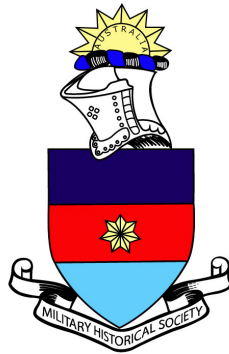


Military Historical Society of Australia
Sabretache



Copyright © 1957-2019 Military Historical Society of Australia on behalf of the Society and its authors who retain copyright of all their published material and articles. All Rights Reserved.

Sabretache policy is that the submission of material gives the Society permission to print your material, to allow the material to be included in digital databases such as the MHSa website, Australian Public Affairs-Full Text, INFORMIT and EBSCO. Reprints to non-profit historical and other societies will be approved provided suitable attribution is included and a copy of the reprint is sent to the author. Copyright remains with the author who may reprint his or her article or material from the article without seeking permission from the Society.

The Society encourages the download and distribution of *Sabretache* for personal use only and *Sabretache* can not be reproduced without the written consent of the Society.

www.mhsa.org.au

Military Historical Society of Australia
PO Box 5030, Garran, ACT 2605.
email: webmaster@mhsa.org.au



No VC for Rankin?

Lieutenant Tom Lewis RAN
Royal Australian Naval College, Jervis Bay

The Royal Australian Navy has never won a Victoria Cross. Why this is so is a curious matter. Valour is the quality in battle for which the Cross is awarded, and the lack of VCs seems more to do with convoluted bureaucracy than a dearth of this quality. There is certainly the material for such recognition, and so this article hopes to prove, by comparing a VC winner from the Royal Navy with one of our own – Lieutenant Commander Rankin of HMAS YARRA.

The RN recipient has some coincidental links to ourselves. Commander Fogarty Fegen was an Executive Officer of the Royal Australian Naval College from 1928 to 1929. He was posted from the Royal Navy to the RAN, and arrived in the College on 20 January 1928. He was listed in the College Yearbook for that year as “Edward S F Fegen”; and so the use of his third name “Fogarty” is presumed to be his preferred one. He was much admired at the College: not only was he a fine Rugby coach, but his wife and he put on splendid afternoon teas for the teenage and ever-hungry cadets.¹ He left the College in August 1929.

Fegen had been in the RN since 1904. He served throughout WWI as a Lieutenant in the ships *Amphion* and *Faulknor*, and as second in command of torpedo-boat No. 26 and the destroyers *Moy* and *Paladin*.²

He continued in command of various destroyers after the Armistice was signed in 1918. In 1924 he was appointed to *Colossus*, a training ship. From January 1926, until the summer of 1927, when he was promoted Commander, he was captain of *Forres* and attached to Dartmouth College for the instruction of cadets.

After leaving the College he was commander – that is, what we now call Executive Officer – of the cruiser *Suffolk* in China. During that time he was commended by the Admiralty and awarded a life-saving medal by the Dutch government as Officer-in-Charge of the boats’ crews from the *Suffolk*. The boats travelled some 28 miles in very rough weather to rescue the crew of the merchant ship *Hedwig*, which was aground on a reef between the coast of China and the Philippines.

Later, Fegen served at the Anti-Submarine school, on the staff of Chatham Dockyard, and in the cruisers *Dauntless*, *Dragon* and *Curllew* in reserve. Immediately before the war he was Executive Officer of the cruiser *Emerald*. He was made Acting Captain a few months before WWII began.

On 5 November 1940 HMS *Jervis Bay* – an echo of his old posting to Australia’s Jervis Bay on the NSW coast – under Fegen’s command, was making her way from the United States to England, as the sole escort for more than 30 merchant ships. *Jervis Bay*, a former passenger liner built in 1922-23, had a displacement of 14,000 tons and a maximum speed of around 15 knots. She was armed with seven 6-inch guns.

¹ Conversation with Ian Downs, cadet at RAN College 1929-1932, September 2001.

² Bruce, Anthony and Cogar, William. *An Encyclopedia of Naval History*. New York: Facts on File, 1998.

Fogarty Fegen's Victoria Cross citation takes up the story:

For valour in challenging hopeless odds and giving his life to save the many ships it was his duty to protect. On the 5th November, 1940, in heavy seas Captain Fegen, in his Majesty's Armed Merchant Cruiser *Jervis Bay*, was escorting thirty-one Merchantmen. Sighting a powerful German warship, he at once drew clear of the Convoy, made straight for the Enemy and brought his ship between the raider and her prey, so that they might scatter to escape. Crippled, in flames, unable to reply for nearly an hour the *Jervis Bay* held the German's fire. So she went down; but of the Merchantmen, all but four or five were saved.

The researched history¹ written after the war gives more information. The German ship was the pocket-battleship *Admiral Scheer*, a heavily-armoured ship of 12 200 tons, six 11" and eight 5.9" guns. Six out of the merchant ships were sunk, and of the JERVIS BAY's complement; nearly all were lost. Fegen himself was said to be gravely wounded in the action, almost losing one arm, but he stayed at his post on the bridge and fought on until the end of his ship, going down with her into the deep Atlantic.

One of the convoy vessels², the Swedish ship *Stureholm* returned to the scene of the action after dark and rescued the survivors. The *Jervis Bay* had been the sole escort for this convoy so for a merchant ship to return to the scene unescorted was indeed the act of brave men. Another notable ship in the convoy was the tanker *San Demetrio*. The *Scheer* left her immobilized and ablaze. Her crew abandoned ship, but later some reboarded and were able to put out the fire and eventually get up steam and return to the UK. This story was made the subject of the early Ealing Studios film "San Demetrio, London", filmed during the war, using the remains of the ship as a set.³

The 1941 RAN College Yearbook carried a special tribute to Commander Fegen – the news about the battle received too late to be carried in the previous year's edition. The obituary noted the coincidence of his ship's name – *Jervis Bay* – giving yet another link to the College.

It concluded that "it is intended to erect at the College some memorial to this very gallant officer; and we know that all who have been connected with the College at any time will desire to pay tribute to the memory of our former commander."

Indeed the memorial was built at HMAS *Creswell*, and the Historical Collection there has been fortunate in acquiring a pencil sketch of the man; a replica of his Victoria Cross, and several other items associated with Captain Fogarty Fegen RN, VC.

