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Sabretache



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SABRETACHE

JOURNAL OF
THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF AUSTRALIA



EDITED BY
JAMES W. COURTNEY

PRICE TWO DOLLARS (AUST)

SEPTEMBER, 1974

VOL XVI

No 3



Aims Of The Society

The aims of the Society are the encouragement of 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

Published by Authority of the Federal Council of The Military Historical Society of Australia by
Ken White, P.O. Box 67, Lyneham, ACT, 2602

The views expressed in the articles in this Journal are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Society

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JULY 1974

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by R. Cherry

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by Maj R. Clark

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To RAAMC

Medalman

A Medal For Identification

Award Of Indonesian Wing To RAAF
Officer

Historic Duelling Pistols

Book Reviews

Advertisements

Directory Amendments



Medium Tank Trials Unit Flash. Approved For Wear 1972-73.

MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING FEDERAL PRESIDENT

A year ago as a Victorian member I noted the beginnings of our Federal Council in Canberra, realising the work entailed in starting up activities, not the least of which is the production of Sabretache by so small a group, I commended them for their courage.

In the latter part of this year I personally observed the dedication of our Federal Council in overcoming all problems to produce a magnificent journal and an awareness of our societies national standing by other bodies.

I sincerely congratulate them on their success on behalf of all our far flung members.

Our retiring President John Frewen in particular has laboured so successfully that I am privileged to carry on with the same team.

The pressing problem of finance will soon become critical as inflation rises. Positive continual recruitment is the desirable remedy, and I ask you urgently to join with me in this task.

I would ask any small group of members who can meet regularly, to do so and create yet another branch, for it is through the mutual social enjoyment of our interests that the very large numbers of potential members in our community and military forces, will be attracted and retained. IAN L. BARNES E.D

HONORARY OFFICE BEARERS ELECTED FOR 1974-75

Federal Council

Overall the election of office bearers was apparently of little interest to the majority of members as many failed to make nominations or cast votes. I have pleasure in announcing the following results of the election.

President	:	Major I. L. Barnes ED
Vice President	:	Brigadier M. Austin DSO, OBE, psc (RL)
Secretary	:	Mr K. R. White
Treasurer	:	Lt H. B. Gordon (RL)

Major I. C. Teague
Returning Officer



BADGES OF THE AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES 1930-1942
(PLATE 4)

Line 6 Australian Army Medical Corps. Note AAMC title not shown
Australian Army Ordnance Corps
Australian Army Veterinary Corps

Badges Not Illustrated.

Plate 1. 2nd Armoured Car Regt

Plate 2 Note 1. 21 Infantry Battalion. Not maintained on Order of Battle, hence no badge
Note 2. 22 " " The South Gippsland Regt badge introduced 1939

Plate 3 Note 3. 27 " " The South Australian Regt had different badge till 1938
Note 4. 37 " " The Cameron Badge was worn from about 1938 when
title changed to East Gippsland Regt.
Prior to 1938 a different badge was worn by Henty Regt.
Note 5. 50 " " The Tasmanian Rangers. This Regt, in June 1939, was
wearing the badge of 12 Inf Bn

Plate 4 Note 6. 58 " " Separate badge of similar design for Essendon Rifles
prior to 1939
Note 7. 59 " " Separate badge for Coburg-Brunswick Regt prior to 1939
Note 8. 61 " " Worn Cameron Highlanders type badge with Regt. title

It should be realised that apart from the enamelled badges mentioned above, a number of other badges were worn during the 1930-42 period and it is hoped to show these in a later article which will illustrate the collection of Mr Robert Gray, of Adelaide, who has one of the most comprehensive collections existing in Australia.

A final point; it is interesting to note that the unknown compiler of this collection, omitted the proudest badge of all, the General Service Badge, The Rising Sun.

References

Australian War Memorial Photographs J/H 113, 114, 115, 116
Unpublished Notes of Mr R Gray
Hat Badges of the Australian Army, 1930-48. A Festberg
Authors own collection and unpublished papers.
Various issues of Sabretache.

Plate 3

- Line 1 26 Infantry Battalion, The Logan and Albert Regt
27 " " " SA Scottish Regt See Note 3
28 " " " Swan Regt
29 " " " East Melbourne Regt
- Line 2 30 " " " NSW Scottish Regt. Note another type was also worn in 1930
31 " " " Kennedy Regt
32 " " " Footscray Regt
33 " " " New England Regt
- Line 3 34 " " " Illawarra Regt. Note 2 types worn.
35 " " " Newcastle's Own Regt
36 " " " St George's English Rifle Regt
37 " " " East Gippsland Regt. See Note 4.
- Line 4 38 " " " Northern Victorian Regt
39 " " " Hawthorn-Kew Regt
40 " " " Derwent Regt
41 " " " Byron Regt
42 " " " Capricornia Regt
- Line 5 43 " " " Hindmarsh Regt
44 " " " West Australian Regt
45 " " " St George Regt
- Line 6 46 " " " Brighton Rifles
47 " " " Wide Bay Regt
48 " " " Torrens Regt
- Plate 4 49 " " " Stanley Regt See Note 5 re 50th
- Line 1
51 " " " Far North Queensland Regt
52 " " " Gippsland Regt
53 " " " West Sydney Regt
54 " " " Lachlan-Macquarie Regt
- Line 2 55 " " " NSW Rifle Regt
56 " " " Riverina Regt
57 " " " Merri Regt
58 " " " Essendon-Coburg-Brunswick Regt. See Note 6 and 7.
- Line 3 59 " " " Hume Regt
60 " " " Heidelberg Regt
61 " " " Queensland Cameron Highlanders (not shown) See Note 8
- Line 4 Sydney University Regt. Note wrong title on photograph
Melbourne University Rifles
- Line 5 Australian Army Chaplains Department. a. Christian b. Jewish
Australian Army Service Corps

Badges of the Australian Military Forces

1930-1942

By K.R. White

The photographs shown on the following pages are of a collection once held by the Australian War Memorial, which was later passed to the Master-General of the Ordnance Branch of the Army. As the collection covers the majority of the badges worn during this period it is considered worth reproducing in accordance with the Society's policy of giving all members a permanent record of the many badges which have been worn by the Australian Army.

The photographs, with a few minor exceptions, show the badges worn in the period 1938-42, however they are generally the pre-1939 issue as few are shown in the oxidised (blackened) version worn in 1940-42. It must be realised that not all badges were oxidised during the early war years as many were painted black and others were oxidised in a bronze finish, eg Australian Staff Corps. All Regimental and Corps badges were withdrawn early in 1942 and replaced with the Rising Sun, however there is no question that many "old" soldiers continued to wear their regimental badge. Not illustrated are the many enamelled badges, generally for wear by officers, produced for the following regiments.

Officers wear only. 6, 7, 24, 26, 28, 32, 40, 44, 46, 45, 52 Battalions, Mel. Univ. Rifles.

Worn by all Ranks. All shown in photographs except 37 Bn. 29, 37, 39, 58, 59, 60 Battalions, 3 and 10 LH Regts.

The regimental titles shown are those generally used in 1938-1939.

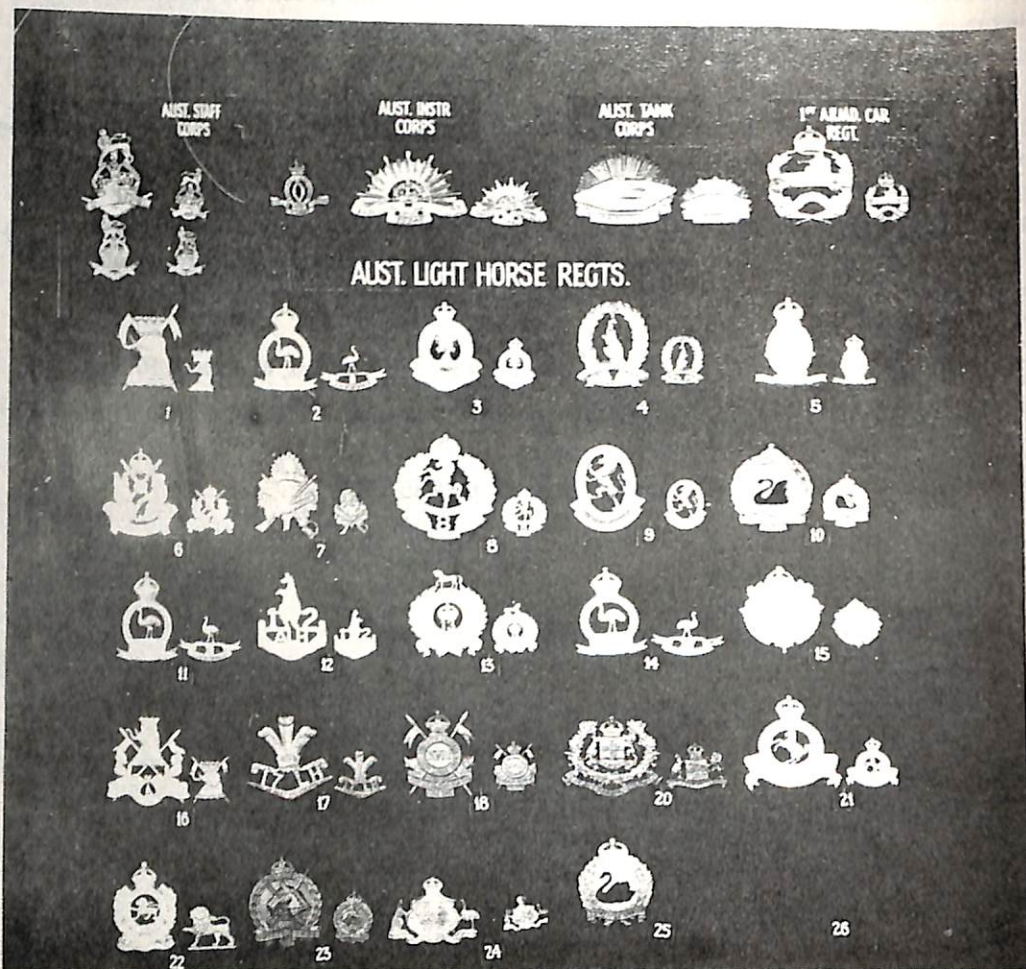
Plate 1

Line 1 Australian Staff Corps
Royal Military College
Australian Instructional Corps
Australian Tank Corps
1st Armoured Car Regt.

Line 2 16 Light Horse (MG) Regt, Hunter River Lancers
2 Light Horse Regt, Moreton Light Horse (QMI)
3 " " " South Australian Mounted Rifles
4/19 " " " Corangamite Light Horse
5 " " " Wide Bay and Burnett Light Horse (QMI)

Line 3 6 " " " NSW Mounted Rifles
7 " " " Australian Horse
8 " " " Indi Light Horse
9 " " " Flinders Light Horse
10 " " " WA Mounted Infantry

Line 4 11 " " " Darling Downs Light Horse (QMI)
12 " " " New England Light Horse
13 " " " Gippsland Light Horse
14 " " " West Moreton Light Horse (QMI)
15 " " " Northern Rivers Lancers



BADGES OF THE AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES 1930-1942
(PLATE 1)

ROYAL AUST. ARTY.

R.A.A. REGT.



R.A.A. MILITIA



ROYAL AUST. ENGRS.



AUST. ARMY SVY. CORPS



AUST. CORPS OF SIGS.



AUST. INF. BNS.



BADGES OF THE AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES 1930-1942 (PLATE 2)

- Line 5 1 Light Horse (MG) Regt, Royal NSW Lancers
 17 " " " " Prince of Wales's Light Horse
 18 " " " " Adelaide Lancers
 20 " " Regt, Victorian Mounted Rifles
 21 " " " Riverina HORse
Line 6 22 " " " Tasmanian Mounted Infantry
 23 " " " Barossa Light Horse
 24 " " " Gwydir Light Horse
 25 " " (MG) Regt, No Regt title. NB. The badge illust. is that of 1912/18 period.
 The correct badge includes a Vickers MG under the swan and was not enamelled

Note. 19 Light Horse Regt not illustrated as badge was not made.

Plate 2 26 Light Horse Regt (MG) wore Rising Sun.

Line 1 Royal Australian Artillery.

Note different collar badges for Permanent and Militia.

Not shown officers collar, (Grenade), or shoulder titles R.A.A, RAGA, RAFA.

Line 2 Australian Engineers. Note Royal Cyther both Geo V and V1

Australian Army Survey Corps

Australian Corps of Signals

Line 3 1 Infantry Battalion, The City of Sydney Regiment

2 " " " City of Newcastle Regt.

3 " " " Werriwa Regt. NB An earlier type also worn.

