as he strode through the village (Castle Menzies) with all his medals jangling on the Maharajah's blue and green livery ...'

Knowing that Henry Naylor had been employed by Duleep Singh, was he, perhaps, 'this handsome young dragoon'?

The *Colonial Military Gazette* (Australia) for January 1893 stated:

'Colonel Fleming, (commanding the Western Australian District) inspected the Fremantle Rifles on their own ground and expressed a favourable opinion regarding the Corps. The Colonel was introduced to a veteran soldier, Cpl. Naylor, who rode in the ranks of the 13th Light Dragoons at the battle of Balaclava. The Colonel extended a hearty handshake and made many enquiries regarding the old soldier ...'

The July 1893 edition of the *Colonial Military Gazette* stated:

'Recently an application was made to the War Office for an increase in pension for Cpl. Naylor, now of the Fremantle Rifles, but who had formerly served in the Balaclava Charge. As he enjoys the sum of 1/6d. per day pension, the reply was that "no further award can be given either by the War Office, or Chelsea ...'

The *Dictionary of Western Australian Immigrants 1829-1924* shows him as:

'Naylor, Henry Dyson. Bn. 1836, Dd. (Fremantle) 26/3/1894. Son of Thomas Dyson. Arrived per the "Norwood" 9/6/1862 as Enrolled Pensioner Guard, with family. Marr. (England) Henrietta Wells. Private, 13th Light Dragoons Veteran and Crimean War and Chelsea Pensioner. Stationed at Fremantle, posted briefly to Camden Harbour in 1865. Promoted Cpl. in 1881. In 1876 granted Loc. PS/20 acres at Koojee, but lived in Fremantle, where he was employed as a butler. C. of E. by religion.'

The *Norwood* was a ship of 849 tons under the command of Captain Frederick Bristow. She had left Portland for Australia on 16 March 1862, carrying 382 passengers (both bond and free) including 21 Enrolled Pensioner Guards with 38 wives and children.

Naylor went to Camden Harbour aboard the *Tien Tsin* on 17 January 1865, where he remained until 29 October 1865. He was part of a Government force of police, pensioners and labourers who were sent to join the settlement that had been established there some months. The country was found to be inhospitable and unfit for stock, so much so that no more than a thousand sheep of the four and half thousand sheep originally taken there were left. It was decided to abandon the settlement and those remaining (the great majority had returned, dispirited, to Melbourne by July of 1865) returned to Fremantle.

Naylor was on the EPF Roll (Fremantle detachment) on its disbandment in November 1880. He was selected to be recruited as an Enrolled Guard (now under Police control and its members sworn in as Special Constables). Its main duties were to furnish a Guard for the Convict Prison and Magazine at Fremantle and a Guard for Government House. The strength of the unit was one Sergeant Major, three Sergeants, three Warders, five Corporals and 37 Privates.

As an Enrolled Guard, Naylor occupied quarters in No 1 Barrack, Fremantle, with his wife and four children, from 19 November 1880.

He was promoted to Corporal on 2 April 1881.

There is a record in 1881 of, 'Has had Koojee Loc. P8 since 1876. Will effect improvements as soon as possible', and on 5 August 1884, 'Grant of Cockburn Sound, Loc. P8 of 20 acres at Koojee confirmed'.

Naylor was on the roll of the Enrolled Guard at its disbandment on 31 March 1887. He was then aged 51 and held the rank of Corporal.

A newspaper report of the time said:

'On 3 February 1869 HRH Prince Alfred, son of Queen Victoria, visited Western Australia aboard HMS *Galatea* and on every occasion when HRH drove out the escort consisted of six well-mounted and uniformed efficient Dragoon Pensioners, clothed, armed and equipped as Hussars, under the able direction of Major Crampton. Each of the men had borne his part in one or more great battles and one exhibited across his face a sabre cut received in the renowned Balaclava charge.'

This was Henry Dyson Naylor from the 13th Dragoons, of whom the local journal relates that during the inspection of his escort, 'HRH saw the deep scar on the face of one man, a cicatrized memento of Balaclava.'

James SEDGEWICK—Possibly rode in the Charge

James Sedgewick was born at Chatham, Kent, and christened on 12 March 1820 at the Ebenezer or Great Meeting House Independent Chapel in Clover Street, Chatham, the son of William Sedgewick, a carrier, and his wife, Mary.

Enlisting at Maidstone into the 4th Light Dragoons in March of 1836 at the age of 19 years, he was discharged from Dublin after 24 years service (some four years of which had been spent in India previous to the Crimean campaign) with a pension of 1/1d per day and intending to live in Aberdeen, Scotland.

Sedgewick was awarded the Crimean medal with clasps 'Alma', 'Balaclava', 'Inkerman' and 'Sebastopol'. He was also awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct medal and the medal for Ghuznee.

He was known to be in Brisbane from 1 April 1875. The Brisbane *Daily Mail* in July 1906 said:

'11th of July – Mr. James Sedgewick, the Balaclava veteran, to whom reference was made in these columns a few weeks back, has died in the Brisbane General Hospital and was buried at the Goondra Cemetery yesterday.'

From his death certificate, he died in the Brisbane Hospital on 9 July 1906, aged 87 years, from 'Senile decay. Heart failure.' It confirms his birthplace as being in Kent, his father's surname and trade, that he was an Imperial Army Pensioner, had been living in Queensland for 22 years, and that he was interred in Goodna Cemetery on 10 July 1906. Although it was also shown he had living relatives, none were specified.

In 1995 a former member of the Tank Corps was visiting his mother's grave in Goodna Cemetery, Queensland, Australia, and looking around the oldest (and much neglected and vandalised) part of the cemetery found Sedgewick's grave. The headstone was filthy and cracked and the inscription on it difficult to decipher. Reporting this to the RHQ of the Royal Irish Hussars, financial help was given in getting the stone cleaned and repaired, the iron railings around it being also repainted. The inscription on the headstone now reads:

Sacred to the memory of
James Sedgewick
4th Light Dragoons, Now 4th (Queen's Own) Hussars
Who served his country with honour
And took part in the Charge of Balaclava
Died July 9th 1906
Aged 87 years
Erected by the officers, warrant officers, NCO's and men of his Regiment
As a tribute of esteem
To a very old and worthy comrade.

Charles DALTON—Possibly rode in the Charge

Charles Dalton was born in the parish of St. Luke's, Chelsea. He enlisted at Westminster in March 1850 at the age of 18 years into the 8th Hussars and was discharged from Calcutta, India, in September 1863 after 12 years service. The records give no indication of when, or how, he returned to England.

He was entitled (according to the medal rolls) to the Crimean medal with clasps 'Alma', 'Inkerman' and 'Sebastopol', and the Mutiny medal with clasp 'Central India'. Although he was not shown as being entitled to the Balaclava clasp, he was allowed to become a member of the Balaclava Commemoration Society in 1879, and this would imply that he did indeed ride in the Charge.

He is said to have emigrated to Australia aboard the *Northern* (sic) circa 1863-64 (no ship of this name can be found listed, but there was a ship called the *Northam* which made four voyages to Sydney in 1863 and the same number in 1864, but a Charles Dalton is not listed among the passengers). He is said to have married an Irish girl (Jessie FitzSimmons), born in Armagh, County Armagh, at Christ Church, St. Lawrence, Sidney, on 6 June 1865. Nine children were born into the family, the last seven being at Government House, where Charles Dalton was in charge of the Governor's escort. On his death he was buried in the Church of

England Cemetery at Balgowlah, Manley. His wife died in 1919. A family tombstone exists in Manley Cemetery and has the following inscriptions on it:

'Charles Dalton, late of the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars and for 25 years in charge of the Governor's Escort, N S Wales. Born London 24th Nov 1832 – Died Balgowlah, 5th February 1891. Served in the Crimea and Turkey at Alma, Balaclava, Inkerman and Sebastopol, and in India at the Siege of Kotah, Recapture of Chundaree, Kotah Ki Seria, Capture of Gwalior, Powrie, Sindwah and Koonory. Also Jessie, beloved wife of the above – Died 17th December 1919, aged 81 years. Also Emily Emma Sarah Jordan, who passed away 31st Aug. 1965, aged 84.'

Hugh Massey STEELE—Possibly rode in the Charge

Hugh Massey Steele was born at Rathdowney (Airlie) Co. Queen's, Ireland. He enlisted at Dublin on 22 April 1845 into the 8th Hussars at the age of 18 years 2 months. He was discharged from Chatham Invalid Depot on 12 July 1855, being, 'Disabled by lameness – after frost bite of the great toes of both feet in the Crimea.'

He was entitled to the Crimean medal with clasps 'Alma', 'Balaclava', 'Inkerman' and 'Sebastopol'.

Steele lived in Melbourne from 10 October 1857.

Article from the *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, published in October of 1888, said:

'A Neglected Hero – Few people living but are acquainted, more or less fully, with the facts of the splendid feat in arms, immortalised by Tennyson and which will be known in history, when every individual hero of it shall be laid to rest, as "The Charge of the Light Brigade." It is not generally known that we have in Cootamundra, says an exchange, one of the gallant 600, who rode into the very jaws of death with "cannons to the right of them, cannons to the left of them, cannons in front of them," – in the person of H Steele, a vendor of oranges! This may sound like coming down from the sublime to the ridiculous, but so it is. Mr Steele generally has about him the proud mementoes of the glorious campaign in the Crimea, in the shape of two silver medals, one being presented by Queen Victoria in person, bearing the name, his regiment (8th K R Hussars) also, on four silver lines, the names of the four great features of that campaign, Sebastopol, Inkerman, Balaclava and Alma. The other medal was presented by the Sultan of Turkey, "La Crimea, 1855; One of the 600." Not more than a third of them came out of that singular dash. England, as a rule, treats her heroes great and small, rich and poor, handsomely; but since the remote days of princely annuities have been paid to the Marlborough's (sic) down to the good for nothing Duke of the present day, and it appears to us high time that some of these ancient heroes were knocked off the roll, and better justice done to the latter day warriors. One shilling a day to a corporal, and one of the few remaining 600 heroes, looks mean and unworthy of the Mother country.'

The *Cootamundra Herald* newspaper for 25 September 1886 said:

'The 23rd anniversary [sic] of the battle of the Alma was celebrated in Sydney on Monday night, Sergeant Dalton [see his record] of the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars, having called a few old comrades together for the purpose. We may also state that the event was toasted also in Cootamundra by a couple of Crimean heroes – Corporal O'Dwyer, who was engaged at the battle of the Alma, of Muttama, and our town hero (Steel) of Cardigan's Light Brigade.'

He died at Cootamundra on 16 January 1894, aged 66 years, from 'Senile Decay, about 12 months'. His occupation was recorded as Retired Gaol Warder. He had been very feeble and ailing for some considerable time. The newspaper death notice said:

'Death. — We have to record the death of Mr. Hugh Steele, the veteran soldier, of this town. He had been very feeble and ailing for some considerable time. He leaves a widow and a grown family'.

His death certificate shows him as having lived in Australia for 33 years, and left a widow and four children (one being deceased), their ages ranging from 9 to 21 years. He was buried in Cootamundra Cemetery on 19 January 1894. He was of the Methodist religion.

Arthur BERKLEMAN—Possibly rode in the Charge

Arthur Berkleman was born at Killarney, Co. Kerry, Ireland. He enlisted into the 87th Fusiliers at Cork on 9 May 1844 at the age of 16 years, his trade being that of a clerk, and transferred to the 17th Lancers at Paisley on 1 July 1846. He was discharged from Portobello Barracks at Dublin on 27 November 1856. A medical report upon 871 Corporal Arthur Berkleman, 17th Lancers said:

'This man is considered unfit for the service and never likely to become efficient in consequence of very extensive varix of the veins of the legs. In 1853 he was relieved from duty at Kensington as he was unable to ride on account of this varicose condition. He did no mounted duty for a long period. His disability has been produced in the service and is attributable to mounted service. His disability has not been aggravated by vice or misconduct.'

He was entitled to the Crimean medal with clasps for 'Alma', 'Balaclava' and 'Sebastopol'.

He lived in the Tralee Pension District of Ireland before going to Sydney, NSW. His pension was paid at Tralee up to 31 March 1858. He was in NSW until his pension expired on 6 February 1860. In the Pension Office Records for Tralee there is an entry during the April-June quarter of 1857 of an out-going letter listing those men on the pension-rolls who were eligible and willing to go to Australia as guards on convict-ships. There is no documentary proof that Berkleman went out to Australia by this means, only the date to when his pension was paid in that particular district. But subsequent events have made this a possibility. It has not yet been possible to discover the exact date of his arrival in Australia.

Berkleman died at Newtown, Windsor, NSW, on 13 January 1904 at the age of 74 years, from 'Cardiac disease'. The death certificate confirms that he was born at Killarney, Ireland, and that he was the son of John Lewis Berkleman, a Military Officer, and his wife, Frances, née Herbert. He was buried in the Church of England Cemetery at Windsor on 14 January 1904 and a gravestone was erected. An obituary notice and funeral report from *The Gazette* for Saturday the 23rd of January 1904 stated:

"No more respected or esteemed personality than the late Mr. Arthur Berckelman, senr. has ever been called from amongst us. As was briefly stated last week, he passed peacefully away on Tuesday night or Wednesday morning after a long and honoured career, at the age of 74 years. As was well known, Mr. Berckelman, was a Crimean and Balaclava soldier and his home at Newtown, Windsor, was called "Balaclava" in memory of the memorable "Charge of the Light Brigade" in which he took part. He was a man of wonderful vitality and retentive memory, and his graphic descriptions of the scenes on the battlefield which he had witnessed and the adventures he had passed through — the very recital of them made strong men quail. Like his familiar figure — straight and upright — so was his character. During our long residence at Windsor we have never heard one harsh word spoken against

the late Mr Berckelman, but we have heard many high words paid to his honesty, his manliness and his goodness of heart. And he never uttered a harsh word against his fellow-men. His end was a peaceful one. Up to the last he was able to get about quite nimbly, and retired to rest as usual on the night of his death and probably passed away in his sleep. He held two war-medals, for distinguished service in the Crimean and Franco-Prussian [sic] wars respectively. He leaves behind a widow and family than whom none are more respected in the district.'

A newspaper report of unknown origin (but believed to be from one circulating in the Canterbury, New Zealand, area around May/June of 1890) and found in a "scrap-book" formerly belonging to James W. Wightman of the 17th Lancers, states:

'The "Noble Six Hundred" – Now that so much painful interest has been revived in the famous "Charge of the Light Brigade", it will be interesting to learn the impressions made by that memorable affair upon one who actually took part in the Charge. We learn from the *Australian Star* that at an entertainment at Windsor, New South Wales, the other day Tennyson's poem was recited and at the close Mr M A Berilman (sic), a "Light Brigade" survivor, gave his personal experiences.