However, why not bring forward into recognition one who is even more of the RAN, the College and HMAS *Creswell* – and who was just as brave in very similar circumstances. Less than two years later, this member of the class of 1921 was in command of the sloop HMAS *Yarra*. Lieutenant Commander Robert Rankin had specialised in surveying⁴, but had been caught up in the war in more of a fighting role. He had just been posted from Alexandria in the Mediterranean after commanding there the repair ship HMS *Resource* – and doing that job "remarkably well" according to his report.⁵

The 1060 ton sloop *Yarra* was sole escort for two merchant ships and a small minesweeper steering to the south-east of Christmas Island on the morning of the 4th of March 1942. The

¹ Bruce, Anthony and Cogar, William. *An Encyclopedia of Naval History*. New York: Facts on File, 1998.

² Watts, Martin. Web site article on HMS JERVIS BAY, the post-action proceedings, and the memorial erected to the convoy losses. <http://www.saintjohn.nbcc.nb.ca/~JervisBay/>. Including emails October 2000.

³ Watts, Martin. Web site article on HMS JERVIS BAY, the post-action proceedings, and the memorial erected to the convoy losses. <http://www.saintjohn.nbcc.nb.ca/~JervisBay/>. Emails October 2000.

⁴ Eldridge, FB. *A History of the Royal Australian Naval College*. Melbourne: Georgian House, 1949. (403)

⁵ Bradford, John. *In the Highest Traditions*. SA: Seaview Press, 2000.

Allies were in disarray before the mighty Japanese war machine sweeping south, taking Singapore, smashing Darwin, and bringing death and destruction to Allied shipping, including USS *Houston* and HMAS *Perth* with our Captain Waller in command. *Yarra* had been shadowed the previous day by enemy aircraft, and had been then attacked continuously from the air for 11 hours. She had been part of a bigger convoy but with the situation deteriorating the convoy was split and *Yarra's* part of four ships turned for Australia, stopping only briefly to pick up survivors in two lifeboats from the Dutch merchant ship *Paragi*. Now from the north-east came three Japanese cruisers and two destroyers¹ of Admiral Kondo's Second Fleet.²

Rankin sighted the enemy, made a sighting report, told his convoy to scatter, and took station between the Japanese and the convoy to make smoke to screen them as he engaged. Signalling "I intend to charge the enemy",³ he order "Full Speed Ahead" and opened fire. It was a hopeless situation. The Japanese were aided by two target-spotting planes, rushed in at 30 knots, and hit the Allied ships at will. The YARRA's three four-inch guns were no match for the thirty eight-inch guns of the Japanese cruisers. The ships ANKING, MMS.51 and FRANCOL were sunk one by one with their ships' companies taking to the boats.

Yarra was still shooting an hour and a half after battle had been joined, but she had been severely hit by then and was on fire and listing to port. Just after eight o'clock Rankin ordered "Abandon Ship"⁴ and then an eight inch salvo hit the bridge, killing him instantly. The two destroyers closed in and began circling the sloop, pouring fire into her. Still *Yarra* fought, with Leading Seaman Taylor, captain of the last remaining gun, disregarding the order and continuing to return fire. 34 of the ship's company were by now on rafts and saw her final moments, but of these men only 13 would survive.

Consider the similarities in the actions.

- Both captains made the correct decision in terms of their ship's role – to defend their convoy by slowing the enemy enough to allow the convoy to escape.
- Both captains paid the ultimate price in terms of their personal safety – they were killed in action.

The fact that Fegen's convoy was more successful in escape than Rankin's was due to fortune rather than any action of the RN officer. His battle took place in the afternoon to dusk and the Canadian ships had the oncoming night to aid their escape. Rankin's action was in the early morning with the convoy ships having no cover of darkness.

In terms of valour in the face of the enemy – the criteria for which the Victoria Cross is awarded – there appears little difference in the actions. Fegen's had read – "For valour in challenging hopeless odds and giving his life to save the many ships it was his duty to protect". How true it is that this could be Rankin's epitaph as well.

But through cumbersome administrative procedures, inertia and perhaps an unwillingness to open up questions of unrecognized valour in battles of the past, Rankin saw no award at all for his actions. As John Bradford has pointed out in his work *In the Highest Traditions*, in those

¹ Some accounts – eg, Eldridge – say four destroyers. Gill cites *Arashi* and *Nowaki* as the ships involved.

² Gill, pp. 629-632.

³ McGuire, Francis. *The Royal Australian Navy*. (224)

⁴ Different accounts of the battle give different versions of this. For example, McGuire's account was published well before that found in Gill, but as John Bradford has pointed out to me, the research for both was probably conducted at same time: McGuire too was given access to one of the survivors' - John Murphy's - eyewitness account. One question is whether the "XO" Smith or Rankin gave 'abandon ship' order. Bradford suggests Bromilow, only survivor from the bridge team, as being adamant Rankin gave the order. It may well be that Smith was relaying the order by word of mouth.

days it took laborious form-filling to recommend awards in the Navy – more so than in the RN with more restrictions on ship commanders as to what their members could be recommended for.¹

Nevertheless, the Royal Australian Navy has never won a VC. I feel sure that actions such as Rankin's are an oversight. Compared to gallant actions such as Fogarty Fegen's – and that man's much-deserved decoration – perhaps we have unjustly treated some of our naval best. The naming of a fine submarine after Rankin – coincidentally in the same week of the year that JERVIS BAY was lost - is perhaps only the beginning of redemption and recognition long overdue.

Sources

Bradford, John. *In the Highest Traditions*. SA: Seaview Press, 2000. In addition, perceptive comments on the draft of this article are acknowledged.

Bruce, Anthony and Cogar, William. *An Encyclopedia of Naval History*. New York: Facts on File, 1998.

Downs, Ian, Naval Cadet at RAN College 1929-1932, conversation with the author, September 2001.

Eldridge, FB. *A History of the Royal Australian Naval College*. Melbourne: Georgian House, 1949.

Fogarty Fegen Victoria Cross Citation. Historical Collection, RANC. An undated framed history of Fegen is also in the same display as well as a pencil sketch of the man.

Gill, G. Hermon. *The Royal Australian Navy 1939-1942*. Canberra: Australian War Memorial, 1957.

McGuire, Francis. *The Royal Australian Navy*. Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 1948.

RAN College magazines. 1928, 1929, 1940-45. RAN College Historical Collection.

Watts, Martin. Web site article on HMS JERVIS BAY, the post-action proceedings, and the memorial erected to the convoy losses. <http://www.saintjohn.nbcc.nb.ca/~JervisBay/>. Including Emails October 2000.

¹ See John Bradford's book for a detailed explanation.