4 " " " Australian Rifles

5 " " " Victorian Scottish Regt

Line 4 6 " " " Royal Melbourne Regt

7 " " " North West Murray Borderers

8 " " " City of Ballarat Regt

9 " " " Moreton Regt

10 " " " Adelaide Rifles

Line 5 11 " " " City of Perth Regt

12 " " " Launceston Regt

13 " " " Maitland Regt

14 " " " Prahran Regt

15 " " " Oxley Regt

Line 6 16 " " " Cameron Highlanders of WA

17 " " " North Sydney Regt

18 " " " Kuring-gai Regt

19 " " " South Sydney Regt

20 " " " Parramatta and Blue Mountains Regt

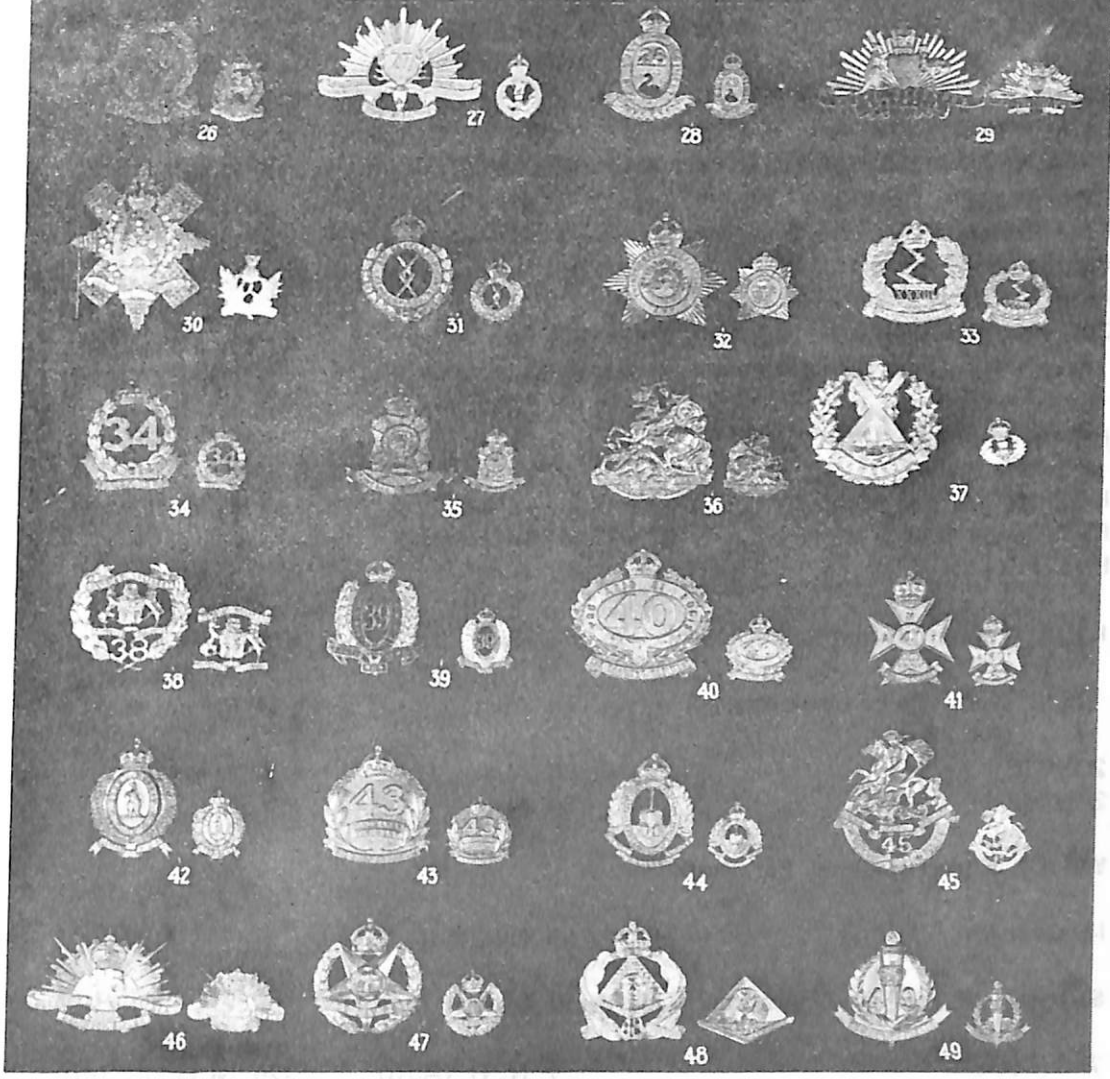
Line 7 22 " " " Richmond Regt. See Note 1. re 21st

23/21 " " " City of Geelong Reg. Note 2 re 22nd

24 " " " Kooyong Regt

25 " " " Darling Downs Regt

AUST. INF. BNS. (CONT.)



BADGES OF THE AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES 1930-1942
(PLATE 3)

New Britain	618	
Milne Bay	126	
Madang	210	
Northern	215	
Morobe	211	
New Island	18	
Manus	22	
Bougainville	39	
Central	58	
Highlands	150	(Recruits only)

Battle Casualties 1942-45

	PIR			ENEMY		
	Kia	Wounded	Missing	Kia	Wounded	POW
1 PIB	37	75	10	1508	136	126
1 NGIB	13	25	—	329	82	13
2 NGIB	18	21	—	385	59	57
	68	121	—	2212	297	196

Plus 18 Died during Service

Honours and Awards (Pacific Islanders Only)

Distinguished Conduct Medal	4*
George Medal	2*
Military Medal	15*
British Empire Medal	2*
Mentioned in Despatches	7*
US Bronze Star	1*

* Includes those Personnel from Royal Papuan/New Guinea Constabulary who were seconded to AIB; M/Z Special Force on operations (a total of 1041 men served with these units)

Pay (Monthly)		1940	1945
Private	1st yr	10/-	15/-
	2nd	15/-	20/-
	3rd	20/-	25/-
Lcpl		25/-	30/-
Cpl		30/-	35/-
Sgt		40/-	50/-
WO		60/-	80/-

Company Organisation PIB 1943

OC	Captain (1)
2IC	Lieut (1)
CSM	Warrant Officer (1)
Int	Sgt (Aust) (1)
Sigs	Officer, 4 Sgts (Aust), 12 Signallers
PL Comd	Lieut (3)
PI Sgts	Aust (3) - PI (3)
ORs	108 (36 per Platoon)
Attached	PIs (4)

Functions of PIR

- 1940 (PIB)
- (a) Reconnaissance Unit
 - (b) Fighting Unit
 - (c) Guerilla Unit

(within Borders of Papua only)

- 1945 (PIR)
- (a) Light Infantry
 - (b) Deep, Extensive Patrolling
 - (c) Limited Self Defence
 - (d) Reconnaissance

(not to be used for frontal attack or position warfare)

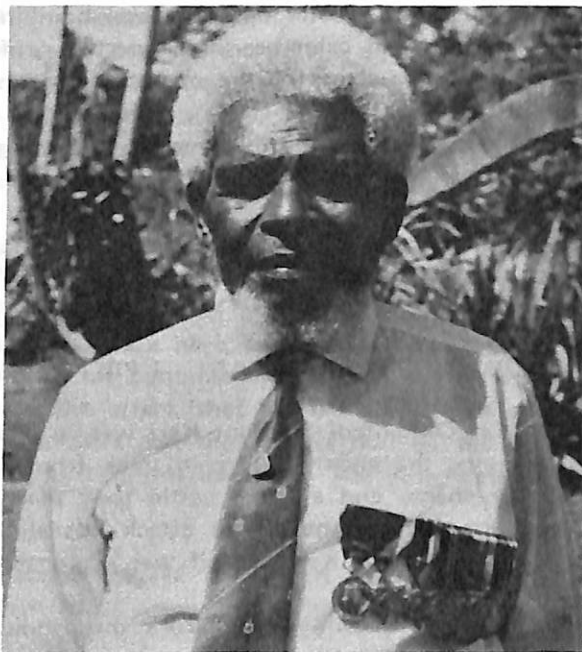
Detail On Some Of The Awards

TEXT OF CITATION

AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL

PN417 A/SERGEANT MATPI - I PIB

On 16th February at Saidor area Pte Matpi in company with another native killed thirty (30) Japs in a running fight to Ruange. This deed was witnessed by NGXI46 Lieut R. L. McIlwain. On 18th February at Tapen, Pte Matpi and the other native soldier (Bengari) told their OC Captain E. P. Hitchcock that a large number of enemy were escaping at the far end of Tapen village. On receiving permission to pursue the enemy, they did so, knowing that this act would be of great personal risk to themselves. Pte Matpi and the other native then pursued the enemy killing forty-four (44) Japs including two (2) officers. The two officers put up a stubborn fight to protect their men. This deed was most outstanding. After running out of ammunition these two boys killed the remaining six Japs with the butts of their rifles. At Kwembung on 20th February Pte Matpi again with the same boy raided the village and accounted for another six (6). At Wadabo on 22nd February Pte Matpi with the same boy raided Wadabo and killed eleven (11) Japs. After this action during which the other boy was wounded. Pte Matpi carried on with his section and accounted for another nineteen (19) Japs in the gardens of area Wadabo and Kwembung. Since then Pte Matpi has increased his total of enemy killed by him to one hundred and ten (110).



Sgt. IAKING IWAGU GM, BS(US)

Note: The term 'boy' is hardly a fitting description of Matpi's companion. What decorations would an Australian with Matpi's record been awarded?

TEXT OF CITATION

AWARD OF GEORGE MEDAL

1879 SERGEANT IAKING IWAGU

ROYAL PAPUAN CONSTABULARY att C COY PIB

During operations against Finschhafen this native NCO showed outstanding courage and devotion to duty.

On 22nd September 1943, when our force landed near the Song River Sergeant Iwagu was travelling on a LCX which did not reach the beach but stopped and lowered its ramps when in twelve feet of water.

The enemy was holding the bush near the edge of the beach and the craft came under heavy MG fire. The company commander of the PIB detachment Capt Tony Leutchford jumped into the water to swim ashore. He was at once followed by Sergeant Iwagu. The officer was hit seriously while in the water; he died later the same day. Iwagu saw him sinking, swam to his aid and brought him ashore and, still under heavy fire, remained with him on the beach until stretcher bearers could get to him. Later during several bombing attacks on our position Iwagu, by his coolness and calm bearing, imparted confidence to the other native troops. During later stages of the operations against Finschhafen Iwagu made several patrols deep into territory occupied by the enemy; brought back much useful information and was of the greatest help in getting into touch with the local natives and gaining their confidence.

TEXT OF CITATION

AWARD OF MILITARY MEDAL

PN 7 SERGEANT KARI - I PIB

On 18th January 1943 at Ointantadi Sergeant Kari was in charge of a patrol that had the task of denying the enemy the main track from Sabari to Horata.

The patrol engaged the enemy and a fierce battle took place; It was by Sergeant Kari's personal bravery that the enemy attack was eliminated and the track denied to the enemy. Sergeant Kari himself was personally responsible for killing thirty-one (31) Japs.

This is the culmination of consistently good work throughout the entire operations in this area.

Note: It is hard to believe that Kari was only awarded a Military Medal.

CONSTABLE SEGA'S BRONZE STAR

At Garaina lives a retired Police Constable, Sega, who holds the American Bronze Star which he won in Bougainville in 1944.

He was seconded to the United States forces as a guide while he was in Australia on training. He was in Melbourne at the time, and he accompanied the Americans to the Solomon Islands, to Guadalcanal then he went by submarine to Finschhafen, by PT boat to Manus and helped the Americans fight on Manus.

While Sega was on Bougainville he moved as far as Wakanai, to Daruma and then back up to the mountain Mapia and the Headwaters of the Wakanai River. The story of his citation in this area is; that one afternoon when he was scouting ahead of the American forces he came across a village that was occupied by the Japs, so he spied out their positions and immediately reported back to his American commander. The American commander said, 'we won't attack them tonight, we will wait until tomorrow morning and put in an attack at 6 o'clock,' but Sega replied '6 o'clock is too late as all the Japanese will be up by then. It would be far better to put in an attack earlier than that. No later than 5.00' Sega and the American commander apparently had an argument on this point, but the American commander was adamant that the attack would go in at 6 o'clock the next morning.

At 5 a.m. Sega went down to the village and he saw that the two Japanese cooks were preparing food and he thought, they'll be getting up soon, so he raced back to the American commander and said 'we've got to attack now, the Japanese cook boys are there already'. But the American commander said 'no, I said 6 o'clock and that's it'. Sega became very angry and grabbed his sub machine gun and went back. He crept around behind the two Japanese cooks who were too interested in their food to worry what was going on, and crept into a long hut. The long hut was full of sleeping Japanese and Sega opened fire and killed them all. Then he raced outside, the two cooks were standing up and yelling that the Americans are here, but it was too late for them, Sega shot them.

He then returned to his commander and told the American that there was no need to worry about the attack that he had taken care of it. The American commander had his soldiers and the carriers pull all the bodies out of the hut and counted them, fourteen (14) Japanese. The American commander was suitably impressed.

P.S.

The American commander for the action described was awarded a Silver Star for his gallantry. No doubt many would have thought the higher award should have been given to Sega.

Some years after the war Sega wanted fresh ribbon for his Bronze Star which resulted in him being presented with a new medal and miniature. Sega now wears an unusual group of medals which include the Loyal Service Medal, Police Service Medal, two Bronze Stars and a miniature Bronze Star.



Sergeant Major YAWIGA DCM (AIB on Bougainville 1944)

RILEY FAMILY ASSOCIATION WITH ARMY CHAPLAINCY

By

Maj I. C. Teague

In January 1974 Chaplain L. W. Riley retired as Senior C of E Chaplain Fifth Military District and his retirement ended a hundred years of military service by the Riley family. His grandfather was the Most Rev Charles Owen Leaver Riley OBE, O St J, VD, MA, DD, who commenced his military service with the Cambridge University Rifle Volunteers on 27 October 1874. C.O.L. Riley was appointed Senior Chaplain, West Australian Defence Forces on 11 April 1895 and Senior Chaplain to AMF on 16 May 1908 and held this position during the First World War. In civil life he was the Archbishop of Perth.

The Rt Rev Charles Lawrence Riley CBE, VD, MA, LLB, ThD, the father of L. W. Riley followed in his father's (C.O.L.) footsteps as Chaplain-General of the AMF, an appointment made in 1942 and held until 1957. C. L. Riley served in the First World War, in the CMF between the wars and as Senior Chaplain, Middle East 1940-41. In civil life he was the Bishop of Bendigo.

The Rev Canon L. W. Riley ED, MA, ThL served as a Chaplain with the Second AIF and was the Senior Chaplain Western Command until January 1974. There are few families who can claim such long and distinguished service to the Australian Military Forces in war and peace. The family were awarded the following decorations and medals:

C. O. L. RILEY

1. Officer of The Order of the British Empire (OBE)
2. Officer of The Order of St John (O St J)
3. British War Medal 1914-18
4. Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Medal 1897 (Silver)
5. Volunteer Decoration, CAF Edward VII (VD)

C. L. RILEY

1. Commander of The Order of The British Empire (CBE)
2. 1914-18 War Medal
3. Victory Medal
4. 1939-45 Star
5. Africa Star
6. Pacific Star
7. Defence Medal

8. War Medal
9. Australian Service Medal
10. George V Jubilee Medal
11. George VI Coronation Medal
12. Elizabeth II Coronation Medal
13. Volunteer Decoration CAF George V (VD)
14. Colonial Auxillary Forces Long Service Medal George V

L. W. RILEY

1. 1939-45 Star
2. Pacific Star
3. War Medal
4. Australian Service Medal
5. Efficiency Decoration with clasp

UNIFORM OF QUEENSLAND VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY CORPS 1864

Extracted from Queensland Government Gazette 10 January 1863

TUNIC: Of blue cloth with scarlet cloth collar and piping; white metal buttons with device of a field piece, with the letters 'Q.V.A.' underneath; Austrian knot in red cord on the sleeves; collar to be edged all round with red cord; shoulder straps of red cord.

TROUSERS: Blue cloth, with scarlet stripe two inches wide down the outward seams.

BUSBY: With white plume, scarlet bag, and cap lines.

CAP: (For Undress), black cloth with peak, black ball, and black overleaf band.

BELTS: Sword belt of white japanned leather with slings. Pouch belt of white japanned leather, with pouch of black japanned leather.

The officers to wear silver cord in the place of red cord on the tunic, rank to be shown on the collar.

