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CONTENTS

Article	Author	Page
New South Wales Cavalry 1854-1935	P.B. Burness	246
Convict Guards	Brigadier M. Austin	256
Major-General J.S. Richardson CB	J.W. Courtney	267
The Kyneton Volunteers 1860-1900	R.D. White	271
The Sultanate of Omans Armed Forces	Lt.Col. J.J.M. Sheridan	274
GSM with Clasp 'Kurdistan'	Major R. Clark	280
The Morning of August 8th 1918	Sir John Monash	283
The Southern Tasmanian Artillery	Cyclopedia of Tasmania	284
The Origin of The Military Cross	Sir Frederick Ponsonby	286
Helmet Plates and Badges of the NSW Military Forces Pre 1903	R. Gray	289
RAAF Awards, "Battle of Britain" Clasps	RAAF History Section	294
The Muzzleloader In Warfare	F. Garie	295
AANS 1937 Coronation Uniform	Lt.Col. I.C. Teague	297
Domestic Intelligence	Sydney Herald	299
The Ninth Division Colour Patch	K.R. White	300
The Siege of Tobruk	Australian War Memorial	301
Colonel G.G.E. Wyllly, VC, CB, DSO	Major R. Clark	305
Capture of German New Guinea In 1914	J.W. Courtney	307

Army Revolt Matter of Decoration	Editor	310
Badgeman		312
Medalman		315
Letters to the Editor		320
Book Reviews		323
Advertisements		325

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NEW SOUTH WALES CAVALRY 1854-1935

by

P.B. Burness

The oldest Australian Colony — the state of New South Wales was the first one to raise a Volunteer Cavalry unit. Accurate records have not been preserved, but according to documents held in the Mitchell Library, a number of citizens assembled on the afternoon of 12th September, 1854 at the Royal Hotel, George Street, Sydney for the purpose of forming a Volunteer Cavalry Corps. Thirty-five persons present enrolled themselves as members of the future Corps. Soon afterwards the detachment was formed with a strength of 40. The Inspector-General of Police (Captain J. McLerie) was Commanding Officer and with him were Captain McDonald as Adjutant, Lieutenant H. Hollaran and Cornet O. Perrier. The Commissions, dated 15th March, 1855 appointing the officers described the Governor of New South Wales as:- "His Excellency Sir William Thomas Denison, Knight, Governor-General in and over all Her Majesty's Colonies of New South Wales, Van Dieman's Land, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia, and Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of the Territory of New South Wales and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same".

The detachment wore a flat black cap, red garibaldi jacket and black trousers. Each man provided his own charger and the New South Wales Government supplied the weapons. The unit was known as the Yeomanry Cavalry Corps of New South Wales. It was disbanded in 1862.

Between 1862 and 1884 a number of mounted detachments were formed, but all were shortlived. In 1884 a fresh start was made, and the unit formed then has since maintained an unbroken record of service. A meeting was held at the Oxford Hotel, Sydney and a few days later a mounted parade of volunteers was called in Moore Park. In January, 1885 40 volunteers were enrolled as the Sydney Light Horse. Captain McDonald who had been Adjutant of the 1854 unit was appointed to the command. The Corps made its first public appearance on March 3rd, 1885 as escort to the Governor (Lord Augustus Loftus) at the parade which celebrated the departure of the New South Wales Soudan contingent. The uniform consisted of blue tunic, overalls, short boots, box spurs, white belt and blue peaked cap with scarlet band. The men were armed with old swords which had been discarded by the Mounted Police. Horse furniture consisted of civilian pattern saddles and obsolete military bridles — the latter also Police cast-offs. Soon afterwards Troops of Light Horse were formed in country districts at Illawarra, Mittagong, Robertson and Hunter River. These, with the Sydney Troop were combined as the First New South Wales Regiment of Cavalry under the command of Major McDonald.

The next event of importance in this Units life was the conversion to Lancers. The

New South Wales Soudan Contingent camped at Handoub alongside the 5th Royal Irish Lancers, and the two units became very friendly. Major-General Richardson, who commanded the New South Wales Contingent was also Commandant of New South Wales and one of his first official acts on his return in 1885 was to convert the Sydney Light Horse into Lancers. Colonel Palmer of the 9th Bengal Lancers had presented the Australians with two lances as a memento of the campaign, but these were the only ones in New South Wales, so the troops had to improvise until others could be imported from England. The Sydney Troop used bamboo fishing rods with pennants attached, and were so equipped when they turned out to receive the new Governor – Lord Carrington. It is said that one Country Troop, not having any fishing rods substituted stockwhips when the escort duty fell to them. Lord Carrington's arrival was a boon to the Lancers. He accepted the position of Honorary Colonel and did much to assist the Unit.

As a compliment to the 5th Royal Irish Lancers, the Sydney Troop ordered from London, uniforms similar to those of that regiment, except that silver braid was used instead of gold. The men bore the cost themselves. The Sydney Troop wore this uniform for several years but as the Country Troops found it too costly, it was eventually abandoned. All New South Wales Lancer Troops then adopted a drab uniform with scarlet plastron and felt hat. In 1891 the New South Wales Lancer Band was formed at West Maitland. The officers of the Regiment and the townspeople of West Maitland supplied the horses (all white) and the instruments, and the Governor of New South Wales gave a subsidy of £250 per annum. The Band was transferred to Lancer Barracks, Parramatta in 1898.

The second New South Wales Unit with an unbroken record was formed in the Northern part of the State as the Upper Clarence River Light Horse. Major C.G. Chauvel of 35th Madras Native Infantry had settled with his son (Mr C.N.E. Chauvel) on a cattle station at Tabulam. Consequent on the Russian Ware scare of 1885 the Chauvels offered to raise a force for service on the North-West frontier of India. The offer was not accepted, but approval was given to raise a local unit. The first Troop, consisting of employees on the station were sworn in on January 1st, 1886. Later on, Troops were raised at Drake, Tenterfield, Inverell, Cullendore, Acacia Creek, Casino and Lismore. These were then grouped into two Squadrons: No. 1 about Tabulam and Tenterfield and No. 2 about Lismore and Casino. In 1889 No. 1 Squadron elected to become Mounted Infantry while No. 2 became Lancers. No. 1 Squadron moved its headquarters to Tenterfield and expanded into the Upper Clarence Light Horse (known for a time as Tenterfield Mounted Rifles). No. 2 Squadron joined the New South Wales Lancers and after the Boer War expanded into a separate regiment – The Richmond River Lancers. Captain Sparrow, with the title of Adjutant of the Northern Reserves, administered these units.

In 1888 a Corps of Permanent Mounted Infantry, under command of Captain Sparrow was formed in Sydney with an establishment of thirty-two all ranks. The Corps

was intended to supply men and horses for instructional purposes to the Officers of the mounted arms, and to form the nucleus of a regiment to be distributed by companies throughout the Colony. In January 1889 Captain Lassetter 80th Foot, arrived to take command of the Corps and to perform in addition, the duties of Adjutant of the New South Wales Lancers.

In Easter 1889, the Upper Clarence River Light Horse a Field Battery of Artillery raised at Bega, and companies of "Reserves" from Queanbeyan, Picton, Campbelltown and Inverell, together with the Corps of Permanent Mounted Infantry from Sydney were combined as an Administrative Regiment under the partially paid system. Captain Lassetter was promoted to Major and became commanding officer, and Captain Sparrow became Adjutant. The unit was known as the Mounted Infantry Regiment, and the uniform consisted of drab tweed jacket with scarlet cloth shoulder strap, tight breeches of drab bedford cord, brown leather boots, side-laced leggins and soft felt hat with plume of black clock's feathers; the brim on the left side being held back by the regimental badge. The badge was a Southern Cross surrounded with a wreath of warratahs with crown on top and a lion rampant in centre of cross. The permanent company wore buttons and mountings of brass, but the volunteers wore white buttons. In 1890 the permanent company was disbanded owing to the expense of maintaining the horses. In January, 1891 a Regimental Band was raised at Camden. In August, 1893 on the formation of the New South Wales Mounted Brigade, (consisting of two mounted regiments) the Mounted Infantry Regiment was renamed the New South Wales Mounted Rifles.

The next mounted unit formed was the Australian Horse, gazetted in August, 1897. It consisted of volunteers from the outlying districts. Colonel J.A.K. Mackay, CB, was the first commanding officer and he raised his troops mainly in the Western and South-Western parts of the State, going as far north as Mudgee and Gunnedah. The establishment was fixed at 400 and the men were selected on their skill as horsemen and bushmen. The unit was a cavalry one and the personnel wore a Hussar pattern uniform of dark green with black embroidery, shoulder-belt and sabretache, and felt hat with plume of black clock's feathers. The Governor of New South Wales, Earl Beauchamp, accepted the position of Honourary Colonel of the Australian Horse and his Private Secretary, Captain Ferguson, 2nd Life Guards, accepted the appointment of Second-in-Command of the Regiment. Although only formed in the latter part of 1897, the Australian Horse made a good impression at Easter, 1898 when they attended a camp with the two older Regiments.

There were several other items of interest prior to the Boer War:-

In 1893 the New South Wales Lancers sent a contingent to England to compete in the Army tournaments. The men performed creditably at Islington and Dublin. In 1897 a further detachment of Lancers, and one of Mounted Rifles visited England to take part in Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebration and to compete in Army tournaments. In March, 1899 a squadron of 106, all ranks of Lancers sailed for England for

six month's training at Aldershot. Captain Cox (later Major-General C.F. Cox, CMG, DSO, VD) was in command. The cost of all these journeys was borne by the troops themselves, assisted by public subscription — no Government grant being made. Over £1,000 was subscribed in England towards sending the Lancer Training Squadron home in 1899.

The first Australian troops to take part in the Boer War were the 1899 Lancer Training Squadron. War appeared inevitable, but had not yet broken out when the Squadron sailed from England via the Cape to return to Australia. Captain Cox volunteered that if war had commenced when the Squadron reached Cape Town, they should disembark and take part. The offer was accepted and some of the Squadron fought under Lord Methuen in the first engagements on the Modder River. The New South Wales Lancer Regiment sent three other detachments to maintain their Squadron at strength. The Squadron was attached to the Inniskillings (6th Dragoons) and fought alongside that regiment all through the war. It returned to Australia early in 1901.

The New South Wales Mounted Rifles also despatched to South Africa, one squadron which arrived in December, 1899 and shortly afterwards, they sent a draft to maintain full strength. The Mounted Rifles were not attached to any British Cavalry Regiment, but worked as a separate Australian unit throughout the war. Several contingents of Mounted Rifles were sent from New South Wales but the first squadron was the only one which could claim to belong to the New South Wales Mounted Rifle Regiment. The 1st Australian Horse also sent two contingents to provide and maintain one squadron in the field. This Squadron was attached to the Royal Scots Greys (2nd Dragoons) for most of the campaign. The three existing New South Wales Mounted Units thus each provided one squadron for service in South Africa.

On account of the demand for mounted troops in the Boer War, the first company of Infantry despatched from New South Wales was mounted in South Africa as E. Squadron New South Wales Mounted Rifles. Further Mounted units were formed in New South Wales and despatched to South Africa. Although some of the officers and men of these units had served in one or other of the three New South Wales Regiments, most of the personnel were specially enlisted civilians or soldiers who had served in infantry and technical arms. The units were known variously as New South Wales Mounted Rifles, New South Wales Citizen's Bushmen, New South Wales Imperial Bushmen, Australian Commonwealth Horse and New South Wales Mounted Infantry. In all, 231 officers and 5,213 other ranks of mounted units were sent from New South Wales to the Boer War. In addition, one company of infantry served as a mounted unit.

In 1901, the Commonwealth Government was established, and it took over from the State Government's entire responsibility for defence. The three existing New South Wales Mounted Regiments — Lancers, Mounted Rifles and Australian Horse were reorganised and formed the nucleus of six Light Horse Regiments and three half Squadrons of Garrison Mounted Troops for Defended Ports. The six Regiments were grouped into two Brigades, 1st Light Horse Brigade in the southern half of the State and 2nd

Light Horse in the northern half. The Regiments were:-

- 1st Australian Light Horse (New South Wales Lancers)
- 2nd Australian Light Horse (New South Wales Mounted Rifles)
- 3rd Australian Light Horse (Australian Horse)
- 4th Australian Light Horse (New South Wales Lancers)
- 5th Australian Light Horse (New South Wales Mounted Rifles)
- 6th Australian Light Horse (Australian Horse)

As was inevitable, some mixing of tradition took place, particularly in 4th, 5th and 6th Regiments but as far as possible, the old territorial traditions were maintained. Uniforms were standardised, and within a few years all Light Horse Regiments were wearing khaki jackets with white facings and white metal badges and buttons, khaki cord breeches, brown leather boots and leggins, and felt hats with seven-fold khaki puggarees, the centre fold being white.

When universal military training was introduced in Australia in 1911, there was a further reorganisation. The Regiment raised in the portion of New South Wales known as the Northern Rivers passed to the Queensland command for convenience of administration and its place was taken in New South Wales command by a new Regiment raised from the three half squadrons of Garrison Mounted Troops. All Regiments were re-numbered on an Australian plan starting with Queensland and thus the old traditional numbers of the New South Wales Regiments were lost. The New South Wales Regiments became 5th, 6th, 7th, 9th, 11th and 28th.

The Commonwealth Government established a factory for the production of uniforms which were supplied free to the troops. Changes in the pattern were the substitution of a khaki shirt for the jacket and a white hat band for the puggaree.

All Light Horse Regiments were given as their manual, an official text book called "Yeomanry and Mounted Rifles Training".

For the War 1914-18 Australia raised a special force known as the Australian Imperial Force. None of the peace-time Regiments were sent abroad, but officers and men of those Regiments joined the new units, often by almost sub-units. In general, however, there was much mixing of units. New South Wales sent abroad and maintained, four complete Mounted Units - 1st, 6th, 7th and 12th Australian Light Horse Regiments; all of which served in Gallipoli, Egypt, Sinai, Palestine and Syria. In addition the 15th Australian Light Horse formed in Palestine in 1918 from the Imperial Camel Corps, had a majority of troops from New South Wales. The 1st, 6th and 7th Australian Light Horse Regiments belonged to Anzac Mounted Division and they finished the war as they began it, as a type of Mounted Rifles. They carried no shock tactics weapon. The 12th and 15th Regiments belonged to Australian Mounted Division which in 1918 reorganised all its Light Horse as Cavalry Regiments and armed them with the sword.

In the post-war reorganisation, of the Australian Military Forces carried out in 1921 all Light Horse Regiments were equipped with the sword and they used Cavalry Training as their text book. Their war organisation training and equipment were

similar to those of British Cavalry with the exception that they retained the Hotchkiss machine gun on the scale of one per troop. That difference was probably due to finance — the Hotchkiss guns were readily available so therefore used.

Efforts were made to carry on the Australian Imperial Force tradition by naming the Regiments after their Australian Imperial Force predecessors. Each title was allotted to the district which provided most men to the unit from which the title is taken. A Divisional organisation was also established, so that units were trained in peace by the formations which would control them in war. One of the effects of the Divisional organisation was that the Northern Rivers Regiment returned from the Queensland command to that of New South Wales.



Patrol Dress NSW Lancers 1890s



Sergeant NSW Lancers 1902

The 1st Cavalry Division, had its headquarters in Sydney with two Brigades in New South Wales organised as follows:-

2ND CAVALRY BRIGADE – Headquarters, Armidale

12TH LIGHT HORSE (New England Light Horse) – Headquarters Armidale. Allied with the Royal Scots Greys (2nd Dragoons)

Motto: "Virtutis Fortuna Comes"

15TH LIGHT HORSE (Northern River Lancers) – Headquarters Lismore. Allied with the 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars.

Motto: "Nomina Desertis Inscriptissimus"

16TH LIGHT HORSE (Hunter River Lancers) – Headquarters West Maitland. Allied with 16th/5th Lancers.

Motto: "Tenax et Fidelis"

4TH CAVALRY BRIGADE – Headquarters Sydney

1ST/21ST LIGHT HORSE (New South Wales Lancers) – Headquarters Sydney. Allied with 1st King's Dragoon Guards. (1st and 21st Light Horse Regiments were combined in 1930)

Motto: 1st Light Horse "Tenax in Fide"

Motto: 21st Light Horse "Virtus in Arduis"

6TH LIGHT HORSE (New South Wales Mounted Rifles) – Headquarters Orange

Motto: "Toujours Pret"

7TH LIGHT HORSE (Australian Horse) – Headquarters Goulburn. Allied with the Queen's Bays (2nd Dragoon Guards)

Motto: "For Heaths and Homes"

Light Horse Regiments relinquished their white facings and changed to maroon. The uniforms consisted of khaki cloth jacket with maroon facings, khaki cord breeches, brown boots and leggins and felt hat with khaki puggaree of which the centre fold was maroon. Since the War (1914-18) all Light Horse Regiments have worn an emu plume in the hat. Each Regiment had its own Regimental Badge, which were worn on collars and left side of hat. When not mounted they wore khaki trousers with two maroon stripes instead of breeches and leggins and a khaki field service cap with maroon jacket and waistcoat with blue facings and blue overalls with two yellow stripes. Certain Regiments applied for and were granted permission to wear buttons and badges of white metal instead of brass, thus maintaining the tradition of the old Lancer Regiment with its silver braid and the old Mounted Rifles Regiment with its white metal buttons and furnishings.

The Lancers had a band which was raised at Lancer Barracks, Parramatta and during the war (1914-18) the Band became a dismounted unit and continued as such after the

war. The Bandmaster was a member of the band for the whole of the forty years of its existence. The Mounted Rifles Band formed at Camden in 1893 was short-lived and in 1900 a new Regimental Band was formed at Bathurst. However, this band also ceased to exist. Some time after the Boer War, the Australian Horse had a Mounted Band which together with the Lancer Mounted Band took part in the celebrations marking the visit of the American Fleet to Sydney in 1908. This Band afterwards became dismounted and eventually was disbanded. The 7th Light Horse had at their disposal in Goulburn an unofficial dismounted band wearing the green uniforms of the old Australian Horse. Presumably this was a successor to the Australian Horse Band. The Defence Department allowed one band for each Cavalry Brigade. The Lancer Band became the 4th Cavalry Brigade Band and the 2nd Cavalry Brigade raised at Armidale a dismounted Band.