'He said that previous to the famous charge the Light Brigade was located adjacent to the Russian posts, and did all they could to make them commence hostilities. On the eventful morning the Russians came on and appeared to him to be in endless numbers. After various manoeuvres the order came for the Light Brigade to go at them, and all were surprised. The Six Hundred sat as firm as rocks, and had nought to do but obey the order and advance. When halfway across the plain, the narrator saw fire belch forth from the cannon in front, little thinking that the Russians had also cannon on the right and left, which opened up a cross-fire, soon after which a piece of shell hit his horse's chest, and he lay there for some time, stunned. When he recovered he found his comrades had gone, and looking around saw the Cossacks busy and riderless horses everywhere, and with prostrated men on every side. He went to catch a horse and a cannon ball knocked the dust up at his feet. He caught a horse and when mounting him two Cossacks went for him. He kept them on the right, and one, the more daring, rushed him and the narrator's lance went right through his body and nearly unseated him. They were recalled, and though it was considered presumption for 600 men to tackle 35,000 their end had been accomplished, though with a great sacrifice, for when they mustered there was only a handful of the gallant band remaining. Others had been mown down by the relentless fire of the enemy. The narrator came out without a scratch. The narrator was attentively listened to and much applauded'.

Richard HOURIGAN

Richard Hourigan was born at Lathen, Co. Tipperary, in May of 1820, and enlisted into the 3rd Light Dragoons at Limerick in October 1836 at the age 16 years. He was promoted to Sergeant by February 1848, and he transferred to the 4th Light Dragoons in March of 1855. On being tried by a Regimental Court-martial on 11 February 1858, he was sentenced 'to be reduced to the rank and pay of a private dragoon', but this sentence was remitted, and he was 'to remain as Sgt.'

He had a long campaign service period, being entitled to the Crimean medal with clasp 'Sebastopol', the Sutlej medal with clasps 'Moodkee', 'Ferozeshuhur', and 'Sobraon', (he was wounded in action at Ferozeshuhur on 21 December 1845) and the Punjab medal with clasps 'Chilianwala' and 'Goojerat'.

Hourigan was discharged after serving 24 years, in June 1862, with a pension of 2/- per day. He was living in Perth, Australia, from March of 1864, Adelaide from April 1867 and again in Perth from November of 1874.

The *Dictionary of Western Australia Immigrants 1850-1880*, states only that he was born in 1823 (sic) and arrived in Fremantle as an Enrolled Pensioner Guard. A later edition of the same book adds: 'Shown on E.P.F. roll, aged 57, 21 of August 1880. Purchased barrack bedding and furniture from Q.M. Stores, Fremantle. 1 of December 1880. Escorted 2 deserters from H.M.S. "Miranda" to Adelaide per the "Rob Roy" and received free passage for this service. Was sworn in as a Special Constable for this task 11 January 1881.'

He is not included in the list of men comprising the 'Enrolled Guard' which was formed on 11 November 1880, following the dissolution of the Pensioner Force.

Charles WILSON

Charles Wilson enlisted at London on 14 December 1854 into the 11th Hussars at the age of 37 (at this age he most probably had seen service before). He was entitled to the Crimean medal with clasp 'Sebastopol'.

In a letter home by one Major Maxwell Earle of the 57th Foot, dated 13 December 1855, it is stated:

'A dreadful tragedy took place at Kamiesch a day or two ago. A Sgt. of the 11th Hussars found a deserter whom he had been sent in search of in a public house. The Sergt. ordered the man to surrender himself, which the latter refused to do; whereupon the former drew a pistol and without another word shot the deserter dead. The question is, whether the Sergeant was justified in doing as he did, or is it a case of 'Homicide'? Under the circumstances I should say the latter'.

He was tried by a General Court-martial at Scutari on the 27 of December 1855 for murder and was sentenced to 14 years transportation. General Orders for the 29th of December 1855 stated:

'At a General Court-martial held at Camp before Sebastopol, Sgt. Charles Wilson was tried on the following charges – For that he did, at Kamiesch in the Crimea on, or about the 10th of December 1855, both feloniously and wilfully, etc. etc., kill and murder, one John Forrest. Sergeant Wilson was then stationed at Kamisech (or Kasatch) on some detached duty with the Telegraph and orderlies under the command of Captain Bugden and appears to have been reported by Forrest for not paying what he owed for drink at a kind of cafe where Forrest was employed. This created an ill-feeling, and as Forrest was known to be a deserter, Sgt. Wilson, out of spite, rode up and told Forrest to follow him, as he was a deserter. At this the deceased man asked him for his authority, saying at the same time, that if he was a deserter, what business it was of his. The Sgt. told him that if he did not follow him he would shoot him, at which the deceased turned round and told him to "Shoot away." Wilson there and then drew his pistol from its holster and shot him dead.

'Most think that this was either a case for acquittal or death – according to the circumstances brought before the Court-martial. The Court found the prisoner "Guilty of manslaughter" and having received evidence of his previous good conduct do now adjudicate that "he be transported for a term of 14 years".'

'The sentence was later confirmed by the General Commanding the Forces'.

The Prison Registers for Millbank Prison in London show the following:

'2520 Charles Wilson. Late a Sgt. in the 11th Hussars. Convicted by a General Court-martial at Scutari on the 27th of December 1855, of "Manslaughter" (Shooting a deserter) and was sentenced to 14 years "transportation".'

Removed to Portland Prison on 12 March 1857, the Portland Prison Registers showing the following:

'No. 6786. Charles Wilson. Convicted of manslaughter by a General Court Martial held at General Headquarters, Sebastopol on the 27th December 1855 and embarking aboard "The Nile" for Western Australia on 10 September 1857. 270 male convicts were sent out aboard this ship.'

The *Dictionary of Western Australia Immigrants (Bond). 1830-68*, shows the following:

'Charles Wilson. Born 1818. – Married – Labourer – Literate – Protestant – Convict – Convicted Central Criminal Court 1857 [not so] – Manslaughter, 14 years – arr. "Nile" 1/1/58. Convict No. 4523. T.L. 26/3/1859 – C.P. July 1861, (Perth).'

(The Ticket of Leave was granted to men on probation freeing them to seek their own work if they so wished, but with the obligation of reporting each month to the local Resident Magistrate and not leaving the district without permission. C P (conditional pardon) freed a man from this restriction but he was not permitted to return to England until his full term of sentence had expired. However, many C P men left Western Australia for the Eastern Colonies, where objections to this were raised.)

Walter RANDALL

Walter Randall was born in Swansea. He enlisted at London into the 11th Hussars on 14 December 1854. at the age of 18 and joined the regiment in the Crimea on 25 May 1855. He transferred to the 17th Lancers at Hounslow on 1 September 1855. He had Regimental No 156.

He was granted 'free discharge' from Canterbury on 14 April 1872. He was entitled to the Crimean medal with clasp 'Sebastopol', and the Mutiny medal without clasp.

The *Dictionary of Western Australia Immigrants 1850-1924* merely shows him as, 'Arrived as Enrolled Pensioner Guard. Formerly Private, 17th Lancers'.

He appears on the Nominal Roll of surviving members of the Enrolled Pensioner Force of Western Australia entertained at a Banquet held at St George's Hall in Perth on 28 June 1897 as part of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebrations and was then shown as possessing the Crimea, Crimea-Turkish, and Indian Mutiny medals. From the date of his discharge he could not have gone out as a guard on the convict ships (these ending in January 1868) but could easily have joined the E.P.F. before its disbandment in 1880, although he is not shown on the final Nominal Roll of the Enrolled Guard on its disbandment on 31 March 1887.

The British Garrison in Australia 1788-1841— the Commissariat

Lt Col T C Sargent (retd)

'... the prejudices of society against a commissary almost prevent him from receiving the common respect due to the character of a gentleman.'— (Wellington to Colonel Gordon, Commissary-in-Chief, 19 December 1810) ¹

'It is not to be wondered at if the men who came forward as commissariat officers were not over scrupulous, and in fact tended to come from the very worst elements of the commercial world.' (S G P Ward, *Wellington's Headquarters*) ²

'In my *Wellington's Headquarters* I examined the work of the commissariat, ... The closer study I have been able to give him since has convinced me that I misjudged him. There were some rogues, there were some commissaries who made money on the side; but I am sure most of them were honest men by their lights and that among their number were men of great ability, enterprise and business acumen.' (S G P Ward, *The Peninsular Commissary*) ³

The character attributed by Wellington and Ward, in the first instance, was not that displayed by the first commissary in New South Wales. Andrew Miller was a naval appointee, appointed by Governor Phillip on the recommendation of Evan Nepean, Under Secretary of State in the Home Office, who had been involved in planning for the despatch of the First Fleet and had himself a background in naval accounting. Miller accompanied Phillip and acted as the governor's secretary until that role was taken over by Captain Collins. Miller remained in the colony for less than three years, his health breaking down, he left to return to England and died on the return voyage. Contrary to the army opinion of commissaries, Miller was held in high regard by Phillip, who reported to Nepean that Miller 'discharged the trust reposed in him with the strictest honour and no profit' ⁴ Phillip appointed John Palmer, formerly purser on the *Sirius*, wrecked on Norfolk Island on 2 June 1791, to succeed Miller. Palmer was to serve in the post until the deposition of Governor Bligh by the Macarthur-led mutineers in January 1808. Palmer, who remained loyal to the governor, was charged by the illegal administration with sedition in March 1809 and sentenced to three months imprisonment. Macquarie, after his arrival, reinstated Palmer to the office of commissary but Palmer was sent to England to appear as a witness in the court martial of Colonel George Johnston for deposing Governor William Bligh. During Palmer's absence the office of Deputy Commissary was filled by William Broughton who had come in the First Fleet as servant to Surgeon White and had subsequently filled various commissary positions.

The responsibilities of the commissary had increased considerably since Miller's time. The settlement had grown to encompass most of the present Sydney metropolitan area with

¹ Lt Colonel Gurwood, (Compiler) *Despatches of Field Marshall The Duke Of Wellington*, KG, London, 1837, p 50.

² S G P Ward, *Wellington's Headquarters*, Oxford, 1957, p 71.

³ Ward, 'The Peninsular Commissary', *Journal of The Society For Army Historical Research*, 75 (1997), pp 230-239.

⁴ Phillip to Nepean, *HRNSW*, 1, Pt 2, p 828.

subsidiary commissary stores at Parramatta, Liverpool, Toongabbie and Windsor, detached settlements at Newcastle, on the Derwent and at Port Dalrymple in Van Diemens Land and at Norfolk Island, all of which were staffed by minor commissary officers and storemen, in some cases senior NCOs of the garrison. Thomas Laycock, Quartermaster of the New South Wales Corps held the position of a deputy commissary for some years up to 1800.⁵ The role of the commissary had also changed: during Miller's period he had been responsible for the issue of rations from the government store to the entire population of the settlement; by the date of Palmer's retirement the commissariat had become responsible for the receipt and issue of all government stores, the accounting for the transactions, the purchase of meat, grain and other farm produce from private merchants, and the issue of rations to the garrison, their wives and children, the government officials and convicts and to settlers 'on the store', with their families and allotted convict labour until they became self-supporting—usually one year. The commissary could draw bills on the British Treasury and paid for most local purchase by the issue of 'stores receipts', which with the acute shortage of coinage, became an alternative means of financial transactions in the colony. 'In effect the commissary kept the public accounts and funds of the colony and was at once official supplier, contractor and banker to the settlement.'⁶ Among his extraneous duties were the charter of shipping, the annual issue of 'slops' to the government convicts, the receipt of materials manufactured in the Female Factories and, at one stage in an effort to break the monopoly of the 'trading officers' of the New South Wales Corps, the commissary became involved in the import and sale of goods in demand by the less affluent settlers.

Palmer had thrived as a settler in the colony during his time as commissary, acquiring several grants of land, stock, and some small ships. He owned a windmill and a bakery and was recognised for his improved farming methods. He was a likeable character and has not been accused of using his office for self-advancement but was, as Ward put it about another commissary officer, 'an honest man by his lights'. In 1811, Treasury decreed the reduction of Palmer to the office of Assistant-Commissary-General in the new hierarchy introduced in 1809 and it may have been the Treasury belief that Palmer had been too long in the office. Also it might have been a feeling that the position of commissary in the colony should be filled by an army appointee as more suitable to an essentially army-controlled colony rather than continuing with an ex-navy purser; greater control might be exercised by the army governor over an army commissary.

From 1786, the army commissary had been defined as 'a member of the Civil Administration of the Army',⁷ although as a civil administrator he took his technical direction from the Treasury. In 1809, Colonel James Willoughby Gordon, Military Secretary to the Commander-in-Chief, was appointed Commissary-in-Chief with the aim of putting the commissariat services on a more formal and organised basis, endeavouring to ensure the appointment of suitably qualified and reliable officers to the service. One of Gordon's earliest reforms was to institute commissary ranks with equivalence to military ranks to give the commissary some better status. The ranks were:

⁵ Geoffrey L Laycock, *The New South Wales Corps—An Examination of It's Roles in Early Colonial History*, B Litt Thesis, University of New England, 1964, p 72.

⁶ Margaret Steven, *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol II, Melbourne 1989, p 309.

⁷ Havilland Le Mesurier, *Commissariat Duties in the Field*, quoted in Richard Glover, *Peninsular Preparation*, Cambridge, 1963, p 256.

Commissary-General	Brigadier-General
Deputy-Commissary-General of three years standing	Lieutenant Colonel
less than three years standing	Major
Assistant-Commissary-General	Captain
Deputy-Assistant-Commissary-General	Lieutenant
Clerks holding Treasury appointments	Ensign
Inferior Clerks, Storekeepers, Conductors	NCOs ⁸

The records of service in New South Wales of the first two Treasury-appointed Deputy-Commissaries-General, David Allan and Frederick Drennan, would not have persuaded Wellington to revise his 1810 opinion of the character of commissaries. The unfortunate choice of these two could perhaps be attributed to the replacement of the Commissary-in-Chief, Colonel Gordon, who went out to the Peninsular as Quartermaster-General to Wellington, by Mr J C Herries, 'a young gentleman from the City with his own notions of how things should be done'.⁹ Certainly the old habit of influence appears to have revived, as Allan had a powerful patron, the Rt Hon J MacMahon. However, it might also have been considered that Allan had shown zeal and ability as Commissary in charge of stores at the 400 acre North Sea island, Heligoland, which had been seized by the British from the Danes in 1807 to prevent it becoming a French *entrepôt*. In fact, after Allan's arrival the commissariat system in New South Wales reverted to the worst of the late 18th century standards.