Copyright of Full Text rests with the original copyright owner and, except as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, copying this copyright material is prohibited without the permission of the owner or its exclusive licensee or agent or by way of a licence from Copyright Agency Limited. For information about such licences contact Copyright Agency Limited on (02) 93947600 (ph) or (02) 93947601 (fax)



200208801

Four Victoria Cross Obituaries

Anthony Staunton

Four Victoria Cross recipients passed away between November 2001 and February 2002.

Sir Roden Cutler VC AK KCMG KCVO CBE

**Lieutenant, 2/5th Australian Field Regiment, 7th Australian Division
19 June to 6 July 1941, at Merdjayoun-Damour area, Lebanon.**



CITATION: For most conspicuous and sustained gallantry during the Syrian Campaign and for outstanding bravery during the bitter fighting at Merdjayoun when this artillery officer became a byword amongst forward troops with which he worked. At Merdjayoun on 19th June, 1941, our infantry attack was checked after suffering heavy casualties from an enemy counter-attack with tanks. Enemy machine gun fire swept the ground, but Lieutenant Cutler with another artillery officer and a small party pushed on ahead of the infantry and established an outpost in a house. The telephone line was cut and he went out and mended this line under machine gun fire and returned to the house, from which enemy posts and batteries were successfully engaged. The enemy then attacked this outpost with infantry and tanks, killing the Bren gunner and mortally wounding other officers. Lieutenant Cutler and another manned the anti-tank rifle and Bren gun and fought back, driving the enemy infantry away. The tanks continued the attack, but under constant fire from the anti-tank rifle and Bren gun eventually withdrew. Lieutenant Cutler then personally supervised the evacuation of the wounded members of his party. Undaunted he pressed for a further advance. He had been ordered to establish an outpost from which he could register the only road by which the enemy transport could enter the town. With a small party of volunteers he pressed on until finally with one other he succeeded in establishing an outpost right in the town, which was occupied by the Foreign Legion, despite enemy machine gun fire which prevented our infantry from advancing. At this time Lieutenant Cutler knew the enemy were massing on his left for a counter-attack and that he was in danger of being cut off. Nevertheless he carried out his task of registering the battery on the road and engaging enemy posts. The enemy counter-attacked with infantry and tanks and he was out off. He was forced to go to ground, but after dark succeeded in making his way through enemy lines. His work in registering the only road by which enemy transport could enter the town was of vital importance and a big factor in the enemy's subsequent retreat. On the night of 23rd-24th June he was in charge of a 25-pounder sent forward into our forward defended localities to silence an enemy anti-tank gun and post, which had held up our attack. This he did and next morning the recapture of Merdjayoun was completed. Later at Damour on 6th July, when our forward infantry were pinned to the ground by heavy hostile machine gun fire Lieutenant Cutler, regardless of all danger, went to bring a line to his outpost when he was seriously wounded. Twenty-six hours elapsed before it was possible to rescue this officer, whose wounds by this time had become septic necessitating the amputation of his leg. Throughout the campaign this officer's courage was unparalleled and his work was a big factor in the recapture of Merdjayoun. (London Gazette: 28 November 1941)

Sir Roden Cutler VC, former Governor of New South Wales who was strikingly tall and, despite his loss of a leg, had a military bearing and moustache, passed away on Thursday 21 February

2002 at the age of 85. He won the Victoria Cross while fighting against the Vichy French during the Syrian campaign in 1941.

Arthur Roden Cutler was born on 24 May 1916 at Manly, New South Wales. He was educated at Sydney High School and Sydney University, where he read Economics. He joined the Public Trust Office in 1934. He joined the Sydney University Regiment while a student and was commissioned Lieutenant in the CMF on 10 November 1940. He joined the 2nd AIF on 1 May 1940 and was posted to the 2/5th Field Regiment. He was invalided home and resigned his AIF commission in December 1941. The Governor-General Lord Gowrie VC presented the VC to him in Sydney on 11 June 1942.

Cutler first became State Secretary of the Returned Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia, then became a member of the Aliens Classification and Advisory Committee. In 1943 he was appointed an assistant deputy director of the Security Service before taking the position of assistant commissioner of the Repatriation Department. Cutler was appointed Australian High Commissioner in New Zealand. He was then posted to Ceylon and was Minister to Egypt when the Suez Crisis began. He was Secretary-General to the South-East Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO) Conference of Ministers 1957 and chief of protocol at the Department of External Affairs in Canberra before being appointed High Commissioner to Pakistan and then Consul General in New York from 1961-65.

Shortly after taking up his appointment as Australian ambassador to the Netherlands the Premier of New South Wales appointed him as Governor of New South Wales. In his 15 years as Governor he popularised the institution of the governorship, without compromising its essential character. After retiring as Governor he was chairman of the State Bank of New South Wales from 1981 to 1986. He was Honorary Colonel of the Royal New South Wales Regiment, and Honorary Air Commodore of the Royal Australian Air Force and served as overseas vice-chairman of the VC and GC Association from 1986 to 1991, and deputy president from 1991.

In 1946, Cutler married Helen Morris of Sydney who died in 1990. In 1993 he married Joan Goodwin who survives as do his four sons from the first marriage.

No 4080657 Edward Thomas Chapman

Corporal, 3rd Bn The Monmouthshire Regiment



CITATION: On 2 April 1945 a company of the Monmouthshire Regiment crossed the Dortmund-Ems canal and was ordered to assault the ridge of the Teutoberger Wald, which dominates the surrounding country. This ridge is steep, thickly wooded and is ideal defensive country. It was, moreover, defended by a battalion of German officer cadets and their instructors, all of them picked men and fanatical Nazis.

Corporal Chapman was advancing with his section in single file along a narrow track, when the enemy suddenly opened fire with machine-guns at short range, inflicting heavy casualties and causing some confusion. Corporal

Chapman immediately ordered his section to take cover, and, seizing the Bren gun, he advanced alone, firing the gun from his hip, and mowed down the enemy at point blank range, forcing them to retire in disorder.

At this point, however, his company was ordered to withdraw; but Corporal Chapman and his section were still left in their advance position, as the order could not be got forward to them.

The enemy then began to close up to Corporal Chapman and his isolated section and, under cover of intense machine-gun fire, they made determined charges with the bayonets. Corporal Chapman again rose with his Bren gun to meet the assaults and on each occasion halted their advance.