Henry D. Pitt Capt R. A.
 Capt Commanding Queensland Volunteer
 Artillery, Brisbane, 18th December, 1862.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN OF THE COMMONWEALTH

by

Commandant General P. H. Shoosmith LMSM

The Legion was founded in 1904 by Roger Pocock as a volunteer organisation to 'serve Sovereign and Country with thousands of eyes keeping watch throughout the Empire', and there have been many occasions when it proved its worth. An early example was in 1906, a Frontiersman, riding hard, brought the first news of the Zulu uprising in Natal. Pocock, in his book, 'Chorus to Adventurers', gives details of other valuable information which he was able to supply to the Government as the result of the voluntary special service of Legion members. Pocock was himself a great adventurer, having seen service with the Canadian 'Mounties' during the final Indian uprising, ridden alone from Alaska to Mexico, sailed before the mast, fought against pirates off Japan, and served with the Waldron Scouts in the Boer War. Limited to Home Service and escort duty during the first World War, owing to the loss of several toes from frostbite in Canada, Pocock and the Legion's Commandant Colonel D. P. Driscoll DSO, previously of Driscoll's Scouts, offered the War Office the Legion for active service as a Corps. However the War Office was slow to react so the Manchester Troop of the Home Command found its own way to Belgium, where they were gladly accepted as a platoon of the 3rd Belgium Lancers and they became the first British to engage the enemy,

Meanwhile some 300 members were accepted to form remount depots in Avonmouth and Southampton and an active Unit was formed by the Legion in Canada. In Australia many members of the Legion served in the Naval and Military Expeditionary Force to capture New Guinea from the Germans. Early in 1915, the War Office sanctioned the formation of a Frontiersmen Battalion of Royal Fusiliers (25th) under the command of Colonel Driscoll for active service in East Africa, where tsetse fly ruled out mounted activities. When General Tighe inspected the battalion on its arrival in Africa, he found an unusual variety of characters on its strength; frontier fighters, cowboys from Texas, millionaires, previous members of the Foreign Legion, ex Sappers, Lancers and Gunners, a couple of famous clowns and a flunkey from Buckingham Palace, while Cherry Kearton had to be reminded that there was something more to do than engage in his famous interest in flora and fauna. The majority of them wore medal ribbons of campaigns from all over the world. The Battalion soon established a fine reputation in the defeat, under great hardship, of Von Lettow's German East African Field Force. During the campaign, Frontiersmen losses included Captain Courtney Selous DSO, big game hunter, previously of Selous Scouts, who was killed at the age of 66 leading his Company in an attack, while Lieutenant 178

W. Dartnell, an Australian, did not live to wear the Victoria Cross which was awarded him posthumously. Some 9,000 Frontiersmen lost their lives during the war, a tragic number in the Gallipoli campaign while serving in the Forces of New Zealand and Australia. Volunteers from the Legion also served in the North Russian campaign.

Many Frontiersmen served with the Crown Forces during the 1939-45 War and many ex-servicemen have since become members. Famous members of the past include Lord Baden Powell, General Smuts, Sir Ernest Shackleton, Lord Loch and Field Marshal Lord Birdwood were both Presidents. The present Patron is Major General Raymond Briggs, CB. DSO.

With the granting of independence to Nations of the British Empire of past decades, many Overseas Commands of the Legion faded away, just as have so many of the old soldiers of cavalry tradition since mechanisation. However in addition to the Home Commands, though considerably weakened, those of Canada and New Zealand are still maintaining a useful strength. Cadres in Australia and Africa also keep in touch with Legion HQ in London's Belgrave Square which is at No 6, below the Anglo-Belgian Club. This is also the Headquarters of the Legion's Commonwealth Colour Squadron which on important parades and ceremonies in London represents, with the Colours, all Commands. In particular on those occasions in association with the Royal Fusiliers and the Federation of Belgium ex-servicemen in England (Amicale), annually joining forces with the latter for a ceremonial and touring visit to Belgium.

For the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Territorial Army and Auxilliary Forces of the Crown, a detachment of the Squadron was horsed by the Household Cavalry. In the Lord Mayor's Show of 1970, a mounted section of the Squadron's Yeomanry Troop, which had taken part in the Tent Pegging Contest at the Aldershot Army Show, again represented the Legion, following the Band and Units of the Royal Fusiliers.

The Legend on the Legion badge, 'God Guard Thee', was adopted from an inscription on a ring worn by General Gordon of Khartoum, and long may this sentiment protect the Legion's spirit of patriotism, voluntary service and fraternity.

With the appointment of a Chief Staff Officer, Australian Command in 1974 a rebirth of the Legion is taking place in Australia. The Australian Command is organised with a Headquarters in Canberra and a Division in each State. It is anticipated that the Legion will have a role in the defence of continental Australia as many veterans who are unable to meet the medical or age requirements for service in the Armed Forces will be able to serve Australia as members of the Legion. In an emergency there will be many tasks which the Legion will undertake to allow the Armed Forces to be released to carry out engagements against the enemy. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Legion of Frontiersmen then write for particulars to Staff Adjutant,

Australian Command, Post Office Box 37, Scullin, ACT 2614, Australia.
Membership is not restricted to Returned Servicemen.



Comdt General P. H. Shoosmith

'GUNNER'

by

Lt Col A. Meldrum DSO

This Bay Mare was issued to Cpl A. Meldrum, 2nd Moreton Regt, Queensland Mounted Infantry, Australian Light Horse, early in 1915 prior to the battle of 'Romani' and he rode her to Jerusalem.

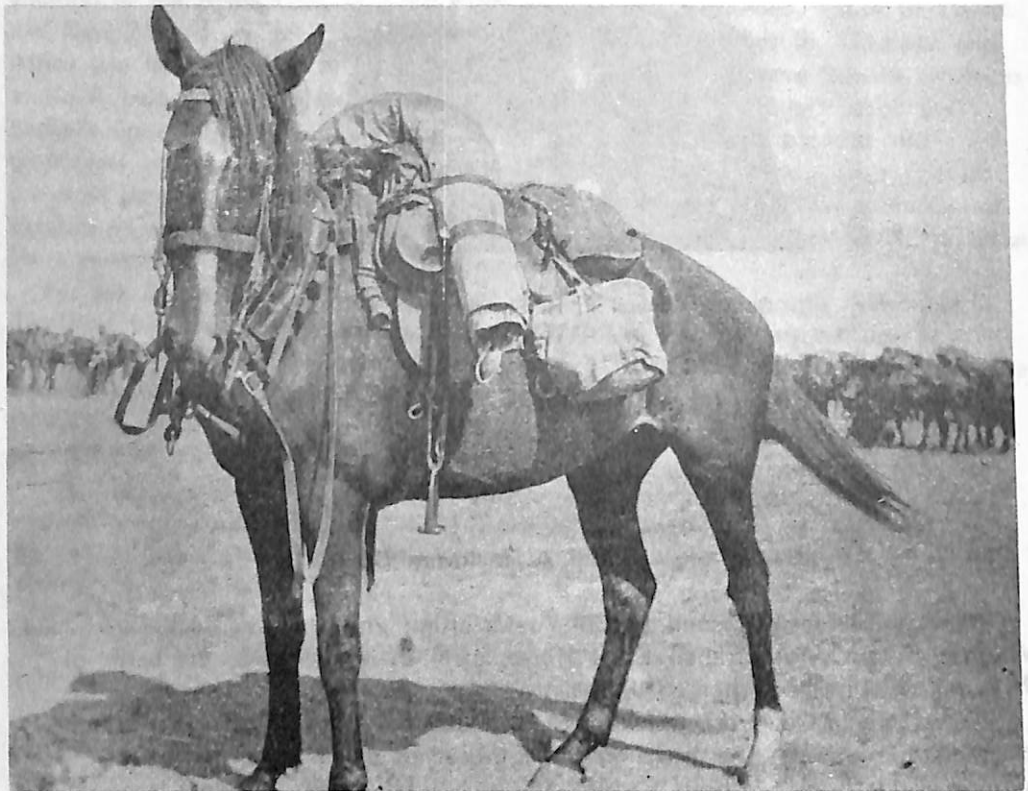
She was foaled at Fort Constantine, branded F.C.2, by a blood horse from a selected station mare. She travelled some thousands of miles during the war sometimes 70 hours without a drink, through intense heat, icy cold, sand, mud and stones. A wonderful effort proving the stamina of the Australian remount.

As she stands with the troop behind her she is carrying approx 140 lbs dead weight. Namely, halter, headrope, bridle, saddle and saddle blanket, horseshoe case (1 Fore, 1 Hind shoe and 8 nails), 3 days Rations for horse and rider, valise with change of clothes, bed roll of blanket and groundsheet plus greatcoat, and a

bandolier containing 90 rounds .303 ammunition. This plus the rider and his rifle equalled over twenty stone weight.

On arrival at Jerusalem Cpl A. Meldrum was commissioned and issued with a fresh remount

Submitted by Lt Col Alex Meldrum DSO 2nd Light Horse Queensland Mounted Infantry and 2/14 Queensland Mounted Infantry R.A.A.C.



'Gunner' Ready For War

THE AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTARY HOSPITAL

by

P.B. Burness

The 1941 Star is often, though erroneously called the 'Mons Star', however, even its true title is misleading as a condition of its award required that the recipient actually served in France or Belgium on the establishment of a unit between 5 August 1914 and midnight on 22-23 November 1914. Accordingly Australians who served in the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN & MEF) in New Guinea although under fire in 1914 were not eligible for the award. They received instead the 1914-15 Star.

A surprising discovery is to find that there was an Australian unit in France as early as 29 August 1914. This was the Australian Voluntary Hospital, and as the award of the 1914 Star included 'civilian medical practitioners, nursing sisters, nurses and others employed with the military hospitals,' between the dates nominated, its early members were eligible for the award. Although never part of the AIF the Australian Voluntary Hospital was never-the-less regarded as the representative Australian unit at the Front in 1914 and throughout was staffed and financed by Australians.

Upon the outbreak of war in 1914 there were many Australian doctors, nurses, and medical students training and visiting in England who immediately saw their duty and offered their services to the War Office. Amongst them were a number, led by Lady Rachel, Countess of Dudley the wife of the former Governor General, who felt that an Australian Hospital should be raised for service at the Front. The Countess, obviously a woman of considerable influence and ability spoke to the King on the matter and the proposition was referred to Lord Kitchener, the Secretary for War. Despite the War Office regulation that all voluntary hospitals should be raised under the British Red Cross Society, it was agreed that a 200 bed field hospital privately would be accepted. The War Office undertook to appoint a Medical Officer to command the unit and would arrange for its transportation to France.

Unfortunately in the haste to raise the unit the Australian Government was not consulted and subsequently the hospital received only tardy recognition from the Commonwealth.

Command of the hospital went to Lieut-Colonel W.L.'E. Eames, CB, VD, who was proceeding to join a cavalry ambulance being raised in Ireland. Reporting for his movement order he was advised of the change and ordered to organise and command the 200 bed hospital as laid down in RAMC regulation. He was to purchase the necessary equipment, engage Australian Medical Officers, nurses and personnel, look to the Australian Committee for funds, and report when ready.

Eames had been born near Poona, India, on 18 July 1863, the son of Reverend W.L. Eames of Dublin, an Army Chaplain. He was educated in England and came to Australia in 1887 and established a medical practice in Newcastle, NSW. In 1891 he joined the NSW Medical Corps and later served as a Major with No. 2 Bearer Company in the South Africa War. He was mentioned in despatches and received the CB.

On 17 August 1914, advertisements appeared in the daily papers calling for Australian volunteers. Sir Robert Lucas-Tooth established the Hospital's Fund with a donation of £10,000 and Lord Dunraven offered his home 'Dunraven Castle' as a convalescent home and his private 390-ton steam yacht *Greta* for the hospital's use.

On 19 August the unit was mobilised and went into camp in the grounds of the Ranelagh Club, London, and on the 27th the War Office was notified that the unit was ready to take the field.

Following notification of the availability of the hospital the War Office requested the British Medical Authorities to allow it to proceed to the front. Surgeon-General Woodhouse replied that he was unable to find a place for this irregular unit and telegraphed to say that it should be retained to supplement medical facilities in England. This sudden obstruction was however quickly overcome; the Countess of Dudley was a woman of no small influence. Finally the Australians embarked for France on the transport *Siptah* and the yacht *Greta*, and on 29 August 1914 Lieut-Colonel Eames reported the arrival of the hospital at the French port of Havre.

At Havre there were already twelve other hospitals recently arrived awaiting employment, however the authorities were pleased to make use of the motor ambulances which had arrived with the Australians and which were the first such vehicles to arrive since the commencement of the war.

The stay at Havre was short. With the Germans advancing on the town orders were received to move at a moments notice. On the evening of 2 September stores were loaded on to the *Victorian* and with the twelve other hospitals they sailed the following day with some of the officers and nurses following on the hospital ship *Asturias* and the little *Greta*.

The unit disembarked at the port of St Nazaire on 5 September and with a bit of Australian cunning managed to be the first voluntary hospital to report for duty. The following day the wounded began to stream in from the Retreat from Mons.

Referring to the valuable work done by the Australian Hospital in the following four weeks the British Official historian wrote: 'It had 38 beds for officers and 98 for other ranks, and provided much needed accommodation for serious cases of wounds from the 7 September onwards while the general hospitals were being prepared.'

Meanwhile the yacht *Greta* was employed carrying wounded officers across the Channel.

In Australia the *Sydney Mail* in an article dated 16 September 1914 reported that 'the people of New South Wales have subscribed over £4,000 to the Australian

Voluntary Hospital organised by Lady Dudley.'

On 8 October following an order from the Director of Medical Services, the hospital was closed down and packed up in readiness to move to Boulogne where a British base was being established.

On 29 October the Australians detrained at Wimereux about 5 miles out of Boulogne and moved into the Hotel Du Golf which had been rented as a hospital. At Boulogne the unit took delivery of about 30 motor vehicles which had been donated and fitted out as ambulances. Some of these vehicles had been donated by the Governments of New South Wales and Queensland, and some others by Norman Brooks and 'The Women of South Australia'. Throughout the Australians' ambulances were the envy of every hospital in Boulogne. They did valuable work carrying the wounded from the rail-cars to all the hospitals, and between the hospitals and the hospital-ships. Often the Australian Hospital had no more than four or five operating for its own use.

The duties of the Australian Hospital, as it was now called, at Wimereux were laid down:

- (a) To return men to duty, if possible, within 3 weeks, or;
- (b) To evacuate them to England as soon as possible, doing in the interval only such emergency operations and other treatment as may be required.

The Australians had only one day to transform the rambling 3-storey hotel into a hospital to meet the needs of the wounded coming in from the First Battle of Ypres. In the first day of the battle the Australian ambulances carried 1,000 cases and on the night of 30 October, 150 badly wounded men were admitted to the hospital. With only temporary facilities 79 major-operations were performed in 12 days.

In September General Keogh on behalf of the British Red Cross Society offered to take over the hospital, however the Australians anxious to preserve their individuality rejected the offer.

On 22 November, 36 NCOs, mostly medical students were released from their engagement to return home to complete their studies. Many were to obtain commissions and return to France later. Their places were filled by men of the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC).