Conditions of service in the Light Horse became uniform throughout Australia, specifying that a man must provide a suitable horse and enlist for 3 years. He was required to do six days' home training and six days' camp annually. For these days he was paid 5s. per day for his services and 5s. per day hire for this horse — a total of £5.8s. per year. His uniforms, saddlery, arms, equipment and training manuals were supplied by the Commonwealth Government. Man and horse were transported from the home town to camp, and were rationed and fed for the period of camp. Camps were usually Regimental, but when training funds permitted, Brigade camps were held.



2nd Lieutenant 3 ALH (Australian Horse)
1903-12



Corporal 9 LH Regiment 1930s



Member of Bega Troop, New South Wales Mounted Rifles 1890

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CONVICT GUARDS

by

Brig. M. Austin DSO, OBE (RL)

Introduction. Most members of the Society will be familiar with the Army Quarterly which was first published in October 1920. However, some may not be so familiar with that publication's predecessors, which first commenced publication 93 years earlier, and contain a wealth of contemporary detail not readily available elsewhere. These publications are as follows :

March 1827-1828 Naval and Military Magazine.

January 1829-April 1843 United Services Journal and Naval and Military Magazine.

May 1843-March 1890 Colburn's United Services Journal and Naval and Military Magazine.

April 1890-June 1920 United Services Magazine.

October 1920-to date Army Quarterly.

Only one series of volumes of these earlier publications appears to be held in Australia, in the rare book section of the library of the United Services Institute of Australia (NSW), Naval House, Grosvenor Street, Sydney. Regrettably, the series is not complete, and the following issues up to 1860 are missing:

March 1827-1829 Naval and Military Magazine.

1829 Volume III, September to December.

1830 Volume III, September to December.

1837 Volume III, September to December.

1856 Volumes I and II, May to December.

1857 Volumes I and II, January to August.

1859 Volumes I and II, January to August.

1860 Volume III, September to December.

It has not yet been possible to check the availability of volumes between 1861 and 1920. No master index has yet been prepared for these volumes, but it is hoped to deposit a complete set of volume indices, including those missing, from 1820 to 1860 with the AHQ and National Libraries within the next few months. A master index of the Army Quarterly 1920-1970 is available at the AHQ Library.

For those who wish to research these volumes I would emphasize that they are held as rare books, no copying facilities are available, nor does the library have any research assistants.

To illustrate the detail available, in my own field admittedly, I present to you major extracts from an article of May 1847 entitled "Convict Guards, by an officer in command". From internal evidence the ship concerned was the *Palmyra* on her first and only convict voyage, which left Woolwich on 8th March 1846, and after a voyage of 167

days arrived at Hobart on 22nd August of the same year. The guard of two officers and 49 other ranks from the 65th Regiment was accompanied by nine wives and seven children.

* * * * *

One of the most important and responsible duties which can develop upon a regimental officer, is the command of a convict guard. In the performance of this service, appearances may have a tendency to lull him into security, and to moderate the anxiety which he may at first have felt; but neither the length and monotony of a voyage to Australia, nor the seeming resignation and quiet demeanor of the prisoners, should induce him to relax one iota of his vigilance, or to neglect, in the most minute particular, those necessary precautions which he may have adopted at the commencement of the service.

Although Her Majesty's Regulations⁽¹⁾, together with some supplementary instructions, lay down precise rules for the guidance of troops employed as a convict guard, we have reason to know that there is a slight variation in the practice. Indeed, we are prepared to show that such is desirable, and even rendered inevitable by numerous causes, — such as the different mode of fitting the vessels, the absence of uniformity in the system of management adopted by the Surgeons-Superintendent, and, lastly, from the imperfect information or carelessness of those who have been intrusted with the framing of the instructions for the guard.

Hitherto we believe that the only successful attempt on the part of prisoners to take a vessel on the passage to Australia, occurred on board a female convict ship⁽²⁾, in which troops are not embarked, and the enterprise originated in the scandalous and licentious system which then prevailed in those vessels, but has long since been reformed. No male convict ship has been captured, and the only instance of a serious attempt being not only contemplated, but almost matured, is that alluded to in the supplementary dated Horse Guards, 1st December, 1834.⁽³⁾ On this occasion, a portion of the guard had been tampered with, and gained over by the convicts. A fortunate disclosure frustrated the scheme, and the vessel put into the Cape of Good Hope for the trial of the offenders.

* * * * *

It fell to our lot, not many months since, to accompany a convict guard to Van Diemen's Land. The strength of a guard formerly did not exceed thirty men : at present, fifty of all ranks, exclusive of officers, is the minimum. Two officers, two sergeants, and forty-eight rank and file, is the detail, without reference to the number of prisoners to be embarked.

The vessel having been fitted at Deptford for the reception of the convicts, reports her readiness to receive them, the Surgeon-Superintendent joins her, and she drops down to Woolwich, where the guard embarks, being conveyed from Gravesend by a river steamer.

Our vessel was of 800 tons, and fitted to receive 300 convicts. The prison, or portion of the ship appropriated for them, was on the maindeck, and, commencing forward, extended after to a strong bulkhead or partition, erected about twelve feet before the mizen-mast.⁽⁴⁾ This bulkhead was constructed of stout triangular beams, thickly studded on all sides with iron nails to guard their being cut or sawn through. Access to the prison was by the main and fore-hatches, which were inclosed on the main deck by similar defences, each being provided with a stout wicket door, secured by bars and padlocks. The afterhatchway was likewise thus built up, because it also looked into the prison. Usually this hatch is reserved for communication with the barracks and the sailors' berth, but the present instance was an inconvenient exception to the rule. What remained of the after-part of the main-deck was appropriated to the guard and crew, a bulkhead, fore and aft, separating, them, with a common entrance from a scuttle cut in the quarter-deck, under the break of the poop.

The first duty of the guard after embarkation is to select the casualties, and tell off the whole in three watches. The sea-kit having been served out, it may be well, then, to sew up the knapsacks and new regimental clothing in bags, and to stow them away, together with the chakos, between the hammock battens and the deck overhead.⁽⁵⁾ Here they are out of the way, and with a fair chance of being dry; this plan was found to succeed, for at the termination of the voyage nothing was lost or injured.

About 7 o'clock on the morning after our embarkation, the *Naiad*, river steamer, ran alongside, with a cargo of 150 prisoners from Milbank Penitentiary. They were all ironed, secured in the cabins below, and under escort of a division of constables.

The steamer being lashed to our vessel, the irons were taken off in succession, and the prisoners were passed over the gangway, and mustered on the poop, a non-commissioned officer of the guard assisting in counting them in. One watch of the guard was paraded on the poop, with loaded arms. As soon as all the prisoners were drawn up, they were mustered by the Surgeon, each man descending to the quarter-deck as his name was called. He then received his ship number, and it was explained to him that he must remember it, as by it only would he be known on board. Eight men constituted a mess, and from each of these a cook was selected; in military phraseology, this individual would be denominated an "orderly man", since the cooking department for the whole developed upon two or three others, and these men were merely assistants, to draw rations, distribute the messes, take charge of utensils, &c. Their tour of duty was for a week.

Each mess, as it numbered off, was sent below, with a person instructed to point out his berth to each individual. Thus the whole party in succession was removed to the front of the barricade, which is a stout screen drawn across the vessel in front of the gangway, to cut off the prisoners from the quarter-deck. The communication fore and aft is by means of a wicket, secured by a bolt on the after side.

The first occupation of the convicts after embarkation, appeared to be letter-writing, with materials for which they were amply supplied by a Woolwich dealer, who

was allowed access to the vessel under conditions and restrictions imposed by the Surgeon. Every man who could write was constantly employed in manufacturing what would doubtless afford matter for a new and curious edition of that much-prized work "The Complete Letter-writer". Not less than 200 letters were dispatched by the convicts within three or four hours of embarkation.

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The number of visitors who came off to the convicts during the week of our stay at Woolwich was very great. No boats were allowed access to the ship without previous permission. By the Surgeon's arrangements, females only were suffered to come on board : males might converse from boats alongside.

It was necessary whilst in harbour, to increase the number of sentries, in order to watch boats coming off, and not only to prevent escape, but also the surreptitious receipt by the prisoners of parcels, &c. Indeed, with every precaution, it occurred to us, that there would be no great difficulty in a prisoner's dropping from a port-hole, and being picked up under the stern by a shore boat, of which numbers are lying off. The mode of proceeding then would be, to creep under a tarpaulin or an empty sack, effect a change of clothes, a suit of which might be in readiness, and the convict presently finds himself at liberty on shore. The chief risk is that of being seen in the water, and shot there, of which there exists a very fair chance.

All parcels that came over the gangway were searched by a non-commissioned officer, and any money or prohibited articles made over at once to the Surgeon. There is doubtless something painful and revolting to the feelings, (however blunted may be the perceptions,) in this duty of search; a prying into and violation of the sacred rights of privacy. In spite of this, there was certainly matter provocative of a smile, in the exhibition occasionally afforded by the exposition of the contents of bags and parcels to the address of our incorrigibles. The most heterogeneous articles were bundled together promiscuously, and turned out in admired confusion. Here, a late newspaper with a bottle of pickles and an accordion. The next batch would be a boiled leg of pork, a string of sausages, and a couple of flannel waistcoats : a dozen of current-buns, a hunch of cheese, with some worsted socks, or probably a quire of Bath-post in company with a gooseberry-tart and a box of wafers. Eatables predominated in a wonderful ratio over books and wearing apparel. Nor was it less ludicrous, for some days after, to observe the recipients of these goods things carrying them constantly about their persons, secured in the most grotesque manner, for although we hear of honour amongst thieves, the principle did not seem to be recognised in the community; not a soul being disposed to trust his chattels out of sight or touch.

Our living cargo seemed to enjoy excellent spirits, whatever repugnance some of them may have felt to expatriation. One thing was certain, that they had cause to rejoice in their present condition, as a change from the confinement and hard labour at the Penitentiary, to the fresh air, variety of scene, and improved diet with idleness, on board the convict ship. Indeed, the voyage to Australia, wearisome and disgusting as it

may be to other persons, is undoubtedly to the convict *les beaux jours* of his term of transportation. The evening after shipping our convicts, they were as merry as grigs : after supper a series of entertainments commenced, consisting of dancing, comic songs, negro melodies, conjuring of every description, pea and thimble rig, and buffoonery in every variety. One diverting vagabond, a youth of some fifteen or sixteen years of age, but who might have compressed a century of iniquity into that period, was received with great applause in a *pas seul* which he performed on his head, singing a slang love ditty in this interesting position, and by some miracle of flexibility, which might have excited the envy of all itinerant contortionists and acrobats of the kingdom, he performed an accompaniment with the soles of his feet elevated in the air, diversifying the practice with sundry graceful gyrations of the nether man.

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But the scenes which met our eye on board were not all of a ludicrous or enlivening nature, they frequently partook of a serious and touching character.

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There were some dreadful scenes of meeting and parting between parent and child, brother and sister, husband and wife. These were necessarily in public, and one could not but feel some delicacy in being an involuntary witness.

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We had our visitors too; for the arrangements of a convict-ship are worth the trouble of a trip from London to Woolwich, for such as desire to see and know a little of everything. Amongst these, the apparently inadequate protection against a rising of the convicts was a common subject of observation. Nearly three hundred stout able-bodied men were moving about unimpeded in the use of their limbs, for no irons were used : all were allowed on deck together, amidst a babel of tongues, and in such a position that it was impossible closely to watch their movements. It might seem not at all a hopeless undertaking to overpower the guard, and take the vessel, when a suitably opportunity should offer at sea. The apparent want of defences we willingly conceded, and it was equally admissible that if the three hundred men on board were firmly resolved on being free at all hazards, the guard must probably succumb : for if a resolute and continuous rush were made by such preponderating numbers, the small minority might be overpowered, despite of their commanding position and the advantage of fire-arms. But to assume such a case is contrary not only to experience, but to human nature.

Out of these three hundred men, or any three hundred taken indiscriminately, not one-eighth are prepared to sacrifice their lives to ensure the freedom of the others, and as it is as certain to them as to us, that in a death-struggle of unarmed men against military, provided with sure and deadly weapons, a large proportion *must* die, the only guarantee of ultimate success is in an utter and *unanimous* recklessness of life. Herein is our strength. The instinct of self-preservation — the love of life, the want of unity, and mutual confidence.

It was with a heavy heart that we parted with dear England, and all that it contained, nor was there much in prospect to reconcile us to even a temporary absence.

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A hundred days in a convict-ship — sea-sickness, noise, and foul smells — tough mutton, and the cuddy Steward's breakfast-rolls; expatriation at a distance of sixteen thousand miles — the heat, dust, and dulness of Hobart town — the brickfielders of Sydney, with its emancipist population, its vice and drunkenness; the withering of the faculties, mental stagnation, and bodily discomforts of life in the bush, or the loneliness of Norfolk Island, with its sweet accompaniments, which may be summed up in banishment, imprisonment, and starvation.

Truly here was wherewithal to cause a sinking of the heart, even in the youthful, the thoughtless, and the reckless.

The recruit might view his lot with comparative complacency, content with the novelty of the present moment, the vague chances of the future, and the certain and sensible escape from the wearisomeness of Chatham drill, and the all-searching eye of the tiger of that military menagerie; but the old soldier, wandering about for the second or third time (and this class is small enough, thanks to a benevolent and considerate country!) feels the bitter hardship of crossing thousands of miles of trackless ocean to find a grave amongst strangers.

* * * * *

At the commencement, we alluded to occasional and necessary deviations from the instructions laid down in the Queen's Regulations for Convict Guards. We ascribed these to three causes.

1st. The variety of practice or system of discipline adopted by Surgeons-Superintendants of Convicts. Thus, some of these keep a proportion of men in irons, whilst others altogether dispense with them. Some only allow a portion of the number on deck simultaneously. The hours for opening the prison in the morning, and locking up at night, are optional with the Surgeon, and vary considerably. In some convict-ships, one side of the deck only, the lee or weather side, as may be determined, is given up to the prisoners while above; in others they have at all times free access to both sides, hence rendering necessary two sentries on the quarter-deck, one at each door of the barricade, and thus leading to a modification of the 7th clause of the Regulations, which indicates only three sentries, of whom two are on the poop, and one only at the gangway or on the quarter-deck. To resist this arrangement on the part of the Surgeon would not be judicious, since he could advocate it on the score of the health of the men, and the necessity of ventilating and thoroughly cleansing the prison. The number of convicts allowed to be on deck simultaneously may likewise have some effect in increasing or diminishing the number of firelocks kept loaded on the poop.

2nd. The fittings of the vessel, in some instances, are such as to render abortive or impracticable some of the "Instructions". In one vessel,⁽⁶⁾ in order to receive eight more convicts than she was conveniently adapted for, a portion of the ship which

should have been reserved for the guard and crew, was railed off and included in the prison. This, by throwing into the latter the after as well as the main and fore hatches, involved the necessity of cutting a scuttle through the deck within the cuddy, in order to afford access to the barracks of the guard, and the berths of the crew. By this encroachment on the cuddy, the glazed bulk-head had to be removed, and another *not* glazed was run up; thus shutting out from the occupants of the cuddy all view of the deck, and rendering impracticable that portion of the instructions which suggest that the guard, under certain circumstances, shall fire through the cuddy windows. Nor was this mutilation of our means of defence, and disregard of proper precaution, the whole extent of the evil; it likewise impeded the circulation of air, the prevented the possibility of ventilating the barracks by a windsail, nor when decks were washed could they be dried, even with the aid of swinging-stoves or braziers. Troops on ship-board ought never to be placed in such a position as this. In the hot weather the temperature below was suffocating. The evils and inconveniences we have pointed out originated solely in the most perverted and mistaken economy : to make room for eight more convicts (all of whom did not eventually embark), the health, comfort, and security of all the other classes on board, were endangered.

3rd. The "Instructions" state that *at all times* when the *whole* of the prisoners are on deck, the detachment of troops is to be on the poop, and ready to act. This evinces ignorance or carelessness on the part of the farmers of the Regulations, since, in our vessel and others, it would entail the necessity of the whole detachment being on the poop uninterruptedly for twelve hours or more every day. Again, by Regulation No 4, "the soldiers are strictly prohibited from holding any intercourse or communication with the convicts, and that a disregard of the orders on this subject will meet with certain punishment: "yet the soldiers' galley, constantly attended by a cook and assistant-cook, is in the midst of the convicts. This galley must be frequented by the soldiers and their wives; surely some arrangement should be made to give them access to it without passing to it, and standing always surrounded by, and in contact with those whom they are enjoined to shun."⁽⁷⁾

In convict-vessels, the owners by charter party are required to increase the complement of crew. A greater number, by about one-third, is shipped than the usual calculation per ton in the merchant service. Our ship, of 800 tons burthen, carried a crew of fifty-two men and boys; but the Government gains little by this stipulation, for the service is not a popular one. Any rag-tag who offer themselves are taken, and good men, knowing that in such cases the hard work must eventually devolve on them, are shy of offering.

Troops embarked as a convict-guard are not, of course, required to assist in working the ship, as in other cases where soldiers are on ship-board.

The whole of the accommodation of the vessel is at the disposal of the Government; but in our case no passengers were put on board, so that the officers of the guard were not stinted for room. There were but few stores put on board, and our ballast proving

insufficient, we sailed in bad trim, drawing at the commencement less water than we ought to have done even at the end of the voyage. This is commonly the case in a convict-vessel, and it is an evil which is of course aggravated every day by the large consumption of provisions and water.