He had now nearly run out of ammunition. Shouting to his section for more bandoliers, he dropped into a fold in the ground and covered those bringing up the ammunition by lying on his back and firing the Bren gun over his shoulder. A party of Germans made every effort eliminate him with grenades, but with a reloaded magazine, he closed with them and once again drove the enemy back with considerable casualties.

During the withdrawal of his company, the company commander had been severely wounded and left lying in the open a short distance from Corporal Chapman. Satisfied that his section was now secure, at any rate for the moment, he went out alone under withering fire and carried his company commander for 50 yards to comparative safety. On the way a sniper hit the officer again, wounding Corporal Chapman in the hip and, when he reached our lines, it was discovered that the officer had been killed.

In spite of his wounds, Corporal Chapman refused to be evacuated and went back to his company until the position was fully restored two hours later.

Throughout the action Corporal Chapman displayed outstanding gallantry and superb courage. Single-handed he repulsed the attacks of well-led, determined troops and gave his battalion time to re-organise on a vital piece of ground overlooking the only bridge across the canal. His magnificent bravery played a very large part in the capture of this vital ridge and in the successful development of subsequent operations. (*The London Gazette*: 13 July 1945)

Edward Chapman, who died 3 February 2002 aged 82, was awarded a VC as a corporal in the final stages of British advance into northern Germany. He was born on 13 January 1920 at Pen Y Graig, Pontllytyn, Glamorgan and educated at Fochriw School which he left at age 14 to work as a miner at Ogilvey Colliery at Deri like his father and grandfather before him.

On 19 April 1940 Chapman enlisted in the Monmouthshire Regiment. He landed with the 2nd Monmouths on 25 June 1944 and fought in Normandy where he was wounded in the breakout at Falaise. He then joined the 3rd Monmouths for battles in the Low Countries and North West Germany, taking part in the Rhine crossing. He was presented with his award by King George VI at Buckingham Palace on 31 July 1945.

After the war Chapman worked first for Rhynj Engineering, and then for the Great Western Railway where he was employed in track maintenance. Later he worked as a nylon spinner at Pontypool for 25 years until his retirement in 1982. In 1948 he rejoined the Territorial Army, serving until 1957, by which time he had reached the rank of Company Sergeant Major. He was awarded a British Empire Medal for his TA service.

In 1942 he married Rhoda Frances Jean Watkins, of Belfast. A modest hero, described as a "quiet family man", he died after suffering heart problems for a number of years and is survived by his wife and their three children.

Thomas William GOULD

Petty Officer, HM Submarine *Thrasher*

On 16 February 1942 north of Crete, in the Mediterranean, HM Submarine *Thrasher*, after attacking and sinking a supply ship, was itself attacked, and later, after surfacing, two unexploded bombs were discovered in the gun-casing. The first lieutenant (P S W Roberts) and Petty Officer Gould removed the first one without too much difficulty, but the second was lying in a very confined space and they had to approach it lying full length. Petty

Officer Gould then lay on his back with the bomb in his arms while the lieutenant dragged him along by the shoulders. It was 40 minutes before they got the bomb clear and dropped it over the side.

Thomas William Gould, the only Jewish Victoria Cross recipient of World War II, died on 6 December 2001 aged 86. He was born at Dover on 28 December 1914. His father, Reuben Gould, was killed in action in 1916. His mother remarried to Petty Officer Cheeseman. From St James's School, Dover, Gould joined the Royal Navy on 29 September 1933 and joined the submarines in 1937. He was rated Acting Petty Officer on 17 August 1940. Gould was mentioned in dispatches after the submarine *Truculent* sank U-308 off the Faroes on 4 June 1943. He was presented with his award by King George VI at Buckingham Palace in March 1943.

Gould was a quiet, conscientious man of great personal presence. Meticulous in his habits, he was always smartly dressed and in later life grew a luxuriant naval beard and moustache. He married Phyllis Eldridge in 1941 but she predeceased him and he is survived by their son.

28 Nov 2001 William REID

A/Flight Lieutenant, No.61 Squadron, RAF

On 3 November 1943 on the way to Dusseldorf, Germany, Flight Lieutenant Reid's windscreen was shattered by fire from a Messerschmitt and the gun turrets and cockpit badly damaged. Saying nothing of his multiple injuries, he continued on his mission and soon afterwards was attacked again, his navigator being killed and the wireless operator fatally wounded. He was wounded again, and also the flight engineer, while the Lancaster received more serious damage. Pressing on to his target, Flight Lieutenant Reid released his bombs, then set course for home and in spite of growing weakness from loss of blood, managed to land his crippled aircraft safely.

Flight Lieutenant William Reid, the second last surviving airman to receive the Victoria Cross, died on 29 November 2001 at the age of 79. He was born at Baillieston, Glasgow, on 12 December 1921, the son of a blacksmith. He was educated at Coatbridge Secondary School and studied metallurgy for a time, but then applied to join the RAF. After training in Canada, he received his wings and a commission in June 1942. He served as an instructor until he was sent to 1654 Conversion Unit, Wigsley, near Newark, where he flew his first operational mission as second pilot, in a Lancaster of 9 Squadron, in a raid on Munchen-Gladbach.

In September he was posted to 61 Squadron at Syerston, Newark, to commence Lancaster bombing operations, and flew seven sorties to various German cities before the raid on Dusseldorf. After a period in hospital, Reid joined 617 Squadron, the Dambusters. In July 1944 in an attack on a V-bomb storage dump near Rheims his aircraft was hit by a bomb dropped by another Lancaster 6,000 ft above. He gave the order to bail out and landed heavily by parachute breaking his arm in the fall. Within an hour he was captured by a German patrol and taken prisoner.

Reid left the RAF in 1946 and resumed his studies, first at Glasgow University and later at the West of Scotland Agricultural College. After graduating, he went on a travelling scholarship for six months, studying agriculture in India, Australia, New Zealand, America and Canada. In 1950, he became an agricultural adviser to the MacRobert Trust, Douneside. From 1959 to his retirement in 1981, he was an adviser to a firm of animal feed manufacturers. A modest man, he is survived by his wife Violet Gallagher whom he married in 1952, their son and daughter.