After his arrival in June 1813, Allan set about reorganising the commissariat department. As part of the reorganisation he had brought with him three clerks: Patrick Hogan was sent to Van Diemens Land as Deputy-Assistant-Commissary; Brodie and Hobson filled Commissary Clerk's positions. Allan persuaded Macquarie to discontinue the use of Stores Receipts, issuing instead his own notes which he extended to cover his own trading activities. Macquarie discovered Allan's speculations and reported these in 1817, requesting Allan's replacement. He pointed out that two of Allan's imported subordinates had been dismissed for fraudulent activities and the third, Hobson, was 'a very low Drunken Fellow' who had escaped being caught in any act of fraud of embezzlement. Allan was described by one of his own commissariat staff as 'a compound of perfidy, hypocrisy and ... dishonesty'.¹⁰ Palmer, who had arrived back in New South Wales in May 1814, appears to have retired to his property at Parramatta. There he neglected his commissariat duties until being recommended by Macquarie, in the same report to Earl Bathurst, to be placed on half-pay as being 'of no use here nor never shall be'.¹¹

Allan's replacement, Frederick Drennan, had begun his career as a deputy-commissary in 1809 and had been appointed a Deputy-Commissary-General in North America in 1814. He was posted to New South Wales from Jamaica 'where he had occurred a large deficiency in his accounts, this was apparently thought to qualify him for appointment to New South Wales'.¹² Arriving in Sydney in January 1819, Drennan was soon at loggerheads with the governor on several issues and accused the officers of the 48th Regiment of operating the regimental mill for their own benefit. Lieutenant Colonel James Erskine, Commanding Officer of the 48th, demanded that Drennan be brought to Court Martial, but the Judge Advocate, John Wylde, advised that Drennan could not be tried on the charges raised.

⁸ *Regulations and Orders for The Army*, 1822, p 8.

⁹ Ward, *Wellington's Headquarters*, p 93.

¹⁰ George Johnston, jnr, to W C Wentworth, 1 March 1819, *Wentworth Papers*, ML.

¹¹ Macquarie to Bathurst, 1 April 1817, *HRA I*, 9, pp 249 - 252.

¹² George Parsons, *ADB*, Vol I, p 322.

In May 1821, Drennan was replaced by William Wemyss, and Drennan was sent to England under arrest for unexplained deficiencies in his accounts. During Drennan's régime a group of new experienced commissaries began arriving in New South Wales. They were veterans of service with Wellington in the Peninsular and at Waterloo. Many of them, appointed from the half-pay lists, were to settle in New South Wales and Van Diemens Land and to become substantial members of the colonial society. The first official listing of these commissaries in the colony appeared in the Monthly Return (WO 17/2310, f 57) for July 1826. The detail is shown below. All except Lithgow had served in the Peninsular War.

Deputy Commissary General (DCG)	W Wemyss	Sydney
Assistant Commissary General (ACG)	A Moodie	Hobart Town
" " "	W Lithgow	Sydney
Deputy Assistant Commissary General (DACG)	S Ryrie	Sydney
" " " "	G T Boyes	Sydney
" " " "	J Radford	P'matta District
" " " "	P Roberts	Hobart Town
" " " "	Geo Hull	Port Dalrymple
" " " "	J T Goodsir	Absent on Duty
" " " "	H B Bowerman	Port Macquarie
" " " "	W Fletcher	Hobart Town
" " " "	J Clements	Sydney
" " " "	C Howarth	Bathurst District

William Wemyss was the senior by rank and experience. He had served in the Peninsular from 1809 and was, in 1848, to receive his Military General Service medal with ten clasps, one of only three commissaries to receive the medal with ten or more clasps. Fletcher and Roberts were each awarded the medal with one clasp. Some had been at Waterloo; certainly Stewart Ryrie, grandfather of Major General Granville Ryrie, had, although no commissary received the Waterloo Medal.¹³ The Ryrie family has in its possession the solid oak chest in which, it is claimed, Stewart Ryrie carried his specie and documents to the battle.

Amongst these commissaries Laidley, Moodie, Boyes, Hull, and Fletcher settled in the colony, as did William Cordeaux another Peninsular commissary who arrived in New South Wales in 1818. In 1819, Cordeaux, was directed to take charge of the commissariat following the arrest of Drennan. In 1825 he was appointed a joint commissioner with the responsibility for the division of the colony into counties, hundreds and parishes, going onto half-pay as a Deputy-Assistant-Commissary-General. His name is remembered by the Cordeaux River and the later Cordeaux Dam adjacent to his grant at Leppington, near Liverpool. There are entries in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* for almost all these commissaries, reflecting their standing in the contemporary colonial society. It was as the result of an examination of the backgrounds and character of commissaries such as those who came to Australia which convinced Ward, the author of *Wellington's Headquarters*, that he had misjudged the commissary (see footnotes 2 and 3).

Not all who served in Australia enjoyed a happy retirement here. John Clements lost an eye in an attack by bushrangers near Liverpool in 1826. Returning to England on the *Cumberland* in 1827, the ship was taken by pirates in the vicinity of the Falkland Islands and Clements was murdered or thrown overboard with the rest of the crew.¹⁴ John Radford, a heavy drinker according to

¹³ Charles Dalton, *The Waterloo Roll Call*, London, 1971, p 234.

¹⁴ Peter Chapman, (ed), *The Diaries and Letters of G T W B Boyes 1820-1832*, Melbourne, 1988, p 920.

Boyes,¹⁵ was posted to relieve Commissary Clerk Miller at the northern settlement of Fort Dundas on Melville Island in August 1826. A decision had already been made to abandon this settlement and to transfer stores and some personnel to a new settlement, Fort Wellington, on the mainland at Raffles Bay. Radford was one of those who moved across to serve under Captain Collet Barker of the 39th, the Dorsetshire Regiment. One of Radford's duties was to sail on the colonial brig *Amity* to procure supplies—buffalo, sheep, pigs, maize, oil, and sugar—arranged by a Frenchman, Béchade, acting as the agent for the settlement at the Dutch settlement of Koepong (now Kupang) on the western tip of Timor. It seems that Radford was able to obtain alcohol sufficient to keep him intoxicated for days, leading to his death, ostensibly from hepatitis, at Raffles Bay on 25 July 1829.

Nevertheless, the appointment of a growing number of experienced and competent commissaries reflects the Treasury recognition of the need for reliable staff and also reflects the development of new settlements in the colony. As new centres were developed, each had its commissary store staffed by a Deputy-Assistant-Commissary-General. By 1817, commissary stores had been established in New South Wales at Sydney, Parramatta, Windsor, Liverpool, Newcastle and Bathurst, and in Van Diemens Land at Hobart and Port Dalrymple (Launceston). Smaller stores, such as the store to support the small garrison and convict population at Wellington (an outpost of the major settlement at Bathurst) and George Town (an outpost from Launceston), were set up to support minor outlying settlements with guard detachments and its gang of working convicts. The smaller stores were staffed by commissary clerk/storekeepers or by army senior non-commissioned officers. At George Town in Van Diemens Land, two sergeants had been employed at various times as storekeepers, enjoying an allowance of two shillings a day in addition to their military pay. Acting Sergeant George Waddy, as storekeeper, accompanied the detachment of the 48th Regiment to set up the punitive settlement at Macquarie Harbour. He was, in due course, relieved by a storekeeper of the commissariat department. The first settlement at Port Macquarie had as its commissariat representative ex-sergeant Gilbert Smith, who had served as Captain Francis Allman's company pay clerk and so could be relied upon to 'cipher' accurately. He was superseded by Deputy-Assistant-Commissary-General H B Bowerman.

William Wemyss, when he arrived in Sydney in March 1821, found the monetary system of New South Wales in a confused state with 'currency' (promissory notes issued by a variety of businessmen for as little as threepence),¹⁶ stores receipts, issued by commissaries, Spanish dollars, Indian rupees, holey dollars and dumps, introduced by Governor Macquarie in 1813, and British copper coins, all of which had to be exchanged for 'sterling' Commissariat Bills on the British Treasury to make overseas payments. Unlike Drennan who had attempted to rationalise the system by the issue of notes in his own name, Wemyss, with the support of the Colonial Secretary, Frederick Goulburn, endeavoured, in 1822, to make the Spanish dollar, a well accepted coin, the basis of the New South Wales system. Cash transactions and both government and private accounting were to be in dollar terms, in place of 'sterling'. The colony experienced another period of confusion in attempts to change all the previous accounting and cash transactions to the dollar system at various rates of exchange, until, late in 1825, when the British Treasury decreed the immediate institution of sterling exchange standard and the abolition of 'currency' and dollars from the colony's monetary system. Nevertheless, it was not until 1830 before the banks refused to accept dollars. Wemyss returned to Scotland in November

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ S J Butlin, *Foundations of the Australian Monetary System 1788-1851*, Melbourne, 1968, p 209.

1828 and has been described as 'one of the most honest and competent commissariat officers to serve in New South Wales'.¹⁷

One of Wemyss' early recommendations, in 1821, was to create a commissariat organisation in Van Diemens Land independent of the New South Wales commissariat in the event of the separation of the administration of the two components of the colony. The institution of a separate administration was promulgated by Governor Darling on 3 December 1825 on his passage through Hobart to take up the appointment of Governor of New South Wales, replacing Sir Thomas Brisbane. Darling appointed a committee of Wemyss, Moodie and William Lithgow, in charge of the Accounts Branch, to examine the question of a separate commissariat. They recommended that this should occur, and the new structure was introduced in November 1826. Assistant-Commissary-General Affleck Moodie became head of the new organisation and Deputy Assistant-Commissary General G T W B Boyes transferred from Sydney to take up the position of Auditor of Civil Accounts.

One of the numerous Scots veterans in the commissariat (as well as Moodie, Wemyss, Laidley, Lithgow and Ryrie were all Scots) Moodie had arrived in the colony in 1822 and spent his career in Van Diemens Land. He enjoyed the confidence and trust of both Lieutenant Governor Sorrel and his successor, George Arthur, as a conscientious and hard-working officer, until his death in 1838. The Auditor of Accounts, Boyes, had begun his career as a commissary clerk in Wellington's army and was on half-pay, rustivating in France for economy's sake when he was recalled to full-time service to an appointment in New South Wales. Initially employed in the accounts branch under Lithgow in Sydney, he received appointment to the more prestigious and independent position in Hobart on the separation of the commissariat administration. Boyes died in August 1853. Now he is best known for his diary and letters describing his life in the settlement and for his acerbic comments on his contemporaries. An amateur water colourist of mediocre ability, many of Boyes' works are held by institutions and in private collections in Tasmania.

After Wemyss' return to Scotland, James Laidley was appointed to head the commissariat in New South Wales. He had served in the Peninsular War, in the West Indies, Canada and Mauritius, arriving in Sydney with his family on the *Orpheus* in May 1827. Laidley was immediately employed to conduct an investigation into the administrative efficiency of the commissariat organisation with the inevitable recommendation that the staff be increased. His recommendation was accepted and the Commissariat was also directed to divide the colony's expenditure into three classes: Colonial, Military, and Convict. Laidley succeeded Wemyss in 1828 and died suddenly in August 1835. A competent and capable administrator, he had little influence on the economic progress of the colony.

Although he never served as the Deputy-Commissary-General, William Lithgow was one of the most influential of the commissariat staff to serve in New South Wales. He had begun his career as a commissary clerk under David Allan in Heligoland in 1808, but he certainly did not share the character of Allan's followers Hogan, Brodie and Hobson. Lithgow had been promoted to the rank of Deputy-Assistant-Commissary-General in 1812 to take charge of the commissariat accounts branch in Mauritius and it was from there that he was ordered to Sydney to set up the accounts branch for the colony of New South Wales. He arrived in May 1824 and from then headed the branch until his resignation in 1827. During his period in office, Lithgow had acted as private secretary to Governors Brisbane and Darling and held additional significant appointments as auditor of colonial accounts, as a magistrate, and as clerk of the Executive

¹⁷ George Parsons, *ADB*, Vol II, Melbourne, 1989, p 579.

Council. Unfortunately, he undertook, or had placed on his shoulders, too many responsibilities, and fell behind in his commissariat work. He resigned from the commissariat on Governor Darling's recommendation to take up the role of auditor of colonial accounts. Lithgow enjoyed one of the most senior civil positions in the colony, acting on occasion as private secretary to Governor Bourke. He retired from office as Auditor-General in 1852 and died in June 1862 at North Sydney. Lithgow had enjoyed the confidence of three governors of the colony and it seems appropriate that his service should be recalled by the city to which he gave his name.¹⁸

In late 1828, Assistant-Commissary General William Miller, another Peninsular veteran, arrived in the colony, although he was not shown in the Monthly Returns until January 1829. It appears that Miller was selected by Treasury as a potential successor to Laidley as the first entry naming him in the Return as an Assistant-Commissary-General is immediately below Deputy-Commissary-General Laidley in order of seniority. Miller duly filled the post of Deputy-Commissary-General on Laidley's death in 1835. Little is known about Miller in Australia. In 1844 he was appointed Deputy-Commissary-General in Hong Kong. His replacement in Sydney was Deputy-Commissary-General Ramsay. Miller was promoted to become Commissary-General in December 1849. The Monthly Returns for 1841 show that the commissariat stall had grown to one D-C-G, six A-C-Gs, and thirteen D-A-C-Gs, including commissaries in South Australia and Western Australia.¹⁹

In 1836, the responsibility for supply of convict clothing passed from the commissariat to the Ordnance Storekeeper. This, to some extent, must have eased the workload of the commissariat. Although issues were made only on the arrival of convicts in the colony and then twice yearly on 1 May and 1 November, with the authorised scales of issue varying according to location and type of employment, the receipt, accounting and issue of clothing items had become an onerous task. Different styles and colours of clothing were issued to convicts in the Hyde Park Barracks, those in Commissariat employ, in the Engineer Department, in the stockades or the ironed gangs and at the outstations at Newcastle, Port Macquarie, Moreton Bay, Norfolk Island and other locations. The Female Factories at Parramatta, Bathurst and Port Macquarie had their different scales and the children of the women in the factories had also to be clothed. Clothes were mostly supplied on requisition from England but frequently recourse had to be made to local production involving the purchase of basic materials and their processing at the Female Factories. Occasionally items of clothing were purchased from local suppliers. In 1830, a convict 'slop' suit consisted of a frock of Parramatta cloth, a pair of trousers, a striped shirt and a pair of shoes. A scale of clothing was also laid down for assigned convicts but this was the responsibility of their masters to supply.²⁰

At the same time as the responsibility for clothing was handed over to the Ordnance Department, the responsibility for military and convict buildings was handed over as well. The Commissariat itself had erected extensive and substantial stores buildings. Some have survived, often undergoing extensive alterations to fit them for other later uses, but the main parts of the original stores in Brisbane and Fremantle are still in existence, used now to house historical organisations. The 1835 Norfolk Island store is intact and has been refurbished to become All Saints Church.