The Australian Hospital was fortunate to have had the services of a number of prominent Australian doctors; notably Laurence Herschel L. Harris and Edward T. Thring who were with it from the beginning and Sir Alexander MacCormick and Sir David Hardie who joined in France. Harris and MacCormick were described by A.G. Butler, the Australian official medical historian, as Australia's leading radiologist and surgeon respectively.

Harris had previously served in the Australian Army Medical Corps, and on the outbreak of war was commissioned in the RAMC. At St Nazaire his X-ray apparatus was the first to be put into operation at that location and at Wimereux he was operating within twelve hours of arrival.

MacCormick and Hardie were Scottish born, and both had settled in Australia during the 1880's. MacCormick had been lecturer in surgery at Sydney University before serving in the South Africa War as a major with the Medical Corps. MacCormick and Hardie were commissioned in the RAMC and joined the Australian Hospital at Wimereux.

After a few months, having proved its effectiveness, the Hospital belatedly approached the Australian Government for official recognition and requested that the nurses all be registered in the Australian Army Nursing Service. The request was refused in January 1915, and following further approaches the Minister for Defence finally wrote in June: 'It is not considered that this Department would be justified in officially recognising, as all medical men and nurses who were sent to England to join the RAMC without the nomination of this Department would expect the same recognition extended to them.'

Unfortunately for the Voluntary Hospital the Australian Government on the outbreak of war had raised a special force called the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) for service overseas, and enlistment was not permitted outside Australia. This regulation was strictly enforced, however it was little comfort to members of the Australian Hospital when two of the earliest exceptions were made for members of its own medical staff. For a period during 1915 both Lieut-Colonel Sir Alexander MacCormack and Major Harris held commissions in the RAMC and the AIF.

This lack of official recognition was unfortunate, not so much for the Medical Officers who all held at least temporary RAMC commissions, but for the nurses and volunteer staff. These people were all civilians and not eligible for service pay, benefits or pensions. The nurses were not allowed to wear military uniform and when on leave could not obtain military passes; a situation they regarded as humiliating. Consequently many enlisted for general service in the RAMC and QAIMNS. Of the staff (excluding medical officers) of over 70 in May 1915, only 16 of the original volunteers remained.

Prior to the Gallipoli landings the activities of the AIF had been comparatively minor and to those at home it remained essentially a European War. While the Government in Australia closed its eyes to the work of the Voluntary Hospital it never-the-less continued to receive at least a little publicity in the press and its value was noted by the British.

Field-Marshal J.D.P. French, Commander-in-chief of the British Army in the Field mentioned the following members of the Australian Hospital in his despatch of April 5 1915:

Lieutenant-Colonel W.L.E. Eames, CB
No. 1. Sergeant-Major C.R. Williams
No. 7. Sergeant P.W. Chapman
Matron Miss I. Greaves

Matron Greaves was subsequently awarded the Royal Red Cross for her "distinguished service in the field."

Up to 30 June 1915, 6,446 cases had been treated by the Australian Hospital.

In early April 1915, the Australian High Commissioner cabled the Australian authorities advising that the War Office would be pleased to receive a 1,040 bed hospital for service in France, and accordingly No. 3 Australian General Hospital was raised under the command of Colonel T. Fiaschi. Both Fiaschi and Eames had previously served in the South Africa War in the NSW Army Medical Corps.

With the proposed arrival of 3 AGH, the Australian Voluntary Hospital had hopes that they would be absorbed by this unit to form the largest military hospital in France. Their hopes collapsed on the receipt of a cable from the Governor-General, Munro Ferguson. 'This Government averse to any amalgamation of A.V.H. Wimmereux, France, with No. 3 Double General Hospital now en-route from Australia and they consider should be quite distinct otherwise awkward complications will arise.'

Following the landings on Gallipoli in April, casualty lists began to appear and Australians reeled at the seemingly endless lists of names. The handling of the increasing number of Anzac wounded became an immediate priority. No. 3 AGH landed in England on 28 June 1915, and a fortnight later left for Lemnos via Alexandria. Major Harris from the AVH who had been sent to London to assist the General Hospital purchase X-ray equipment was ordered to proceed to Mudros to assist there. He served with 3 AGH off Gallipoli until the evacuation.

The Volunteer Hospital lost the valuable services of Sir Alexander MacCormick in a similar manner; in August he was posted to 3 AGH as senior surgeon. He remained with the AIF Hospital until October when he left to return to France as Consultant Surgeon BEF.

By late 1915 the Australian Voluntary Hospital faced three major crisis. It had lost both its senior surgeon and radiologist, most volunteer staff had transferred to the RAMC and QUIMNS or returned to Australia, and the diversion of public attention to the exploits of the AIF caused a drastic drop of funds from Australia.

On 4 September the High Commissioner for Australia, Sir George Reid, made an official inspection of the unit and hospital. Shortly afterwards his successor, Andrew Fisher wrote: 'The fame of the Australian Hospital in France is widespread in Australia and I look forward with interest to seeing the good work in progress.' The hospital was also favoured by a visit from the King who had previously donated two horses.

The highly qualified medical staff were leaders in a number of fields and throughout 1915 the Australian Hospital conducted for discussing War Surgery and Medicine every three weeks. These discussions were held in the Officer's Mess and were attended by representatives from all the military hospitals in Boulogne. From them the Boulogne Medical Society was eventually formed.

In March 1916 AIF troops began arriving in France. On 25 April the hospital commemorated the first Anzac Day which, as far as possible, was treated as a holiday. A few days later three AIF nurses were attached, however, possibly afraid

of the precedent being established, they were transferred soon afterwards.

With the arrival of large numbers of Australians, in particular the medical units, the work of the Voluntary Hospital became less significant. Funds arriving from Australia were reduced, and the Australian Committee in London now felt its obligation to carry the expenses of the hospital no longer necessary. Finally, since the Australian authorities had refused to take the hospital over as a going concern it was offered to the War Office.

On 31 May 1916, the Prime Minister, W.M. Hughes accompanied by Andrew Fisher visited the unit. The hospital was continuing to do valuable work and was in process of expanding. Impressed by what he saw, Hughes suggested that arrangements could be made for the Government to pay the expenses of the hospital. However, the Australian Committee had already given the staff notice of closure, and negotiations with the War Office having been finalised it was too late to accept the Prime Minister's offer.

On 1 July 1916, the hospital was taken over by the War Office, expanded, and renamed No. 32 Stationary Hospital. The ambulances, over 30 of them, were handed over to the British Red Cross Society.

No. 32 Stationary Hospital continued to do good work until early 1919 when it finally closed; one of the last hospitals to leave the Boulogne base. To the end it retained at least a little of its Australian character, Eames remained in command and many of the staff remained on with the RAMC.

Boulogne developed into the most important base port of the BEF. It lay on the direct route of casualties from the salient and by August 1918 held 19 General Hospitals, and 8 Stationary Hospitals.

Australian representation at Boulogne did not end with the handing over of the Voluntary Hospital. In June 1916, No. 2 AGH arrived and was established at Wimmereux on a site not far from No. 32 Stationary Hospital.

Following the arrival of Portuguese troops in France, No. 32 Hospital reserved 600 beds for their use until their own hospital was established 8 months later at Ambleteuse. During this period the hospital co-operated closely with their medical authorities and was visited by the President of the Portuguese Republic. Eames was later awarded the Portuguese decoration; Commander of the Order of Avis.

Many Australians also passed through No. 32 Stationary Hospital, and in this regard it is interesting to compare statistics with those of No. 2 AGH. Up until February 1919 when the AIF hospital left the Boulogne base they had handled 90,399 admissions amongst which were 9,040 Australians. The smaller Stationary Hospital in the same period handled 74,000 cases amongst them 4,000 Australians.

The Australian Voluntary Hospital made a valuable, if small, contribution to the handling of thousands of sick and wounded soldiers passing through the major medical base in France. In effect it was one of the first medical units to land and one of the last to leave. Its members worked under difficult conditions, with little recognition

or their efforts and often despite the fact that they had more to gain by returning to Australia to serve with the AIF. In 1919 Eames wrote complaining of the lack of rewards and decorations awarded to his Australians stating the reason behind this was that the Australian authorities did not consider it was their responsibility to make any recommendations, whilst the War Office considered that they would.

In a radio programme in 1932, 'Banjo' Paterson recalled the work of the Australian Voluntary Hospital and urged that its name should not be forgotten, however, it had already been forgotten and how many people today would know that there was an Australian unit in France as early as August 1914?



AWARD OF US PRESIDENTIAL CITATION TO 3 RAR

by

Major L.M. Montgomerie MBE, MC.

The following citation was promulgated in the United States of America Department of the Army General Order number 47 dated 5th May 1952:

- “3d Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (23 and 24 April 1951);
- 2d Battalion, Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry (24 and 25 April 1951);
- Company A, 72d Heavy Tank Battalion (United States) (24 and 25 April 1951),

are cited for extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance of combat duties in action against the armed enemy near Kapyong, Korea, on the dates indicated. The enemy had broken through the main line of resistance and penetrated to the area north of Kapyong. The units listed above were deployed to stem the assault. The 3d Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, moved to the right flank of the sector and took up defensive positions north of the Pukhon River. The 2d Battalion, Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry, defended in the vicinity of Hill 677 on the left flank. Company A, 72d Heavy Tank Battalion, supported all units to the full extent of its capacity and, in addition, kept the main roads open and assisted in evacuating the wounded. Troops from a retreating division passed through the sector which enabled enemy troops to infiltrate with the withdrawing forces. The enemy attacked savagely under the clanger of bugles and trumpets. The forward elements were completely surrounded going through the first day and into the second. Again and again the enemy threw waves of troops at the gallant defenders, and many times succeeded in penetrating the outer defences, but each time the courageous, indomitable, and determined soldiers repulsed the fanatical attacks. Ammunition ran low and there was no time for food. Critical supplies were dropped by air to the encircled troops, and they stood their ground in resolute defiance of the enemy. With serene and indefatigable persistence, the gallant soldiers held their defensive positions and took heavy tolls of the enemy. In some instances when the enemy penetrated the defenses, the commanders directed friendly artillery fire on their own positions in repelling the thrusts. Towards the close of 25 April, the enemy break-through had been stopped. The seriousness of the break-through on the central front had been changed from defeat to victory by the gallant stand of these heroic and courageous soldiers. The 3d Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment; 2d Battalion, Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry and Company A, 72d Heavy Tank Battalion, displayed such gallantry, determination, and esprit de corps in accomplishing their missions under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions as to set them apart and above other units, participating in the campaign, and by their achievements they

brought distinguished credit on themselves, their homelands, and all freedom-loving nations".



Lt. L.M. Montgomerie MC with his platoon taken after the battle.

NOMINAL ROLL OF 3 RAR MEMBERS KILLED IN ACTION AT KAPYONG

5/400096	Pte J.A. Atkinson	3/400183	Pte D.J.D. Lee
3/400203	Pte H. Bolitho	1/9915	Pte (T-Sgt) S.K.J. Lenoy
4/400051	Pte D.A. Bridge	3/400258	Pte C.R. Looker
3/400119	Pte J. Burns	2/400237	Pte K.T. Matchett
2/400043	LCpl E.A. Devine	2/400144	Pte J. McBride
1/400045	Pte P.A. Farquharson	1/9090	Pte J.A. Mealing
2/3243	Pte T.J. Flanagan	5/400070	Pte (T-Sgt) E.L. Millwood
1/1052	Pte N.J. Frey	3/400143	Pte (T-Cpl) W.K. Murphy
2/400011	Pte B.J. Goldsmith	3/400198	LCpl H.A. Richey
2/400308	Pte D. Gouch	2/400129	Pte A.G. Rimmer
4/493	Pte G.H. Harris	1/400064	Pte T.S. Smith
1/400104	Pte W.D. Hoare	2/400361	Pte D.G. Stewart
2/400245	Pte R. Ingram	3/2158	Pte (T-Cpl) R.L. Thompson
3/400190	Pte W.E. Jillett	2/3090	LCpl N.C. North
3/400220	Pte L.A. Jones		

AWARDS FOR KAPYONG

DSO	Lt Col I.B. Ferguson MC
MC	Lt L. M. Montgomerie
MM	Cpl D.B. Davie
	Pte R.A.F. Smith
MID	L/Cpl H.A. Richey
	Pte J.F. Winson

THE FIRST AUSTRALIAN ENLISTED IN THE ARMY IN AUSTRALIA

by

Brig M. Austin DSO, OBE(RL)

References: Public Records Office, London: War Office 25/642, 643, 1342
Cobley: Sydney Cove 1788, Sydney Cove 1789-1790,
Crimes of the First Fleet Convicts

From such records which are still extant the first Australian enlisted in the Army in Australia appears to be William Mitchell, junior.

His father, William Mitchell, senior, was born at Bandon, Cork on 25 September 1760. After enlisting under the age of 18 in the Portsmouth Division of Marines on 25 April 1777, he served in the West Indies from January 1779 to November 1782, and in the East Indies from January 1783 until May 1785. He came to Australia in the First Fleet as a private in Captain-Lieutenant Watkin Tench's company of marines in the *Charlotte*.

Also in the *Charlotte* was a convict Jane Fitzgerald (alias Phillips) who was sentenced to transportation for seven years for felony on 4 April 1786 at Bristol. Her age and occupation are unknown. In March 1788 she gave evidence at a court martial, presided over by Tench, wherein Joseph Hunt was charged with striking William Dempsey, when she had spoken to Dempsey at the "cooking place". This particular court martial is perhaps more notorious for the aftermath — the marine commandant, Major Robert Ross, placed the members of the court martial under an arrest which was to last another three years.

Jane gave further evidence in April 1788 during the trial of one Peter Hopley who was charged with suspicion of stealing a quart tin pot belonging to Margaret Stewart. She gave birth to William and James Mitchell on 9 October 1788. James died and was buried on 15 January 1789. The following March she was ordered 25 lashes by Captain David Collins (of the marines) the deputy judge advocate of the settlement, for disobedience.

William Mitchell, senior, was discharged from the marines on 25 October 1790, but re-enlisted in the New South Wales Corps (known to contemporaries as the Botany Bay Rangers) on 11 April 1793, under the special conditions then obtaining, for a period of five years. He was discharged from the Corps on 10 April 1798, but may have re-enlisted later.

His son, William, believed to be the first Australian enlisted in the Army in Australia, entered the NSW Corps as a drummer on 15 June 1800, being enlisted 10 days later, not having yet reached the age of 12. (His service for pension would not commence until age 18.)

Without extensive checking the subsequent service history of father and son must remain obscure, as no less than five William Mitchells are shown in the casualty records of the Muster Master General for the 102nd Regiment up to the end of 1813. At least two men of that name are involved as two entries relate to discharges on 6 November 1811, and 16 November 1813. Both father and son appear to have been somewhat alike, being described as sallow complexioned, with grey eyes and light brown hair.