Living recipients

Of the 17 living recipients 14 awards were for the 1939-45 War and one each for Korea, Confrontation and Vietnam. There are six British Army living recipients including the youngest Rambahadur Limbu of the Gurkha Rifles in 1965, five for the pre Independence Indian Army, two Australians Ted Kenna and Keith Payne, and one each from the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, Canada and South Africa. The complete list of surviving recipients

1939-1945 War	Annand, Richard Wallace	British Army	1940	France	05 Nov 1914	87.5
	Bhanbhagta Gurung	Indian Army	1945	Burma	Jan 1921	81.3
	Bhandari Ram	Indian Army	1944	Burma	24 Jul 1919	82.8
	Cruickshank, John Alexander	Royal Air Force	1944	North Atlantic	20 May 1920	82.0
	Fraser, Ian Edward	Royal Navy	1945	Singapore	18 Dec 1920	81.4
	Gardner, Philip John	British Army	1941	Libya	25 Dec 1914	87.4
	Kenna, Edward	Australian Army	1945	New Guinea	06 Jul 1919	82.9
	Lachhiman Gurung	Indian Army	1945	Burma	30 Dec 1917	84.4
	Norton, Gerard Ross	South Africa	1944	Italy	07 Sep 1915	86.7
	Smith, Ernest Aivia	Canadian Army	1944	Italy	03 May 1914	88.1
	Tufbahadur Pun	Indian Army	1944	Burma	23 Mar 1923	79.2
	Umrao Singh	Indian Army	1944	Burma	11 Jul 1920	81.8
	Watkins, Sir Tasker	British Army	1944	France	18 Nov 1918	83.5
	Wilson, Eric C T	British Army	1940	Somaliland	02 Oct 1912	89.6
Korean War	Speakman, William	British Army	1951	Korea	21 Sep 1927	74.7
Confrontation	Rambahadur Limbu	British Army	1965	Sarawak	01 Aug 1939	62.8
Vietnam War	Payne, Keith	Australian Army	1969	Vietnam	30 Aug 1933	68.7

ADDENDUM

Captain Bhandari Ram, 16th Battalion, 10th Baluch Regiment who was born at Gugeda, India on 24 July 1919 and awarded the Victoria Cross for his attack on a Japanese bunker at East Mayu in the Arakan province of Burma in November 1944 died at Bilaspur, India on 19 May 2002. He is survived by his wife Champa Devi and their children.



Major Thomas Wingate

An Early Australian Reservist

Michael R Downey

At Noble Numismatics Auction in Sydney on 22nd March 1996 an interesting family group of medals was offered for sale at Lot 4663.

The group consisted of a Naval General Service Medal 1793 without clasps engraved to "Geo. Thos. Wingate, Commander R.N." The campaign medal for Ghuznee (India) 1839 engraved on both rim and reverse to "Thomas Wingate Lieut. 2nd or Queen's Royal Regiment" and a 24mm gold miniature Ghuznee Medal engraved on the reverse with details similar to the full size medal. There was also a silver miniature Ghuznee medal of conventional size with a scroll suspender. This medal was not named.

The suspender for the full size Ghuznee Medal had been adapted to allow either that medal or the gold miniature to be hung from it. The ribbon was the original silk version half crimson and half green with a gold buckle upon it placed about two centimetres up from the suspender.

Commander George Wingate served in the Royal Navy throughout the "Nelson era". He was aboard HMS *Glory* as a Midshipman for the naval action of 1 June 1794 ("the Glorious First of June"). Seven years later he took part in the battle of Copenhagen on April 2nd 1801 as a Lieutenant aboard HMS *Saturn*. Appointed to the rank of Commander in 1814, he died at Stirling, Scotland in 1817.

The Naval General Service Medal was not issued until 1849 and then only to sailors and marines still living. Wingate's medal is not an erased example but an un-named specimen probably engraved by firm of Hunt & Roskill in London. It has the original ribbon sewn on to the medal and was probably purchased by his son Thomas to commemorate his father's naval service.

Thomas Wingate was born in 1807 in France, joining the British Army as an Ensign in 1826. His first overseas posting was to Ceylon. By 1834 he was on the strength of the 2nd Queen's Regiment of Foot and went with them as a Lieutenant seeing active service in India during the Ghuznee campaign in 1839.

Wingate was a talented artist and prepared a series of lithographs depicting many aspects of this short campaign including the storming columns entering the fortress of Ghuznee.

He left the 2nd Queen's sometime after 1846 and arrived in Sydney circa 1850.

In 1851 the Government of New South Wales authorised the establishment of a Volunteer Corps in Sydney. By 1854 with the Crimean War sending a scare through the Colony, the 1st New South Wales Rifle Volunteers was formed. This was the first local unit raised by an Act of the Legislative Council.

Whilst the Loyal Associations had been formed into companies at Sydney and Parramatta by Captain John Hunter in 1800, their main objective was to control the influence of

Irish rebels who had been transported to New South Wales. It was not to counter any external threat to the Colony. These volunteers were un-paid, poorly equipped with little formal military instruction. Their numbers never exceeded 100 and they ceased to exist around 1809. However the Association played a small part in helping to put down the Irish convict rebellion at Vinegar Hill and Captain Philip Gidley King referred to them as a "well disciplined body of men".

In 1854 Thomas Wingate Esquire was commissioned as a Major commanding the NSW Volunteer Rifles and thus became the first officer to lead a formed unit of citizen soldiers: the forefathers of the Militia, the CMF and the Army Reserve of today.

By October 1854 the Rifles received praise from the "Illustrated Sydney news" for their highly satisfactory appearance at drill, though the paper disapproved of the talking in the ranks during parade.

A Volunteer Artillery unit had also been formed, the newspaper noting that these men were "not as alert and nimble as the Rifles". To rub a little salt into today's Reserve Gunners the paper further commented "Various of our portly middle aged citizens have taken refuge in this branch of the service".

In June 1855 a Banner was presented to the Volunteers by Miss Adelaide Ironside. Made of silk with the cross of St George upon it, the Banner featured a Union Jack in one quarter, the other three segments being filled with representations of indigenous Australian flowers. The legend "To the Volunteer Forces of New South Wales" was embroidered upon the cross.

Major Wingate experienced many of the problems that are still part and parcel of Reserve Force life today: falling numbers, inadequate equipment and lack of quality training facilities. But there is no doubt that his influence on his men and his attention to detail created the Esprit de Corps that holds the Reserve together 150 years later.

This is no more evident than shown in an early picture (taken by Major Wingate) of his men formed up in a hollow square on the Victoria Barracks parade ground in May 1861. By then their original rifle green uniforms had been replaced with Stone Grey cloth. The soldiers carry the 1853 Enfield Pattern Rifle with socket bayonet. An officer proudly carries the new set of colours presented to the Regiment by Lady Young, wife of the newly appointed Governor of NSW on the 18th May, 1861.