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The prisoners came on deck at 7 a.m. Twice a week a proportion was allowed up earlier, to wash clothes; and in the warm weather forty men came up every morning in rotation to bathe. At 8 o'clock, breakfast, consisting of tea or cocoa, with biscuit, and occasionally stirabout,⁽⁸⁾ was issued : dinner at noon — salt beef and flour, or pork and peas. Twice a week an issue of preserved potatoes was added. At 5 p.m., tea or cocoa. On alternative days there was an issue of lime-juice, or a jill of wine per man, served out after dinner, and drank (sic) at the tub. At dusk in the evening, all hands were ordered below, and locked up, under the superintendance of a non-commissioned officer of the guard. There was a sort of night-police instituted, of constables whose duty it was to preserve order and quiet, and to report all who might be found unnecessarily out of their berths. Even this did not prevent pilfering, which prevailed to a great extent amongst the prisoners. There was certainly little to steal, but nothing, however trifling in value, was safe. The nimble-fingered gentry plundered each other remorselessly of shoes, caps, book, &c.

During the day hammocks were stowed in the nettings, and on the boats and spars, to which free access was given to the prisoners, — a measure which, while it tended to diminish the crowd on deck, was one which might be objected to on the score of security. The prison was kept scrupulously clean, and being unoccupied all day, was cool and free from foul air, when at evening 300 souls were consigned to it. The health of the whole party was good; during the passage, only one death, (that of a convict)⁽⁹⁾ occurred out of 419 souls. An ample supply of medical comforts is shipped in convict-vessels, and, with the exception of the peas, no fault could be found with the provisions. The ration is ample for men living in idleness.

The only occupation provided for the convicts is tailor's work. Materials for several hundreds of suits of convict clothing (grey cloth) was put on board in bales. As soon as we got into fine weather, a return of tailors was called for, when no less than fifty, being one-sixth in the whole number, presented themselves.

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The other helps to kill time rationally were contributed by a school and library; the latter comprised about 250 volumes and pamphlets, including school-books, but exclusive of Testaments and Bibles. The selection of works was an indifferent one, apparently a contract affair, and a "job"; for although there were many good and suitable works, there were very many others which could neither be instructive or amusing to the class they were intended for. The books chiefly in request were Knight's Weekly Volume (an excellent publication), works on natural history, the Penny Magazine, and the guides to trade and service. Simple works of a serious or

religious character were in demand by some ten or a dozen amongst the number. Without derogating from the importance of scriptural and religious reading, we think it injudicious to limit a selection to books exclusively of this character. The notion held by some of the tract school, of bringing all things, on all occasions, to a scriptural test, and treating every subject evangelically, is rarely attended with the best effects. It is wearisome to the many, and makes bigots of a few. The collection of books in our convict library and the merit of variety : there was certainly no exclusiveness in its composition, but it was susceptible of great improvement. In judicious hands, the money might have been more profitably invested for the heads and hearts of those whom it was proposed to benefit. (10)

Before we had been ten days at sea, a school was established. Taking a lively interest in educational arrangements, we were happy to accede to the Surgeon's request of assistance in furthering the important object of raising man from vice and moral degradation to self-respect and knowledge. The materials were perhaps not very favourable to work upon, but the hope of attaining any, even the slightest success in so desirable a work, was sufficient encouragement.

The preliminary arrangements were soon made. A portion of the waist of the spar-deck, on the weather side, was daily roped off for the school. Bibles and Testaments, primers, alphabets, slates, pencils, copy-slips, and arithmetic books were forthcoming in sufficient numbers. Nearly 100 volunteers to attend school came forward. The degree of proficiency of each individual was separately tested. Six were selected as instructors, amongst whom the remainder were classified and distributed. Our work went on prosperously. The absentees were not numerous, and it was found that temporary exclusion from the school, or the benefit of the library, was ample and effective punishment for truants.

The boys, of whom there were about a score, some of them from the establishment of the Isle of Wight, were amongst our most troublesome customers. Several of the adult scholars were on joining totally unlettered, and before they left the ship had acquired tolerable proficiency in reading and writing. One individual, a native of Stornaway, in the Hebrides, a heavy, dull-looking man, of five-and-thirty, was, on coming on board, so unacquainted with any language but Gaelic, that he could not make himself intelligible, and scarcely understood a sentence that was addressed to him. He attended the school regularly, exhibited great docility and perseverance, and at the expiration of the voyage read and understood the more simple chapters of the Gospel, and could write sufficiently for present purposes, although he had never before had a pen in his hand. The school hours were from 10 to 12 a.m. and from 2 to 4 p.m.

Singing and dancing occupied a portion of almost every evening, although the instrumental music was rather a failure. Before leaving Woolwich, a subscription of twopence per man had been made, and appropriated by permission to the purchase of a violin and strings; but eventually there proved to be but one sorry performer on that instrument, so that the labour chiefly devolved on a punchy (sic) little old man, who blew his face to a point in the endeavour to extract music from a fife.

We have read somewhat about the feeling of independence generated by surveying the boundless expanse of ocean — the exhilaration of spirits produced by rushing through the bounding billows, under a press of sail — the admiration excited by marking the almost life-like docility with which a vessel responds to the will and hand of him who guides her — the terrible sublimity of the storm, and the scarcely less awe-inspiring sensations when the death-like stillness of the calm is broken only by the heavy and melancholy flapping of the sails. For our own part, we are too keenly sensible of the innumerable minor miseries of the sea, the inevitable and all-pervading petty discomforts and privations of shipboard, to come fairly and dispassionately to the contemplation of its merits and *agremens*. In balancing the pros and cons, we will put sea-sickness entirely out of the question, for albeit not an habitual sufferer from this dreadful penalty of going to sea, we have had sufficient experience of it to rest satisfied that every blessing under Heaven would be worthless if coupled with sea-sickness. Whether it were advancing years, diminished buoyancy of spirits, increased impatience of convenience, or something of all combined, we found ourselves excessively intolerant of the motion and noise. This last, on board a convict-ship, is a perpetual source of worry and distraction. To us it appeared that "quiet" involved every other blessing; to be able to sit or stand still without practising gymnastics to retain either the perpendicular or the horizontal, and to see other things still; to be in silence, if it were but for five minutes; — this was the *summum bonum*, the goal of all our aspirations.

Then, again, *dirt*; you have it both outwardly and inwardly; you eat it, drink it, feel it, see it, and sleep in it. You can never reckon upon having a dry spot in your cabin; it leaks overhead at deck-washing, it oozes in at your port, or it comes meandering in from the cabin of your next neighbour. The saline impregnation of the atmosphere, and constant evaporation always going forward, makes everything damp, and prevents anything becoming perfectly dry. Then the everlasting noise from holystoning decks, groaning bulk-heads, the creaking of the rudder, the continuous tramping over-head, the bawling, shouting and piping, form a *tout ensemble* calculated to shatter the strongest nerves, to try the most placid temper, and to banish all idea of comfort.

It was our custom to turn out between five and six o'clock in the morning, and during the warm weather to walk the wet decks bare-footed, and exchange the fresh air of the poop for the suffocation of a sleeping cabin. This proved the pleasantest portion of the day, but even this had its drawbacks, since it involved the penalty of contemplating the carcase of sheep or pig, which still steaming with the warmth of vitality, was destined to contribute to our daily meals. The liver torn from the side at 6 a.m. was at half-past 8 smoking on the breakfast-table, flanked with sundry slices of fat pork. Such is the style of entertainment on board, when the object is to have as little eaten as possible. Truly, with us, was exemplified the adage, that the devil has the supply of sea-cooks; we were further of opinion that our Cuddy Steward was from the establishment of the same prince of darkness. From dirt and incapacity it would have been difficult to award the palm of superiority between them.

For all their faults the regimental officers of the British Army were "the sort of men of whom Wellington had said that he could go straight from school with two NCOs and 15 privates and get a shipload of convicts to Australia without trouble"(11)

NOTES

1. The Queen's Regulations and Orders for the Army 1 Jul 1844 (copy USI of Aust (NSW)).
2. If the reference is to the *Lady Shore* in 1797, the "enterprise" did not arise of a "quid pro quo" between the guard and the convicts, but because the soldiers, including French POW impressed into the British Army, "for to Botany Bay they would not go". (See RAHS Vol 50 Part 6 Dec 64 – William Minchin of the NSW Corps).
3. Appears to refer to the *Somersetshire* in 1842. See Bateson "The Convict Ships 1787-1868", 2ed p290.
4. The aftermost mast.
5. Hammocks had replaced "standing bed places and berths" in June 1843.
6. It would appear that the writer is referring, in fact, to his own ship.
7. One of the many problems facing regiments proceeding to, and serving in Australia was the camaraderie which developed between soldiers and convicts with subsequent disciplinary problems. Many harsh words have been written on the conduct of troops in Australia. Perhaps the more remarkable part of their service, considering all the circumstances, is that there were so few outbreaks of ill-discipline, and their subsequent active service in India so good.
8. Porridge.
9. If the ship was the *Palmyra*, Bateson records two deaths.
10. Curiously reminiscent of the WHAM programme (Win Hearts and Minds).
11. Quoted 1962 Lees Knowles Lecture, Trinity College, Cambridge, by Lt Gen Sir John Winthrop Hackett.

**COLONEL (LATER MAJOR-GENERAL) JOHN SOAME RICHARDSON, C.B.
WHO COMMANDED THE SOUDAN CONTINGENT IN 1885**

by

J.W. Courtney

Major-General Richardson was born in England in 1836, and entered the Imperial Army in 1854. In the next year he served with the 72nd Highlanders in the Crimean War, and was present at the siege and fall of Sebastopol, for which he received a medal with clasp, and the Turkish war medal. In the New Zealand War of 1860-61 he served with the 1st Battalion of the 12th Regiment of Foot in the Taranaki district, and in the Waikato campaign in 1863 and 1864.

General Richardson, who held the New Zealand war medal, retired from the Imperial service, and in 1865 was appointed to the command of the military forces of New South Wales, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, becoming Colonel in 1876. He commanded the New South Wales Soudan Contingent, being created C.B., mentioned in despatches, and received the Egyptian medal with clasp and the Khedive's star in recognition of his services. Colonel Richardson was promoted to the rank of Major-General on August 15, 1885 — after the return of the Contingent. He was Commandant of the New South Wales Military Forces from 1865-1892, and died on June 9, 1896. He was buried in Waverley Cemetery with full military honours, and a handsome monument over his grave records that the memorial was "erected by the officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the New South Wales Military Forces."



Major-General J.S. Richardson, CB.

NEW SOUTH WALES COMMANDANTS

Colonel	J.S. Richardson	17.2.1865 – 25.1.1882
Colonel	C.F. Roberts, C.M.G. (Actg)	26.1.1882 – 22.3.1882
Lieut-Colonel	W.B. Christie	23.3.1882 – 28.1.1883
Major-General	J.S. Richardson, C.B.	29.1.1883 – 9.12.1892
Colonel	W.W. Spalding, C.M.G. (Actg)	31.8.1892 – 28.5.1893
Major-General	E.T.H. Hutton, C.B., A.D.C.	29.5.1893 – 5.3.1896
Colonel	C.F. Roberts, C.M.G.	6.3.1896 – 2.4.1896
Major-General	G.A. French, C.M.G., R.A.	3.4.1896 – 31.12.1901
Colonel	H. Finn, D.C.M.	1.1.1902 – 28.2.1904
Colonel (Temp. Brig- General)	H. Finn, D.C.M.	1.3.1904 – 15.11.1904
Colonel	G.W. Waddell, V.D. (Temp)	16.11.1904 – 31.1.1905
Brig-General	J.M. Gordon, C.B.	1.2.1905 – 25.4.1910
Colonel	C.M. Ranclaud, V.D. (Adm)	20.11.1908 – 19.5.1909
Colonel	E.T. Wallack, C.B.	26.4.1910 – 26.7.1910
Brig-General	J.M. Gordon, C.B.	27.7.1910 – 10.5.1912
Colonel	E.T. Wallack, C.B.	11.5.1912 – 31.10.1915
Colonel (Temp. Brig- General)	G. Ramaciotti, V.D.	1.11.1915 – 15.2.1917
Colonel (Temp. Brig- General)	G.L. Lee, D.S.O.	16.2.1917 – 27.3.1920
Colonel	J.H. Bruche, C.B., C.M.G.	28.3.1920 – 30.4.1921

NEW SOUTH WALES DISTRICT BASE COMMANDANTS

Colonel	Wallace Brown	1.5.1921 – 30.6.1922
Colonel (H/Major- General)	G.H. Brand, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.	1.7.1922 – 31.12.1925
Major-General	J.H. Bruche, C.B., C.M.G.	1.1.1926 – 31.5.1927
Lieut-Colonel	H.J.C. Taylor, D.S.O. (Adm)	28.5.1927 – 8.9.1927
Lieut-Colonel	J.L. Hardie, D.S.O., O.B.E. (Adm)	11.6.1928 – 30.6.1928
Colonel (Temp.)	J.L. Hardie, D.S.O., O.B.E. (Adm)	21.4.1929 – 17.11.1929
Brigadier	F.B. Heritage, C.B.E., M.V.O.	23.7.1929 – 31.12.1932
Colonel (H/Brig- General)	O.F. Phillips, C.M.G., D.S.O.	1.2.1933 – 31.7.1934
Lieut-Colonel	P.M. McFarlane (Adm)	1.8.1934 – 31.5.1935

Brigadier	J.L. Hardie, D.S.O., O.B.E.	1.6.1935 – 30.6.1937
Major-General	J.L. Hardie, D.S.O., O.B.E.	1.7.1937 – 17.10.1939

EASTERN COMMAND – GENERAL OFFICERS COMMANDING

Lieut-General	V.A.H. Sturdee, C.B.E., D.S.O.	18.10.39 – 31.7.40
Lieut-General	C.G.N. Miles, C.M.G., D.S.O.	1.8.40 – 18.12.41
Lieut-General	H.D. Wynter, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.	19.12.41 – 5.4.42

BASE HEADQUARTERS, EASTERN COMMAND

Major-General	A.C. Fewtrell, C.B., D.S.O., V.D.	7.1.42 – 14.4.42
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N.S.W. LINES AND COMMUNICATIONS AREA

Major-General	A.C. Fewtrell, C.B., D.S.O., V.D.	15.4.42 – 21.9.43
Major-General	E.C.P. Plant, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E. A.D.C.	22.9.43 – 4.3.46

EASTERN COMMAND

Lieut-General	F.H. Berryman, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.	4.3.46 – 6.2.51
Lieut-General	W. Brudgeford, C.B., S.B.E., M.C.	7.2.51 – 12.11.51
Lieut-General	V.C. Secombe, C.B.E.	13.11.51 – 30.3.52
Lieut-General	F.H. Berryman, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.	31.3.52 – 15.12.53
Lieut-General	E.W. Woodward, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.	16.12.53 – 31.7.57
Lieut-General	R.G. Pollard, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.	1.8.57 – 29.5.60
Lieut-General	H.G. Edgar, C.B., C.B.E.	30.5.60 – 31.10.63
Major-General	T.J. Daly, C.B.E., D.S.O.	1.11.63 – 12.5.66
Major-General	J.W. Harrison, C.B., C.B.E.	13.5.66 – 16.12.68
Major-General	M.F. Brogan, C.B., C.B.E.	17.12.68 – 18.5.71
Major-General	K. Mackay, C.B., M.B.E.	19.5.71 – 13.10.73

THE KYNETON VOLUNTEERS 1860-1900

by

R.D. White

This article surveys the formation and activities of volunteer militia units in the township of Kyneton during last century. This thriving agricultural town situated some fifty miles north west of Melbourne owed its growth to its proximity to the Bendigo and Castlemaine goldfields and its consequent importance as a supply and staging centre. The chief events in the history of its volunteer units have been carefully chronicled by its local newspapers and were fairly typical of others throughout the colony.

The appointment of Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Hotham as Governor to the young colony of Victoria in 1854 coincided closely with the outbreak of the Crimean War. Rekindled patriotic fervour together with the news that a Russian squadron was headed south from Manila, led to the formation of a volunteer military to repel a possible attack. The rumour that France planned to strengthen her naval base in New Caledonia coupled with the New Zealand crisis helped swell the growth of the militias to a strength of 4000 in four years.

In 1860 the Kyneton Mounted Rifle Corps was formed initially of 50 members. Later the Kyneton Infantry Rifle Corps commenced activities but for financial reasons was not officially recognised by the Government.

The Kyneton Mounted Rifles under Captain R.B. Tucker were outfitted in uniforms of dark blue with sky blue facings, sky blue shirt with scarlet facings and peaked cap. The uniforms were locally tailored at a cost of £ 5/2/6 each which was 2/6 more than the government allowance. After the first year the strength of this unit increased to 100. Besides the usual drills, rifle matches were held, while in 1861 they were called out by a local magistrate to help check riots among the railway gangs.

A notable event was the presentation in 1862 of the Standard and Colours by the ladies of the town. These consisted of a blue flag with gold mountings, having cross and crown on one side and emu and kangaroo on the other. The cost was 60 guineas. The troop was well represented in encampments at Werribee and elsewhere, achieving distinction in competitions.

In 1863 the Governor Sir Henry Barkly requested HRH the Prince of Wales to permit the whole of the Victorian Horse to be amalgamated into one regiment to be called the Prince of Wales Light Horse. This consent was graciously given. Though not recorded there was probably a change to scarlet uniforms at this stage.

In the meantime further moves were made to obtain official recognition of the Infantry Corps but lack of numbers presented a problem until 1864 when uniforms were provided by government contract and the Corps was incorporated as the 3rd Company of the North West Battalion of Grays with a strength set at 75. Local interest

provided funds for band instruments. Those purchased included a bombardon, saxhorn, flageolet, clarinet and two cornopeans.

With the completion of the Melbourne to Bendigo railway, Vice Regal visits were frequent and both corps provided honour guards. They were represented in reviews at Flemington and Emerald Hill but on one famous occasion went hungry all day as the promised meal break and 2/6 luncheon allowance was not forthcoming.

A welcome addition to the Mounted Rifles came in the form of a 12 pounder field gun from the Melbourne Armoury. Another grand occasion was the reception of HRH Prince Alfred at Kyneton Railway Station.

This was led by Major Windridge in charge of the Light Horse and Captain Gloster in charge of the Rifle Corps. Civic dignitaries and local organisations joined in the procession of welcome.

1871 saw the uniform of the Prince of Wales Light Horse changed from scarlet to blue and adopting the style of the 17th Hussars. Orders for the cloth were sent to England.