Editors Comment

One wonders how many 'Australian born' served in the early British military campaigns and what honours they earned.

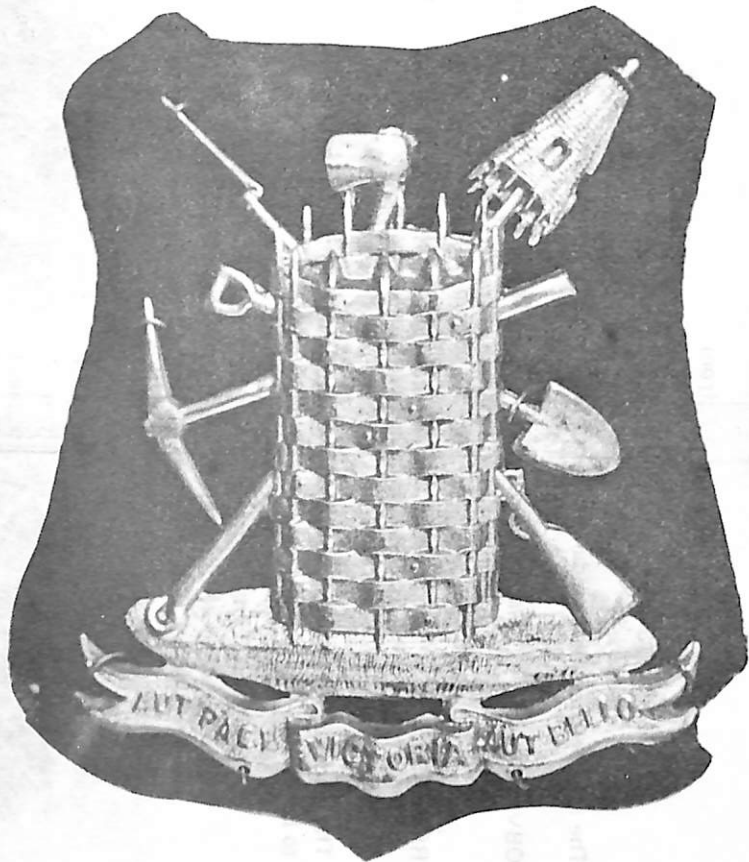
VICTORIAN MILITARY FORCESEngineering Badge, about 1887

(worn on left forearm)

Awarded to best men of Field Company, Victorian Engineers, not exceeding 10% of strength.

Badge in gilt metal of "a gabion surmounted with felling axe, crossed with pick and shovel, rifle with bayonet and pontoon anchor; scroll motto at base of badge AUT PACE AUT BELLO VICTORIA".

- (Notes: (1). From 1893 the motto was PRO DEO ET PATRIA VICTORIA.
 (2) Both the above badges were mounted on blue cloth for wear on red tunics.
 (3) Before 1887 an embroidered badge of the same design, on red cloth, without motto, was worn. The scroll letters V and E (for Victorian Engineers) appeared at either side of the axe-head.



A JAPANESE SHOOTING MEDAL

from

B.J. Vidion

The attached Japanese medal may be of interest to some collectors:

OBVERSE: Map of French Indo-China with Army star and crossed rifles superimposed in Japanese characters the word "Winner" (or "Champion").

REVERSE: Engraved characters reading "1944. French Indo-China War Area. Rifle shooting contest".

The medal is of silver, as marked on the reverse in English. The maker's name seems to be an Indo-Chinese one.



THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE NEW UNIFORM

by

Dean Rayner

Introduced into general service in the Royal Australian Air Force in late 1971 was a new style of uniform. The new uniform is different in almost every respect in comparison to the uniform worn by men of the RAAF since the thirties.

The most notable difference is, of course the new blue/grey colour, being a replacement for the navy blue worn on most 1A's and 3B's to this day. There are however, many other differences, in comparison with the old uniform, and I will endeavour to explain these as completely as possible.

The Jacket Scale of issue : No. 2 (see photo)

The jacket is worn by all ranks, there being no difference in material or style for officers or men. The introduction of this new style uniform saw the last (officially) of Warrant and Commissioned officers cuff ranking, although some of the older Warrant Officers take it upon themselves to wear the royal coat of arms (warrant) on the cuff.

Officers rank is on the epaulettes, being manufactured in the same material as the jacket, with the top braid being surrounded by a small anodised eagle and crown. Warrant Officers wear the eagle and crown. Some officers of Air Rank have the cloth braids replaced with gold lace (as for mess dress), the top braid in these instances being surmounted by a small gold bullion embroidered cluster.

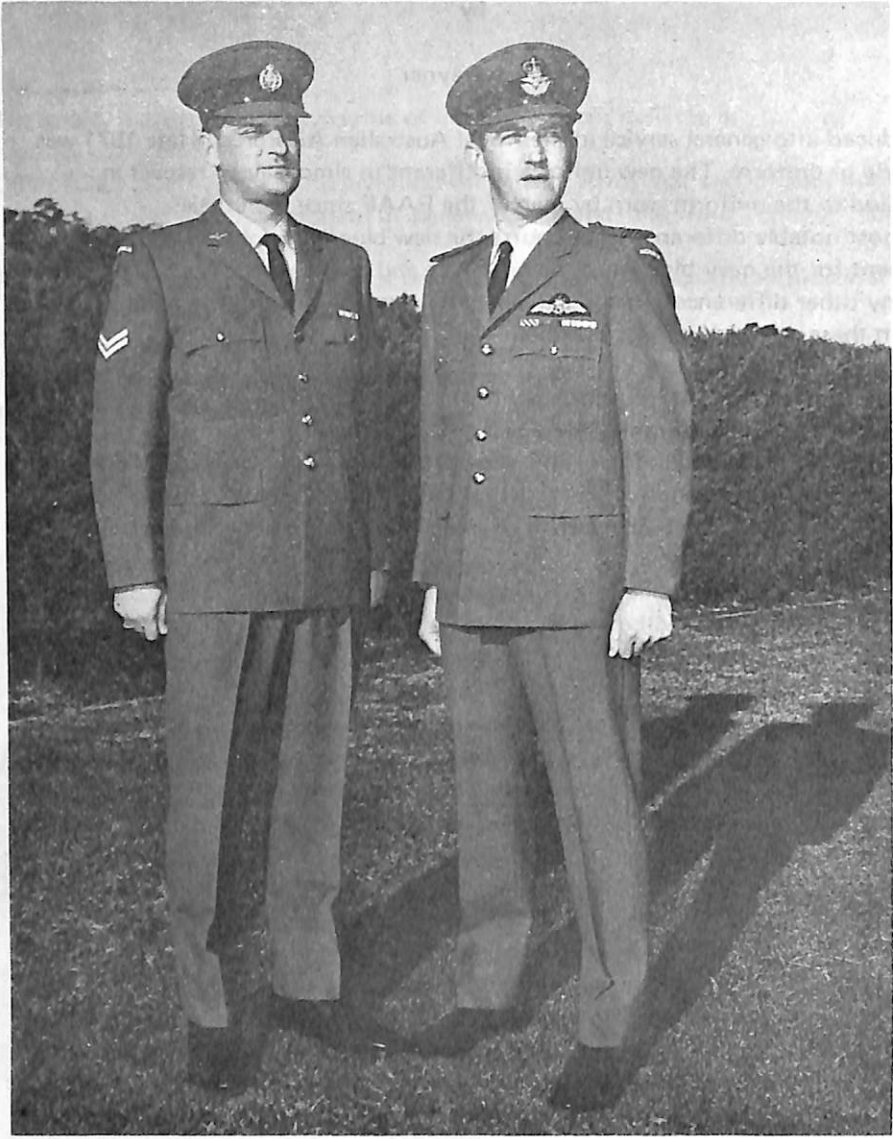
Non Commissioned rank is basically the same as was worn on the old tunics. The only exception is the Leading Aircraftsmans badge of rank (propellor), as it has no backing cloth. The unit is manufactured with no backing cloth. The chevrons themselves no longer have the small "v"s running up the length of them.

Aircrew badges of qualification (wings) are worn only in the form of gold bullion embroidered on the tunic jacket. The design has remained unchanged although rumour has it that a new backing colour is under consideration.

The Shirt Scale of issue : No. 3 (see photo)

A similar shirt is worn by all ranks. It is intended as a replacement for the drab shirt, as no summer uniform is provided. It is always worn, if not openly then under the tunic jacket. The RAAF still employs a type of season system as do the other two services when personnel change from winter to summer uniform and vice versa. When the RAAF do this the jacket is simply removed or put on. In tropical zones the RAAF is still wearing drabs as no short trousers have been manufactured in the new blue colour.

NEW RAAF UNIFORM
OFFICER AND CORPORAL



New RAAF Uniform Officer and Corporal
197

Aircrew badges for the shirt are in silver metal, as was worn on drabs.

Service ribbons are worn on a clutch grip bar, thus enabling removal for laundering of the shirt.

The Cap Scale of issue : No. 2 (see photo)

The cap is in the same material as the tunic or trouser. The most outstanding difference apart from new colour, is the small size of the peak when compared to the old navy blue. Other Ranks and Warrant Officers badges are anodised super pure aluminium, with the W.O.'s badge bearing the wedge tailed eagle. Commissioned and Air Rank officers cap badges have remained unchanged with the exception of the new wedge tailed eagle for both badges. Group Captains and Officers of Air Rank wear the braided peak, in the same dimensions and design as was worn on the navy blue issue. **Note:** The Chaplains Cap badge is now being replaced in the RAAF, and chaplains are now issued with the standard officers caps badge and new chaplain's collar badges, being smaller than past issues and also no longer bearing the letters RAAF. The badge has a cross pattee in the centre of the wreath in black, and this badge, like the badge for Medical Branch, is the only distinguishing badge for the Branch. (See diagram)

CADETS incorporating, the Academy, Diploma Cadet Squadron and the RAAF Apprentices.

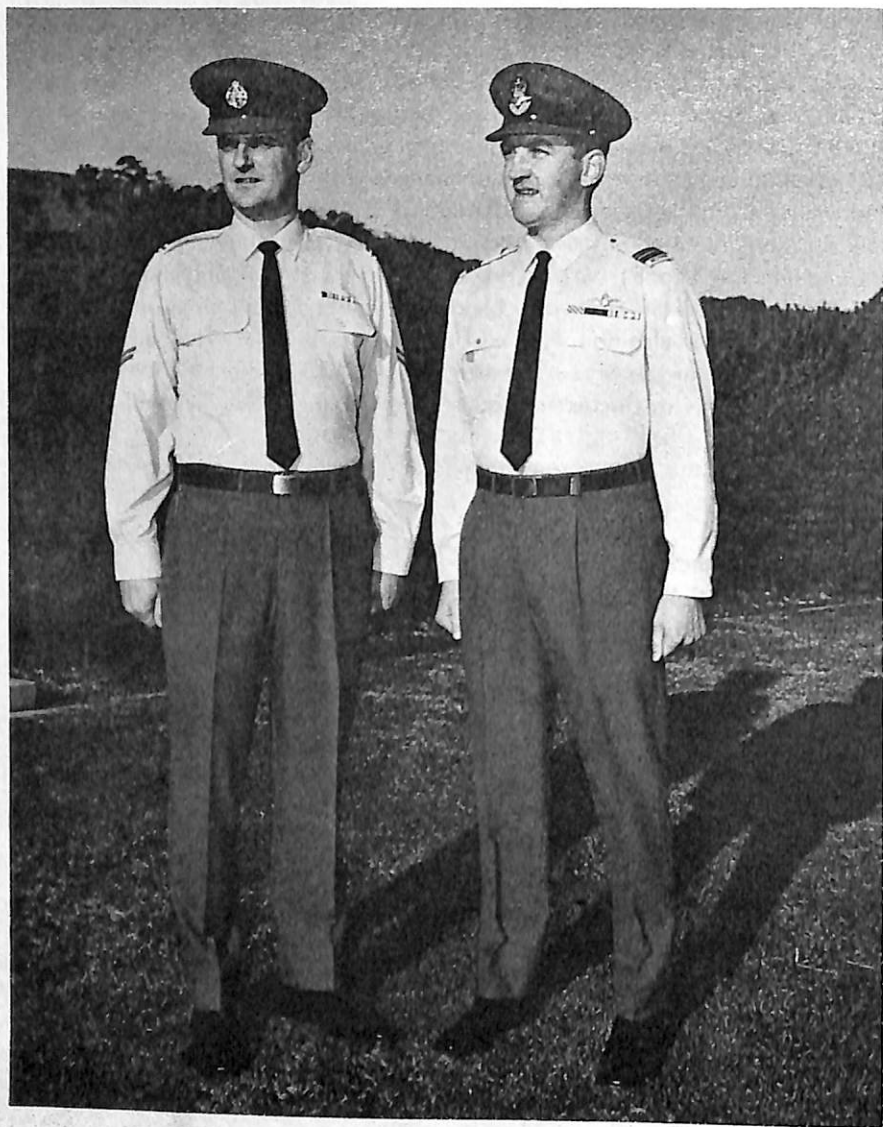
Diploma and Academy Cadets

On the old uniform, Diploma and Academy cadets wore white shoulder marks on the shoulder strap of the battle jacket and drab shirt, and on the 1A jacket they wore a pair of small white collar tabs. As the new uniform does not have any collar ranking, the collar tabs have been scrapped. The white band is now worn on all wear. It is worn on an epaulette surmounted by a small anodised eagle and crown (same as officers) and on the shirt just the white band is worn, as was on the drab shirt and battle jacket.

All cadets, including cadet aircrew follow this style of ranking and also all wear a white cap band with the Commissioned Officers badge on it.

RAAF Apprentices

On the old uniform, RAAF Apprentices wore an embroidered shoulder title 'RAAF Apprentice'. These were on every issue, i.e. the drab shirt, battle jacket and walking out dress. On the new uniform no such title is worn. The only way to distinguish an apprentice from an airman is that all apprentices wear a mid-blue cap band with an identically coloured disc, on which is mounted the cap badge. Apprentices can reach the rank of Warrant Officer Apprentice, and these wear W.O.'s cap badge and epaulettes, and this mid-blue cap band.



New RAAF Uniform Worn as for Summer, Officer and Corporal

Summary

In summary, the Royal Australian Air Force introduced a new style of uniform into general service late in 1971, after conducting user trials for over a year on at least three uniforms.

All personnel are entitled to wear a name plate above the right breast pocket. The rectangular plate is of silver alloy with the name of the serviceman in capital letters engraved and filled in blue paint.