¹⁸ Richard & Barbara Appleton (comp) *The Cambridge Dictionary of Australian Place Names*, Melbourne, 1992, pp 172-173.

¹⁹ Stanley to Gipps, 16 January 1844, *HRA I,23* p 335; Monthly Return February 1841, WO 17/235.

²⁰ Karen Westmacott, *Convict Clothing in New South Wales 1788-1845*, unpublished Archival Report, Canberra, 1986.

The Commissariat organisation continued its operations until 1870, but the run down of the convict establishment saw its functions reducing from 1847. Nevertheless, the Commissariat retained its status as a military organisation: Laidley was given a military funeral at which, no doubt, his fellow commissaries turned out in their blue uniforms; and in 1848 Assistant-Commissary-General William Fletcher received his Military General Service Medal with the single clasp for service as a commissary clerk at Vittoria on 21 June 1813.

Further information on the Commissariat in Australia can be found in Neville Lindsay, *Equal To The Task*, Kenmore, Qld, 1992.

46th South Devonshire Regiment 1814-1819

'The Edinburgh Regiment', 'The Lacedemonians', 'The Red Feathers', 'The Surprisers'.

Background

1741	Raised as 57th Regiment.
1746	At Culloden
1748	Redesignated 46th Regiment
1782	Titled South Devonshire Regiment
1757-1813	Served mainly in N America and West Indies with occasional service in England and Ireland.

In New South Wales

February 1814	Arrived Port Jackson on <i>Wyndham</i> , <i>Three Bees</i> and <i>General Hewitt</i> . Before leaving England members of the Officers' Mess resolved that, in the colony, they would not associate with convicts or emancipists. This was a direct rebuttal of Gov Macquarie's policy of restoration of emancipists to their place in society. Later in the Regt's service in NSW the officers openly jeered at Macquarie at the Mess table, refused invitations to Government House and chalked a caricature of Macquarie on the Guard Room wall.
May 1815	Sgt Broadfoot and 6 Ptes of 46th from Hobart Town successfully mounted an operation against bushrangers in VDL, capturing Maguire and Burne. They received reward of £100.
Feb-April 1816	Cpl McCarthy and 7 Ptes in pursuit of bushrangers in VDL and were successful in capturing two.
April 1816	Cpts Schaw and Wallis, with Light and Grenadier Coys, in pursuit and reducing natives to a state of obedience in near Airds and Appin.
8 June 1816	Capt Wallis appointed Comdt at Newcastle. He embarked on an extensive building program including Christ Church, the third brick and stone church in Australia. Wallis was highly regarded by Macquarie.
July 1816	Cpl McCarthy in VDL spent six months in pursuit of bushrangers, killing Geary, a deserter from the 73rd Regiment and capturing two others. Reward £100 for Geary and £25 for each of the other two.

- 1816 Officers of the 46th established military Masonic Lodge No 227 in Sydney. Lodge 227 rejected Samuel Clayton recommended by the Irish Masonic body on the grounds that he was a convicted felon. Capt Sanderson, Master of the Lodge, beat emancipist Colonial Architect, Francis Greenway for writing an impertinent letter.
- March 1817 Pte Charles Fraser, later appointed the Colonial Botanist and founder of Sydney Botanical Gardens, accompanied Surveyor General Oxley on exploration of Lachlan River region.
- April 1817 Sgt Jeremiah Murphy became the first investor in the Bank of New South Wales with a deposit of £50
- 1817 Relations between Gov Macquarie and the CO and officers of the 46th had deteriorated to the extent that Macquarie took the first opportunity after the arrival of the 48th Regiment to order the elements of the 46th in Sydney to embark for India.
- 8 September 1817 HQ and Sydney based companies of the 46th embarked on the *Matilda*, *Lloyds* and *Dick* for India.
- 1819 Last elements leave NSW.

Transfers from the 46th Regiment to the 48th 25 March — 24 September 1817:²¹

Brooks William	Keefe Michael
Brown John	Lawson George
Cartwright Charles	McWharrie Peter
Chubb John	Moore Lewis
Denning Isaac	Platt George
Dummigan William	Radley William
Evans Thomas	Reed Richard
Fowler Nathaniel	Riley Thomas
Frazer Charles	Riley William
Gillaspy James	Sage William
Giddes William	Stewart Robert
Gorman John	Ternan William
Hamilton William	Tollis Thomas
Hart Thomas	Whalan Charles
Holden Joseph	Whittle Thomas

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Clem Sargent, *The Colonial Garrison 1817-1824*, Mawson, ACT, 1996.

²¹ WO 12/5969 AJCP Microfilm 3797.

Cap Badges of the Rhodesian Security Forces

Graham Wilson

In 1965, for reasons largely beyond the scope of this article, the then British colony of Southern Rhodesia issued a 'unilateral declaration of independence' (UDI) and, as the self declared Republic of Rhodesia, set about going its own way. UDI was designed to ensure the continuing political and economic dominance of the white minority but resulted instead in a bitter and protracted war which lasted until 1980 as various African nationalist movements battled for control of the country.

The 'Bush War' was fought between the Rhodesian Security Forces (RSF) on the one hand and the military arms of the two dominant African nationalist movements on the other hand - the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) was represented in the field by the Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (ZANLA) while the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) was represented by the Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA). Although Rhodesia received active political, economic and military support from the neighbouring Republic of South Africa for a period in the 70s, for most of the war, it was a purely Rhodesian affair.

While the Republic of Rhodesia adapted to economic and political sanctions in a way which can only be described, no matter what your political views are, as magnificent and the RSF attained a level of professionalism and military competence which was truly awesome, the war was never winnable for the Rhodesians and they were forced to the negotiating table in 1979. This in the end led to the dissolution of the white minority government and of Rhodesia itself and saw the creation of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

The aim of the article is to introduce readers to the cap badges of an army which ceased to exist in 1980. Only cap badges are dealt with in the article. While the RSF wore a vast array of other badges, badges of rank, trade and specialist qualification badges, appointment badges, unit badges, etc, these will not be dealt with. Similarly, the main thrust of the article is the post-UDI period and the period before 1965 will only be touched on.

The Rhodesian Security Forces

While the Bush War was originally low key and low scale, by the late 1970s, Rhodesia was a nation in arms. Almost every white male and a large number of females were actively involved in the war as members of the various arms of the RSF. Similarly, a large portion of the 'loyal' African population was involved in the war in regular, part time or auxiliary arms of the RSF.

The RSF originally consisted of three arms - the British South Africa Police (BSAP), the Rhodesian Army and the Rhodesian Air Force. Later in the war, these were joined by the Guard Force, the field vedettes of the Department of Internal Affairs (Intaf) and Pfumo re Vahnu, the so called 'Spear of the Nation'.

BSAP. The senior service in the RSF was the police force, the BSAP. The BSAP traced its origins to the local company police units, the Matabeleland Mounted Police and the Mashonaland Mounted Police, raised by the British South Africa Company in the 1890s to police and defend the Company's newly chartered territories. The two forces were combined

into the Rhodesia Mounted Police in 1897 and became the BSAP in 1898. The BSAP saw active service in the Boer War and were awarded King's and Regimental colours in 1903. In 1909, the Southern Rhodesia Constabulary was absorbed into the BSAP as the town branch of the force. The BSAP saw service in both the First and Second World Wars and was awarded battle honours for service in the German West and East African campaigns of the First World War. In 1936, the Rhodesia Commissioner of the BSAP was named by legislation the Commandant-General of the RSF in recognition of the fact that the police constituted the largest body of trained military personnel in the then colony. This was to remain the legal situation right up until the end in 1980 although the actual day to day running of the war devolved onto the Chief of Combined Operations, an Army general.

The Rhodesian Army

The Rhodesian Army had its origins in the Rhodesian units raised for service in the Boer War, in particular, the Southern Rhodesia Volunteers (SRV). During the First World War, both white and black Rhodesians served in Africa and Europe in the 1st and 2nd Rhodesian Regiments (RR) and the Rhodesian Native Regiment (RNR), as well as 400 white Rhodesians who provided Rhodesian platoons for the Kings Royal Rifle Corps. The volunteers remained active after the war despite the fact that the SRV were disbanded (for reasons of cost) in 1920. In 1927, a Defence Act was passed which established, for the first time, a permanent military force, the Rhodesian Staff Corps, and provided legislative support for part time service.

During the Second World War Rhodesians served all over the world in Rhodesian, South African and British units. A significant move was the raising of the African recruited Rhodesian African Rifles (RAR) in 1940. This unit took the lineage and honours of the old RNR and as it was a regular unit claimed the distinction of being the senior regiment of the Southern Rhodesian and later Rhodesian Army. Battalions of the RR and the RAR served with distinction in Africa and South East Asia while Rhodesian artillery units served in North Africa and Italy. For its services, the Rhodesia Regiment received the title 'Royal' in 1946.

The Rhodesian Army establishment was drastically reduced after the war, the Royal Rhodesia Regiment reverting to territorial status and the RAR representing the only regular conventional unit of the army. In 1951, a special force known as the Rhodesian Squadron, Malayan Scouts was raised for service with the British SAS in Malaya. This unit was the forerunner of C Squadron Rhodesian SAS which in turn became 1 (Rhodesian) SAS Regiment. An all white regular infantry battalion was raised in 1960, the Rhodesian Light Infantry (RLI) and a number of other support units came into being. During the ill-conceived Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland from 1953-1963, the various corps of the former Southern Rhodesian Army took the prefix Rhodesia & Nyasaland (e.g. the Rhodesian Army Service Corps became the Rhodesia & Nyasaland Army Service Corps). When the Federation broke up on 1 January, 1964, the various elements of the Federal army reverted to their former colonies. The following year, Southern Rhodesia declared UDI and became simply Rhodesia. From that time until 1980, the Rhodesian Army expanded dramatically with a number of new units added to the order of battle and an expansion of existing units, in particular the RAR which expanded from one battalion in 1965 to four battalions and the nucleus of a fifth in 1980. The units and corps of the Rhodesian Army, with the year of their establishment in brackets, during the UDI period were:

Rhodesian Staff Corps (1927)	Rhodesian Corps of Signals (1959) (as Rhodesia & Nyasaland Corps of Signals, became Rhodesian Corps of Signals in 1964)
Rhodesia Regiment (1929)	
Rhodesian Corps of Engineers (1929)	
Rhodesian African Rifles (1940)	Rhodesian Intelligence Corps (1960)
Rhodesian Corps of Chaplains (1940) (formally established, had existed since 1925)	Rhodesian Light Infantry (1961)
Rhodesian Armoured Car Regiment (1941)	Rhodesian SAS (1961) (as C Sqn, became 1 (Rhodesian) SAS Regt in 1978)
Southern Rhodesia Artillery (1st Field Regiment) (1941)	Rhodesian Corps of Military Police (1964)
Rhodesian Army Medical Corps (1941)	Selous Scouts (1971)
Rhodesian Army Service Corps (1941)	Rhodesian Defence Regiment (1973)
Rhodesian Army Pay Corps (1954)	Rhodesian Women's Service (1975)
Rhodesian Army Education Corps (1955)	Grey's Scouts (1976)
	1 Psychological Operations Unit (1977)

The Rhodesian Air Force

The Rhodesian Air Force (RhAF) had its genesis in the Air Unit of the Rhodesian Staff Corps which was established in 1934 at Salisbury. The Air Unit was absorbed into the RAF in 1939 as 237 (Rhodesian) Squadron. Two other Rhodesian squadrons were formed in the RAF, 266 (Rhodesian) Squadron (bombers) and 44 (Rhodesian) Squadron (fighters). In addition, Rhodesia was a major contributor to the Empire Air Training Scheme and over 2,000 non-Rhodesian pilots and aircrew were trained at Salisbury during the war. At the end of the war, 237 and 266 Squadrons were disbanded and 44 Squadron was taken on the permanent strength of the RAF, the Air Unit reducing to a small training cadre. In 1947, the Air Unit was expanded and put on a permanent basis and in 1952 it became the Rhodesian Air Force, later the Royal Rhodesian Air Force (RRhAF). With the change in name, the RRhAF severed all ties with the Army and established its own uniforms and badges of rank and rank titles, all modelled on the RAF.

With UDI, the 'Royal' prefix was dropped (but not until 1970) and the force became simply the Rhodesian Air Force. During the bush war, the RhAF, thrown largely onto its own resources as a result of international sanctions, achieved incredible feats of aircraft availability and operational success, including several cross border raids into neighbouring Mozambique and Zambia in which the Canberra bombers and Hawker Hunter fighters of the RhAF carried the war to the enemy in no uncertain terms.

The Guard Force

One of the mainstays of the internal security operations of the Rhodesian government was the Protected Village program. This was modelled on the hugely successful program carried out in Malaya during the Malayan Emergency which resulted in the insurgents being almost totally cut off from their support base, the rural populace. As the Protected Village program developed, the Rhodesian government realised that a static defence force was needed to ensure that villages were not overrun or subverted by guerrillas. In the earliest stages, reserve elements of the BSAP

and the Army were used but this was a stop gap measure at best. To solve the problem, the government established the Guard Force as the fourth arm of the RSF in 1976.

The new organisation had its own Depot at Chikurubi and was commanded by a retired major general of the Rhodesian Army. The majority of officers and senior NCOs were former members of either the Army or the BSAP. Originally intended as a static protection force for the protected villages only, by 1978 the Guard Force had been deployed to protect outlying farms and a number of independent infantry companies had been raised to carry out counter insurgent operations in the North East Operational Area. Later, Guard Force units were deployed to protect urban key points, to patrol mine free roads and to patrol rail lines. Guard Force was fully racially integrated with both black and white officers, all African members were reportedly volunteers while white members were either national servicemen or Category D reservists. The Force had a number of notable successes in both static and mobile roles and morale remained high right until the end of the war.

Internal Affairs

The Ministry of Internal Affairs (Intaf) was responsible for the administration of the large Tribal Trust Lands and for the welfare of the rural African population. Intaf was also responsible for the actual establishment and operation of the protected villages. The Ministry of Internal Affairs was essentially an unarmed, non-combatant government administrative body. Members of Intaf, however, both white District Officers and African District Assistants, were seen by the guerillas as soft and valuable targets and it did not take the Ministry long to realise the need for a paramilitary arm.

A National Service Unit was set up in 1975 and white national servicemen began to be streamed into Intaf for their 18 months national service, specifically to be employed as 'Field Vedettes'. At the same time, the recruitment of African District Assistants was stepped up, specifically to man the paramilitary unit. Initially involved in the defence of the protected villages, Intaf gradually handed this over to the Guard Force. Among other skills required of the white national service vedettes was fluency in at least one African language. Although organised and trained along military lines, the Intaf National Service Unit never lost sight of the fact that it was essentially a non-military organisation. Members wore khaki rather than camouflaged uniforms and military training stressed self defence, rather than offensive tactics and techniques. Nevertheless, the unit grew to be a sizeable military organisation with its own rank structure and engineer, signals and medical units, as well as a mounted unit (formed at Mount Darwin in 1977).