Now nearing his 60th birthday Thomas Wingate retired from the Volunteers in 1864. He had married Eleanor Terry in 1856, living at Percy Lodge, Potts Point. He died in 1869 and is buried in St Mathew's churchyard at Windsor. There is a memorial window dedicated to him within the Church.

Photographic images of the Volunteers are rare. The illustration from the Sydney Mail* depicts two officers, a rifleman and a bugler. I believe the seated officer to be Major Wingate. The medal he wears has the equally divided ribbon of the Ghuznee Medal and also features the buckle that is still with Wingate's medal today.

In July 2001 a parade will be held at Victoria Barracks, Sydney celebrating 200 years of the Citizen Soldier and his service to Australia. No doubt Major Wingate and his men will be watching the parade closely... let us ensure there is no talking in the ranks



*Unfortunately the image was not suitable for scanning - Ed

References:

The Military History of Windsor by Leonard L Barton.

Wingate Papers, Mitchell Library MLA 3804.

Journal of The Army Museum Society, Autumn 1995.

AWM Photo collection Neg No P02849.001.

Elusive Compiler. T Wingate. By Major & Hamilton

Australian Antiques Journal 1998.

Essays in Early Colonial Defence. D MacCullum BA

Unpublished Thesis. March 1961.



The British Garrison in Australia 1788-1841

Conditions of Service – Officers

Clem Sargent

Appointment and Promotion

'No Person is considered eligible to hold a commission in the Army, until he has attained the Age of *Sixteen Years*'. This condition was one of the first reforms instituted by the Duke of York on his appointment as Commander in Chief in 1795. It remained in all Regulations up to 1837.

In the late 18th and 19th centuries appointment and promotion could be achieved in three ways, outlined below:

Direct - sons of deserving officers, volunteers, and senior NCOs could be directly appointed to commissioned rank as Ensigns (2nd Lieutenant). In the first two cases appointment was achieved through some form of influence and in the case of senior NCOs by an act of bravery or through long and good service. Lachlan Macquarie, too young at fifteen to receive a commission in 1776, accompanied the 84th Regiment to North America as a volunteer and was commissioned as an ensign five months later. Thomas Livingston Mitchell went out to Spain as a volunteer with letters of introduction to Brigadier-General Campbell who recommended him to the attention of Quartermaster General Sir George Murray. Mitchell duly received a commission as Ensign in the 95th Regiment.¹ Lt Col Gilbert Cimitiere, 48th Regiment, was appointed an Ensign in the 6th West Indies Regiment from Corporal, in 1796, for service in Flanders with the 14th Regiment in 1794. David Cooper entered the 3rd Foot Guards as a seventeen year old private in 1805 and after service in the Peninsular War and at Waterloo, transferred to the 17th Regiment as a Sergeant Major in September 1823 and was appointed an ensign in August 1825 and Adjutant in 1826. He retired as a major in 1854.² The Duke of York's Regulation on the minimum age at which officers could be appointed was not rigidly adhered to, evinced by the appointment to commissioned rank of Ensign William Williams who arrived in Sydney with the 40th Regiment in January 1824. The circumstances of Williams appointment as a Cornet (2nd Lieutenant) in the 11th Light Dragoons, at the age of twelve years, after the Battle of Salamanca, have been described in *Sabretache*, Vol XLI, December 2000, pp 26-27.

By recruiting for rank - this method, which ceased after 1807, was adopted to meet war-time expansion of the army and applied to both appointment and promotion. Lachlan Macquarie, on half-pay from 1784, after returning from service in N America and the West Indies, in 1787 was appointed lieutenant in the 77th Regiment for recruiting fifteen men to the regiment.³ The classic case is that of Sir Thomas Graham who, prior to the Duke of York's 1795 reform passed through the commissioned ranks from cornet in the cavalry to major, without great expense and then received an appointment as a lieutenant colonel for raising an infantry battalion - the 90th Regiment, the Perthshire Volunteers. Graham became a lieutenant-general, one of Wellington's most trusted subordinates in the Peninsula.⁴

Purchase - this was the usual means of appointment and promotion. The aspirant for appointment to a first commission applied to the Adjutant-General through an Army Agent with whom he was required to deposit a sum equivalent to the cost of an ensign's commission. A recommendation

¹ William C Foster, *Sir Thomas Livingston Mitchell And His World 1792-1855*, Sydney, 1985, p 13.

² M H Ellis, *Lachlan Macquarie*, Sydney, 1947, p 11; Captain H O'Donnell (ed), *Historical Records Of The 14th Regiment*, Devonport, 1893, p 64; WO 29, 1829 Officer Records, 17th Regiment.

³ M H Ellis, *Lachlan Macquarie, His Life, Adventures and Times*, Sydney, 1969, pp 5-6.

⁴ Anthony Brett-James, *General Graham*, London, 1959, pp 48-50.

from an officer of not less than the rank of major was needed in support of the application. To purchase a step in promotion the serving officer deposited with the agent his application and the necessary sum to purchase the next step in rank. His application required the support of his commanding officer. Following the Duke of York's reforms an officer was required to serve three years as a subaltern before being eligible for promotion to captain and a captain to have had seven year's service before qualifying for promotion to major; for promotion from major to lieutenant colonel the officer was required to have served for a minimum period of nine years. (Regs 1816) The first two periods were amended to two and six years respectively in Regs 1822 and 1837; in these later Regs no period of qualifying service was specified for the step major to lieutenant colonel. The cost of commissions in an infantry regiment and the purchase prices for steps in rank are shown in the table below:

Rank	Full Price		Difference between commissions in succession.	
	1816/22	1837	1816/22	1837
Lt-Col	3500	4540	900	1300
Major	2600	3200	1100	1400
Captain	1500	1800	950	1100
Lieutenant	550	700	150	250
Ensign	400	450		

Officers could retire, selling their commissions, or could retire on half-pay, receiving the difference.

Pay

Officers were not paid by the paymaster of the regiment. Their salary was forwarded to their Army Agent, usually in London; the most famous was Greenwood Cox and Co, better known as Cox and Co. 'As a regimental agent, Cox was in effect a business manager whose brief extended beyond the payment of officers and men, to the provision of clothing and equipment and the marketing of commissions'.¹ In 1817 the rates of pay for officers of infantry line regiments were:

	£ s d
Colonel	1 - 2 - 6
Lieutenant Colonel	15 - 6
Major	14 - 1
Captain	9 - 5
Lieutenant	5 - 8
Ensign	4 - 8
Paymaster	15 - 0
Adjutant	8 - 0
Quartermaster	5 - 8
Surgeon	9 - 5
Assistant Surgeon	7 - 6 ²

¹ Pamela Statham, *A Colonial Regiment*, Canberra, 1992, p 19.