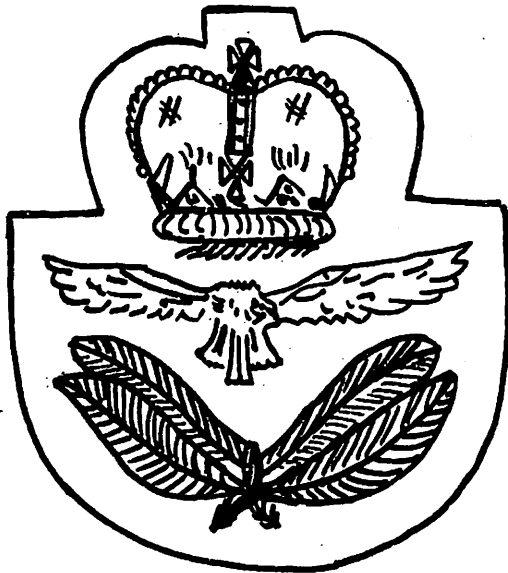
Currently under consideration is a ½ jacket (3 front button), like the old battle jacket. It will be in the same colour as the tunic but the same material is doubtful. Also subject to approval is a new colour jumper, V necked instead of the present issue polo neck. The only other thing to my knowledge subject to approval is a new coloured forage cap. This item I have seen on trials but the opinion of those who were testing it have as yet to be released.

A new WRAAF uniform is at present on user trial. This new WRAAF uniform is yet to be approved, but the opinion of the members of sealed pattern store is that it will be passed and in manufacture by November 1974. It is a new styled tunic and skirt, in a colour with more grey than blue but not unlike the current RAAF issue. A cap very much like an air hostess' is also included.

I would appreciate hearing any comments on the uniforms described in this article.

References:

RAAF News Oct. 1972. Dec. 1972, Jan-Feb. 1973, July 1973.
Formation Routine Orders Oct. 1971.
Regulations, Tailor 1972
Photos by courtesy of RAAF Public Relations.



OFFICERS



AIR RANK



CHAPLAIN



MEDICAL

NOTES ON THE 'VICTORIAN ARTILLERY' BOTTLE

by

Mr J.H. White



With the increasing popularity of 'soft drinks' and aerated waters during the later half of last century, many new patent bottle seals appeared. By far the most successful of these was the invention of William Codd, patented in England in 1872 and later in the United States. His patent consisted of a captive glass ball built into the neck of a bottle which when under internal pressure remained jammed against a ledge inside the mouth of the bottle.

It was necessary for the bottles to be charged on a special filling machine which inserted the correct amounts of flavouring and soda-water under pressure. The bottle was then turned upside-down before removing from the machine so that the glass ball dropped into position. The internal gas pressure was then sufficient to hold the stopper in place against a rubber sealing ring seated inside the mouth of the bottle.

In order to open the bottle it was necessary to deliver a sharp thrust downwards against the glass ball with a wooden peg so that it came away from the seal and dropped into the neck. Constrictions in the lower part of the neck prevented the ball from falling to the bottom of the bottle and other indentations in the neck stopped it from rolling into the mouth when the contents were being poured.

Because of the intricate design these bottles were expensive to produce and to add to the aerated-water manufacturers' overhead there was a high 'mortality' rate due to the practice of children breaking off the tops in order to obtain the prize of an additional

'alloy' for their collections. This explains one reason why so many of these bottles are found today minus the tops.

The 'Victorian Artillery' bottle was manufactured by the Melbourne Glass Bottle Co. (later to become part of the Australian Glass Manufacturers Ltd. in 1915) at their

Spotswood factory around the mid 1890's. Because of the relatively small number produced and the limited distribution it is regarded as a rare specimen with historical bottle collectors. So far the only version known to exist is of 10oz. capacity and whether other sizes or variations in design were ever made remains a mystery.

ENGINEERS CHALLENGE CUP

Mr. Barry Videon
20 Thomasina Street,
East Bentleigh Vic. 3165

19th November, 1973

Dear Sir,

In reference to our recent telephone conversation I am enclosing a photograph of the trophy cup. Unfortunately no makers name or hallmarks are shown. The cup is 26cm high and 10cm wide, the weight is 14 ounces and the trophy is inscribed:

"Engineers Challenge Cup given by Captain Commandant Holmes
Won by Sergeant Chapman No. 2 Engineers, 6th August 1873."

The trophy is of extremely fine workmanship as can be seen by the embossed base, finely engraved palmtree trunks with handmade leaves, very detailed schako and the very neat and exact engraving.

I am particularly interested to ascertain the makers name and your suggestions would be much appreciated. Could you perhaps assist me in ascertaining in which State the No. 2 Engineers were stationed in as I then might be able to look up newspapers of the day. It would seem that practically all presentations were written up in the daily newspapers, very often giving not only details of the presentation but also describing the trophies in details.

Any assistance you may be able to offer would be much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

R. CHERNY.



Engineers Challenge Cup
204

**FORMATION SIGNS, UNIT SIGNS, METAL BADGES
WORN BY AUSTRALIAN TROOPS IN VIETNAM
WHICH WITH THE EXCEPTION OF AATTV AND
AAAGV WERE UNOFFICIAL AND WORN ON THE
SLEEVE.**



Shoulder flash for wear overseas Army



Brass Badge approved for wear in country



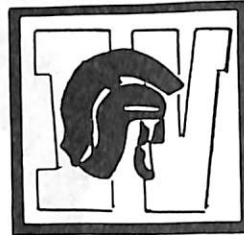
Australian Army Assistance Group Vietnam



2nd Troop Armd Sqn



3rd Troop Armd Sqn



4th Troop Armd Sqn



5th Troop Armd Sqn

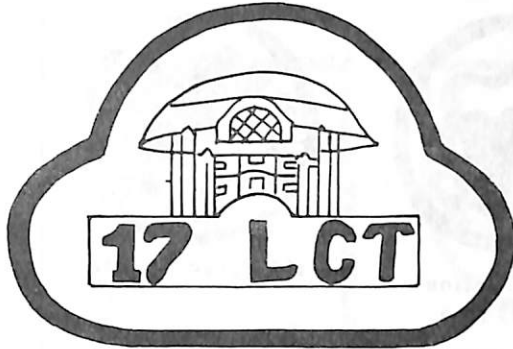


Prince of Wales Light Horse
1tp A Sqn 4/19



2nd Troop C Sqn
1st Cav Regt

Formation Signs worn Vietnam cont.



17 Construction Land Clearance Teams



Bushman Scouts



1st Australian Field Hospital



82nd Medical Detachment

Formation Signs worn in Vietnam cont.



106 Fd Battery RAA



17 Construction Squadron



161 Recce Flight



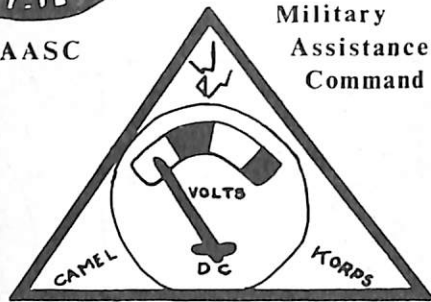
1st Troop Armd Sqn



5 Coy RAASC



Military Assistance Command



HQ IATF Armd Comd Vehicle



Ranger Units

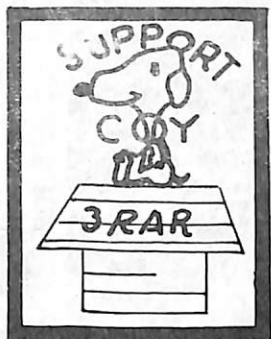


55 Advanced Engineers Works Park Squadron



Silver Badge (Metal) Truong Son Force

Formation Signs worn Vietnam cont.



Support Coy 3RAR



Transport Platoon
3RAR



5 Platoon B Coy
3RAR



7 Battalion RAR



8 Platoon C Coy
3RAR



Quartmasters Platoon
3RAR



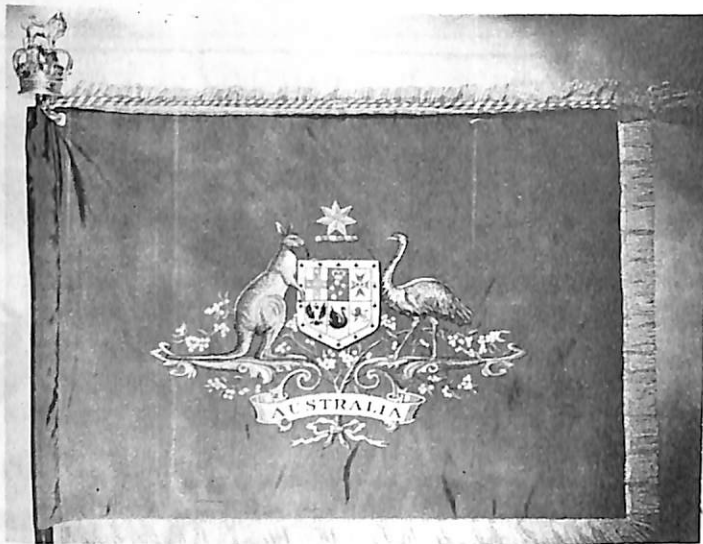
Engineer Port
Operating Squadron



2nd Aust Ordnance
Depot



6 Platoon B Coy
3RAR

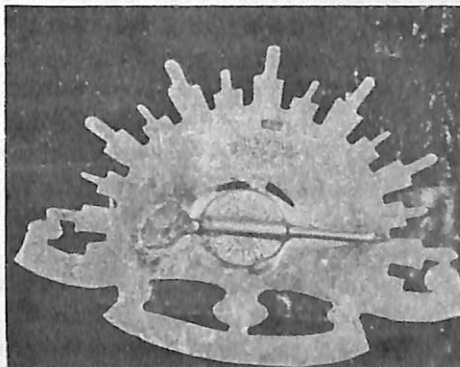


QUEEN MOTHER'S BANNER

One hundred years of medical support to the Australian Army was commemorated at Government House, Canberra when His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, presented the Queen Mother's banner to the Director General of Medical Services for the Army, Major General C.M. Gurner. The Queen Mother is the Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps. The banner, measuring 91.5cms by 61cms is in the dull cherry colour of the Corps and is the first banner to be awarded by the Queen Mother to an Australian Army Corps. In 1948 the Corps was granted the title "Royal" by King George VI, and this banner also commemorates the 25th anniversary of the granting of the title. King George awarded banners to the Royal Australian Medical Corps and the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery in 1904 for service in South Africa. The banner will be displayed at the school of Army Health at Healesville, Victoria.

THE RAREST RISING SUN BADGE

In reply to a query on a Swiss manufactured silver Rising Sun Badge there is no doubt it must be the rarest of the Rising Sun Badges. The badge was manufactured in Switzerland for members of the AIF who escaped or evaded capture after the collapse of Italy in 1943 and then found their way to Switzerland. The manufacture of the badges was arranged by Lieutenant D.A. MacDonald the Amenities Officer of the 2/13 Battalion. Badges were authorised by Major H.J. Kroger in his capacity as Senior AIF Officer in Switzerland. There is only *one* of these badges known to be in any collection in Australia. I leave it to you to determine the rarity of these badges which as the photographs show are about the same size as the normal collar badge but are more rounded in design.



Swiss Manufactured Rising Sun – Worn by Escaped Australian POWs

QUEENSLAND DEFENCE FORCE INSIGNIA 1885

In answer to a query on the Queensland Defence Forces I do not know of any Dress Regulations prior to 1887, however, notes on dress were published in the Queensland Gazette prior to 1887. The following is extracts from QDF General Order Number 111 regarding insignia:

Staff to have letter "Q" three quarters of an inch high in silver or silver embroidery on shoulder straps. *Artillery* as for Royal Artillery with the words "Queensland" substituted for "Ubique" and "Pro aris et focis" for "Quo fas et gloria ducunt". The "Q" as for Staff was worn on the shoulder straps. *Engineers* as for Royal Engineers with the same exception as for Artillery. Infantry generally as for the Queen's (Royal West Survey Regiment) with Queensland insignia. *Medical* as for Medical Department in Imperial Service with "Q" on shoulder straps. *Veterinary* as for Imperial Service. *Unattached*. Uniform of Corps in which last served with "QV" in silver letter three quarters of an inch high on shoulder straps. *Rank Badges* as for Imperial Service".

In 1885 the Queensland Defence Forces helmet plates in gilded metal were introduced.

Unique INCE Collection of Badges

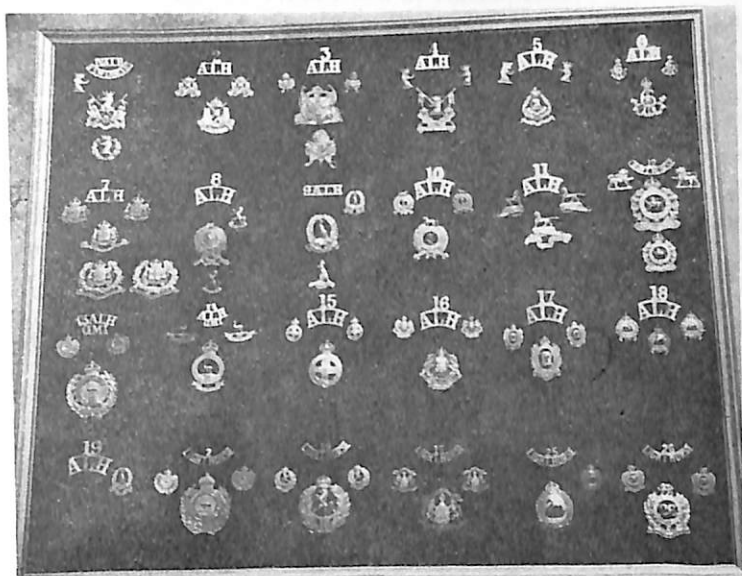
I can now confirm my stop press as the famous Ince Bros collection of 1930-42 Australian hat badges is now in the A.C.T. As can be seen from the photograph the collection is missing 12 and 24 ALH and 16 ALH is the 1912-18 period badge. However any badge collector would be overjoyed to obtain the display. The owner will not comment on its cost but one could not expect much change from \$1,000 for such a uniquely mounted collection.