Pfumo re Vanhu (The 'Auxiliaries')

In an attempt to placate world opinion and lift sanctions, the Rhodesian government engineered the so-called 'internal settlement' in 1979 which saw the election of Bishop Muzarewa to the prime ministership. Flowing on from this was a general amnesty which saw thousands of disillusioned ZIPRA and ZANLA fighters return to Rhodesia. With very mixed feelings, the RSF incorporated these returned fighters into the order of battle, initially calling them Security Force Auxiliaries, later changed to Pfumo re Vanhu ('Spear of the Nation'). Uniformed and armed by the Rhodesian government, members of Pfumo re Vanhu were given rudimentary military training and deployed, as far as possible, to their former home areas to assist Guard Force and Intaf in the protection of their rural countrymen.

The least successful arm of the RSF, Pfumo re Vanhu suffered, despite the best efforts of the RSF, from poor discipline, inadequate training and low morale. Vilified by both their former ZIPRA and ZANLA comrades and the world press as turn coats and running dogs, at best the

presence of Pfumo re Vanhu elements in an area did no more than hamper insurgent activities. The force was dissolved without ceremony in 1980.

The Hat Badges

Badges of the RSF reflected Rhodesia's British military heritage. Not only did each corps or unit have its own distinctive cap badge, in a number of cases these badges were obviously a local version of the British one. With UDI, existing cap badges were modified by removing the Royal crown and replacing it with either the lion passant and elephant tusk from the crest of the Rhodesian Army's coat of arms or the so-called 'Zimbabwe bird.' One exception to this was the Rhodesia Regiment which, unwilling to surrender completely its 'Royal' status, kept the crown in its badge but moved it from the top of the badge to the centre.

Badges were produced from a variety of materials including brass, white metal, pure silver, chrome and anodised aluminium. Standard of manufacture ranged from excellent to very poor. All badges appear to have been fitted with lugs, none having so far been seen by the author with either sliders or pin and clutch grip fittings (this is not to say that these types of fittings do not exist). Of a wide selection of Rhodesian badges examined, only three have manufacturer's marks on the back, these being: Rhodesian African Rifles ('FIRMIN LONDON') and Rhodesian Intelligence Corps and Rhodesian Corps of Chaplains (both 'REUTELER SALISBURY').



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3

Rhodesian Staff Corps (Fig 1). Anodised aluminium, this badge was worn by personnel who did not have a badge of their own.

Rhodesia Regiment (Fig 2). Blackened anodised aluminium, also worn in white metal and silver (officers) by 6th Bn. Note the location of the crown.

Rhodesian Corps of Engineers (Fig 3). A very well made bi-metal badge, note the 'Zimbabwe bird' which replaced the crown and the resemblance to Royal Engineers badge.



Fig 4

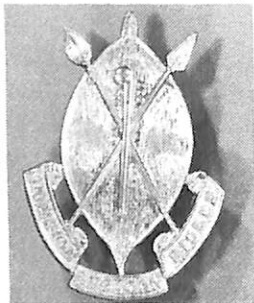


Fig 5

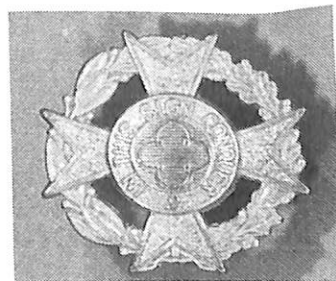


Fig 6

Zimbabwe Corps of Engineers (Fig 4). An example of a post-Independence badge. Compare with Fig 3. This is a very poorly made, caste badge.

Rhodesian African Rifles (Fig 5). White metal, extremely well made in the UK. Also worn in pure silver by officers and bandsmen. An attempt was made in the mid 1970s to develop a cheaper anodised aluminium version but this was unsuccessful as the troops hated them (naturally) and they were far too fragile. Manufacturer's mark on back FIRMIN LONDON. A small embroidered version was also worn on field caps - this version was embroidered either in white thread or silver on a square backing of rifle green over black (regimental colours).

Rhodesian Corps of Chaplains (Fig 6). Brass, well made - note resemblance to Royal Army Chaplain's Department. Manufacturer's mark on back - REUTELER SALISBURY.



Fig 7

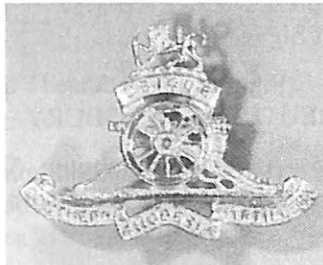


Fig 8

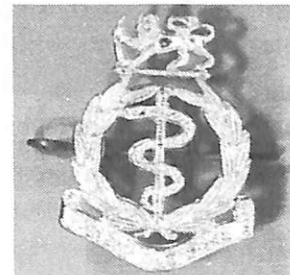


Fig 9

Rhodesian Armoured Car Regiment (Fig 7). White metal, very well made. This badge was worn on a black beret and, apparently following South African practice, was worn above a small enamel bar half red half yellow. 1 Rh Armoured Car Regt was the only RSF unit to follow this practice.

Southern Rhodesia Artillery (Fig 8). Brass, well made. Note resemblance to Royal Artillery. Badge was worn by 1 Field Regiment, Rhodesian Corps of Artillery. This badge was originally issued to SRhA in 1948, officially replaced in 1956 by a badge consisting of the seven flamed artillery grenade with the word RHODESIA on the scroll (not illustrated) but this badge was never popular and the Rhodesian gunners continued to wear the old badge and to style themselves by the old title right up until 1980.

Rhodesian Army Medical Corps (Fig 9). Gilt anodised aluminium. Very similar to RAMC.

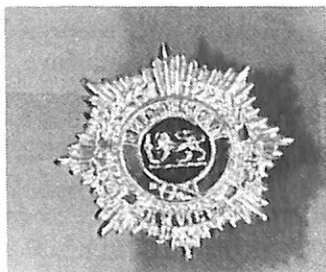


Fig 10

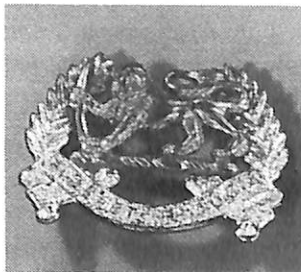


Fig 11



Fig 12

Rhodesian Army Service Corps (Fig 10). Gilt anodised aluminium and red enamel. Poorly made beret sized - slightly larger size worn on caps.

Rhodesian Army Pay Corps (Fig 11). A very well made, two piece badge, brass and white metal. Again, note the similarity to the Royal Army Pay Corps.

Rhodesian Army Education Corps (Fig 12). Anodised aluminium, silver and gilt.



Fig 13



Fig 14



Fig 15

Rhodesian Corps of Signals (Fig 13). Bi metal, gilding metal and white metal, two piece construction. Separate crown of pre-UDI days replaced by separate 'Zimbabwe bird' post UDI. Note similarity to Royal Corps of Signals.

Rhodesian Intelligence Corps (Fig 14). Anodised aluminium. Poorly made badge, manufacturer's mark on back - REUTELER SALISBURY.

Rhodesian Light Infantry (Fig 15). Anodised aluminium. Same size worn in matching pairs as collar badges. Also worn in pure silver by officers. Worn on dark green beret.



Fig 16



Fig 17



Fig 18

Rhodesian Light Infantry (Fig 16). Pre-UDI collar badge. Compare with Fig 15.

Rhodesian SAS (Fig 17). British style embroidered badges were authorised but most ranks preferred to wear bi-metal similar to Australian pattern. In fact, the author has it from three separate sources (one ex-BSAP, one ex-RLI, one ex-RhSAS) that the Rhodesian SAS wore Australian made badges purchased in Australia and smuggled to Rhodesia. Certainly, the illustrated badge, which came into the author's possession from a source Zimbabwe, is indistinguishable from Australian badges. Worn on tan beret.

Rhodesian Corps of Military Police (Fig 18). Brass, reasonably well made badge. Again, design is similar to Royal Corps of Military Police.



Fig 19



Fig 20

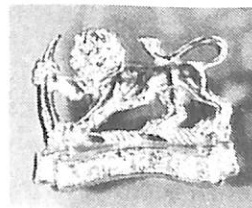


Fig 21

Selous Scouts (Fig 19). Anodised aluminium. Also worn in pure silver by officers. Reputedly designed by Selous Scouts' first (and only) CO, Lt-Col Ron Reid-Daly. Worn on a brown beret.

Rhodesian Defence Regiment (Fig 20). Chrome and enamel. A nicely made and attractive badge. RhDR was a static defence unit created in 1970s from former Reinforcement Holding Units.

Rhodesian Women's Service (Fig 21). Anodised aluminium. Based on Staff Corps badge.



Fig 22

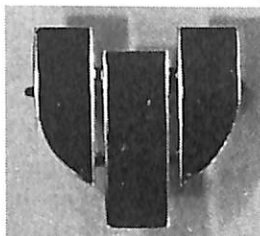


Fig 23



Fig 24

Grey's Scouts (Fig 22). Anodised aluminium. Worn on grey beret. Grey's Scouts was a horse mounted infantry unit used for patrolling and quick reaction in inaccessible country. Also worn in silver by officers. Badge worn on a grey beret.

1 Psychological Operations Unit (Fig 23). Chrome. Reasonably well made but visually unattractive badge.

BSAP (Fig 24). Anodised aluminium. Also worn in brass and a larger size in both brass and anodised aluminium worn on helmets. This particular specimen is very poorly made and possibly dates from late in the war.



Fig 25

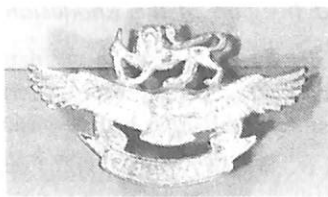


Fig 26



Fig 27

BSAP Commissioned Officer (pre-UDI) (Fig 25). Commissioned officers (Superintendent to Commissioner pre-1975, Inspector to Commissioner post-1975) wore a large embroidered badge on their caps. The illustrated badge is a pre-UDI version, the post-UDI version had the crown replaced by the 'Zimbabwe bird'. On the post-UDI version, the Zimbabwe bird and lion are in gold wire, the wreath, spear and knobkerrie in silver wire.

Rhodesian Air Force (Fig 26). Anodised aluminium. This is the standard pattern worn by ORs as a cap/beret badge and by officers on the side cap; a right collar badge (identical design, smaller size) was worn as a cap badge by airwomen. Officers below Air Rank (Air Sub-Lieutenant to Group Captain) wore on caps a gilt metal badge on a wreath on a black padded background; the wreath and lion were embroidered in gold wire. Officers of Air Rank (Air Commodore to Air Marshal) wore an impressive badge of an eagle on a circular wreath with the

lion and tusk above and the Zimbabwe bird overall, all embroidered in gold wire on a black padded background.

Guard Force (Fig 27). Brass, well made. The Roman figure 'IV' on the sword hilt alludes to the status of the Guard Force as the fourth arm of the RSF. The Commander wore the same badge surrounded by a laurel wreath - this was embroidered in gold wire on a black backing (not illustrated). A brass version of the Commander's cap badge was worn on the right wrist as the badge of rank for Keep Sergeant Major.

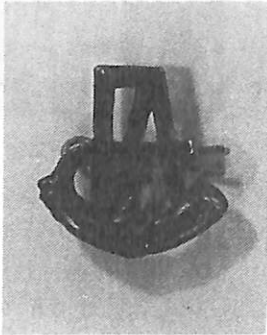


Fig 28

Internal Affairs (Fig 28). Blackened anodised aluminium. A very well made and reasonably sturdy badge. The motif is the intertwined letters 'IA' above an African 'snuff horn'. This badge, which was worn either on a red beret or on a red cloth backing on the left hand (turned up) brim of the slouch hat, was introduced in 1975. Prior to 1975, Intaf personnel wore as a badge the coat of arms of Rhodesia, anodised gilt, on a black backing.

Pfumo re Vanhu. Standard head dress for the 'Auxiliaries' was a floppy brown bush hat. The badge worn on this was a green cloth shield with a black border and a black African spear head, upright in the centre (not illustrated).

All badges illustrated are from the author's collection.

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Some Recollections of RAAF Service—1945

Alan Fraser¹

By 1945, the Americans had withdrawn most of their forces from the South West Pacific area and redeployed them into attacks on the Japanese in island chain leading to the Japanese main islands. Australian forces, which had initiated the series of defeats on land suffered by the Japanese from 1942, were left behind to liquidate or contain the large by-passed enemy garrisons.

The Japanese XVIIIth Army, comprising some 20,000 men, occupied the Aitape to Wewak area of northern New Guinea. Its reduction was entrusted to the Australian 6th Division, veterans of the Middle East desert campaigns of 1940-42 and subsequent operations in the New Guinea region. The Japanese occupied the 100-mile coastal strip running east from Aitape, the former American and now Australian base, to their own main base at Wewak and beyond. They also controlled a large area inland from the adjacent coastal ranges including the important Sepik River system.

The terrain inland, like so much of New Guinea, consists of rugged and heavily wooded ridges cut by deep gorges, with extensive swamps along the Sepik. The coastal plain comprises thick jungle with numerous rivers and streams which flood quickly after rain. In this environment surface movement and supply present great difficulty.

The Japanese forces were in poor condition. They had no air support and for some months past no support from the sea except occasional visits from submarines. They were short of most suppliers, including food, and had to do their best, to live off the country. These handicaps would have been fatal to the troops of most nations, but the Japanese continued to resist with great tenacity.

The Australian ground forces, pushing along the coast and inland towards Wewak were supported by No 71 Wing, Royal Australian Air Force, comprising three squadrons of Bristol Beaufort reconnaissance bombers, totalling some 60 aeroplanes, and minor units. On occasions, support was provided by the United States Army Air Force Combat Replacement Training Centre at Nadzab, including sorties by B-24, B-25 and P-38 aircraft.

As indicated above, there was no Japanese air opposition. Anti-aircraft fire was meagre, although at times murderously accurate. For attacking aircraft there were, however, the normal hazards of operating over inhospitable terrain in an environment of unpredictable and frequently violent weather, with negligible navigation aids and the often disastrous effect on aircraft serviceability of maintenance carried out with inadequate spares and equipment under conditions of high temperatures and humidity.