1884 saw the proclamation that:- "The Prince of Wales Regiment of Light Horse including Metropolitan, Kyneton, Sandhurst, Ballarat, Southern and Castlemaine troops is disbanded and the services of every volunteer dispensed with". This came as an anti-climax to years of increasing local interest and prestige in the corps.

Later that year two Salvation Army officers attempted a takeover of the Drill Hall site by use of a miner's right. This move was thwarted by the local militia and Defence Department who permanently reserved the land for defence purposes.

With the passing of the Prince of Wales Light Horse troop, news value of the local militia seemed to diminish, however a Mounted Rifles Company B formed in 1885 continued actively in the town. Some members of this were included as part of a contingent to the Soudan War.

1887 saw the formation of a cadet corps while in 1888 the 4th Battalion Mounted Rifles was recruited.

In the 1890's the widespread depression was the main preoccupation of the town and military matters figured rarely in local papers.

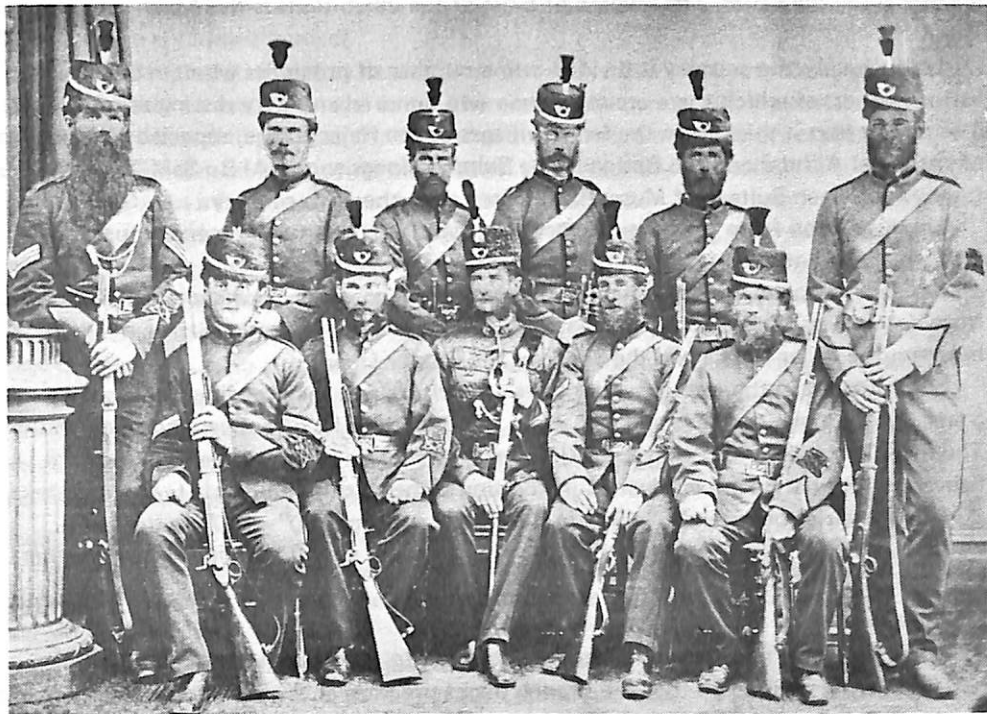
Towards the turn of the century a new interest in military affairs was evident and a visit to Kyneton by Major General Sir Charles Halled-Smith preceded a visit by the Victorian Militia Force to celebrate Queen's Birthday 1899.

A grand ball was held, also a large scale competition in which the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalion Infantry Brigades, 1st Battalion Infantry Rangers, and 1st Battalion Mounted Rifles competed for the Brassey Trophy. Each company detrained and complete with its band marched to the firing area at Bald Hill. The Field Company of Engineers, Army Service Corps and Ambulance Corps also participated. The Castlemaine 4th Battalion Infantry Brigade and band marched through the town to the strains of "True Till Death" and formed an advance guard to keep local residents away from the firing. After the exercises the men were entertained in the town.

The end of the century saw many of the volunteers enlisting in the Boer War as members of the Bushmen's Corps. Married men were not accepted.

Federation heralded a new nationalism and army reorganisation on an Australia wide basis. However the traditions of the Kyneton volunteers were not forgotten. This is evident by the names on the many Honour Rolls of the wars since that time.

- References**
1. History of Kyneton Vol 1. (Extracts from files of Kyneton Observer 1856-1862 and Kyneton Guardian 1863-1900)
 2. The Golden Age – G Serla – A History of the Colony of Victoria 1851-1861.



Skirmishing Team – Ballarat Volunteer Regiment 1874 (Rangers)
Officer – Captain A. McGreenfield

THE SULTANS ARMED FORCES SULTANATE OF OMAN

by

Lt. Col. J.J.M. Sheridan

"All the World is a Stage, And all Men and Women merely Players, They have their exits and their entrances And one man to his time plays many parts" (As you like it)

The Country

The Sultanate has a population of about 750,000. Seven eights of the people are Arabs, the remainder being Aborigines, relics of Persian Colonists of previous invasions, Baluchis from Guadar in Pakistan and Indian Merchants in Muscat Town and the large villages along the Coast. The religion of most of the inhabitants is the Abadi sect of Islam.

Traditionally the country is divided into a number of provinces wherein dwell various tribes; of which there are more than two hundred and fifty distinguishable ones. The population is thickest in the fertile villages of the Hajar Range, especially in the area of the Jebel Akhdar and the Batinah. The Sultan belongs to the Al Bu Said Tribe and his family have been Sultans of Muscat and Oman since the 18th century.

Long isolation from the outside world has made the Oman tribesmen resourceful, individualistic and independant. Their villages are clusters of grey mud and stone houses set amidst date palm groves and commonly along the coast are constructed entirely from date palms. There are a few nomad Bedu Tribes who live in the barran plains between the Hajar Range and the Sands of the Empty Quarter.

Employment in the interior varies from agriculture and the breeding of livestock, goats, sheep, oxen, donkeys and camels, to the skilled trades of copper and silversmiths. The maritime tribes, whose Arab stock is strongly infused with negro and Baluch are fishermen and date palm cultivators in addition to being ship builders.

Climate varies between 80°—90° in the winter and from 90°—140° in the hot weather, especially in the interior. The coastal strips are very humid in the hot weather, but very pleasant in the winter.

Background

British Political relations with Muscat date back to 1798 when Britain was at war with France; it was feared that the French might use Muscat as a naval base from which to attack Britain and Indian shipping or even as a staging point for an invasion of India. The reigning Sultan was therefore encouraged to conclude a treaty of friendship with Great Britain.

Today British interests are largely territorial: to uphold the Sultan's Government against foreign influence and interference from foreign inspired rebels, to maintain the

security of air bases and overflying rights and to safe-guard her oil interests. Whereas in former years the simple expedient of a naval demonstration normally sufficed to prevent trouble, intervention today must largely take the form of military and air support. In 1957-58 British support put down a revolt which concluded the assault of Jebel Akhdar, the final stronghold of the rebels.

The rebel leaders managed to escape capture and slipped out of Oman to Saudi Arabia where they were given Saudi hospitality. The Oman rebel Army ceased to exist from then on as an organised body. Little was heard of the rebels until the summer of 1959, when reports told of a rebel recruitment centre in Dammam and that training had started again at Taif in Saudi Arabia. Mine incidents began again. This was backed up by incessant radio propaganda mainly from Cairo. Training of Omanis in the camps of Saudi Arabia continues as also does sporadic mine laying and bomb exploding in Oman, to justify the rebel leaders existence in Saudi Arabia and as propaganda for their cause. By 1965 training of Omanis in Saudi Arabia had ceased and it now continues in Iraq, with Soviet and Chinese control.

The rebel leaders continue to live in Dammam with a few retainers, slaves and out-laws collectively termed 'the hard core'. There are a few mercenary supporters and agents in Oman, and in the Gulf States. Rebel activities are aimed to draw such attention to the Omani problem as may attract the sympathy of enough 'anti colonialist' opinion to obtain a favourable vote in the United Nations.

Salalah, the seat of the Sultan, and Dhofar Province have been, until later 1964, peaceful. A rebel group moved into this area in 1964, and troops from the Force were despatched to expel them. On the arrival of the troops, the rebels dispersed but came again in greater strength and better armed in June 1965. Again troops were despatched from the force, with air support from SOAF; after several encounters during which both sides suffered casualties, the rebels dispersed leaving behind quantities of arms and ammunition. Since this date and the British evacuation from Aden the situation has deteriorated and it is safe to say that a nasty little known about war with all that it entails is, and has been, raging from 1965 until today.

Background History Armed Forces

The first local Force to be raised for Garrison duties at Muscat was the Muscat Levy Corps in 1913; its strength was one hundred Arabs. Its first Commandant was a Turkish Officer.

At the end of 1914 the Imans tribes in the interior moved to attack Muscat. In 1915 British Indian troops were sent to defend the Capital and beat the Imans forces near Bait-al-Falaj. Company detachments remained in the Sultanate till 1923.

In 1923 the Muscat Levy Corps was reorganised and renamed the Muscat Infantry. It had a British Commander and several retired Indian Army Officers on contract. It became a mixed Arab and Baluch Force and also had an Artillery Troop.

Two other forces, the Batinah Force and the Muscat and Oman Field Force, were formed in 1953, and in 1955 an Administration HQ was formed at Buit-al-Falaj, with

a training centre nearby at Ghallah.

Further reorganisations took place and today the SAF, an all volunteer force consists of:-

The Land Force (SOLF)

- The Muscat Regiment
- The Northern Frontier Regiment
- The Desert Regiment
- The Jebel Regiment
- The Oman Gendarmerie
- The Dhofar Gendarmerie
- The Frontier Force
- 1 Artillery Regiment
- 1 Signals Regiment
- 1 Armoured Car Squadron
- 1 Engineer Squadron
- Firgat Force (Irregular)

Air Force (SOAF) – One strike squadron, one helicopter squadron, one short range and one medium range transport squadron.

Navy (SON) – One fast patrol boat squadron and inshore patrol craft.

The Armed Forces have been engaged in active operations against the Communist backed PFLOAG since 1965 and it is of interest that the SOLF Land Forces have a greater Fighting strength than the present Australian Army.

In the early part of 1958 the first seconded Officer from the British Service arrived to command the Force.

Composition of the Forces

The Force is officered by British, Australian and Pakistani seconded and contracted officers and by locally commissioned officers.

There are three types of soldier in the Force:-

- a. **Arab:** recruited from the tribes of the interior and the coast.
- b. **Local Baluch:** recruited from Baluch settlers in and around the Capital and the coast.
- c. **Makran Baluch:** residents of Gwadar Makran Pakistan which was until 1958 a part of the Sultanate.

SULTANS HONOURS AND AWARDS

The following may be granted to all personnel contract or seconded of the Sultans Armed Forces.

The Sultans: Gallantry Medal (G.M)
Bravery Medal (BM)
Distinguished Service Medal (DSM)
Commendation
Jebel Akhdar Campaign Medal 1958/59
General Service Medal
Bars Dhofar 1964 onwards
Long Service and Good Conduct Medal – 12 years all ranks – Officers included.

Up to my leaving the Force in 1968 the following honours had been won:

G.M.	7
B.M.	18
DSM	7
	42 Commendations

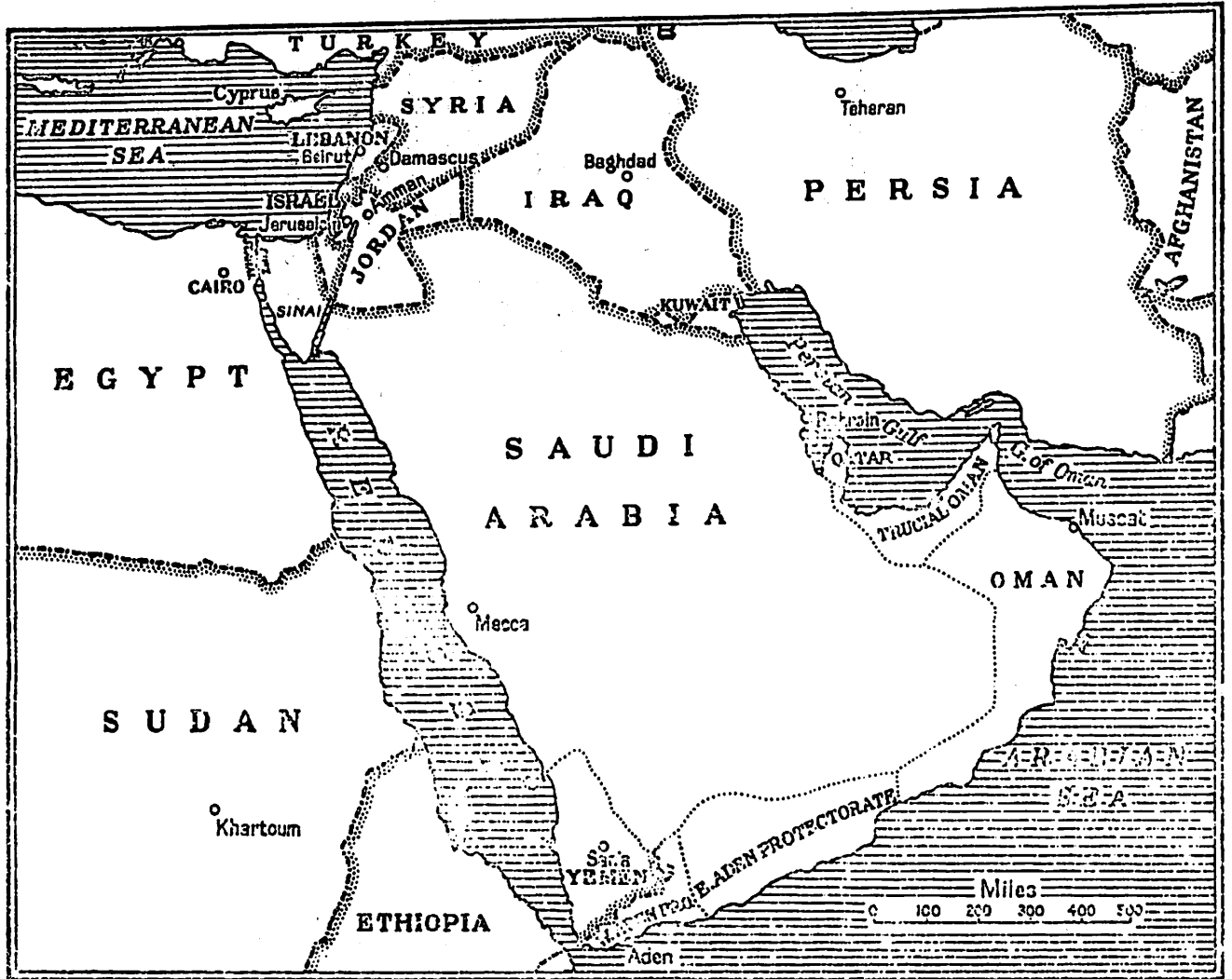
Permission for unrestricted wear has been granted by Her Majesty The Queen in order of Seniority, but behind ALL BRITISH HONOURS and AWARDS.

Notes on Author: Lt. Col. J.J.M. Sheridan, D.S.M.

- (a) Training Officer Sultans Armed Forces 1959-1968
- (b) State President Tasmania, Korea and South East Forces Association
- (c) Member of the Military Historical Society of Ireland

Medals awarded Lt. Col. J.J.M. Sheridan: 1. Indian General Service Medal 1908-35 with clasp Northwest Frontier 1935. 2. Indian General Service with 2 clasps, Northwest Frontier 1936-37 and Northwest Frontier 1937-39. 3. 1939-45 Star. 4. Africa Star. 5. Italy Star. 6. Defence Medal. 7. War Medal. 8. General Service Medal with MID and 3 clasps, Palestine 1945-48, Malaya and Arabian Peninsula. 9. Indian Independence Medal. 10. Malayan General Service Medal. 11. French Croix De Guerre with palm. 12. Sultan of Oman Distinguished Service Medal. 13. Jebel Akhdar Campaign Medal. 14. Dhofar Campaign Medal.

THE MIDDLE EAST





The author instructing recruits in the Muscat



Sergeant of The Sultans Armed Forces

**ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS ENTITLED TO THE GENERAL SERVICE MEDAL
WITH CLASP "KURDISTAN"**

by

R. Clark

1st Australian Wireless Sig Sqn Australian Imperial Forces

Regt No	Rank	Name	Remarks
—	T/Capt	Sandars, C.L.	Left Basra 5.11.19
—	Lieut	Goodman, C.W. (MID)	" " 21. 9.19
23021	Sapper	Barrett, A.R.	" " 5.11.19
20547	T/S/Sgt	Benson, E.A. (MSM)	" " 5.11.19
20548	"	Blakey, J.E.	Dis. 1.10.19
20552	T/Sgt	Braniff, J.	Left Basra 5.11.19 (Basra is approx. 300 miles SE of Baghdad)
20555	SPR	Burne, E.K.	Left Basra 5.11.19
20560	"	Connor, J.R.	" " "
20557	"	Constant, V.C.	" " "
20559	L/Cpl	Cooper, C.F.	" " "
20640	SPR	Corkhill, L.D.	" " "
23024	"	Cummins, A.K.	" " "
20561	"	Dale, H.A.	" " "
23085	"	Downey, K.W.	" " "
20642	"	Fisher, A.L.	" " "
20567	"	Fitzpatrick, P.	" " "
20569	T/M/Dvr	Fordham, C.A.	" " "
20570	SPR	Gallard, E.C.	" " "
20572	"	Galley, W.H.	" " "
20576	T/2/Cpl	Hall, C.R.	" " "
20575	SPR	Harman, E.C.	" " "
23090	T/M/Dvr	Hense, N.C.	" " "
20541	S/Sgt	Hull, W.H.	" " "
23081	T/M/Dvr	Jackson, H.J.	" " "
23088	SPR	Johnston, J.	" " "
23083	"	Leslie, N.F.	" " "
20582	"	Mardon, G.E.	" " "
20584	T/Cpl	Meagher, N.J. (MSM)	" " "
23086	SPR	Millar, C.N.	" " "
23035	"	Morrish, A.J.	" " "

Regt No	Rank	Name	Remarks	
23034	SPR	Murdoch, H.B.	Left Basra	5.11.19
23033	"	Murray, J.E.	" "	"
23037	"	McLachlan, J.N.	" "	"
23039	"	Nelson, W.B.	" "	"
20592	"	Neville, A.R.	" "	"
23041	"	O'Daniel, L.C.	" "	"
20644	"	O'Shea, T.P.	" "	"
20595	"	Pugh, D.	" "	"
20645	T/M/Dvr	Revill, T.G.	" "	21. 1.19
20597	T/Sgt	Rodd, A.T. (DCM,MID)	" "	5.11.19
20599	SPR	Sharp, A.G.	" "	"
20600	"	Skerritt, A.B.	" "	"
20601	L/Cpl	Smith, A.	" "	"
20602	SPR	Stafford, S.F.	" "	"
20603	"	Stiff, D.P.P.	" "	"
20604	"	Sullivan, V.M.	" "	"
23047	"	Tibbett, J.G.	" "	"
20606	"	Wadley, C.G.	" "	"
20607	T/2/Cpl	Wallace, B.D.	" "	"
20646	M/Dvr	Webb, S.A.	" "	"
23049	SPR	White, B.	" "	"
20647	"	White, E.E.	" "	"
20556	T/MT/Dvr	Clayton, K.H.	28.3.18 – 5.11.19	

Reference: Army Order No 4 of 1923.