Letters to Badgemen

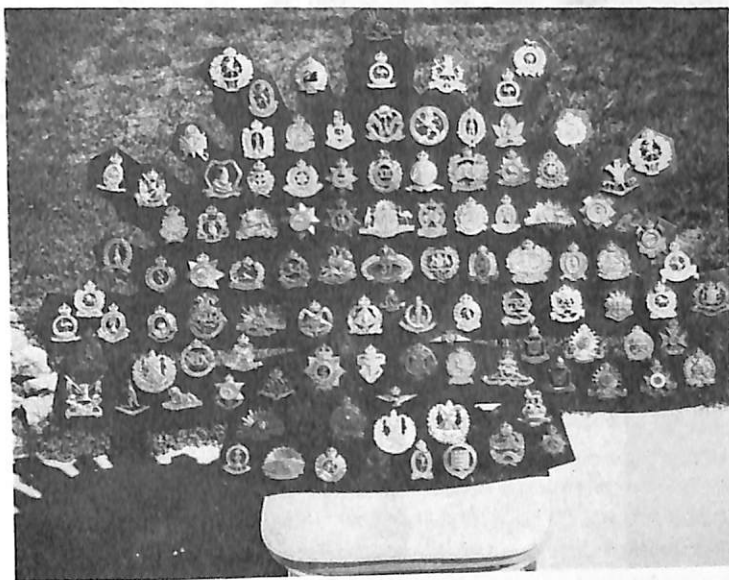
It is my policy not to reply to individuals but to answer queries in this column as it is hoped the answers will help all with an interest in badges. The Editor informed me that a couple of collectors feel they will die of frustration unless they know my identity so I have told the Editor that rather than have the deaths of such "well meaning" readers on his hands he may upon a written request disclose my identity. Like all members I leave the policy of the journal up to the Editor.

1912-18 Badges

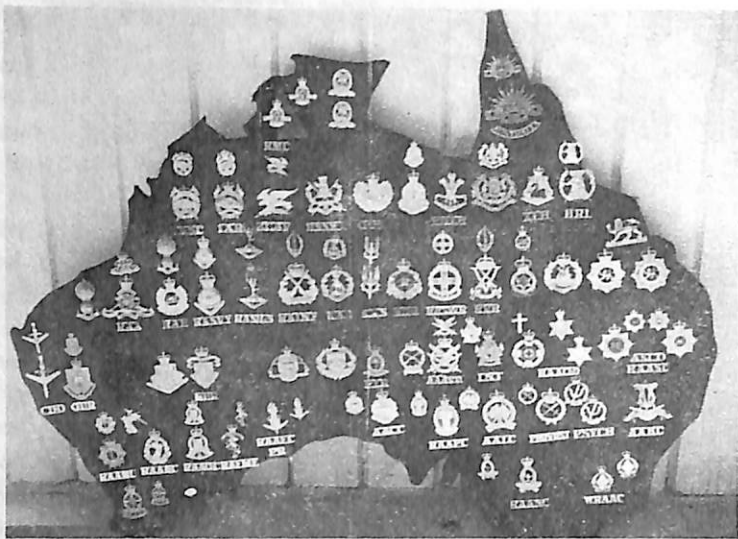
In answer to a query on what units had badges during the above period I can only add the following to the comprehensive list given by Bob Gray in the January 1974 Edition of Sabretache. 8th Infantry (Oxley Regt) hat badge and the 60th Infantry (Brunswick Carlton Regt) hat badge. Most badges of this period were also made in enamel for officers. There is no doubt other badges for this period which for some reason have been neglected by collectors.



ALH Badges 1903-18 Mounted on Velvet and Framed



The Famous Ince Bros Collection of 1930-42 Badges Mounted on Ply Rising Sun



Modern Day Aust Badges on a Ply Frame Covered with Felt

Unofficial Badge of the AAMC

The badge was designed by Major Lethbridge AAMC at the request of Howse in 1916. Drawing were prepared by Nurse Farquahar 2AGH, and a model by Herr Sussman in the "Mooski" Cairo. The badge was accepted by Howse but not produced because of the imminent transfer of medical units to France.

The design incorporates the rod and serpent used by most Medical units, wattle replacing the laurel, and the star representing the Commonwealth.

Unofficial Boer War Badges and Titles Worn by Australians

In addition to those illustrated by Hugh Gordon in the January 1974 Edition of Sabretache the following were also worn. NSWA (New South Wales Artillery), AH (1st Australian Horse), AC (Australian Commonwealth), SA (1st South Aust Regt), SCH (Scottish Horse), CPR (Colonel Pioneer Regt), BC (Bushmans Corps), Q (Queensland Staff). As these unofficial badges were made to order by a number of local and South African manufacturers others not mentioned would exist. Although these badges/titles were unofficial they are one of the most interesting to collect as they were the first to be designed and worn by Australian Forces in war.



1953-60 Aust Badges On a Polished Ply Map of Aust

RATS OF TOBRUK MEDAL

by

R. Clark



The 'Rats' Medal
(Photo by J.Cutting)

I recently obtained a group of medals that included the 'Rats of Tobruk Medal', this prompted me to make enquiries regarding the unofficial medal, which today is rarely seen. The background to this medal was found in the Rats of Tobruk Association – ACT Branch newsletter No. 141 dated August 1971. The following is a report sent in by No. 1 Field Unit, M.H. & I. Section, attached to HQ 1 Aust. Corps on 15 January 1942:

"Nazi propaganda defeated its own purpose when it dubbed Australian troops in the famous desert siege "The Rats of Tobruk". A title intended to shatter morale was siezed upon gleefully by the cave-dwelling Digger who recognised its appropriateness.

It has become one of their chief glories – so much that a special medal has been struck, semi-officially, to commemorate the ratlike conditions that distinguished their life in the Tobruk fortress. By the end of January all the engineers of 9 Aust. Div. who care to subscribe will have received their medals – a souvenir which

will mean more to them probably than any other thing they carry away from their A.I.F. service. Lord Haw-Haw, of Zeesen, was responsible for the whole move. His daily talk to the 'Rats of Tobruk' ('Well Rats, how's your air force?..... but, of course, you have no air force it was shot down today') was highly regarded for its entertainment value that all the troops who could listen in.

Corporal L.H. Dufton, a Queenslander serving with the 2/13th Fd. Coy R.A.E., was inspired to take the 'Rats' tradition further, and from scraps of material manufactured the first model. He took aluminium from the fuselage of a shot-down aeroplane as the base, just the size of the 9th Div. circular colour patch. On this he imposed a circle of copper salvaged from an army dump, to represent the inner purple circular of the unit colour patch; and on the copper he set the figure of an erect and fighting rat, hand-graven from a brass shell-case. With Corporal R.A. Costello and Sapper F.R. Bignall, he worked on the medal for three evenings, after their day's work of delousing enemy booby-traps round the perimeter. Their intention was to manufacture medals for the immediate circle of friends in their sub-section. Soon the medals were being shown and the story being told throughout

their company and, with the interest of the OC (Maj A.S. Gehrman, DSO) and his officers aroused, it was decided that eventually the souvenir should be available to the entire company. Eventually it was decided, with the approval of CRE 9 Aust. Div. (Lt Col J. Mann, DSO) that dies should be made and the medal struck in sufficient numbers to provide one for every engineer who had served with 9 Aust. Div. Engrs in Tobruk.

A contract for this was given to a Palestine firm, and for 220 mils a piece, the medals will be obtainable soon for all those entitled to own them."

An examination of the medal I have and one at the War Memorial clearly show that at least two types of the medal exist. The hand made one of the 2/13 Field Company RAE and the sand cast one made by a Palestine firm. It would not be unusual to find that other varieties were made as the local Palestine firms were always quick to copy any saleable item. If any reader has a medal which differs from the two mentioned then I would appreciate details. The ribbon on the medal is that of the Africa Star.

MEDALMAN

Medals to Mercantile Marines

Collectors may have wondered why groups of medals awarded to Australian Mercantile Marines are sometimes renamed. The renaming is done officially as it has been and still is the policy of the Department who make the awards to remove naming details on any unclaimed medals when the recipient reaches the nominal age of 100 years. These medals are then renamed with the detail of any late applicant or used as reissues. It makes one wonder how many other renamed medals are genuine as it is not unusual to find renamed long service medals which are still being worn by recipients. There of course has been *no* uniformity with the naming of Australian Long Service awards as each State used to have different contractors.

Egypt Medal Clasp Suakin 1885 to NSW Contingent

How many of these medals still exist? I don't know but Rex Clark tells me he went into this whilst writing his publication "Soudan Contingent 1885" and is convinced there are less than 200 still in existence. No doubt many were melted down during the depression and others lost with the passage of time. My prediction in the last issue of Sabretache that these medals would soon be valued at \$500 has been passed so I will now predict \$1000 within the next five years. As these medals are much rarer than a 1930 penny such a price would be justified in this world of skyrocketing costs.

It has been noticed during the last year that practically no rare Australian medals have come on the market — my dealer friend tells me this is because any rare medals to Australians are being purchased by investors. Investors drive prices up and makes it difficult for the genuine collector, who normally works to a budget, to pay the inflated prices.

British War Honours August 1914 to 31 May 1920

The following is in answer to a question on the honours, decorations and medals conferred on British and Commonwealth Military Forces for the First World War. A grand total of 398,069 Honours, including promotions for war service were conferred. The list includes those given for services in connection with the war.

VC — 579; Bar to VC — 2; GCB — 14; GCMG — 22; GBE — 30; KCB — 159; KCMG — 197; KBE & DBE — 136; CB — 1,055; CMG — 2,660; CBE — 1,936; DSO — 9,002; DSO 1st Bar — 709; DSO 2nd Bar — 71; DSO 3rd Bar — 7; OBE — 6,400; MBE — 4,263; RRC — 921; RRC 1st Bar — 76; MC — 36,104; MC 1st Bar — 2,984; MC 2nd Bar — 169; MC 3rd Bar — 4; ARRC — 5,028; DCM — 24,620; DCM 1st Bar — 472; DCM 2nd Bar — 9; MM — 115,589; MM 1st Bar — 5,796; MM 2nd Bar — 180; MM 3rd Bar — 1; MSM — 24,704; MSM 1st Bar — 5; BEM — 429.

The above list does not include Naval and Air awards.

Honours For North Russia 1918-20

A reputable dealer has asked for a break down of awards to British Military Forces for Service in the field in North Russia. No doubt the dealer, like all of us, wants to determine how rare the North Russian awards are. I would hasten to add that all awards for North Russia are rare.

VC – 2; KCB – 2; CB – 6; CMG – 13; CBE – 8; DSO – 40; DSO 1st Bar – 7; OBE – 103; MBE – 66; MC – 160; MC 1st Bar – 33; MC 2nd Bar – 2; DCM – 85; DCM 1st Bar – 5; MM – 353; MM 1st Bar – 14; MSM – 394; BEM – 1.

The above list does *not* include those awards for South and East Russia. A number of Australians were decorated for North Russia including the only *two* VCs of the campaign.

Awards for Korean War

The following is a summary of awards to the Australian Army for the Korean War.

GC – 1; CBE – 4; DSO – 6; MC – 26; Bar to MC – 1; MBE – 28; ARRC – 3; DCM – 4; Bar to DCM – 1; GM – 1; MM – 44; Bar to MM – 1; BEM – 21; MID – 107; MBE Civil – 3; Legion of Merit (US), Chief Commander – 1; Commander – 2; Officer – 1; Legionnaire – 2; Silver Star (US) – 5; Bronze Star (US) – 6; DFC (US) – 3; Air Medal (US) – 3; South Korean Order of Military Merit Taiguk – 1.

The MBE Civil awards were to philanthropic organizations supporting the army. In the Birthday and New Years Honours for Services in Korea, Lt Gen H.C.H. Robertson was awarded a KBE and Lt Gen H. Wells a CB. The bars awarded were, MC bar to Captain (Wings) H.W. Nicholls, DCM bar to Sgt W.J. Rowlinson 3 RAR who was also awarded his DCM for Korea and MM bar to Pte A.M. White 3 RAR. Captain Nicholls was also mentioned in despatches.

Papua New Guinea Independence Medal

The Photograph is the design for the PNG Independence Medal submitted to the Chief Minister PNG by the Military Historical Society.

Australians in Abyssinia

During 1940-41 five Australians were used to train Ethiopians to fight the Italians. The Australians who have this rare distinction were Lt A.H. Brown, Sgt R.C. Wood, Sgt J.K. Burke, Sgt W.R. Howell, Sgt E.M. Body. Could any reader help with detail on the service of the Australians in Abyssinia. What Ethiopian decorations were they awarded?

Foreign Decorations Awarded to Australian Victoria Cross Winners for Vietnam

There are many statistics on Victoria Cross winners. To ensure that our men who won this great honour in Vietnam are given the recognition they deserve the following list of their awards is published. The list may have omissions as some RVN decorations granted at Regimental and Brigade level were not forwarded to the Vietnamese Joint General Staff. I have extracted the information from Ian Barnes' excellent book on awards for Vietnam.

12222 WO2 K. Payne VC, American Decorations: Distinguished Service Cross (The only one awarded to an Australian). Silver Star. **Republic of Vietnam Decorations:** Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star.

41400 Major P.J. Badcoe VC, American Decorations: Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, **RVN Decorations:** National Order of Vietnam (Knight), Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Cross of Gallantry with Gold Star, Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star, Armed Forces Honour Medal 1st Class.

24492 WO2 R.S. Simpson VC, DCM, American Decorations: Silver Star, Bronze Star for Valour.

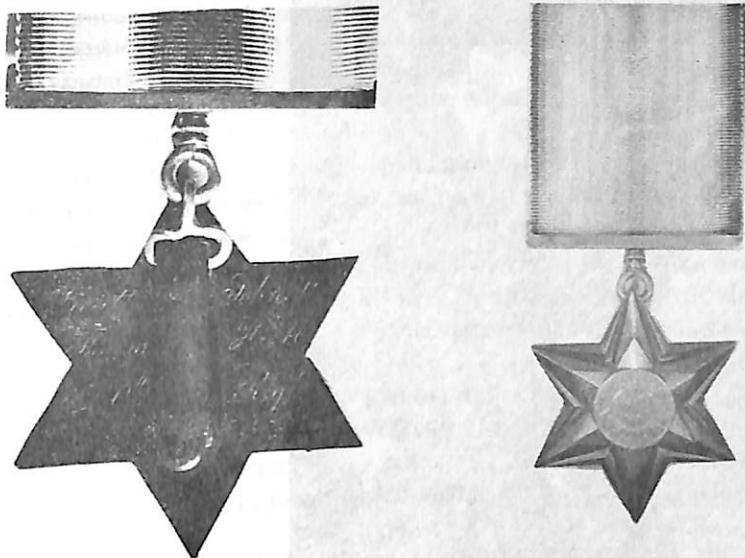
29890 WO2 K.A. Wheatly VC, American Decorations: Silver Star, **RVN Decorations:** National Order of Vietnam (Knight), Military Medal, Cross of Gallantry with Palm.

The seven foreign decorations awarded Major Badcoe gives him the distinction of being *Australia's most decorated VC winner from any war.*

Surgeon-General W.G.N. Manley VC, CB

Those who require further details on this officer are referred to The British Military Historical Society Bulletins of May 1961 and February 1964 which contain articles and excellent photographs of all the decorations and medals awarded Manley. Awards not mentioned in the Sabretache article are Knight of Grace of The Order of St John, Cross of Geneva (France) and Royal Humane Society Medal (bronze) .