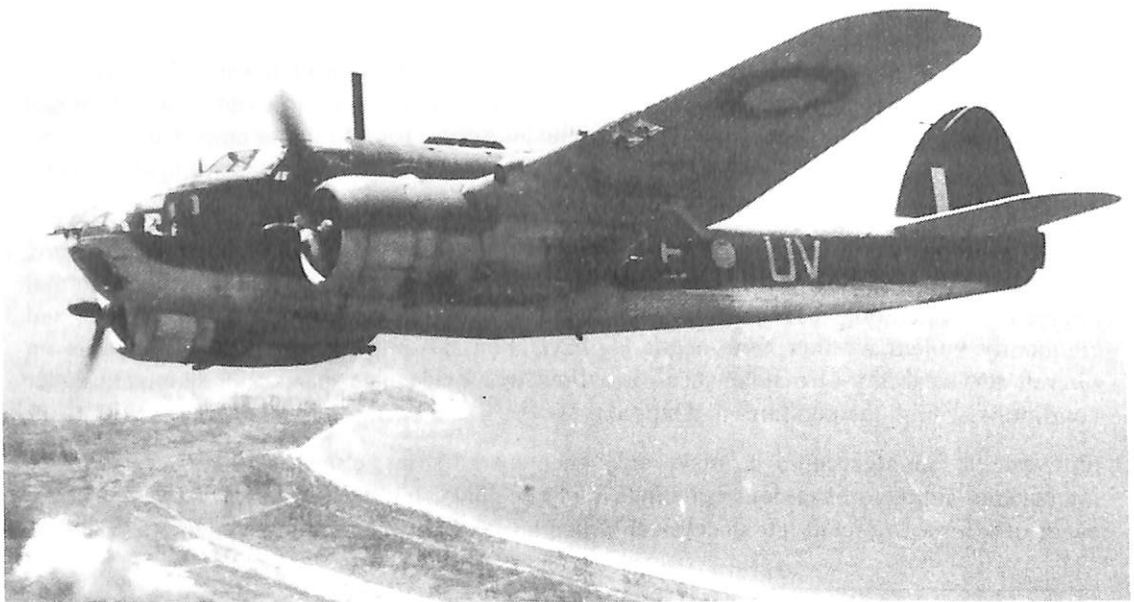
Safe forced landings could be made only on prepared strips; elsewhere they were virtually impossible, although hazardous alightings might be made on a river or a lake or swamp. In the event of a forced descent into enemy-controlled territory, it was essential to attempt evasion as

¹ Alan Fraser is a long-retired public servant and a former editor of *Sabretache* (1984-1987). His chief interest is WW1 aviation and although, after a stint in the artillery, he served from 1942 to 1946 in the RAAF as a general reconnaissance/ bomber pilot, he would have preferred flying Sopwith Camels on the Western Front with Snoopy and the Red Baron, but was a generation too late.

the Japanese were not taking prisoners or, more accurately, not keeping them. Avoidance of capture presented difficulties. (A separate note on evasion is appended.) Steady progress was made in the advance east from Aitape.

Despite their increasingly wretched condition, the Japanese resisted stubbornly and the Army called on No 71 Wing for frequent air strikes. Anti-aircraft opposition was mostly weak and inaccurate but several Beauforts and their crews were lost over the target and in collisions and other accidents. In addition to the close support operations, the Beauforts were engaged in strikes well ahead of the advance into the more heavily defended Wewak base area.

On 11 May 1945, in conjunction with vigorous supporting action from the advancing ground forces, an amphibious landing covered by bombardment by cruisers and destroyers of the Royal Australian Navy and the Royal Navy was made at Dove Bay, near Wewak, and within a few weeks the whole Wewak area was under control. The remaining Japanese withdrew to the mountains inland, from where they continued the fight until the surrender on 15 August. The Wewak operations were strongly supported by bombing and strafing by the US Army Air Force and the RAAF, augmented by additional Beaufort and Boomerang aircraft. RAAF operations were, however, hampered somewhat at the time by shortages of petrol, food and bombs, arising from waterfront strikes in Australia. The RAAF was obliged to modify and use captured Japanese 50 and 100-kilogram (110 and 220-lb) bombs and 375-lb depth charges to augment the dwindling supplies of the usual weapons—mostly 250 and 500-lb general purpose, fragmentation or demolition bombs and 500-lb incendiary clusters. The Japanese bombs were unreliable; they frequently did not explode. On one close support mission I witnessed, their tails fell off after release. This affected their ballistics and they fell amongst our own troops.



A Beaufort of No 8 Squadron on a strike against the Wewak airstrip, showing Wewak Point and the offshore islands of Muschu and Kiariru

An operation illustrating the difficulties, which could arise using these odd weapons, took place on 26 June. This was a bomb-only strike by formations from all three squadrons of the Wing, our component and the whole operation being led by the officer commanding the Wing. I was No 3 in his leading 'vic' of three and on the way my Flight Commander and I gave 'the old man' (aged 38) a lesson on how to fly close formation. This was in fact dangerously close, but the old boy didn't turn a hair.

The target was an important one, a large force of the enemy strongly entrenched on Mount Shiburangu, a few miles inland from Wewak and dominating the sector. As usual, the Japanese had cleverly camouflaged their positions and we were to aim on the smoke of mortar bombs dropped by the infantry who were to assault the target immediately after our attack.

For this operation, our aircraft's weapon load was improvised from Japanese 50-kg (110-lb) HE bombs and 375-lb depth charges. The latter were, of course, our anti-submarine weapons normally fused to explode at a certain depth under water. Fused to explode on impact with the ground, however, their light steel cases and large proportion of explosive filling produced only a shallow hole but created a tremendous blast. Making a virtue of necessity, it was said that their use had sometimes proved valuable to our ground troops in clearing lightly-built structures and vegetation in enemy-occupied jungle. We had carried them before.

If the target area was small, our formations usually went into line astern and bombed individually, dropping the load in a stick. On this occasion, sub-formations bombed on a signal from the leader and it was therefore unnecessary for our navigator/bomb aimer to operate the bombsight and call course corrections on the run-up to the target. He did, however, keep a careful watch from the nose, not only to observe the bombing results, but to see that our own bombs actually fell away from the aircraft. This was very necessary as the release system was not always reliable and not all bombs could be seen from inside the aircraft. In the event that there were hang-ups in the bomb-bay, a piece of hooked wire could be inserted into a hole in the aircraft floor to trip the bomb releases manually; but there was no such technique available for hang-ups on the wing racks outboard of the engines.

Our lead formation was scheduled to bomb at 0810 hours, followed by the others at short intervals. The visibility that day was perfect, the air like silk, and the Group Captain led us smoothly into the run on the target area which was plainly marked with mortar smoke as we approached. With bomb doors open and weapons fused we awaited the drop signal and almost dead on time saw the leader's bombs tumbling away. However, there was a perceptible interval between our bomb-aimer's call of 'bombs gone' and his report that they had left the aircraft; and furthermore, he had only seen the Japanese bombs go. Plainly, something had gone wrong with the release mechanisms in both bomb-bay and wing racks.

The delay in the drop put our bombs amongst some troops positioned for the attack but luckily caused only alarm and consternation. Inquiries made later established that these troops should not, in fact, have been where they were; they had commenced their advance early, to improve their attacking position while the enemy had their heads down during the bombing, and incidentally demonstrating a touching faith in the accuracy of our bombing. Our Japanese bombs did explode. Many of the others did not, we heard later, but some 1,000-lb HE bombs dropped with great accuracy by some of our other aircraft fitted with modified bomb-bay doors did a lot of damage. Covered by these heavy air strikes and artillery fire, the infantry attacked and after four hours brisk fighting Mount Shiburangu was taken.

Meanwhile, we in Beaufort A9-608, coded KT-V, had two depth charges hanging up and liable to drop off and explode at anytime—possibly when we touched down back at the airstrip. Since

the air attacks and infantry advance were carefully scheduled, there were no second attempts at the primary target and it was necessary to try and get rid of our remaining load, preferably where it would do some damage. Accordingly, we left the target area and considered our next move. Wewak was out as a secondary target, a large part of the area having been overrun by our forces following the amphibious landing at Dove Bay the previous month.

Kiariru, a small island off Wewak, held possibilities. A few weeks earlier, we had taken part in two unsuccessful attempts to destroy with HE bombs a 6-in coast gun sited on a headland on the eastern end of the island. We had all missed. This had been a disappointment so, although unsure of the effect a depth charge might have on the gun and its emplacement, supposing the DCs' poor ballistics permitted a direct hit, or even a near miss, we selected it as our secondary target. Besides, we felt the garrison there needed to be reminded that there was still a war on.



Two 500-lb bombs leaving the bomb bay of Beaufort A9-427 of No 100 Squadron. A 250-lb bomb with streamer has dropped from the wing bomb carrier.

Depth charges could be dropped safely, and hopefully more accurately, from as low as 600-ft on ground targets, although attacking at that level was risky as the island, an extinct volcano, rose steeply to 3,350-ft and put us uncomfortably close to the defences both below and alongside.

We skirted the Wewak area so as to avoid attention from whatever anti-aircraft fire the legendary Japanese ace gunner known as Deadeye Dick (sometimes called Hawkeye or One-Shot-Ross) might still be able to muster, and approaching Kairiru from the sea, did a fast run on the gun. Again, the DCs failed to release.

What next? We had studied a detailed target map of the southern part of the island based on a recent American B-24 reconnaissance mission. This had shown a number of camouflaged personnel shelters and some small concentrations of luggers and barges and motor transport—these probably mostly derelict—in the vicinity of the old Kiariru Mission, together with several

medium and light-automatic anti-aircraft positions. However, a mile or so east of the Mission, we spotted a shed made of bright galvanised iron set in the middle of an extensive and well-cultivated vegetable garden containing row upon row of what looked like large mature cabbages.

This was an inviting target for depth charge attack so, regardless of the risk of ground fire, we turned quickly and did a run on it, still at 600-ft with the mountain towering close alongside. This time, one DC dropped and actually scored a direct hit on the shed, exploding with a bright orange flash and a tremendous blast, which we could feel in the aeroplane, and blowing the shed and the surrounding crop to fragments. The shock waves could be clearly seen spreading the blast to the sea and the adjacent hillsides. This was a splendid performance by our bomb aimer.

Usually, the results of our efforts were not visible and this clear evidence of total destruction was most gratifying. As the Japanese were very short of food, for all I know this may have been the most useful piece of work our crew did on that tour of duty. But I did feel sorry for the Japanese gardener.

Luck had been with us, as we did not receive a single hit despite our vulnerability to the defences, including small-arms fire. We gave up attempts to place the remaining DC and on the 100-mile coastal flight home I made earnest efforts to dislodge it by diving and zooming but with no success and we had to land with it, not without some apprehension as I had never once managed to effect a smooth landing in the nose-heavy A9-608. However, despite the bumpy arrival the bomb stayed on and we carried it back to dispersal for disarming and removal.

Not long afterwards we had another hang-up, a 250-lb HE bomb this time, and had to carry it all the way home where, for no apparent reason, it fell off when we were in the circuit area. It failed to explode and there was no damage but of course some questions were asked. How we resented such questioning! It always seemed to carry the implication that the crew was at fault. The well-known unreliability of electro-mechanical equipment in a hot/wet climate seemed to be ignored. However, from the aircrews' viewpoint, it might be said that the sceptical attitude of equipment and intelligence officers, shortages of bombs, petrol and food, unreliable equipment, the difficult terrain and the unpredictable weather livened up what was otherwise seen as a rather dull campaign.

Dull though it may have been for the RAAF, the Wewak area operations were hardly seen as such by the Army, which was taking many casualties. There was strong criticism at the time, and since, that the liquidation of by-passed Japanese forces was not militarily justifiable; they were considered to represent no menace to current or future operations against Japan. This view was shared by many of the aircrew engaged. However, given the well-known fanaticism of the Japanese and their willingness to fight to the death, who knew what suicidal enterprises might be launched by these desperate, beleaguered garrisons? Some time in April, indeed, it was reported that the Japanese were planning an attack on Northern Command Headquarters at Madang. It was regarded in the squadron, however, as a mere rumour until the order was given that security was to be intensified and all RAAF personnel, including aircrew, were to be given training in small arms and fieldcraft! But nothing came of it.

It should be noted that nobody in the Pacific area, at that time, thought the war could end in August. Available intelligence pointed to an invasion of the main Japanese islands in November 1945 at a cost of perhaps a million allied casualties. The most optimistic guess about the war's end that I can recall was June 1946. Some of our American colleagues quoted 'The Golden Gate in Forty-Eight' and similar catchy phrases.

Meanwhile, the Aitape-Wewak campaign ground on to its conclusion, apparently justified by political considerations and prestige, and by humanitarian considerations including ending the domination and starvation of the New Guinea natives by the Japanese. When the end came, on 15 August, our crew were airborne, having just completed a strafing mission on a stores dump north of Kiariva when we were ordered by radio to cease all operations and return to base. We were the last crew in No 71 Wing, and in the whole RAAF, to fire its guns at the enemy.

Evasion in the South-West Pacific

For aircrew downed in enemy-occupied territory, walking home presented serious difficulties, even for those uninjured in their descent and in good physical condition. The terrain and climate of the islands made progress extremely slow and tiring and it was impossible to live off the country for any length of time, although a few supplements to any emergency rations carried were available to the knowledgeable. I remember being told how to make sago out of the 'sago' palm, but since it was said to take two days to make enough for one day's subsistence, there was considered to be no future in it.

A few hardy, resourceful souls made long such journeys unaided but, in general, the assistance of natives for food and shelter and guidance was necessary. However, in occupied areas, their loyalty could not be relied upon, and with good reason. Japanese control was harsh and assistance to downed Allied airmen, if detected, was severely dealt with. Nevertheless, natives help saved a number of our men.

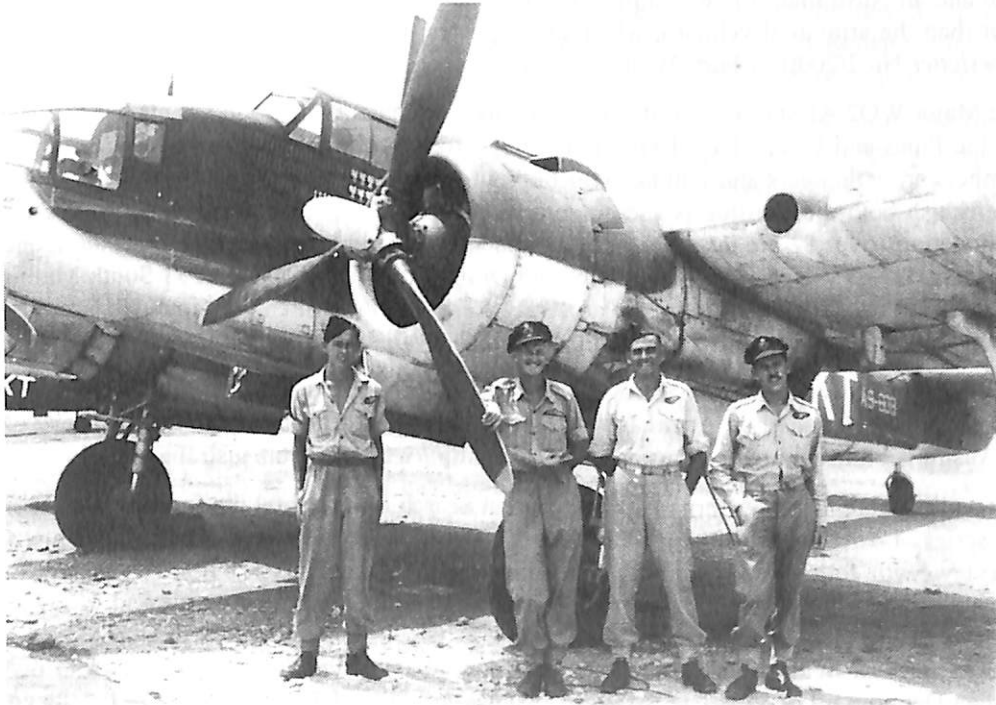
If captured, one's outlook was bleak. The Japanese were not taking prisoners or, to put it more correctly, not keeping them. In confidential briefings during operational training we had been told that we could expect rough treatment if captured but it was generally accepted that survivors of the loss of their aircraft would be killed by their Japanese captors. Even murder by natives was not unknown. Of the hundreds of missing Allied airmen, post-war research revealed 65 definitely proved cases of deliberate murder. Undoubtedly there were very many more. In the islands of New Guinea and the Netherlands Indies only three RAAF men who fell into Japanese hands survived.