Although the above names were taken from an Army Order it does not mean the list is accurate or complete as later orders may have amended this list. All were members of "D" Troop which had a strength of 80, so I am unable to understand why only 53 are listed as having been awarded the medal with 'Kurdistan' clasps. The medal is a real rarity and is well sought after by all who collect medals awarded to Australians. Further details on the IAWSS and Dunster force can be found in an excellent book by Keaste Burke titled 'With Horse And Morse in Mesopotamia'. Keaste Burke as a member of "D" Troop was awarded the medal and the following extract from his book concerning the demobilization of the troop is of interest:

"Though "D" Troop was a small unit in a far-off land it was not forgotten by the authorities in Australia, who, through the A.I.F. representative at Bombay, made energetic efforts to secure its release from active service. In fact the A.I.F. representative succeeded in August in extracting from the Indian Government a promise that the troop would be repatriated within a month – a promise that he joyfully cabled to Australia. But such promises carried little weight on the Kurdish frontier. Strictly speaking, it is

probable that, is the Australians had been withdrawn at this stage, the operations in Kurdistan would have been abandoned, since in the whole of Mesopotamia there would remain insufficient wireless personnel to take charge of the necessary stations — even in the previous year the Second Squadron had manned only four or five mobile stations. In such circumstances there was no other course than to wait until the campaign ended; by then (early October) the British wireless squadron had managed to collect enough men for one or two standby stations, and these took the place of "D" Troop. By the 14th of the month the last of the Australians, thin and tanned, had arrived in Baghdad from the wilds, and, with thirty-two in the men's mess, the "Billet" began to live again.

October 22nd was the great day. Before the big front door of the Billet clanged shut and the key had been returned to the Military Governor, the blue-and-white signal colours, which for many years had hung out in front, were unscrewed as a war-museum souvenir; then lorry-load after lorry-load of men and their kits moved off for Hinaidi station. By nightfall they had squeezed themselves into five "tin" trucks, and were soon rattling sleeplessly over the metals; at 3 a.m. the arc-lights of Kut Supply Depot were sputtering overhead, and they dozed off at last. The troop did not delay long at Kut, for it had a "priority" passage, and before noon was aboard the P.S.51. With low water in the river, no travelling could be attempted after dark. For the first night the vessel lay up at Sheikh Saad (now an abandoned village); for the second it anchored in mid-stream near Ali Shergi; for the third, just above Qualet Sale. But no sooner had darkness fallen on this last occasion than the twinkling light of a hurricane lamp was seen far off across the desert; before long an Indian orderly arrived with the inevitable "chitty" — orders to proceed — which the skipper did not receive at all kindly!

At Narrows Central Station (the traffic control centre) it was learned at 9 p.m. that all up-river traffic had been held up so as to give passage to the P.S.51, which was to travel all night in order that the Australian troop would reach Kurna by dawn for an inspection by the G.O.C.-in-Chief. The inspection duly took place; after being thanked for their post-war services, the Australians were informed that their embarkation would be expedited, and that in the meantime they would be given the best possible quarters at the Base.

The General was as good as his word. The men were saved from attending mess-queues and performing guards and other duties incidental to the huge Basra Base Depot, camping instead by themselves, with beds and all manner of camp equipment, in huts recently vacated by the 23rd Ammunition Column. With £ 35 of belated cash from the Adelaide Comforts Fund, base rations became quite respectable.

After eight days Basra was left behind. Light-heartedly the men marched through the palms to the wharf of the 3rd British General Hospital (whereon "D" Troop disembarked nearly two years before) and went on board the Hospital Transport *Varela*. Whether they had any right to be on her, they neither knew nor cared — they were homeward bound — the last complete Australian unit that saw active service. On November 9th, the *Varela* put in at Karachi, at the mouth of the Indus, to disembark Indian convalescents.

Bananas once more! All ate more than were good for them.

In Bombay the troop camped at Colaba, but there its good luck ended. In a few days most had spent their cash, and thereafter, for three weeks, had to be content with barrack fare. Then on the 1st December they boarded the *Medic* — an enormous transport of whose twelve troop-decks they could but partially fill one. Food was astonishingly good — even early-morning coffee and supper cocoa. The trip was slow, due to adverse winds and engine trouble; some days the ship travelled barely two hundred miles, and made a nineteen-day passage to Australia. After spending an hour or two in Albany, a day and a night in Adelaide, the *Medic* at last reached Melbourne, the men for Sydney and Brisbane going overland by express.

Like the Squadron men before them, those of "D" Troop went their respective ways with mixed feelings. Whatever the happiness of the future, the grand fellowship of the A.I.F. will never be forgotten.

THE MORNING OF AUGUST 8TH, 1918

by

Sir John Monash

"In black darkness, a hundred thousand infantry, deployed over twelve miles of front, are standing grimly, silently, expectantly, in readiness to advance, or are already crawling stealthily forward to get within eighty yards of the line on which the barrage will fall; all feel to make sure that their bayonets are tightly locked, or to set their steel helmets firmly on their heads; Company and Platoon Commanders, their whistles ready to hand, are nervously glancing at their luminous watches, waiting for minute after minute to go by — and giving a last look over their commands — ensuring that their runners are by their sides, their observers alert, and that the officers detailed to control direction have their compasses set and ready. Carrying parties shoulder their burdens, and adjust the straps; pioneers grasp their picks and shovels; engineers take up their stores of explosives and primers and fuses; machine and Lewis gunners whisper for the last time to the carriers of their magazine and belt boxes to be sure and follow up. The Stokes Mortar carrier slings his heavy load, and his loading numbers fumble to see that their haversacks of cartridges are handy. Overhead drone the aeroplanes, and from the rear, in swelling chorus, the buzzing and clamour of the Tanks grows every moment louder and louder. Scores of telegraph operators sit by their instruments with their message forms and registers ready to hand, bracing themselves for the rush of signal traffic which will set in a few moments later; dozens of Staff Officers spread their maps in readiness, to record with coloured pencils the stream of expected information. In hundreds of pits, the guns are already run up, loaded and laid on their opening lines of fire; the sergeant

is checking the range for the last time; the layer stands silently with the lanyard in his hand. The section officer, watch on wrist, counts the last seconds: "A minute to go" — "Thirty seconds" — "Ten seconds" — "Fire".

And suddenly, with a mighty roar, more than a thousand guns begin the symphony. A great illumination lights up the Eastern horizon; and instantly the whole complex organisation, extending far back to areas almost beyond earshot of the guns, begins to move forward; every man, every unit, every vehicle and every tank on their appointed tasks and to their designated goals, sweeping onward relentlessly and irresistibly."

THE SOUTHERN TASMANIAN ARTILLERY



Sergeant Southern Tasmanian Artillery

The first Artillery Corps started in Hobart was the Hobart Volunteer Artillery, which was formed on the 30th December, 1859. Captain A.F. Smith was commander for a short time, and about the beginning of 1860, Captain William Tarleton assumed command, a position he retained until the disbandment of the corps in 1877. All corps in the island were disbanded on the 31st December, 1867, and reorganised the following month, this step being taken owing to there being so many corps, that it was considered desirable to reduce the number, as well as to place the remainder on a more satisfactory footing. In 1878, Dr. E.L. Crowther, M.H.A., revived the volunteer movement, and one result of his patriotic efforts was the formation of the present Southern Tasmanian Artillery, of which he was appointed commanding officer. He held the rank of

Major until 1884, when he resigned his commission, and was succeeded in the command by the then senior Captain, now Lieutenant-Colonel T.M. Evans, who still retains the position. Captain Evans was promoted to be Major on taking over the control of the corps, was further promoted to be brevet Lieutenant-Colonel during the Queen's jubilee, and had the Volunteer Officers' Decoration conferred upon him in 1894. Soon after its formation, the Southern Tasmanian Artillery was called out for active service, that being the only time in its history. This was on the 27th June, 1878, on the occasion of the celebrated Chiniquy riots. The men were on duty for three or four days, case shot was served out for the guns and carbine ammunition to the men, but fortunately there was no occasion to expend either, the events passing off bloodlessly so far as the troops were concerned. The Southern Tasmanian Artillery has always received great praise for discipline and efficiency, and at present it admittedly stands second to no other corps in those respects.



Hobart Town Volunteer Artillery. August 1869

The standard is five feet seven inches high and thirty-five inches round the chest, and great care is exercised in recruiting, so as to secure a well-balanced desirable class of men in all respects. The field guns used by the corps are two thirteen-pounder B.L., Armstrong's make, which, though good of their kind, are somewhat out of date. Periodical drills are held at the Battery at the Bluff, and also at the Alexandra Battery with the big guns; and field artillery drill, as well as infantry movements, is also practiced. The corps do not get enough ammunition to practice with, but that is a complaint everywhere prevalent. The corps numbers eighty officers and men.

Colonel Evans takes a great pride in his battery. This is easily understood when it is recollected that he has been a member of it (practically, the old artillery and the present corps are the same) for nearly forty years, having joined in January, 1860, as a gunner. He passed through all the grades in succession as a non-commissioned officer; and since gaining his first commission has been promoted step by step to his present rank. No officer in the Service is more respected — as much for his personal qualities as for his military efficiency.

Extract from 'The Cyclopaedia of Tasmania'

THE ORIGIN OF THE MILITARY CROSS

Extract from Recollections of Three Reigns

by

Sir Frederick Ponsonby

I had now taken over entirely the tiresome question of decorations, as the King and Stamfordham were busy with more important matters. Naturally, I consulted the King on all important matters. It had been for some time abundantly clear that our existing decorations were inadequate for a war of this magnitude, and that some decoration other than the V.C. and D.S.O. would be necessary for officers. There appeared to be some dissatisfaction at the front, and while, of course, the whole standard had been raised, there seemed no rewards for junior officers whose bravery did not entitle them to the V.C. The D.S.O. was originally designed for this purpose, but eventually it was restricted to senior officers; during the South African War, too, it had been prostituted, as several officers who had never left the base received it.

I spoke to the King on the subject, and His Majesty said that he thought that the Distinguished Service Cross, which was given in the Navy should be made applicable to the Army. This seemed the obvious remedy, but when I came to discuss the question with Kitchener and Churchill I found there were many difficulties in the way. Kitchener at first agreed to the proposal on the understanding that the statutes should be altered to suit the Army, but when I saw Churchill at the Admiralty he flatly refused to allow the statutes to be altered. Kitchener thereupon flatly refused to have anything more to do with this cross, and said the Army must start a new decoration of its own.

The King at first was very much opposed to the idea of the two services having different decorations; but when I pointed out to him that in the matter of medals they already entirely, he said he saw no alternative to a new cross for the Army being instituted. The Navy is more logical than the Army because they have the Distinguished Service Order, the Distinguished Service Cross and the Distinguished Service Medal. Kitchener was in a great hurry to get this new cross out and summoned a committee to work out the

details; but before the committee met I saw him and asked whether he intended to copy the Naval Distinguished Service Cross. He glared at me and said: 'Most certainly not!' I expressed a hope that the new cross would be reserved for fighting officers and would not be given to staff officers; but he said that a staff officer in charge of intricate operations during an offensive deserved greater recognition than a man who performed an individual act of gallantry. One man was merely responsible for his life, whereas the other might be responsible for thousands of lives. He added that if a decoration was held to imply that the recipient had never been engaged in actual fighting no one would care to have it.

The whole thing was done in such a hurry that I was surprised that more mistakes were not made.

I attended the meeting of the committee appointed to institute the new cross and found that it consisted of the Adjutant-General, the Military Secretary, the Secretary of the War Office, Douglas Dawson and myself, with Kitchener in the chair.

The word 'autocrat' can only give a feeble idea of what Kitchener was at that time. The War Office blindly carried out his orders, and no one ever thought of questioning his proposals or of attempting to argue with him. The committee was therefore a farce, as the officials of the War Office were like a Greek Chorus echoing his opinions. The only two who asked awkward questions and tried to get the subject thoroughly thrashed out were Douglas Dawson and myself. When we came to the design I suggested we should have something really good, but Kitchener said it would take too long and there was no necessity to have anything damned artistic. However, it was agreed to have as many designs as possible to choose from, or rather from which Kitchener might make the selection. I longed to say that not one of the committee had the slightest knowledge of silver work and therefore we were as a body totally incapable of selecting the best work; but I felt it would not do to say so, more especially as Kitchener seemed to fancy himself as an artist, and was constantly engaged in drawing pathetic designs on the blotting-paper.

The second meeting of the committee took place soon afterwards, and in the short time available I was not able to do more than get one or two artists to draw rough sketches. Douglas Dawson, however, had asked Farnham Burke, one of the leading Heralds, to draw designs. To my mind they were very second rate, but considerable trouble had been taken with them and silver paint had been used which I was afraid would captivate Kitchener. Sure enough, as soon as he saw Farnham Burke's efforts he refused even to look at the rough sketches, and at once selected the design with the silver paint. This was a triumph for Douglas Dawson, who from the first had been very strongly opposed to any artist being employed, and he remarked to me that he was glad to think that the design he had put forward was the best; I retorted that so far from being the best it was probably the worst, as Kitchener knew as much about silver work as a Hindoo did about skates.

The choosing of the ribbon was not without humour, as everyone seemed to think it

was such an easy thing to do. Kitchener began by describing a ribbon which he thought would be attractive, but I told him this was the Emperor of Austria's Jubilee Medal and, although this was not a serious objection, it was a pity to have a ribbon that was worn by nearly everyone in Austria. His second attempt produced the ribbon of the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal of the Navy, and a third proved to be the Black Eagle of Germany. I had a book giving all the ribbons of Europe, and as soon as anything was produced I was able to see whether it was the ribbon of any existing medal or decoration. Kitchener became quite exasperated and said: 'This damned fellow contradicts me whenever I say anything. We'll have no nonsense; I've got it, plain black and white, simple and dignified,' to which I remarked that that happened to be the Iron Cross. That broke up the meeting, and Kitchener said he would choose the ribbon with the King.

The King and Kitchener spent half an hour choosing medal ribbons. I left a book containing all British ribbons and one with all foreign ones on the table, with a basket containing different coloured ribbons which my wife got for me. I put in a prominent place the card with my wife's suggestions, so that they might see what possibilities there were. Eventually I was sent for and shown with triumph a ribbon they had selected which was not in any book; I found they had chosen the one my wife had made out, mauve on a white background. Certainly this was very distinctive, and not likely to be mistaken for any existing decoration.

It was decided to call the new medal the Military Cross, but there was no guarantee that it would not be given for services at the base or on the line of communication, which was a great pity. The King then proposed to start a Military Medal.

HELMET PLATES AND BADGES OF THE N.S.W. MILITARY FORCES. Pre 1903

by

R. Gray

HELMET PLATES

Row 1. *Left to right*

1st. Regiment New South Wales Infantry. 1878-1890.

New South Wales Infantry.

New South Wales Military Forces. Circa 1884.

New South Wales Artillery.

New South Wales Scottish. 1885-1903.

Row 2. *Left to right*

New South Wales Military Forces. White metal. 1881-1890.

New South Wales Military Forces. Oxidized.

New South Wales Military Forces. Brass. 1881-1890.

New South Wales Reserve. 1885-1889.

New South Wales Infantry.

Row 3. *Left to right*

New South Wales Military Forces.

New South Wales Rifles.



NSW Helmet Plates

BADGES OF THE NSW MILITARY FORCES

Row 1. *Left to right*

- 2nd. Infantry Regiment. A bullion badge.
- 3rd. Infantry Regiment. A bullion badge.
- 4th. Infantry Regiment. A bullion badge.
- Sydney Battalion Volunteer Rifles.
- 3rd. Infantry Regiment. A white metal badge.
- New South Wales Lancers.
- 1st. Australian Horse. Headdress badge.
- 1st. Australian Horse. Collar badge.
- 1st. Australian Volunteer Horse. Circa 1897-1900. Collar badge.
- 1st. Infantry Regiment. Officers pattern.
- 1st. Infantry Regiment.

Row 2. *Left to right*

- 1st. Infantry Regiment. Cap badge.
- 2nd. Infantry Regiment. White metal. 1890-1898.
- 2nd. Infantry Regiment. 1898-1903.
- 3rd. Infantry Regiment. Brass
- 3rd. Infantry Regiment. White metal.
- 4th. Infantry Regiment.
- 4th. Infantry Regiment. Collar Badge.
- 5th. Infantry Regiment. Scottish Rifles. – Volunteers.
- 6th. Infantry Regiment. Australian Rifles – Volunteers. Hat badge.
- 6th. Infantry Regiment. Australian Rifles – Volunteers. Cap badge.
- 6th. Infantry Regiment. Australian Rifles – Volunteers. Collar badge.
- 7th. Infantry Regiment. St. George's Rifles – Volunteers.