² Bryan Fosten, *Wellington's Infantry*, Osprey Men-at-Arms Series, London, 1981, p 16.

Officers were debited twopence halfpenny a day for rations and a similar amount for the rations of each servant. Officers' rations were drawn by a messman who was paid, in addition by the officer, ten shillings a week for messing. The officer also paid for the cost of coals for cooking and a monthly contribution towards the wages of mess waiters.¹

In Regs 1837 officers were required to pay a contribution of thirty days' pay on joining a mess and an annual contribution not exceeding eight days' pay. Married officers, not living in the mess, paid half the annual subscription. All officers paid in addition a subscription to support the band. (See notes on Bands).

Duties in New South Wales

These varied with rank and location. In garrison towns where regimental HQ were located - Sydney, Parramatta, Windsor and Hobart the regimental commander, usually a lieutenant colonel, was responsible for the organisation and administration of the regiment, including its remote detachments. One of the commanders, normally the one based in Sydney, fulfilled the role of Lieutenant Governor and some of these exercised this responsibility during the absence of the governor from the colony. Lieutenant Colonel Stewart did this for sixteen days in 1825 between the departure of Governor Brisbane and the arrival of Governor Darling.

The senior major remaining with the garrison was responsible for the drill of officers as newly commissioned officers joining a regiment were required to spend a period drilling with the recruits until they became proficient in all aspects of the regimental drill.

Captains commanded companies and were responsible for their organisation and administration, including the pay of the soldiers. For the latter task they were assisted by a pay sergeant, not designated as such on the regiment's establishment but mustered and actually serving on company strength.

Junior officers, lieutenants and ensigns, were required to attend drill squad parades at 6.00 am, and company or regimental parades at 10.30. The remainder of the day was free unless detailed as a guard commander or orderly officer, when he would be responsible for inspecting the soldiers' messes, taking complaints, visiting guards and the military prison.

The detailed responsibilities of each level of command are shown in *Regimental Standing Orders of the 17th Regiment, 1837, Part I.* (to be published later).

In Sydney in 1821 the subalterns at HQ were almost continually on guard duty. The guards mounted at that time and typical of the Sydney garrison were:

Guard	Subalterns	Sergeants	Drummers	Corporals	Privates	Total
Governor's	1	1	1	1	18	22
Main	1	1	1	1	12	16
Dockyard	1	1			12	14
Dawes Battery				1	3	4
Fort Philip				1	6	7
Barracks	1	1	1	1	21	25
Orderlies					3	3 ²

¹ Evidence of Paymaster Murray, 48th, to Commissioner Bigge, *Bonwick Transcripts*, ML, p 1702.

² *Bonwick Transcripts*, ML, p 6304.

The Main Guard was situated in George Street at about the intersection with Grosvenor Street. There were sixteen subalterns in Sydney at this time so each was on guard duty, at the least, every fifth day.

Later, with the expansion to three regiments in the garrison, with their Regimental HQ located at Parramatta and Windsor as well as Sydney, the duties for the subalterns were not so onerous. After parade they were free to entertain themselves shooting, fishing, riding, sailing and in other less active pursuits. Many were keen naturalists, making collections of insects and native animals. Ensign Best, 80th, gives a full account of his leisure activities at Windsor in 1838 in his *Journal*. Captain Mason, of the 4th regiment, posted to Norfolk Island, employed convicts to cultivate his garden, growing coffee amongst other crops. '... he built himself a smithy, importing his bellows and an anvil, a fine set of tools and two tons of iron from England. He brought out with him a quantity of dried fish and bacon, a store of paper, pens and ink, a large quantity of leather hides, and a pony, George, but of all his possessions his smithy and his turning-lathe afforded him the greatest satisfaction.'¹

Garrison officers were required to sit on Courts Martial and on the Criminal Court until September 1839 when the military courts gave way to civilian juries. Attendance at courts at country centres entailed travelling, mostly on horse-back, for considerable distances. Ensign Best rode from Windsor to Berrima to attend as a member of the board on a court martial.² Officers were allowed horses on a scale which ranged from seven horses for a colonel to one for a subaltern. A convict was allotted to each officer to cut grass for his horses.

Officers, usually majors, captains or senior lieutenants, carried out duties as commandants of outlying and remote settlements - Newcastle, Port Macquarie, Bathurst, Moreton Bay, the secondary penal settlement at Norfolk Island and in Northern Australia where several abortive attempts were made to establish settlements.³ In addition to their duties as commanders of the troops in the settlement the commandants were responsible for the convicts under their control. They were appointed magistrates for this purpose and had the power to inflict punishments normally of up to 50 lashes except at Norfolk Island where up to 300 lashes could be awarded by the commandant. Crimes demanding more severe punishment at Norfolk Is were heard before a judge brought in for the purpose but on the mainland courts of magistrates could be convened at the major centres. For this purpose a few officers of field rank were employed as police magistrates.

Junior officers in the settlements carried out the same duties as they did in the main garrisons, particularly supervising guards on convict work gangs. Their off-duty activities were devised by the individual officers but they did socialise with the free society in the region. Those junior officers in charge of small detachments in country areas lived a more rigorous existence, living in poor accommodation, often bush huts, and with, perhaps, only one senior NCO in support. This service was more demanding during the period of the ironed gangs employed on road making. The duties carried out by these officers is given in detail in the orders issued to officers employed as assistant engineers on roads and public works.⁴

From 1825 some officers were detached for duty with the Mounted Police and their duties are covered under that topic,

¹ Cowper, *The King's Own*, Vol II pp 63-4.

² Nancy M. Taylor, *Journal of Ensign Best*, pp 148-152.

³ See *Sabretache*, Vol XXXVI No1, Jan 1995, pp 3-15; John Mullvaney and Neville Green, *Commandant of Solitude*, Melbourne 1992.

⁴ For these orders see the topic *Military Supervision of Ironed Gangs*, p 31.

In 1820 Lieutenant Hans Stevenson, 45th Regiment, passing through Sydney in transit to Madras, wrote to his mother: 'The free Settler here, and there are many, have made immense fortunes, and are very hospitable to the military, as you must know, we, of the Red-coat are much looked up to in this Colony. Notwithstanding which the officers of the 48 are all heartily sick and tired of it, and I myself begin to think I have seen quite enough and think myself fortunate at the opportunity that takes me so soon away, after having seen sufficient to swear by...'