Thus, in the event of a successful forced descent into enemy territory, evasion had to be attempted. This was, naturally, facilitated by suitable prior preparations. My own preparations, in which I engaged the participation of the crew, comprised keeping abreast of current Allied and enemy troop dispositions, learning something of the terrain and possible escape routes and the accumulation of survival gear. Knowledge of a few words and phrases of Pidgin was thought to be useful.

My equipment when flying included full clothing, cap, long-sleeved jungle green cotton shirt and long trousers, webbing gaiters, socks and boots, the latter a heavy hob-nailed Army type, fur-lined flying boots being quite unsuitable for jungle walking. Other equipment worn was an inflatable 'Mae West' flotation jacket with whistle, dye-marker and shark-repellent, parachute harness, machete strapped to leg, 0.38 cal. Smith and Wesson revolver with holster and a dozen or so rounds, water bottle, a small webbing haversack with tightly rolled fur felt hat, spare socks, electric torch and a small quantity of concentrated food. Two 'escape kits' were also carried, one Australian and one, more elaborate, American, these being attached by webbing loops to one's waist belt.

The contents of these escape kits, so far as I can remember, comprised maps of the surrounding area printed on silk, a focussing signalling mirror, waterproof matches, a tiny compass, concealable on the person, water-purifying and anti-malarial tablets, sulpha drugs for dysentery

and wounds, amphetamine tablets (Benzedrine), fish hooks and line, condoms for wrapping and water-proofing watch and compass and gun mechanism if swimming rivers and a small hacksaw blade—all of evident utility except perhaps the last, it being doubtful if one would be making it into a prison cell. With the addition of parachutes, navigation bag, camera, radio logs and crystals, spare ammunition drums and other odd gear, the crew presented a curious appearance walking out to the aeroplane. Fortunately, our precautions were never put to the test.



Crew of Bristol Beaufort A-608 KT-V of No 7 Squadron, RAAF, at Tadjji, Northern New Guinea in 1945. From left: Jack Laughton (Wireless Operator / Air Gunner), Alan Fraser (Pilot), Roy Avins (Wireless Operator / Air Gunner), Ted Bragge (Navigator / Bomb Aimer). The aircraft is one of the late-production Mk VIII's fitted with 0.5-in machine guns in the wings. Crewed as above, it was the last RAAF aircraft to take offensive action against the Japanese forces. This was on 15 August 1945, the last day of the war. The aircraft's nose markings represent bombing / strafing raids and photographic missions.

Around the Water Cart

by 'Joe Furphy'

The contents of the former Swan Hill (Victoria) Military Museum went under the hammer on 11 and 12 March. Uniforms, swords and fighting knives were the most sought-after items in the 2,000 lots offered at auction by Albury Antiques and Collectables. A WW1 slouch hat fetched \$750 and an Australian officer's uniform of the same age achieved \$2,050. All items were sold other than the armoured vehicles, which are expected to be the subject of further negotiations. (*Newsletter* No 2/2000, Albury-Wodonga Branch.)

Pipe Major WO2 Alastair Cox of the Royal Victoria Regiment Pipes and Drums has advised Joe that the Pipes and Drums have been invited to perform at the Edinburgh Tattoo in August. All members are volunteers and will be contributing to their own airfares, but they require funding to refurbish both their uniforms and equipment and pay for insurance, a total cost of \$40,000. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible and cheques should be made payable to the Honorary Treasurer, Royal Victoria Regiment Pipes and Drums Assoc Inc, PO Box 233 South Melbourne 3205. The RVR Pipes and Drums is an Army Reserve unit, which was founded in 1899 and served with infantry regiments in both the 1st and 2nd AIF.

The Museums Australia National Conference will be held in Canberra on 23-25 April 2001. A special forum to be held on Anzac Day will focus on the significance of military history within the Australian museum collections. More info at: <http://www.museumaustralia.org.au>

Among the valuable things turned up in the Great Search for memorabilia for possible use in the TV series *Australians at War* ('Water Cart', December 1999) is a BBC recording of an interview with four crew members of a Sunderland, 'N for Nuts', in 1943. The crew were members of 461 Squadron, known as the Anzac Squadron, and were interviewed following an action over the Bay of Biscay on 2 June 1943 in which their aircraft was attacked by eight German JU-88s. Items are still being sought (for study and filming only and return to owner). Contact Department of Veterans' Affairs Documentary Project Team on 13 3254 for the cost of a local call. (*Vetaffairs*, Journal of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, March 2000).

A privately published book which provides valuable information about the living conditions and training of members of the AIF in WWI, particularly the 6th Battalion, is *Thoughts of a Soldier in two World Wars and Peace* by Consett Carre Riddell, DSO. Published in 1999 by his son, it includes his father's letters, photographs, diagrams and drawings from WW1 and some lectures and speeches Lt Col Riddell gave during WW2. Privately published by Dr John Carre Riddell in Melbourne. (*Newsletter*, May 2000, Royal Historical Society of Victoria).

Interested in a full list of the Field Marshals of the British Army from January 1736 (George Hamilton, 1st Earl of Orkney, KT) to 15 March 1994 (Sir Peter Inge, Baron Inge, GCB)? There is one in an article by our member Ralph Sutton, LVO in *Despatches*, Journal of the Military Historical Society of NSW, January-March 2000. In March 1995, the British Ministry of Defence decided that the 'five star' rank of field marshal and its equivalent in the other services would be suspended. The current British CDF, General Sir Charles Guthrie, GCB LVO OBE ADC was not promoted on being appointed. Sir Thomas Blamey GBE KCB CMG DSO (1 January 1950) was our only Field Marshal. His Imperial Majesty Hirohito, Emperor of Japan, KG GCB GCVO (26 June 1928) was stripped of his field marshal rank when Japan entered WW2.

Judith Pugsley of 22 Kathleen Parade, Picnic Point, NSW, 2213 is trying to locate the WWI medals of her grandfather: 4810A Richard Joseph Plum (*Vetaffairs*, March 2000).

Albury-Wodonga Branch member Bob Matejcic has delivered to a Branch meeting his review of *The Silent Men* by Peter Dornan. This book deals with the experiences of 7 Section, 9 Platoon, 2/14th Battalion, said to be the most highly decorated section in British Commonwealth history: one VC, one DCM and four MM. Training at Puckapunyal, fighting the Vichy French in Syria and Lebanon and later the Japanese on the Kokoda Track, and at Gona, are all covered. The title refers to the fact that the soldiers did not talk about their experiences (even to family) until 1955. At \$25 and with a foreword by Sir Roden Cutler, VC, the book received Bob's recommendation. (*Newsletter* No1/2000, Albury-Wodonga Branch).

C Vernon of Paynesville, Victoria, telephone 03 5156 7969 seeks information on the history of 107 Howitzer Battery, 7th Field Artillery Brigade in WWI. His father, Charles Vernon, served with the 107th from May 1916 to May 1920. (*Vetaffairs*, March 2000). (If any member has a copy of John Burridge's 1980 reprint of the history of 7th FAB, you might like to help Mr Vernon: Joe.)

A new book in the Australian Army History Series is *The Other Enemy* by Glen Wahlert. Subtitled 'Australian Soldiers and the Military Police', it covers the history of the provosts from the origins of the Provost Marshal in the colony of New South Wales, through the formation of the Anzac Provost Corps in 1916 and up to the end of WW2. Hard cover, 256pp, \$39.95 retail. (*Newsletter* of the Queensland Branch, January-February 2000.)

Mr Gilbert Bell of Sunshine, Victoria has been given a large mounted photograph of 20 men captioned 'E Coy VMR serving in South Africa 1899-1900'. If any member knows any of the men or is interested in having the photograph, contact Mr Bell on 03 9311 4103. The names listed are Privates Killen, Hennessy, Crosbie, Kitson, McCauley, Morley, Lydiard, Clements, Williams, Pinder, Veall, McFarlane, Wallace, Mallett and Rennie. Also L/Sgt V J Hennessy, Bugler Pleasants, Chaplain (Major) Wray, Corporals Savage and Morrison. (*Vetaffairs*, March 2000).

Our recent East Timor involvement has caused the media to recall the operations of the 2/2nd Independent Company, 2/40th Battalion and 2/4th Pioneer Battalion during WW2. Not much has been said about the other two services in Timor. HMAS *Voyager* was lost on the south coast of Timor on 23 September 1942 while carrying out resupply missions. Her crew were rescued by HMAS *Warrnambool* and HMAS *Kalgoorlie* without loss of a man. When en route to Timor to repatriate 2/2nd Independent Company, HMAS *Armidale* was attacked by Japanese aircraft and sunk with heavy loss of life. RAAF Hudsons on Nos 2 and 13 Squadrons did much to sustain the operations of the Timor force, supplemented later in 1942 by No 31 Beaufighter Squadron. Nos 2 and 13 Squadrons' work in the critical period between April and August 1942 was recognised by the award to each squadron of the United States Presidential Unit Citation. (*Newsletter* of the Queensland Branch, January-February 2000.)

Circle the wagons! An enquirer, who is familiar with the Australian GS wagon MKX, first trialled by the Australian Army in 1910, is seeking a description, specification or detailed drawing of another four-wheeled wagon, also described as GS and appearing in many War Memorial photographs (eg, AWM HO 2683). This wagon is quite different from the MKX. It has long, continuous single-piece standards that are not vertical but curve outwards to support both the angled sides of the wagon and the raves (No. Not the things you get on Friday nights. These are the rails above the sides of the wagon. Joe.). The raves are not demountable as in the

MKX. Would any member able to help with detail of this wagon contact R F Hadlow of Kingston, ACT, telephone 02 6295 6147. (*Vetaffairs*, March 2000).

At the end of WW1, Australian Flying Corps (AFC) members in the United Kingdom departed for home in HMAT *Kaisar-I-Hind* on 6 May 1919 and 1 Squadron AFC left Port Said for Sydney and other ports on board HMAT *Port Sydney* on 5 March 1919. An interesting short history of the AFC from 1912 and of the AFC elements in the UK between 1916 and 1919 is 'Australian Flying Corps Leaves the United Kingdom' by Gerald Weingarth. The first part of this long article is in *Despatch*, the journal of the Military Historical Society of New South Wales, January-March 2000).

Neil Smith of our Victorian Branch is working on a project to establish a comprehensive list of Australians who served in the Boxer Rebellion in 1900. He says that related records are incomplete and in some cases corrupt. One Naval Brigade man said to have served in the Maori Wars was not even born in 1864. Neil would be grateful for any information from members: Neil Smith fax/tel 03-9555 5401 or milhis@alphalink.com.au (*Despatches*, Victorian Branch Newsletter, March 2000).

Noel W Taylor in New Zealand is seeking information on the 2nd Battery, Rhodesian Field Force (RFF) in the Boer War. He says that this battery was formed by soldiers from Australia, New Zealand (the 1st Battery was entirely New Zealanders) and the Imperial Yeomanry; the first BC was Major Paris, Royal Marine Artillery. If anyone can assist, contact him at 49 Wyoming Avenue, Murray's Bay, Auckland, NZ. (*Despatch*, Journal of the Military Historical Society of New South Wales, January- March 2000).

The correct Internet addresses for web sites about the Boer War (*Water Cart*, December 1999) are:

Australian War Graves in South Africa 1899-1902: <http://www.hagsoc.org.au/sagraves>

The Boer War Nominal Roll: http://www.pcug.org.au/~croe/oz_boer.htm (Correction issued by DVA in *Vetaffairs*, March 2000).

One of the crew of the *Enola Gay*, Major Thomas Wilson Freerebee, died recently at the age of 81 years. The *Enola Gay's* pilot, Brigadier-General Paul Tibbets, had hand-picked Freerebee for his crew and called him, 'the best bombardier who ever looked through the eyepiece of a Norden bomb site'. Freerebee's death leaves only four surviving members of the crew which dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. They are: Tibbets, navigator Ted Van Kirk, weapons officer Morris Jepsen and radio operator Richard Nelson. (*Courier Mail*, 18 March 2000)

Some more tidbits from the Victorian Branch *Despatches* for March 2000:

- HMAS *Castlemaine*. The corvette/minesweeper, built at Williamstown, Victoria in 1941-42 has been restored as a floating museum at Williamstown. Telephone 03 9853 0823 for details.
- RAF Station Yatesbury in Wiltshire, England has been purchased by an enthusiast and will again be used a museum and vintage aircraft base.
- A hat similar to our Hats KFF was worn in the Middle East by a British unit known as the *Commandero*, said to be a 'British version of the French Foreign Legion'. (A new one on Joe! Anyone know any more about this unit? : Joe).
- This issue of *Despatches* contains an extract from a colour feature in *The Argus* (Melbourne) of 11 April 1942 illustrating badges such as the Reserved Occupations Badge,

Female Relatives Badges for WW1 and WW2 and the badge issued to civilian war workers proceeding overseas from Australia in WW1.

- A commemorative medal will be issued in 2000 to recognise those men and women who have achieved in Australian sport, either as athletes or as part of the support base. Designs for the medal and ribbon have been submitted to the Prime Minister for approval.