Row 3. *Left to right*

- 7th. Infantry Regiment. St. George's Rifles – Volunteers. Collar badge.
- 8th. Infantry Regiment. Irish Rifles – Volunteers. Bronze.
- 8th. Infantry Regiment. Irish Rifles – Volunteers. Brass.
- 8th. Infantry Regiment. Irish Rifles – Volunteers. White metal.
- This badge has "Illawarra" on it. Unit not identified.
- Civil Service Volunteer Infantry.
- Civil Service Volunteer Infantry. Cap badge.
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Highland Volunteer Rifle Corps.
- New South Wales Artillery.
- Army Service Corps.
- Engineers. A bullion badge.

Row 4. *Left to right*

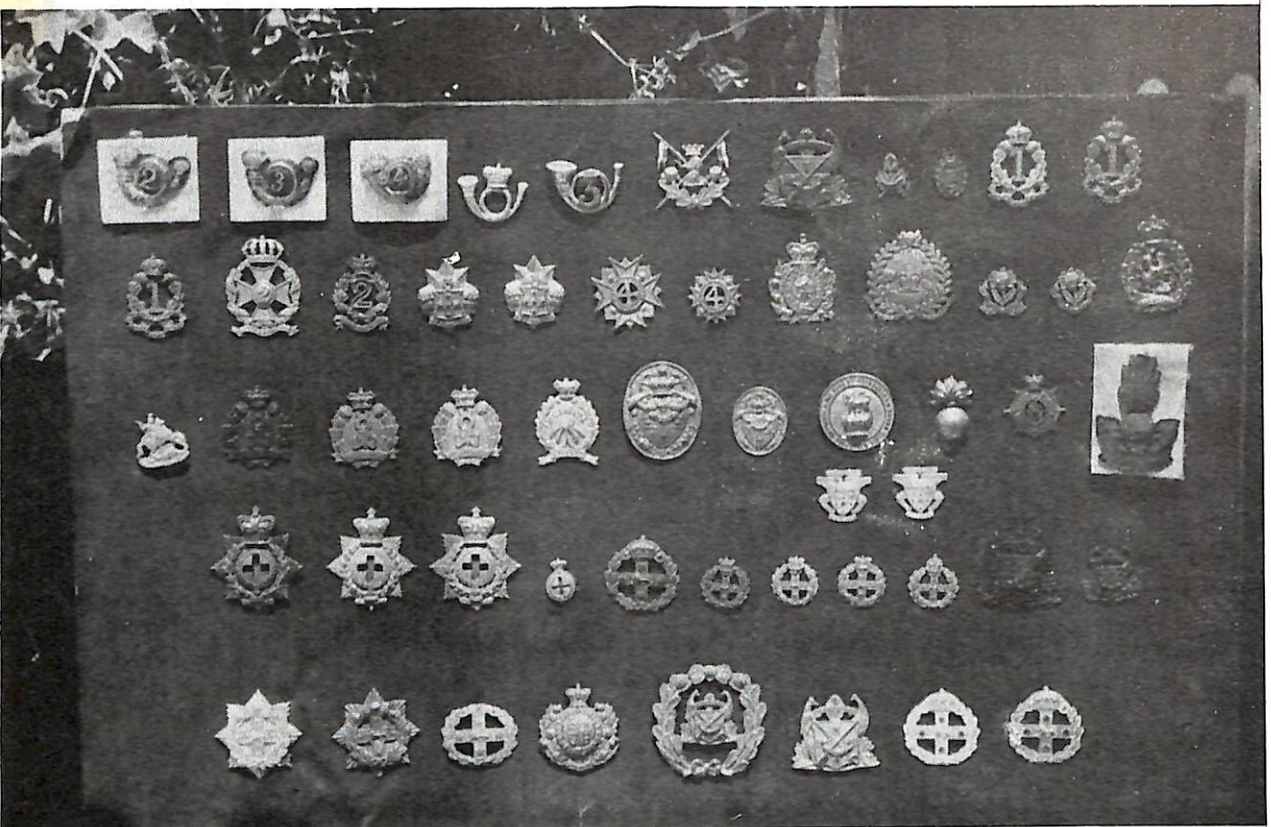
University Volunteer Rifle Corps. With correct motto.
University Volunteer Rifle Corps. With incorrect motto.

Row 5. *Left to right*

Medical Staff. Bronze.
Medical Staff. Brass.
Medical Staff. White metal.
Medical Staff. Collar badge.
New South Wales. Military Forces. Hat Badge.
New South Wales Military Forces. Collar badge in brass.
New South Wales Military Forces. Collar in white metal.
New South Wales Military Forces. Collar in white metal.
New South Wales Military Forces. Collar in brass. King's Crown.
1st. Australian Horse. Bronze.
1st. Australian Horse. Cap. Bronze.

Row 6. *Left to right*

New South Wales Military Forces. Pouch badge.
New South Wales Military Forces. Pouch badge.
New South Wales Military Forces. Pouch badge.
Engineers. Blet plate centre.
1st. Australian Horse. Shoulder belt badge.
1st. Australian Horse. Pouch badge.
New South Wales Military Forces. Pouch badge. White metal.
New South Wales Military Forces. Pouch badge. Brass.



Badges of the NSW Military Forces

BATTLE OF BRITAIN CLASP TO THE 1939-45 STAR

Prepared by RAAF History Section in 1957

A list of Australians known to have taken part in the Battle of Britain is as follows:—

Plt. Off.	Francis Walter COLE
Plt. Off.	John Dallas CROSSMAN
Flg. Off.	Richard L. GLYDE, D.F.C.
Sgt.	Kenneth C. HOLLAND
A/Flt. Lt.	Patterson Clarence HUGHES, D.F.C.
A/Flt. Lt.	John C. KENNEDY
Plt. Off.	William H. MILLINGTON, D.F.C.
Flt. Lt.	Richard Carew REYNELL
A/flt. Lt.	Stuart C. WALSH
A/flt. Lt.	Latham Carr WITHALL
Plt. Off.	Bryan M. McDONAUGH
A/Wg. Cdr.	L.S. CONSTANTINE
T/Gp.Capt.	R.B. LEES
Flt. Lt.	J.F. PAIN
Flt. Lt.	U. PARKER
Flt. Lt.	C.A. McGAW
Sqn. Ldr.	H.G. HARDMAN
Sqn. Ldr.	I.N. BAYLISS
Flt. Lt.	R.H. HILLARY
Plt. Off.	J.D. CARCHIN, D.F.C.
Flg. Off.	J.R. LOCH, D.F.C.
Flt. Lt.	R.W. BUNGEY, D.F.C.
Flt. Lt.	C.G.C. OLIVE, D.F.C.
Flt. Lt.	D.F. SHEEN, D.F.C.
Flg. Off.	H.C. MAYERS, D.F.C.

Of those listed only Wg.Cdr. C.G.C. Olive (277457) and Sqn.Ldr. R.W. Bungey, D.F.C. (257414) (deceased) are known to have been members of the Royal Australian Air Force. The remainder, therefore, would be Australians who enlisted in the Royal Air Force and whose records of service and personal files would be held by the Royal Air Force.

As records of campaign awards are held under the names and numbers of ex members rather than types of awards it is not possible to state that the foregoing information is exhaustive. However, it is the best that can be obtained from all possible sources in practice.

THE MUZZLELOADER IN WARFARE

by

Franklin Garie

The following excerpts are from a book contemporary with the subject which it describes. The book is "The History of the Battles and Adventures of the British, The Boers, and The Zulus in Southern Africa from 1495 to 1879 including every particular of the Zulu War of 1879" by D.C.F. Moodie. The author who was resident in South Australia at the time had the book published in Adelaide and dedicated to the Governor of S.A. — Sir W.F.D. Jervois, RE, CB, GCMG, — in 1879.

The subject common to the choice of these extracts is the contemporary adaption of muzzleloading guns to warfare. These notes should be of interest to persons interested in both Military history and the "art" of M/L shooting.

Page 37 "another Boer showed me an enormous elephant gun throwing about 4 balls to the pound, with which he had shot an unfortunate sentry (English) from amongst the brushwood near the camp. He had crept close up to him and the enormous bullet silenced the poor fellow forever."

Page 54 (1843) The 7th Dragoon guards (in Southern Africa) had infantry "rifles" purchased from the 60th "Rifles". — "We found these arms very awkward to load when mounted. When dismounted, we had to place the "rifle" between our two knees to insert the ball which most of us found very tedious after firing 50 to 60 rounds during the Kaffir war, the barrel becoming so heated that the ball would often melt and become so soft that it could not be rammed down."

Note:— In fact, the difficulty in loading was due to fouling, not the lead melting.

Page 55 (1844) "The Boers had much the advantage through being all mounted and having guns that reached further than those in possession of our troops. They much annoyed and harrassed the infantry by dismounting, laying their Snelders (long guns with hair triggers) across the saddles on their horses, firing, reloading and remounting, to gallop out of range of our Brown Besses."

Page 86 "instantly 20 bullets riddled the CO's cap and splintered the stick supporting it, to pieces. We rushed across the found 50 Kaffirs standing in water up to their knees, nearly the whole of whom were shot before they could reload, the remainder escaping into the bush."

Page 89 "I was carrying my double-barrelled gun at the advance, or rather with the butt of it on my left thigh, when a ball grazed my forehead and struck the right-hand barrel of my gun, entirely denting in the metal. I felt the shock in my hand, and looking down I saw my left thumb bleeding profusely. Many of the Kaffir bullets were

made of zinc or pewter stripped from the farmers' houses and were of so hard a nature that when they struck anything they would break and fly in all directions. It thus happened that my hand became lacerated from the ball. One of the Kaffirs was in the act of seizing my horse's bridle when I shot him. Luckily I pulled the trigger of the left barrel, for at that time I did not know that the right barrel had been flattened by the ball."

Page 95 "A fine old soldier of my Regiment rushed at one spot with only three or four men and got amongst a lot of them before they could reload, for they used powder-horns in those days and long junks of lead or the legs of iron pots, and thus took a long time to load."

Page 97 (1847) "One fellow who had fired at and missed me and at whom I also had fired two barrels, stood 10 yards from me to reload; and I was doing the same on horse-back, loading both barrels against his one, but watching for the time when he would prime for I saw that he had a flintlock musket. The Kaffir, however, was ready first, before I had capped, but he omitted to prime. My friend who was on my right also with his discharged gun exclaimed, "for God sake make haste or he will be ready first", when the fellow put up his gun and snapped it in my face. I did not give him a second chance, for it had been fine powder, the pan would have filled, and I should not have been here to tell the tale."

Page 106 "The Major advised us all to look to our guns, and see that the caps and priming were dry, for we all, officers and men, carried double-barrelled guns in those days. (Smooth Bore Cape Carbines). My caps were the only suspicious ones. The gun had been loaded for some days and the caps very soon corrode from the dew at night."

Page 136 "One European hunter was chased into a small clump of bushes and brought to bay, but after shooting 3 or 4 of his leading pursuers, the latter halted, no one of them liking to be the first to enter the bush thinking that death would be certain. The ammunition of the hunter was now entirely exhausted, but by ringing the iron ramrod into the empty barrel, he induced the Zulus into the belief that the gun was loaded, and after a while his pursuers were recalled."

DESCRIPTION OF A.A.N.S. UNIFORM WORN AT THE CORONATION IN 1937

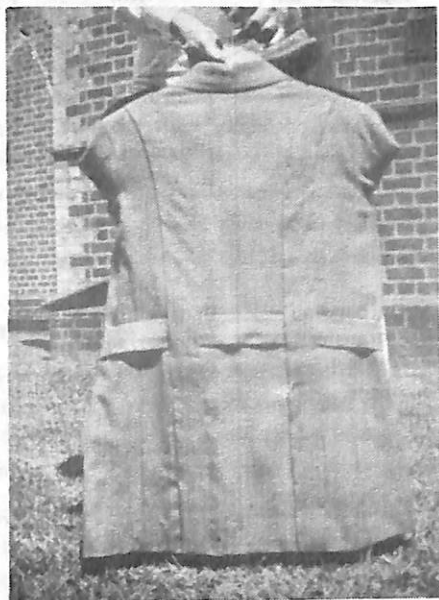
by

Lt. Col. I.C. Teague

- Blouse:** White Fuji Silk — with collar exactly like a man's soft shirt collar, detachable. 3 collars.
- Norfolk Jacket:** Tailor made. Bands over shoulder, back and front. Belt at waist — going under bands. No stitching on bands or belt. 2 patch pockets — 6" wide, 8" long, flap over, 2". No stitching showing anywhere. Width of bands 2". Width of belt 2". Belt to have no visible fastening — press stud underneath, and should lie between the second and third button. Nothing at all but shoulder straps to be on jacket. No stripes, badges, patches, or anything previously worn. Buttons — three on front, two on each sleeve, one on each pocket. Plain coat sleeve.
- Skirt:** Quite plain. Room to walk comfortably. Length — 12" of ground.
- Shoes:** Plain black lace. Medium or Cuban heel. No brogues.
- Stockings:** Supplied.
- Tie:** "
- Hat and Puggaree:** "
- Gloves:** "
- Shoulder Straps:** "
- Raincoat:** Plain grey.



Front view of Norfolk Jacket



Back view of Norfolk Jacket

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

MILITARY BOARD
(Quartermaster-General)

Army Headquarters,
Victoria Barracks.
MELBOURNE, S.C.I.

Headquarters,
3rd District Base.

19 FEB 1937

UNIFORM FOR NURSES – CORONATION CONTINGENT

I am directed by the Quartermaster-General to advise you that the following items are being purchased, vide Authority Requisitions Nos. 4819 and 4834, also Clothing Factory Demand C.160/37, for Nurses of the Coronation Contingent and are to be distributed to Chief Ordnance Officers, as hereunder, for issue to the Deputy Director of Medical Services in all Districts:—

Supplied From	Item	Qty.	Districts						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	
Clothing Factory	Straps, shoulder (Matron in Chief)	2	—	—	3	—	—	—)Distribution to)3 M.D. includes)extras to be dra-)wn as spares by)Matron in Chief.)
" "	Straps, shoulder, (Principal Matron)	12	2	2	2	2	2	2	
" "	Buttons, w/metal, line 32	25	3	3	10	3	3	3	
" "	" line 26	50	6	6	20	6	6	6	
" "	" line 18	20	2	2	10	2	2	2	
3 M.D. (pending transfer)	Badges, brooch nurses, silver	10	1	1	5	1	1	1	
Ball & Welch, Melbourne.	Serge, grey, yds	42	6	6	12	6	6	6	
do.	Stockings, pairs	7	1	1	2	1	1	1	
do.	Hats with bands	7	1	1	2	1	1	1	
do.	Ties	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Hicks Atkinson,	Gloves, pairs	7	1	1	2	1	1	1	

2. The Chief Ordnance Officer, 3rd Military District will arrange for the distribution of shoulder straps, buttons and serge to other Districts immediately supplies are received.
3. Distribution of stockings, hats, ties and gloves will not be effected until advice is received from A.H.Q. regarding the sizes of each required by Districts.

Colonel.
Director of Artillery & Ordnance Services.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE

"SYDNEY HERALD" 23 May 1831 — Page 46

On Monday last, being the day appointed for the interesting spectacle of presentation of new colors to H.M. 39th regiment, the regiment was drawn out in the Barrack Square, forming three sides of a square, in the centre of which, a drum and stool were placed; shortly after twelve o'clock his Excellency the Governor came on the ground, accompanied by his staff, and after the usual salute on such occasions, the new colors were brought out and placed near the drum, the old ones being in the rear. The Venerable the Archdeacon then read a prayer, after which his Excellency addressed the regiment to the following effect:—

"Gentlemen, — The colors which I present to you this day, are a tribute to the gallant conduct you have evinced in the defence of your country. It confers a great pleasure on me in being commissioned to present them to you as a memento of continental engagements, which in their results, were so glorious to your country, and so honorable to yourselves. I hope that under the colors which I this day present, you will gather as many laurels as you did under the old ones; and should your country at a future time call for your active services, you will stand nobly forward in its defence as you have hitherto done."

To which speech Colonel Lindsay thus replied:—

"I have to return in the name of the soldiers and officers of H.M. 39th regiment our sincere thanks for the great honor conferred upon us by your Excellency and the Venerable the Archdeacon, and I hope the colors now presented will add a stimulus to our exertions in our country's cause. We accept them with gratitude."

The new colors were then carried round the parade, after which, under a Captain's guard, they were conveyed to the Colonel's quarters. The troops then went through several manoeuvres, and concluded by sham firing, when the regiment was dismissed. A

large and respectable concourse of persons assembled to witness the interesting spectacle:— All the Officers of the Commissariat now wear their uniform, in consequence of an order from home. The most striking features are, a red stripe on the outward seam of each leg of the trowsers, together with the sword belt.

Was this the first Presentation of Colours in Australia?

THE NINTH DIVISION'S COLOUR PATCH

by

K.R. White

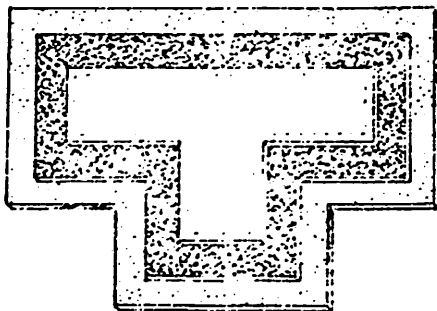
Ever since the troops of the 9th Division, A.I.F., returned to Australia from the Middle East early in 1943, wearing the famous "T" colour patch on their sleeves, there has been widespread uncertainty not only in the community generally, but also in the Australian Military Forces and even in the minds of members of the 9th regarding the origin and significance of the patch.

The officers and men of the division, proud of their original colour patches, had derided the proposal when first they heard of it. Although some of them afterwards surmised that the "T" signified Tobruk, in which they had held out so valiantly in 1941, the point had never been cleared up by an authoritative statement.