Medals Worn by British Commander at Eureka Stockade.



The above medal which is one of the rarest pieces of Australiana in existence was used in Canberra to help promote the musical production STOCKADE. Details on Thomas appeared in a previous edition of Sabretache.

MEDAL SUBMITTED FOR IDENTIFICATION

One of our readers has sent in the following photos of the obverse and reverse of a medal that he has been unable to identify. On the Obverse it shows two soldiers beneath a five-pointed star, and the word 'Patria' is between their heads, being indeed the only wording on the medal. The Reverse indicates that it has never been awarded.

Any clues?





Mr Malik, Indonesian Foreign Minister, at Heroes Day at Indonesian Embassy congratulates Air Commodore A.E. Mather, DFC, AFC, on being awarded the Indonesian Air Force Flying Wing, First Class. Awarded for dedicated service in building relations between the Indonesian Air Force and the RAAF. (AIS Photograph)



Australian Museum Acquires Historic Weapons. Australia's Queen Victoria Museum in the city of Launceston, Tasmania, has acquired a pair of duelling pistols used in one of the more romantic episodes of the nation's founding days. They were used in 1801 in New South Wales in a duel between Colonel William Paterson and John Macarthur, the pioneer pastoralist. Paterson discovered the site of Launceston, subsequently. (AIS Photograph)

BOOK REVIEWS

FOR QUEEN AND EMPIRE – A BOER WAR CHRONICLE

Edited by Ralph Sutton for the New South Wales Military Historical Society.

Published by the NSW Society in May 1974 as a limited edition of 1,000 copies, each being numbered individually. The book commemorates the 75th Anniversary of the outbreak of the Boer War in 1899.

Contributions include articles by Professor Stanley Livingstone of the University of New South Wales, Colonel P.V. Vernon, Major R.H. Millynn and Mr R.L. Wallace. Also included are reprints from old copies of the Journal of the United Service Institution of New South Wales and the South African magazine "Panorama", some notes on personalities from correspondents of the Society, some interesting appendices and a comprehensive collection of photographs received from many sources including Defence Headquarters in South Africa. The section by Mr Wallace is of great interest and is an indication of the high standard which his book on the Boer War being published by the War Memorial will be,

In view of an awakened interest in military history the book should appeal to the general public as well as members of historical societies. Members of these kindred societies, therefore, are being given the opportunity to purchase the book early at the special discount price of \$3.50, plus 30 cents for packing and postage. A worthy addition to any library of Australian military history although the annexes may not be complete. Colonel Cox is not shown as having been awarded a CB. Available from the Federal Secretary, P.O. Box 67, Lyneham, A.C.T. 2602.

AUSTRALIAN GALLANT AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE VIETNAM 1962-73

This book is a record of British and Foreign decorations awarded to Australian Servicemen during the conflict in Vietnam. The author I.L. Barnes is a leading authority on awards and military history who is well known for his research on these subjects. It is published as a *Limited Edition* by the Military Historical Society of Australia and is available from the MHSA, P.O. Box 67, Lyneham, A.C.T. 2602. Price Cardboard Cover \$5.00, Hardboard \$10.00.

After the conclusion of each war there is a need for a reference book covering awards, both unit and individual, British and Foreign. In the case of Vietnam the need for such a record is most important as the confused situation on foreign awards and unit citations resulted in a failure by any one organization to consolidate all known records before they were lost due to the passage of time and our withdrawal from Vietnam.

This book comprises over 150 pages of text and has many excellent plates of award winners from the three Services.

There are sections on a brief history of the war in Vietnam, an introduction which traces the 'awards muddle' and each service has a section which, in the main, is a list of those personnel who received British awards, foreign awards and unit citations. The full text of unit citations are of interest as they have not appeared in such detail before. The concluding section on the wearing of foreign awards will enable those who have earned awards to know the manner and procedure in which they should be worn.

The book contains some criticism of certain of the British awards made for Vietnam. The author who was not personally involved in Vietnam but has studied awards for twenty years, has based his remarks on historical comparisons with other wars; No doubt for any war critical comment could be made on the number and type of awards granted.

This reference book is a must for all who received an award for Vietnam and for all with an interest in our military history. It is ably summed up in the Foreword which is written by Lt Gen The Honourable Sir Edmund Herring, KCMG, KBE, DSO, MC, K St J, ED, when he says:

"However, I would like to commend most highly the Military Historical Society of Australia for publishing this book. It has taken nearly two years to prepare and I recommend it to all interested in our proud military heritage. It is a fitting tribute to the men who fought in Vietnam and should serve to keep alive the memory of their devoted service. Those who served our country in Vietnam served Australia extremely well."

THE ZULU WAR 1879

by Alan Lloyd - (*Hart-Davis, MacGibbon £2.95*) in UK.

The Zulu War of 1879 opened with one of the most humiliating defeats ever inflicted on the British Army — at Isandhlwana — and Mr Lloyd does nothing to soften the blow. On the contrary, he presents Lord Chelmsford, the British Commander, and his aides as upper-class 'duffers' and shows that 900 British soldiers (not counting their black allies) were speared to death by a disciplined horde of bare-footed Zulus chiefly because the 24th Regiment ran out of ammunition while defending a camp with 250,000 rounds of it screwed down in inaccessible boxes.

The catastrophe at Isandhlwana was, of course, balanced by the heroic defence of Rorke's Drift by a handful of British troops. But Mr Lloyd dismisses this action as one of trifling scale and strategic insignificance. He demonstrates that we won simply because the two elderly lieutenants in command took all the elementary precautions neglected by their aloof superiors at Isandhlwana. Handing out 11 VCs to the defenders was according to Mr Lloyd, a public relations exercise designed to save the imperial face.

He is too hard on Lord Chelmsford: surely no 'duffer' could have made so swift a recovery from the Isandhlwana and gone on to such a spectacular victory at Ulundi.

Mr Lloyd has produced a book without a single boring page, lucid and coherent from start to finish and written in an agreeably mannered style. He is entirely right in not using the occasion to revive illusory imperial glories for the Zulu War is pre-eminently one of which Britain ought to be ashamed.

The aim of the war was to destroy the military system of the Zulus by shooting down their ill-armed soldiers with the new Martini-Henry rifle and to force the Zulu people into degrading labour for the whites. Perhaps Mr Lloyd's book will be read with most profit by those who know less than they should about the British Army's share in imposing apartheid upon South Africa's blacks.

BLAMEY: THE CONTROVERSIAL SOLDIER

Reviewed by James W. Courtney. Available from the Federal Secretary. List price \$7.50 - Society price less 20%.

Publication of this book will add fuel to a fire, the embers of which have kindled for 23 years after the death of the only Australian to be honoured with the rank of Field Marshal.

This book, brilliantly written by John Hetherington, and published by The Australian War Memorial on the life of Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey, is certain to arouse discussion and controversy on one of Australia's most controversial soldiers. It is a far

more comprehensive study than the book published originally in 1954. It traces Blamey's career in World War I, where he became Chief of Staff to Monash in 1918, his period of Head of the Victorian Police Force between the wars, and the role he played in World War II, where he became Commander in Chief of the Australian Military Forces.

Hetherington portrays both sides of Blamey's character, and shows him as an intensely ruthless man, yet a very capable and dedicated soldier. He was born on a small property near Wagga in 1884, and in 1914 he was on attachment to the British Army in England, having excelled at Staff College in Quetta.

After the war, he joined the Victorian Police Force, and his leadership of that force met with harsh and biting criticism, which ended his career in that service. However, within three years he was accorded a high Military Command by the Government, led by Sir Robert Menzies, and in a Foreword to the book, Menzies points out the reasons for this decision.

When war broke out in 1939, Blamey commanded the Australian Forces in the Middle East, from their brilliant victories in the desert, to the bitter defeat at the hands of the Germans in Greece and Crete, between 1940 and 1942. This part of the book is a vitally interesting one and displays much of Blamey's characteristics and provides a great deal of his background and personality. It clearly shows how he won and lost many friends. His triumph over the struggle with Auchinleck over the relief of the 9th Division is described as well as his bitter quarrels with Robertson and later Rowell in New Guinea.

Hetherington has compiled a wealth of information in writing his book, and it is liberally scattered with photographs. Strangely enough, he does not include one map, or describe a critical account of Blamey's qualities of leadership. When necessary, he was openly hostile and arrogant to his commanders, and not afraid to argue with politicians.

In the New Guinea campaign the author provides a vivid account of Blamey's problems in 1943-45 where he clashed bitterly with General MacArthur who ruthlessly asserted a superior dominance over the Curtin Government. Although he bore the title of 'Commander' Allied Land Forces, he held this virtually in name only, MacArthur, edging him out of the position with a year of his appointment.

Towards the end of the war, MacArthur returned to the Phillipines, and the Australians were given the unenviable job of clearing up the various island strongholds still held by the Japanese.

His hostility to political criticism is emphasised by his biting comments to members of both sides of the House, and it was of little surprise when the Chifley Government dumped him as soon as it could in November 1945.

In summation, it can be said that Hetherington has captured the character of his subject and wherever ex-servicemen meet, the name of Tom Blamey will sparkle off argument from both his supporters and detractors, of whom he had many of both.

Blamey died in Melbourne on 27 May 1951, and some 20,000 people lined the streets of Melbourne to pay tribute to a man whose name will be remembered amongst the greats of Australian military men.

The book is strongly recommended to those interested in the study of Military History and particularly a man who played such a controversial part in shaping its destiny.

THE WINTER SOLDIERS

Richard M. Ketchum Doubleday & Co., Inc. 435 pages; illustrated; maps; index; \$10.00. Obtainable from Secretary.

The bicentennial of the American Revolution is just over the horizon, calling forth a spate of books on that long-neglected war. If *The Winter Soldiers* can be considered an indicator of the excellence of future writing celebrating that anniversary, the reading public is in for a rare treat. This is the book to be read and reread, savouring the events and personalities that are skilfully interwoven in a fascinating narrative that documents the onset of the Revolution and the first two years of hostilities, 1775-1777.

How many know that the British mounted the largest amphibious expeditionary force in their history in 1776 to counter the American insurrection; that the counter-insurgency effort was sponsored by the English Parliament and strongly supported by the British public until they tired of the effort in the 1780s; that Generals George Washington and Nathanael Green waged skillful guerrilla warfare; that the winter of 1776 was the real turning point (not the winter of Valley Forge); or that the Hessian mercenaries were not the somewhat stupid, craven cowards that American history has long depicted them as being.

Most know that battles were fought at Trenton and Princeton in the winter of 1776 and that both were won by the Continental Army, but how many realize that these battles galvanized the two-thirds of the American population that were neither summer soldiers nor sunshine patriots, bringing popular support for the armed rebellion for the first time.

The book is especially valuable for its informative maps and illustrations, a good index and a very complete bibliography. While there are no source footnotes as such, there is a 20-page section termed "notes" where the author recounts his best sources, chapter by chapter. *The Winter Soldiers* is recommended without hesitation as readable, gripping and as a source of much information on America's first experience with insurgency.

BOOK AIDS EX WAAAF FUNDS

W.A.A.A.F. Branch of the Air Force Association are sponsoring the publication of a book about Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force to raise money for Project Endeavour – a special fund to help former comrades in need of assistance in difficult times.

The publisher has offered a special low price of \$2.75 for pre-publication orders, the proceeds of which go to this fund. Closing date for this offer is 15th August, 1974.

The book, WAAAF AT WAR, by E.M. Robertson who served from 1941 to 1946, is an account of life and work in the W.A.A.A.F. It will stir memories of training days and panic nights, drill and huts and meal lines, transport and troop trains, headquarters glitter and radar unit informality, and many other aspects of Service life. It is all interspersed with incidents and personalities that make lively reading. A short history of the W.A.A.A.F. presented to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria is also to be reprinted in the book.

Everyone interested in obtaining a copy and at the same time helping the fund should send their request with cheque for \$3.15, including 40c. packing and post to:-

Mrs J. Croft, WAAAF Book Sponsorship Committee,
13 Maxwell Grove, Caulfield, Victoria. 3162.

After publication by Mullaya in October orders will be sent out, and the recommended price will be \$3.75.

MILITARY BREECH-LOADING RIFLES

by F.D. Majendie and C.O. Browne; Published by Arms and Armour Press, London; Price \$2.60 net (in UK only).

This 140 page publication is a reprint of an original volume first published by the Royal Artillery Institution in 1870, apparently with quasi-official approval. To supplement the original line illustrations four plates of black and white photographs have been added and these show examples of the major weapons described in the text.

The first part of the volume consists of the transcripts of two lectures delivered to the Royal Service Institution of Great Britain in 1867 and 1869 by Captain Majendie, then Assistant Superintendent of the Royal Laboratory. In these lectures Majendie presents a potted history of military breech-loading rifles, details the trials leading to the introduction of the Snider system into British service, leads on to the requirement to replace the conversions with a modern breech-loader and finally describes the steps leading to the provisional adoption of the Martini-Henry.

The second part of the volume is the work of Captain C.O. Browne, then Captain Instructor at the Royal Laboratory. Browne deals with the technicalities of the Snider conversions – including details of the cavalry, artillery and Lancaster carbine conversions – and then describes the development of the .577 inch Snider and the .450/.577 inch Martini-Henry ammunition, which were based on the work of Colonel Boxer. Full dimensions and loading details of all the Boxer cartridges available in 1870 are included in this section.

This volume will not be everyone's cup of tea, however despite the rather dated and somewhat ponderous style of expression it should prove valuable and of interest to Australian collectors of early British military breech-loading weapons, shooters of the Sniders of Martini-Henrys (who will find a wealth of detail on which to base their black powder loading experiments) and students of military weapons who will be able to broaden their knowledge of the rationale behind the rather conservative UK approach to military small arms developments in the 1860s and 1870s.



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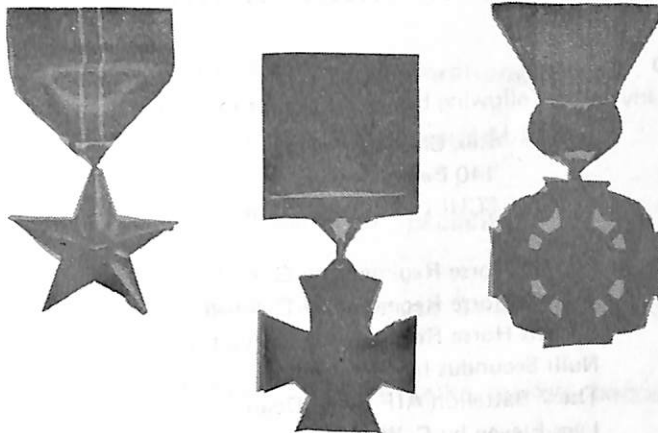
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