And finally, for your interest, a few new and old books:

- ✓ *Major and Mrs Holt's Battle Map of Gallipoli*. Comprises 1 peninsula map with 3 detailed battlefield maps. Index, war cemeteries and battlefields shown. New. \$15.50.
- ✓ *Kokoda to the Sea*. F Sublet. A history of the 1942 campaign in Papua. Slouch Hat Publications. 2000. 192pp. Illustrations & maps. HC. \$45.00.
- ✓ *The Forty-First*. Being a record of the 41st Battalion AIF during the Great War 1914-1918. Reprint. \$50.00
- ✓ *Russell's Despatches from the Crimea 1854-1856*. Bentley N (Ed) H&W New York 1966. 287pp. Slight tears otherwise good condition. \$25.00
- ✓ *Now Thrive the Armourers*. Story of action with the Gloucestershire Regiment in Korea November 1950-April 1951. Holles R O George Harrap, London, 1953 (reprint). 176pp, illustrated, HC. \$30.00

All the above from K R White Books, Tuggeranong, ACT, telephone 02-6292 6600.

Society Notes

Governor's visit to the Western Australian MHSA Branch 15 March 2000

The Western Australian Governor, Major-General Michael Jeffery, accepted an invitation by the Society to give a talk on his early days at Duntroon and his later experiences as a platoon commander in Vietnam with 8 RAR. We were able to use the Syd Jenkins room in the WA Army Museum at Fremantle. It was an excellent venue which complemented the style and manner of our guest.

The President, Russell Mehan, did some research prior to the talk and found that an uncle of the Governor was a Captain Ivan Johnson in the 2.16 Battalion. He was killed-in-action in Syria. Instead of making the introduction as 'We welcome your Excellency ... etc', Russell came up with 'We welcome the nephew of the late Captain Ivan Johnson ...'. That set the tone for the evening. Michael Jeffrey then entertained us with the more humorous aspects of an education within the Military Academy. However, he was at pains to point out that good officers are those who listen and take heed of the NCOs—a good working relationship between a young subaltern and a senior non-com breeds mutual respect and lessons in leadership. The Governor said that he had maintained his friendships in this area and they would often still meet. He expressed a debt of gratitude to those with whom he had worked.

In a more serious vein he discussed the Vietnam War, and in a disguised sort of way the horrors of it all. The most damaging effect on those who fought was the reception they received when they returned to Australia. He has never come to terms with that and one can hardly blame him. He won the Military Cross as a platoon commander in 1969.

He kindly described is a 'keepers of history'—a kindly compliment that was well received. The evening finished with a supper kindly organised by Mrs Dale Olsen of the Army Museum. Thanks to Captain Wayne Gardiner RFD, MHSWA member and curator of the museum who organised the venue.



Russell Mehan, President, MHSWA(WA), Maj Gen Michael Jeffrey, Governor of WA, and Capt Wayne Gardiner, Curator, Army Museum of WA, past President, MHSWA(WA)

Sabretache Award

In accordance with criteria approved in 1998, a Federal Council subcommittee comprising Richard Murison and Barry Clissold make recommendations for the *Sabretache* Award. The recommendations were accepted by Federal Council as follows:

1998 Winner: Warren Perry MBE ED MA BEC for 'Australia's Military Board 1905-76—some stray thoughts on a defunct institution'. (Issue No 1)

1998 Highly Commended: Clem Sargent for 'The Governor's Body Guard of Light Horse 1801-1834'. (Issue No 4)

1999 Winner: Lt Col T C Sargent (retd) for 'The British Garrison in Australia 1788-1841—Part 2: Governors versus Garrison'. (Issue No 3)

1999 Highly Commended: A F Harris for 'The South Australian Contingent to Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations 1897'. (Issue No 1)

Obituary—Hans Joachim Zwillenberg (1915-2000)

The following eulogy was delivered at the funeral of Hans Zwillenberg in the ACT Branch of the MHSA was represented by a number of members:

Hans was born in December 1915 in Deutch Eylau Germany. He was one of two children, his parents Lottchen Ad Max being the owners of a flour mill. Due to the circumstances regarding his departure from Europe, not much is known about Hans's early life, as he steadfastly refused to talk about it.

He was fortunate to migrate to Australia, arriving here by ship in November 1938. In his early years in Australia he worked as a wheat lumper, timber getter, commercial traveller, and as a flour miller in various places. Ironically, he was, sacked as working as a flour miller when the second world war was declared.

Hans became a citizen in 1945, his loyalty to his new country is evident by the flag that is flown from the verandah of his home. Some thirty one years after obtaining citizenship Hans wrote to the Department of Foreign Affairs requesting the return of his German passport. The passport was located and returned.

The pursuit of qualifications and love of academia appears to have been a passion. He has been credited with: Librarian Qualifications in 1954; Primary Metallurgy in 1958; Bachelor of Arts (History, Politics and German Literature) University of Adelaide in 1962; Master of Arts (Research Thesis in History) University of Adelaide in 1971; and Masters of Arts, Honours, (Research Thesis in History) University of NSW in 1993.

His further interest was in matters military, where he served in the CMF from 1948 to 1963 and held the substantive rank of Major. His last appointment was as company commander for 4 years.

Other activities and memberships were: Royal Australian Chemical Institute; Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy; Institute of Information Scientists; Royal Institute of Public Administration; Australian Computer Society; Library Association of Australia; Australian Institute of Management; United Services Institutions of ACT; Missions to Seaman; Military Historical Society of Australia; and Church of England Girls' Grammar School Professional Officers Association Goethe Society. In many of these he held office.

In 1945, Hans was employed by the Adelaide Chemical & Fertilizer Company as their Librarian and technical Officer, a position he held for five years. He and his family moved to Port Pirie in 1950, Hans taking up the post of Librarian and information officer, with the Broken Hill Associated Smelters, a position he held for twelve years. Following on from Port Pirie, Hans spent six years with the Defence Research Centre in Salisbury as the Senior Librarian.

He and his family relocated to Canberra in 1968. Hans moved from the Department of Supply to the National Library of Australia in 1975. He has had a distinguished career in his chosen field of Librarianship, having been the Director Technology and later the Director of Science and Technology until his retirement in 1980.

In 1985 he was awarded the Robert D Williamson Award for achievements in information science. Over the years he has had some twenty-three papers published, the titles perhaps giving insight to his imagination and knowledge. One title of interest, 'professors without a profession' one would wonder what pithy insightful revelations would be contained in this

particular publication. There has also been a wealth of unpublished papers and addresses to a diverse group of Professional and community based organisations.

Following his retirement, Hans refused to be idle and became engaged in consulting activities. He specialised in the coverage of conference proceedings in the field of information services management, both in Australia and Europe. He was the Australian representative of the information retrieval services offered by the European Space Agency in Frascati, Italy. He made several visits to Frascati, a renowned wine area

Hans has been a dedicated Rotaflan since 1970, following the ideals of Rotary. Through his efforts, the Canberra Woden Club has benefited from several new members, some of you here today having been introduced to Rotary through Hans.

Over and above all of this, Hans was a devoted husband and family man, father of Verity and grandfather of Allen. He was well loved by Mirrie's family and closely followed their matters with interest. He, together with Mirrie, enjoyed travelling to and from Adelaide on numerous occasions when family get togethers were held.

Having had such an active and interesting life, it is no surprise that Hans disliked gardening, painting and doing odd jobs around the house. His leisure pursuits, by his own admission, consisted of doing nothing, and as we know he was fond of good food and wine. Hans was a man who was admired, and will be missed by many. I think he would like us to miss him, but not mourn him.

Lt Col I G Wheaton supplied the following information on Hans Army Service.

Enlisted in the CMF either during or after 1948 at Port Pirie, SA, in what was then D Coy 27 Bn South Australian Scottish Regiment. By 1952 he was a sergeant; he appears in a group photo of 27 Bn Sergeants taken at the Annual Camp held at Caloote in March of that year. He was promoted Lieutenant on 13 April 1953 and Captain 20 December 1956.

Hans served with D Coy 27 Bn until 1953 when 43/48Bn, The Hindmarsh Regiment was raised, D Coy was transferred to that battalion. He remained with D Coy until the Pentropic reorganization of 1960. As a captain he took command of D Coy, taking over from Major J O Geddes, MBE, ED, when it was transferred to 1 Bn Royal South Australia Regiment; it was about this time he was promoted to Major. He appears in a photo of the officers of 1 RSAR dated 1962, thought to be his last year with the Army. Possibly he retired in 1963 as he would have then turned 47 the retirement age for majors.

When Hans joined the CAW as a private soldier he was a good deal older than his contemporaries, if this worried him, he never showed it, being at all times a dedicated soldier. Owen Geddes, himself a fish out of water in a rifle company (he had been an administrative officer in WW2) early on recognized Hans' potential with his eye for detail and organising ability. Later their mutual respect for each other developed, maintaining their friendship up until Geddes died some two or three years ago.

Hans was a popular company commander, while keeping his distance he maintained respect and was zealous in looking after his soldiers' welfare. A country rifle company was both a restrictive and challenging area for the likes of Geddes and Zwillenberg to shine, their talents were more likely to flourish in a staff appointment in a higher headquarters. A day or two ago I was speaking to an ex sergeant who served in D Coy, when I told him of Hans' death, he replied, he was a gentleman.

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except Good Friday
Army Museum of SA
Keswick Barracks
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8.15 pm

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08 9307 7780

3rd Wednesday of the month
Fremantle Army Museum
7.30 pm

Notes from the Editor on contributions to *Sabretache*

While the following are merely guidelines, it certainly helps the Editor in preparing copy for publication if these guidelines are followed. Nevertheless, potential contributors should not be deterred by them if, for example, you do not have access to computers or typewriters. Handwritten articles are always welcome, although, if publication deadlines are tight, they might not be published until the next issue.

Typewritten submissions are preferred. Material should be double spaced with a margin. If your article is prepared on a computer please send a copy on a 3.5' disk (together with a paper copy).

Please write dates in the form 11 June 1993, without punctuation. Ranks, initials and decorations should be without full-stops, eg, Capt B J R Brown MC MM.

Please feel free to use footnotes, which should be grouped at the end of the article (however, when published in *Sabretache* they will appear at the foot of the relevant page). As well as references cited, footnotes should be used for asides that are not central to the article.

Photos to illustrate the article are welcomed and encouraged. However, if you can, forward copies of photos rather than originals.

Articles, preferably, should be in the range of 2,000-2,500 words (approx 4 typeset pages) or 5,000-7,000 words (approx 10 typeset pages) for major feature articles. Articles should be submitted in accordance with the time limits indicated on page 2. Recently, lateness in receiving articles has meant that the Journal has been delayed in publication. Nevertheless, where an article is of particular importance, but is received late, the Editor will endeavour to publish the article if possible and space permitting.

Authors of published articles retain copyright of their articles, but once an article is published in *Sabretache*, the Society, as well as the author, each have the independent right to republish (electronically or in print), or licence the use of the article.

Elizabeth Topperwien
Editor



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(Name/Rank etc.)

Of (Address)

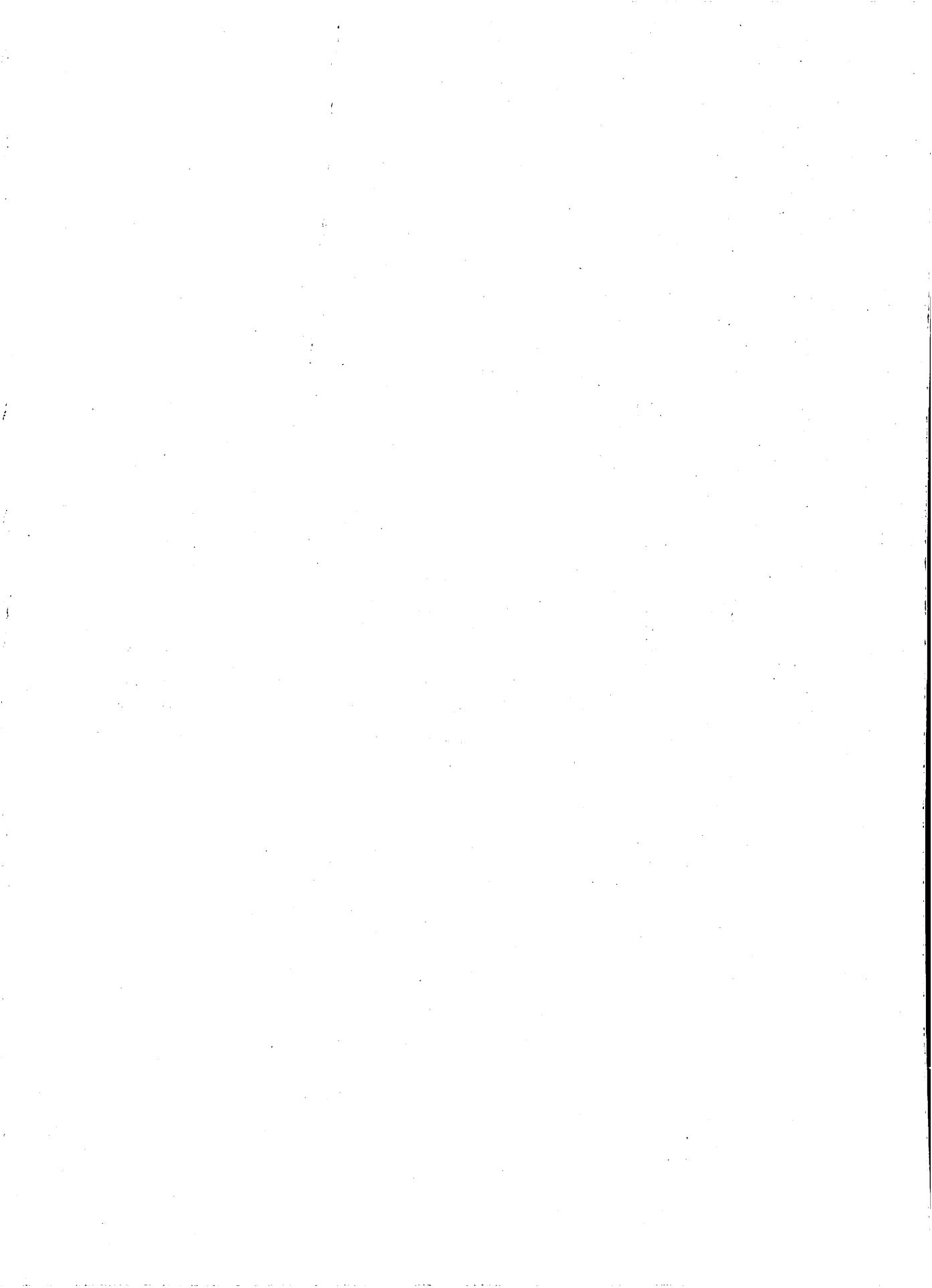
hereby apply for membership of the MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA and wish to be admitted as a *Corresponding Member/*Subscriber to *Sabretache* I*Branch Member of the

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My main interests are

I/*We enclose remittance of A\$30.00 being annual subscription, due 1 July each year.

Send to: Federal Secretary, PO Box 30, Garran, ACT 2605, Australia



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