Lieutenant-General Sir Leslie Morshead, the original leader of the 9th Division, and the man who so ably commanded it and the other troops in Tobruk in 1941, was therefore asked if he would give the facts for publication in *Stand-To*. The statement received for Sir Leslie reads as follows:

"The T stood for Tobruch (not Tobruk). The 9th Division was hurriedly formed and wore a collection of colour patches — oblongs, squares, circles, ovals. After coming out of Tobruk I decided we should have the one form but, knowing how attached the men were to their old colour patches, the change had to be unanimously accepted. If not, then there would be no change. Finally, but not quite altogether readily, it was accepted, nothing as far as I was concerned having been indicated that the T stood for Tobruch, nor, when informing the Commander-In-Chief in Australia, the late Field-Marshal Blamey, of the change, did I make reference to Tobruch, but explained that a common colour patch was necessary and I had decided as all other simple forms from squares to circles had long since been bespoken, on the combination of two oblongs, the larger one on top."

The design of the new patch of the infantry battalions of the division is illustrated on the next page*, the colours used being a ready guide to the numerical order of a battalion within its particular brigade. The basic colour of the 20th Brigade, for example, became green on a grey background. The first battalion (2/13th) of that



brigade was distinguished by a black T superimposed on the brigade colour; the second (2/15th) by a purple T; the third (2/17th) by a white T. The basic colour of the 24th Brigade remained as it was, a red, and that of the 26th Brigade a light blue, each battalion within each of these brigades being distinguished in the manner described above. The artillery colour patches were somewhat more complex, differing from the artillery of other divisions in that each unit possessed a distinctive patch.

For example, the upper oblong of a field regiment's patch was cut diagonally from corner to corner, the upper half being red (and worn to the front of the shoulder), and all the patch below the diagonal line, including the stem of the T, blue. A small red circle three-eighths of an inch in diameter variously placed in the blue area of the patch was used to distinguish each field regiment. Generally speaking, the remainder of the divisional colour patches conformed within the T design to those colours usually employed to denote the various arms and services.

* *Reference:* Stand-To, March 1952.

THE SIEGE OF TOBRUK, 1941

by

The Australian War Memorial

By 10 February 1941 British forces in the Western Desert with the Australian 6th Division playing a leading role had swept the Italian Army from North Africa to beyond Benghazi.

On 23 February the Greek leaders had accepted a British offer to send an expeditionary force and the 6th Division was included in the force. Subsequently the newly-formed Australian 9th Division, commanded by Major-General L.J. Morshead, took over the 6th Division's tasks in Cyrenaica on 8 March.

Meanwhile, the German Africa Corps under the command of General Erwin Rommel had arrived in North Africa and on 31 March commenced the offensive which was to drive the British forces, hampered by an extended supply line and worn-out armoured vehicles, back eastwards across the desert to the Egyptian frontier. The Commander-in-Chief, Sir Archibald Wavell, instructed that the seaport town of Tobruk was to be held, if possible, for two months in order to give time for the assembly of

reinforcements, especially of armoured troops, for the defence of Egypt.

General Morshead was appointed as Tobruk Fortress Commander and on 8 April 1941 the garrison there consisting of the 9th Division, the 18th Brigade of the 7th Division with British and Indian troops, came under a siege which was to last for 242 days.

Tobruk's outer defences consisted of a series of Italian-built concrete strongpoints extending in a rough arc some 28 miles in length. Each post was protected by frontal wire and minefields with an anti-tank ditch encircling most of the line. To ensure defence in depth two inner defence lines were constructed by the garrison in the hard and rocky desert between the perimeter and the harbour.

After probing attacks on 11-12 April, German forces made their first serious attempt to capture Tobruk on the night of 13th-14th in what was to become known as the "Easter Battle". German infantry and tanks attacked positions occupied by the 2/17th Battalion on the southern sector of the perimeter. In Poland, France and Belgium German "blitzkrieg" tactics of a deep thrust through defences followed up by infantry had never failed. At Tobruk, however, the Australians allowed the tanks to move through the perimeter then engaged the German infantry in their wake. The result was that the armour was left to advance without support. As the tanks thrust north across the dusty terrain towards the town they were met by devastating artillery and anti-tank gun fire, often at point-blank range, forcing them to retire in disorder with the remnants of their infantry through the gap which had been made in our wire.

By 8.30 a.m. on the 14th the battle was over, although sporadic fighting continued until mid-morning. The Germans had lost 17 out of the 38 tanks that went into battle; 150 enemy dead were counted on the battlefield and 250 prisoners taken. The garrison's casualties were 26 killed and 64 wounded.

Corporal John Hurst Edmondson, a member of the 2/17th Battalion was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for outstanding leadership and conspicuous bravery during a successful counter-attack on the night of 13 April. The action occurred near Post R.33 on the perimeter, a sector on the front of D Company. Edmondson's V.C. was the first awarded to a member of the Australian forces during 1939-45.

The second and final attempt by Rommel to capture Tobruk in 1941 was made on 30 April-1 May when, under cover of intense dive-bombing and artillery attacks, enemy infantry and tanks broke through the south-west section of the perimeter then held by the 26th Brigade and established a salient of about 3,000 yards in depth. Throughout the remainder of the siege this sector gained the reputation of a "hot spot" as the Australians sought to shorten the line of the salient in the face of determined enemy opposition. However, the ground held by the Germans was never completely regained.

In May and June General Wavell attempted to relieve Tobruk by land in offensives mounted from the Egyptian frontier. The first operation resulted in the temporary capture of Halfaya Pass which was lost again a fortnight later. The second, known as operation "Battleaxe", failed entirely, the British losing more than two-thirds of their tanks.

In any account of the defences of Tobruk mention must be made of the "Bush Artillery" – captured Italian guns in a great variety of size, vintage and reliability – that the infantrymen manned and fired in a manner as spirited as the fire orders were unorthodox.

It was at Tobruk that the Australian infantryman gained his reputation for intelligent and aggressive patrolling, often deep into enemy territory. Some patrols went out at night to lie up for the next day, observing enemy defence-works and activities. Others patrolled daringly in daylight. Lieutenant-Colonel S. Williams, Commanding Officer of the British 1st Royal Horse Artillery, placed on record the enormous importance of deep infantry patrolling at Tobruk when he wrote:

"It was simply through the fearless and meticulously thorough investigation of the terrain, out of view and often deep inside the enemy defended localities, that we have gradually built up a clear knowledge of his defences and organisations."

Supply of the encircled garrison had of necessity to be by sea with ships of the British and Australian Navies bringing to Tobruk, across sea-ways dominated by a hostile air force, all the munitions and supplies necessary for the garrison's survival. Because of the almost daily enemy air attacks on the town and harbour, arrivals and departures of the ships were carried out under cover of darkness. Between 10 April and the end of August the defenders were subjected to 593 enemy air raids.

The relief of the 18th Brigade commenced in August and by October, the Australians, with the exception of the 2/13th Battalion, were relieved by the Polish Carpathian Brigade and British Troops. The 2/13th remained to fight its way out in December when the garrison broke out to join up with the British Eighth Army in its west-ward advance which effected the relief of Tobruk on 10 December.

It cannot be claimed that Tobruk stopped Rommel and his Africa Corps from capturing Alexandria and the Suez Canal in 1941, but the epic at Tobruk had an important effect on the war for another reason. Here the Germans had suffered a serious reverse as did the Japanese at the hands of the Australian troops at Milne Bay, Papua, in 1942. The Tobruk garrison had demonstrated that the hitherto successful blitzkrieg tactics could be defeated by resolute infantry who held their ground; by minefields and artillery fire; and by defence in depth and individual courage.

General Sir Claude Auchinleck, who had succeeded General Wavell after operation "Battleaxe", summarised the garrison's achievement in his despatch:

"Our freedom from embarrassment in the frontier area for four and a half months is to be ascribed largely to the defenders of Tobruk. Behaving not as a hard-pressed garrison but as a spirited force ready at any moment to launch an attack, they contained an enemy force twice their strength. By keeping the enemy continually in a high state of tension, they held back four Italian divisions and three German battalions from the frontier area from April until November."

During the siege German radio propagandists directed a constant stream of derision at the defenders, likening them to rats. Far from weakening morale, as the enemy in-

tended, the term was enthusiastically adopted by the troops who thenceforth called themselves the "Rats of Tobruk". The 9th Division also commemorated its Tobruk service in another way. Having been hurriedly formed, colour patches in use throughout the division included a variety of shapes. After Tobruk moves were made towards uniformity and in December 1942, following the Battle of El Alamein, new colour patches were issued in the shape of a "T".

The 9th Division's casualties (including the 18th Brigade) from 8 April to 25 October 1941 amounted to 749 killed, 1,996 wounded and 604 prisoners. The infantry losses during this period were:

	Killed	Wounded	Prisoner of War
18th Brigade	135	507	15
20th Brigade	118	359	64
24th Brigade	103	339	39
26th Brigade	249	397	347

In this period the artillery lost 44 killed, 106 wounded and 96 were taken prisoner, most of the prisoners being 2/3rd Anti-tank Regiment captured at Mechili on 8 April; engineer losses were 30 killed, 112 wounded and 3 prisoners.

In addition to these casualties, the 2/13th Battalion, the only Australian battalion to be left in Tobruk, lost 39 killed and 36 wounded during the breakout with the 70th British Division in December 1941.

REFERENCES

Australia in the War of 1939-45 (Canberra: Australian War Memorial). Series I (Army) Vol III, TOBRUK AND EL ALAMEIN, by Barton Maughan.

Tobruk, 1941 (Sydney: Angus and Robertson Ltd, 1945), by Chester Wilmot.

COLONEL G.G.E. WYLLY, V.C., CB, DSO

by

R. Clark

Guy George Egerton Wyllly, who was born in Hobart, Tasmania, on February 17th, 1880 was the son of Major Edward Arthur Egerton Wyllly, 109th Regiment and Madras Staff Corps. His mother was Henrietta Mary, daughter of Mr Robert Clerk, of West Holme, Somerset who became Sergeant-at-Arms to the House of Assembly in Hobart. Wyllly received his education at Hutchins' School Tasmania and at St Peter's College, Adelaide, South Australia, and shortly after his twentieth birthday he received, on April 26, 1900, his commission in the Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen. He soon found himself at the front in South Africa.

Lieutenant Wyllly, as he then was, was in charge of the advanced scouts of a foraging party on Spetember 1, 1900. The party had reached a position near Warm Bad and had come to a narrow gorge which was thickly wooded and very rocky. There seemed no reason why they should not pass through it, but while they were doing so a large force of the enemy who had concealed themselves in a commanding position opened fire at short range from their hidden cover. Six of the British scouting party of eight were immediately wounded. One of the men was very badly hit in the leg, and, in addition, his horse was shot.

On seeing his plight Wyllly turned and went to the man's assistance and insisted on the man mounting his own horse. To cover the retreat of the rest of the party Wyllly concealed himself behind a rock and opened fire on the enemy. His brave action laid him open to the great risk of being cut off from the rest of his party. In the course of the war Wyllly was twice wounded, once slightly and once dangerously.

He received a regular commission as second lieutenant in the Royal Berkshire Regiment, bearing the date May 19, 1900. After Wyllly had transferred to The South Lancashire Regiment in November of the same year, he went to India in December, 1901, to join the 2nd Battalion of the Regiment which was stationed at Jubbulpore. Then he decided to transfer to the Indian Army and was gazetted to the 46th Punjabis in October 1902. He made yet another change in February, 1904, when he went to the Queen's Own Corps of Guides. Lord Kitchener had been much impressed by Wyllly's record in South Africa, and had been instrumental in obtaining a commission for him in the regular forces. It caused no surprise, therefore, when Kitchener, who had become Commander-in-Chief in India, took Wyllly on his personal staff as A.D.C. He served in the appointment from December, 1904 to September 1909 and became associated with Kitchener's notable group of secretaries, which included Brooke, Hubert Hamilton, Fitzgerald and Marker.

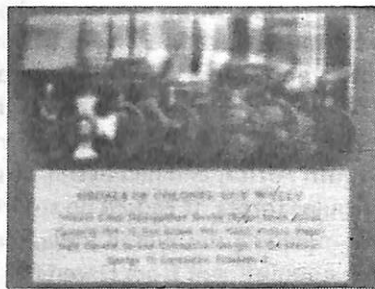
Nominated to the staff college, Quetta in 1914, by General Sir O'More Creagh, who was then commander-in-chief. Wyllly was ready to take up the appointment of staff captain, Mhow Cavalry Brigade, which was offered him in November 1914. In September, 1915 he was advanced to Brigade Major, of the same Brigade, acting at the same time until February 1916 as A.D.C. to Lieutenant-General Sir James Wilcocks, who was commanding the Northern Army, India. In June 1916, he went to France as G.S.O.2, 4th Division B.E.F. A month later he took up a similar appointment with the 3rd Australian Division, and in February 1917, went to the 1st Anzac Corps. In August 1915, he had been wounded in fighting at Autoille and he was mentioned in despatches three times, and in 1918 awarded the D.S.O.

After the armistice he returned to India as staff officer to Major-General Eustace, of the Kohat Brigade. In December, 1926 his appointment to the command of the 6th Duke of Connaught's Own Lancers (Watson's Horse) was announced. Before he retired in 1933, when he was created C.B. he had two more spells of active service, and for his conduct in both operations received further mentions. From 1926 to the year of his retirement he was A.D.C. to the King. In 1961 he died at Camberly at the age of 81.

Decorations and Medals Displayed In Tasmanian Museum

The following decorations, mounted as worn are on display in the Military Section of the Tasmanian Museum in Hobart:

1. VC 2. DSO George V, 3. QSA with clasps CC,T,W (medal engraved with VC after name followed by TASMANIAN I.B) 4. 1914-15 Star, 5. BWM, 6. VM, 7. IGS clasps Afghanistan NW Frontier 1919, 8. Delhi Durbhar, 9. George VI Coronation, 10. Elizabeth II Coronation.



Decorations and Medals Awarded Colonel Wyllly

CAPTURE OF GERMAN NEWGUINEA IN 1914

Submitted by

J.W. Courtney

PROCLAMATION

Proclamation on behalf of His Majesty George the Fifth by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the Dominions Overseas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India.

BY Colonel WILLIAM HOLMES, D.S.O., V.D., Brigadier Commanding His Majesty's Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force.

WHEREAS the Forces under my command have Occupied the Island of New Britain; **AND** whereas upon such occupation the Authority of the German Government has ceased to exist therein;

AND whereas it has become essential to provide for proper Government of the said Colony, and for the protection of the lives and property of the peaceful Inhabitants thereof.

NOW, I, WILLIAM HOLMES, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, Colonel in His Majesty's Forces. Brigadier Commanding the aforesaid Expeditionary Force, do hereby declare and proclaim as follows:—

- (1) From and after the daye of these present, the Island of New Britain and its Dependencies are held by me in Military Occupation in the name of His Majesty the King.
- (2) War will be waged only against the armed forces of the German Empire, and its Allies in the present War.
- (3) The lives and private property of peaceful inhabitants will be protected, and the laws and Customs of the Colony will remain in force so far as is consistent with the Military situation.
- (4) If the needs of the Troops demand it, private property may be requisitioned. Such property will be paid for at its fair value.
- (5) Certain Officials of the late Government may be retained, if they so desire, at their usual salaries.
- (6) In return for such protection, it is the duty of all Inhabitants to behave in an absolutely peaceful manner, to carry on their ordinary pursuits so far as is possible, to take no part directly or indirectly in any hostilities, to abstain from communication with His Majesty's Enemies, and to render obedience to such orders as may be promulgated.

(7) All male Inhabitants of European origin are required to take the oath of neutrality prescribed, at the Garrison Head Quarters; and all firearms, ammunition, and War material in possession or control of Inhabitants are to be surrendered forthwith, as is also all public property of the late Government.

(8) Non-compliance with the terms of this Proclamation, and disobedience of such orders as from time to time may be promulgated, will be dealt with according to Military Law.

(9) It is hereby notified that this Proclamation takes effect in the whole Island of New Britain and its Dependencies from this date,

Given at Government House, RABAU;

This Twelfth day of September 1914.

(SGD).

WILLIAM HOLMES,
Brigadier Commanding:

Witness

FRANCIS HERITAGE.

Major:

Brigadier Major:

GOD SAVE THE KING

This Proclamation was then read to the natives in Pigin.

All biys belongina all place, you savy big feller Master he come now; he new feller Master, he strong feller too much, you look him all Ship stop place; he small feller Ship belongina him, now he come her he take him all place; he look out good you feller, now he like you feller, look out good along him. Supposing other feller Master he been speak you, "You no work along new feller Master" he gamon. Supposing you work good with this new feller Master he look out good along with you, he look out you get plenty good feller Kaikai; he no fighting black feller boy along nothing.

You look him new feller Flag; you savy him, he belong British (English); he more better that other feller; supposing you been making paper before this new feller Master come, you finish time belongina him first, finish time belongina him you like make him new feller paper long man belongina new feller Master he look out good along with you. He give good feller Kaikai.

Supposing you no look out good along with him, he cross too much.

British (English) new feller Master he like him black feller man too much, he like you all same you picanin along him. You get black feller Master belongina you, you look out along with him, he all same Police Master, he look out place along with you, you no fight other feller black man other feller place, you no Kaikaiman, you no steal Mary belongina other feller man. Me finish talk along with you now, bye and bye

Ship belongina new feller Master he come and look out place along with you; you look him man belongina place belongina you, you speak him all the same. Me been talk along with you now, now you give three feller cheers belongina new feller Master.

The following letter indicates how easy it was in 1914 to become a member of the Armed Constabulary.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA

Government Secretary's Department
PORT MORESBY,
8th August, 1914

Staff/1914.

Sir,

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor has, as from to-day, appointed all Government Officers in Port Moresby, between the age of twenty (20) and forty (40) as Members of the Armed Constabulary.

His Excellency directs that you should forward to me at once, particulars of your previous military service.

Arms and accoutrements will be served out by the Headquarters Officer at the Police Barracks at Konedobu at 4 p.m. to-day.

Uniforms are to be provided by Officers at their own expense. Uniforms for Europeans will be khaki coat and trousers; shoulder straps of khaki or white with letters in red "A.C."

There is no pay.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

Acting Government Secretary.

N.G. Imlay Esq.,
Treasury & Customs Department,

PORT MORESBY.