Stevenson had been in Sydney for three weeks.¹

Officers had not always been held in such high regard. In June 1813 Lieutenants M'Naughton and Connor, of the 73rd Regiment, had gone into town in search of women, after a 'heavy dinner' and 'dressed in Coloured Clothes'. At his front door in Pitt Street they murdered the husband of one they fancied. The officers were tried by a military court, fined one shilling each and sentenced to six month's imprisonment on a charge of manslaughter. Governor Macquarie, outraged by the affair and the leniency of the punishment, and supported by public outcry, issued an Order condemning 'a life of Drunkenness, Debauchery, and Riot, which inevitably tends to the Debasement and Degradation of the upright and manly Character of the British Soldier'. The order directed that no officer should appear in Sydney in dress other than their regimental uniforms,²

In 1925 the historian of the Royal Scots Fusiliers wrote:

'In 1832 the regiment [21st], which was a model unit in appearance and discipline, was split into detachments, and given the dreary task of escorting batches of convicts to Botany Bay and Van Diemen's Land. This work continued through the following year, and in 1834 the whole regiment was in Australia and Tasmania - the headquarters with two companies at Hobart, and the rest in small parties employed throughout Tasmania, and at Perth, Port Philip, and Swan River, in charge of convict stations and of convict gangs engaged in public works. These police duties were difficult, incessant, and laborious, and brought no honour with them; but it is to the credit of the Twenty-First that its discipline stood the test.'³

3RD THE ROYAL EAST KENT REGIMENT - THE BUFFS 1822 to 1827

The Buffs arrived in New South Wales in 1822 not as relief for the 48th Regiment but to augment the garrison to a level commensurate with the increasing convict population. However it is not proposed to give an outline of the service of this regiment in Australia as it has been covered in detail previously in *Sabretache* Vol XXXVI No 1, March 1995.

A check of the last muster for the 3rd before sailing from Australia reveals that 21 soldiers transferred to the 57th Regiment and 25 to the 39th Regiment.

(Ref WO 12/2119). Twelve soldiers are recorded as pensioners in NSW in *British Army Pensioners Aboard 1772-1899* (Norman K Crowder, Genealogical Publishing Co Inc, Baltimore, 1995)

¹ Lt H Stevenson, 45th Regt, Letter to his mother, 25 Dec 1819 - 8 Jan 1820, ML, Am 165.

² *Sydney Gazette*, 17 July, 1813.

³ John Buchan, *The History of The Royal Scots Fusiliers (1678-1918)*, London, 1925, pp 190-1.

40TH - THE 2ND SOMERSETSHIRE REGIMENT 1823 - 1829*The Excellers.***Background**

1717	Formed North America as Philipp's Regiment.
1751	Designated 40 th Regiment.
1717-1764	N America and W Indies.
1764-1774	Ireland.
1775-1774	N America.
1782	Designated 2 nd Somersetshire Regiment.
1783-1793	England and Ireland.
1794-1802	Low Countries, W Indies, Mediterranean, Egypt.
1802-1808	England, S America, Ireland.
1808-1814	Peninsular War.
1814	N America.
1815-1817	Waterloo, Army of Occupation in France.
1818-1822	England, Ireland.

In New South Wales

15 Nov 1823	First Detachment disembarked Port Jackson.
August 1824	Martial Law proclaimed at Bathurst. Detachment employed in punitive operations against the Wiradjuri tribe.
September 1824	Establishment of settlement at Moreton Bay by Lt Miller and 20 OR at Redcliffe.
27 October 1824	Regimental HQ arrives Port Jackson.
10 April 1825	Detachment at Moreton Bay relieved by 57 th .
10 June 1825	Re-establishment of secondary penal settlement at Norfolk Island as place of punishment ' <i>ne plus ultra</i> ' of convict degradation by Captain Turton, one subaltern, one Assistant Surgeon, two Sergeants and 30 R&F.
23 March 1825	Two Coys to VDL; Dets at Port Dalrymple, Macquarie Harbour, Bothwell, Maria Island, Jericho, New Norfolk, Elizabeth River. In NSW Dets at Norfolk Island, Parramatta
26 January 1826	RHQ embarked for VDL.
17 March 1826	Detachment at Norfolk Island relieved by 57 th .
May 1826	Two officers, 30 OR operating in Bathurst region in pursuit of natives.
Oct/Nov 1827	Operations against natives in VDL.
25 Sep 1828	First Division embarks for India
March 1830	Last Det leave for India.

The last muster before the RHQ sailed from Hobart in quarter June/September 1827 (WO12/5339) does not show any transfers to other garrison regiments. Five members of the 40th are shown receiving pensions in *British Army Pensioners Abroad*. (see notes on Buffs, above)

References

Captain R. H. Raymond Smythies, *Historical Records of the 40th (2nd Somersetshire) Regiment*, Devonport, 1894.

New Prints

10 Squadron RAAF Sunderland

Michael Lees has recently painted a 10 Squadron RAAF Sunderland during the Second World War. The plane is accompanied by a RAF marine pinnace at full throttle.

The painting has caused considerable interest in Plymouth. The original sold to a resident of Plymouth for some 3000 pounds and there were several pages of the newspaper dedicated to the painting and the story of 10 Squadron.

Research for the painting was helped by Wing Commander Vic Hodgkinson DFC (10 Squadron RAAF). Vic now lives in England and runs a civil version of the Sunderland at Southampton Hall of Aviation.

We produced a signed limited edition (250) from the painting as there was so much interest and a print has been presented to the present Commanding Officer of 10 Squadron, and a further print has been presented to the Lord Mayor of Plymouth. Each person signed the other's print.

There are now only 67 of the original 250 prints left (20 have been signed by Vic). So far all have been sold in UK. I find that a bit disappointing as I am sure that there are Australians who served at the time who would like to know they are remembered in Plymouth and who would like a picture recalling those days. There has been no response to my attempts to contact Australians who served at the time so clearly I am doing something wrong!

I wondered if you would like to do a feature on the painting in your Journal. I can supply CD copy and professional scans. I am also willing to pay for advertising in your Journal, or to send brochures describing the painting and the story behind it for inclusion in the Journal. Please let

me know if you are interested in a feature, in principle, and what your advertising rates are.

There is a representation of the picture and the story behind it at <http://artlees.com/>

Richard Lees OBE, MC

The art of Michael Lees, Station Farm Barn, Station Road, Ellingham, Bungay NR35 2EW