ARMY REVOLT MATTER OF DECORATION

By Frank Cranston, Defence and Aviation Correspondent

Those ardent supporters of the Government who have been searching for evidence of the existence of a right-wing plot in Australia, might get some encouragement from the news that serious discussions has been taking place about proposals for a military revolt.

The revolt, centred around middle-ranking officers in the Army, is due to erupt during the sittings of the current session of the Federal Parliament and now seems certain to occur.

Unfortunately for the plot seekers, only the most erudite will be in a position to recognise that the officers' revolt has begun and they will have equal difficulty perceiving its spread through the ranks, although hundreds could take part.

Australia's military revolt is expected to take for form of the appearance on uniforms of the ribbons of decorations from the United States and the Republic of Vietnam.

The Government has been asked for its permission to let the men wear the insignia of their decorations but has refused. The men believe the Government is venting its spite in the matter because it disapproved of the war in Vietnam.

Legal officers in the Department of Defence are reported to have been advised of the officers' "plot" and to be studying action which might be taken. Short of mass court-martials of some of the most efficient middle-level officers and some of the services' most decorated soldiers there appears to be little that can do except appeal to the men's sense of responsibility.

Vacillation on the part of the previous Government, the men claim, was instrumental in bringing about the present situation. Under the Liberals the men were allowed to accept their decorations but not to mount them.

Now, they say, awards processed after December 1972, and recommended by Australia's former allies in Vietnam, are not even allowed to be accepted because of a Government direction.

Fuel to the Fire

The Military Historical Society of Australia, which has been battling the issue for several years, has recently added fuel to the fire with the publication of a book, *Gallant and Distinguished Service – Vietnam 1972-1973*, compiled by Mr I.L. Barnes.

"There is no reason why a serviceman should place any lesser value on his Vietnam medals than on those which were awarded in earlier wars", Mr Barnes says. He cites a study which shows that the rate of awards in Vietnam compares favourably with that of previous conflicts.

"Both the Governments of the United States of America and the Republic of Vietnam were constantly confused by the Australian Government's policy which

allowed the acceptance, but not the wearing of foreign awards", the book says. "The policy on acceptance also varied with the whims of the Ambassador and the Australian commanders in Vietnam.

"This resulted in such spectacles as members of 6RAR, after the battle of Long Tan in 1968, being presented with Vietnamese dolls in lieu of gallantry decorations", it adds.

In all, 2,099 decorations – only 1,064 of them British and therefore acceptable – were awarded to the 49,708 Australians who served in Vietnam. Of the foreign awards recommended, 422 were American and 613 Vietnamese.

In all, it might not be much of a military rebellion and not at all the one which some people seem to be seeking, but its importance could be greater than it might appear at first glance, particularly of the Government orders punitive action.

Mr Barnes did well to observe in his book that it was no less able a politician than Napoleon who once remarked that, "A man will fight long and hard for a little piece of ribbon".

Canberra Times, 18 October, 1974.

The foregoing is an interesting reaction to the publication of our book on Vietnam.

Editor.

BADGEMAN

FAKE BADGES

The following extract from the New Zealand Military Historical Society Vol. 2 number 5 should be read with care by all badge collectors:—

“Members, the floodgates are open, the fakers have hit the RARE badge market in New Zealand and are making a real killing amongst the local collectors. Several instances have been quoted where members have purchased badges purporting to be a genuine Rarity and later finding that they have been taken to the cleaners, and paid premium prices for a fake, and the disturbing thing is that these badges, in some cases, have come from reputable dealers.

Instances quoted have been:

- (a) *Japanese made badges:* Some enterprising entrepreneur landed several hundred Japanese made N.Z. badges within the last two years and these have been passed off as originals. Generally speaking these have a reddish gold colour and the colour is the main giveaway.
- (b) *Pakistani made badges:* These have been around for a while and recently a Pakistani firm has been sending around circulars and quoting up to 160 different N.Z. badges for sale. These too seem to have been imported in bulk and are being sold at top prices. However, as these badges are normally cast a careful check on the back of them should rapidly sort this out.

However, Gaunts have sold all their dies to a firm in either India or Pakistan and badges made from these dies are beginning to appear on the World market. The only clue will of course be the way the clips are attached. Also *beware* the rare badge (particularly the Volunteer or Yeomanry) which is nice and shiny new, they were used after all, over 70 years ago.

- (c) *New Zealand made badges:* Some rare badges of N.Z. units too are being locally made. A Napier Rifles collar was obtained from a dealer recently which had been centrifugally cast, it's smaller than the original but on the back the Gaunt plaque can still be seen. Also suspect are a pair of 1911 Coronation fernleaf badges which had been cast (apparently the same way) and the clips had been done at the same time. Others are also on the way it would seem.

I have on good authority also, that a die maker in Auckland has been approached and is making dies for some of the rarer N.Z. badges.

Also appearing around town are repro German armbands but to the knowledgeable collector they are obvious. However, I note with alarm that some

collectors are getting rid of their German Uniforms, etc. – probably before the market crashes and they have lost a carefully assembled investment.

To my mind we should be able to rely on the Militaria Dealers to quote where an item has come from, to accept, and then pass on as genuine, fake badges being sold to them, among a collection of common genuine badges, is not a fair deal. However, it is up to each and every collector to refuse any badge that is suspect and send the Society a report on each occurrence.

Beware the fakes as these will only destroy the value of your collection, fatten the pockets of the unscrupulous and bring the Militaria Collector into disrepute."

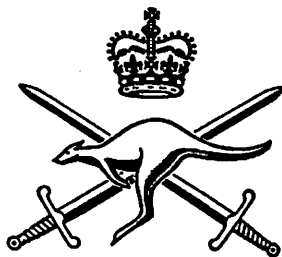
There are many badge collectors who are happy to purchase restrikes of rare items, however restrikes should be sold as such and not as originals. I would appreciate hearing from collectors who have copies of Australian badges as it is in the interest of us all to inform of what restrikes are around.

A list of known restrikes/fakes of Australian badges will be published in this column.

New Shoulder Insignia For The Australian Defence Liaison Group Singapore (ADLGS)

Australian Army personnel posted to Singapore wear the appropriate shoulder insignia of the formation to which they are posted. This formation insignia is worn on the right sleeve with the AMF insignia worn on the left sleeve. The only exception was the ADLGS who did not have an appropriate shoulder insignia.

On the 20th February 1974 the Army Dress Committee (Minute number 13/74) gave approval for members posted to ADLGS to wear a shoulder insignia consisting of the Army insignia in dark green on a gold background. The insignia is worn on the right sleeve. The Army insignia consists of cross swords with a kangaroo in the centre, over which is a crown.



ADLGS Shoulder Insignia

Wearing of Infantry Combat Badge On Non Military Uniforms

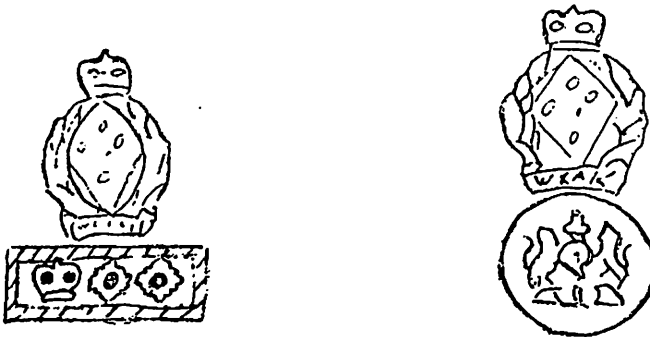
A number of questions have been asked on the wearing of the ICB on non military uniforms and these can best be answered by the following extract from Army Dress Committee Minute No4/1974.

'Members and ex-members who have been awarded the Infantry Combat Badge are entitled to wear the badge on non-military uniforms on those occasions when medals and medal ribbons were worn, subject to the concurrence of the non-military organisation and DPE(A) be invited to inform appropriate non-military organisations that the Department of Defence (Army Office) has no objection to allowing entitled members of their organisation to wear the Infantry Combat Badge.'

This approval should be applauded as the wearing of ICB by Police etc., is an outward sign that the recipient is proud of having served as an Infantryman in combat and of course would help to raise the image of the soldier in the community.

Women's Mess Undress Badges

Female members of RAANC and WRAAC are now wearing on mess undress badges which indicate their Corps and rank. The badges are made up of a Corps badge, two thirds of the original size, with the rank forming the bottom portion of the badge. The badges which are attractive are given the usual appearance of cheapness as they are made from an anodised material.



Mess Undress Badges of Colonel and WO1 (Actual Size) WRAAC.

MEDALMAN

Copies of British Medals and Decorations

Copies of most British decorations and medals have now been produced with some being cast with the original names on them. This makes such items difficult to distinguish from the originals and some dealers have been selling them as originals. The established collectors are against copies as such items lower the value of genuine articles. However most collectors have copies of the rarer decorations with the VC and GC being a popular copy item. There can be no valid argument against the sale of copies *providing* such items are clearly marked as a *copy* and sold accordingly. The safest protection for the collector who can afford original items is to research his medals and where possible only purchase locally.

Although not copies, a number of recent campaign medals awarded to Australians have appeared on the market. A close examination of these medals will reveal a mistake in the naming, incorrect number or spelling of recipients name. A Vietnam pair, to an Australian General recently appeared in the catalogue of a most reputable British dealer. Medalman investigated how such medals have come on the market and it would appear that a box of reject medals were arranged to be sold as scrap. These were purchased and a friend of the purchaser who happens to work for an airline has been swapping and selling the medals around the world. If you have a recent campaign medal to an Australian and would like to have it checked then please write to me care of the Editor, Readers can be assured that the Australian General concerned was not amused when he was contacted by a collector enquiring if he wished to sell the remainder of his medals. A collector recently informed me that he had purchased the extremely rare GSM clasp 'South Vietnam'. No genuine GSM clasp 'South Vietnam' has appeared on the market and none should for several years as all recipients were officers or senior NCOs all whom were members of AATTV.

'British Gallantry Awards' An Error Noted

In the book 'British Gallantry Awards' by Abbott and Tamplin readers are informed that the second type (crowned head) DCM and MM were **NOT** issued for the first world war. I am sure most Australian collectors could inform the authors that both medals **WERE** issued to Australians for the first world war. They are not common but the illustration proves they were issued. This again confirms that there are few definite statements which can be made about medals, regardless of how informed a source may appear.



Group of Medals showing second type MM issued for First World War

Malaysian Decorations and Medals Approved for War by Australian Servicemen

Members of the AMF who are awarded Malaysian decorations will have them approved for wear. A recent Australian Gazette gave approval for serving army officers to wear the Malaysian Most Distinguished Order of The Defender of the Realm. In addition approval is anticipated for the acceptance and wearing of the Malaysian General Service Medal (Pingat Khidmat Berbakte). It appears that the present Government will approve awards for any country except those relating to the Vietnam war.

Republic of South Korea Presidential Citation for 3RAR

An unofficial source has disclosed that 3RAR may be awarded the Korean Presidential Citation for its distinguished part in the battle of Kapyong. It is understood that the original recommendation was not accepted as at that time the authorities (UK) did not favour such an award. The present sensible policy on acceptance and wearing of foreign unit citations should result in that well earned awards being made to 3RAR, perhaps next Kapyong day.

Wazir Medal : Unique Souvenir



Soon after the "Battle of the Wazir", in Cairo, police raided the home of a Greek, notorious as a counterfeit coiner, and found this medal. No doubt, he intended to turn out the medal aplenty for sale to Australian soldiers, but the police visit nipped his design in the bud. The medal seized by the police was presented by them to Lieut.-Col. C.E. Hughes, the Tasmanian, who is in charge of the work of the imperial War Graves Commission in the East, and Colonel Hughes, in turn, during his last visit to his homeland, presented it to Capt. E.E. von Birba, secretary of the Launceston Branch of the R.S.L.

Any collector with this medal?

Belgium and French Decorations awarded to Australians

Members who have been puzzled by two foreign decorations being proudly worn at recent parades by old soldiers may no longer be puzzled as the decorations are most likely:

- a. Belgium War Veterans Cross 1914-18 — awarded to all who served in Belgium or adjacent waters.
- b. Somme Medal 1914-18 — awarded to all who served in the general Somme area.

The decorations are available upon application and the Society has full details of how they may be obtained. These awards will certainly enhance many Australian medal groups.

The Belgium and Somme medals are also awarded for those who served there during the second World War.

Queen's Gallantry Medal

A new gallantry medal for award to both civil and military personnel was introduced in June 1974. The medal will only be awarded for exemplary acts of bravery and will entitle recipients to use the past nominals 'QGM'.

The ribbon is one and a quarter inches in width, of dark blue with a central vertical stripe of pearl grey bearing a narrow strips of rose pink at the centre. The medal is silver, circular in form with an obverse bearing the Crowned Effigy of the Sovereign

and the reverse a design of laurel leaves and the words 'The Queen's Gallantry Medal' surmounted by a crown.

It is thought this medal will replace gallantry awards of the Order of The British Empire and may even replace the Queen's Commendation. Who will be the first Australian recipient of the QGM?

Congressional Medal of Honor Recommended to F/Lt. Gary C. Cooper RAAF

In the excellent book 'Gallant and Distinguished Service Vietnam 1962-73' no mention is made of the immediate award of the 'Congressional Medal of Honor' which was made for F/Lt. Cooper. It has amazed me and will no doubt do the same to other readers to learn that Cooper for his service in Vietnam was given only a DFC, a decoration which was normally given for so many operations. The actions of Cooper were worthy of a *Victoria Cross* and the RAAF authorities badly let Cooper and their service down by not recommending him for a VC. A look at the other VCs for Vietnam shows that none were based on a Congressional Medal of Honor Citation, one in fact was based on a recommendation for a Bronze Star. It is hoped that an end of war list for Vietnam will eventuate and Cooper will head such a list. The narrative description of the action for the Congressional Medal of Honor which follows should indicate the level of award which Cooper should have received. Some RAAF officers must find it difficult to explain how they were given for service higher decorations than Cooper. In summary, for Vietnam Cooper was awarded: *British*: DFC, *USA*: three Silver stars, Four DFCs, two Bronze Stars, two Army Commendation Medals, eleven Air Medals, *RVN*: Cross of Gallantry with gold star. Surely Cooper must be the most decorated British/Commonwealth airman of any war.

Flight Lieutenant Gary C. Cooper, 0219964, distinguished himself by gallantry in action against hostile forces as a forward air controller near Cai Be, Republic of Vietnam on 18 August 1968. Late in the afternoon Flight Lieutenant Cooper was flying as Air Liaison Officer in the Command Helicopter with its pilot and the Brigade Commander. They were flying at 200 feet between the friendly and hostile forces. The helicopter was taking numerous hits from the intense automatic weapons fire but it was imperative that they continue directing operations from this position as the friendly forces were pinned down and taking heavy casualties. After thirty minutes under heavy fire the pilot was shot dead at 200 feet and the helicopter dived toward the ground at tremendous speed. The Brigade Commander had been hit in the back of the neck with the same bullet that disintegrated the pilot's head and ricocheted off Cooper's helmet, stunning him. Although dazed and covered in blood and brain tissue, Cooper managed to reach across for the controls, overpower the dead pilot and reduce what would have been a fatal impact with the ground. The crash was in open rice paddy country only 200 meters in front of the enemy lines and the helicopter became the primary target for their fire. Friendly troops could hear the automatic weapons fire slamming into the wreckage while Cooper, although finding it difficult to move due

to a back injury, assisted the Colonel to a near-by dyke. Here they set up a defensive position as they could move no further and the friendly forces were not in a position to help. They was waist deep in water the throughout the night the enemy made several attempts to creep along the dykes to their position. Each time Cooper managed to ward off the attacks and *killed at least ten of the enemy at close range*. By morning the situation had eased due to constant air strikes on the enemy positions and a pickup helicopter was called for. Weapons fire was again heavy during the pickup and the helicopter had to move away making it necessary for the Colonel and Cooper to run in the open and board it. Now out of ammunition, as Cooper had been covering the Colonel while he was hoisted aboard, *he was attacked by two of the enemy who he killed with his empty hand-gun* before leaping in the helicopter. Flight Lieutenant Cooper's outstanding gallantry, professionalism and complete devotion to duty have reflected great credit upon himself and the Free World Military Forces.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

28 Nicoll St.
LAKEMBA, N.S.W. 2195
12th Nov. 1974

Mr. James W. Courtney,
1 McCubbin St.
WESTON. A.C.T. 2611

Dear Sir,

I read the obituary of Col. G.F.G. Wieck and thought the following would be of interest to your members.

In Col. Wieck's own words in reference to his capture and membership of the body-guard:— "The Savannas' Post affair was most fortunate. When 'B' Coy. of the QMI which was on the extreme left of the whole position, was outflanked and forced to retire, a rear-guard consisting of the CSM and eight privates, myself included, was placed in a hopeless position from the start. In attempting to escape across the river we rode into quicksand which held all the horses. Only two men escaped on foot.

At the end of June or early July 1900, after I had rejoined my unit and was then with it at Balmoral in the advance towards Middleburg, I with J. Durham and C. Cook, was chosen as one of the three Australian representatives on Lord Robert's Colonial (Mounted) Bodyguard. When Lord Roberts left for home in November 1900, the Bodyguard lost its original significance where upon the three of us joined our own unit. C. Cook belonged to our second contingent which had been absorbed by the first earlier in that year.'

Murrays Records states that No. 8 Bombadier George Frederick Gardles (should be Gardells) Wieck was a "prisoner of war Sannas' Post 31.3.00 Relieved 4.6.00".

The QSA has the bars Relief of Kimberley, Driefontein and Belfast and the naming is

8 Bombr. G. WIECK QNSLND M.R.

This naming is typical of the machine gun section as are the bars awarded.

Yours truly,

BARRETT J. CARR J.P. B.Sc.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY

The subjoined despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to His Excellency the Governor of Victoria is published for general information.

By His Excellency's Command,
George Turner, Premier.

Premier's Office,
Melbourne, 13th September 1899.

Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
14th July 1899.

My Lord,

I have the honour to inform you that Her Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to approve the proposal that the Permanent Artillery of New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland should in future be designated the New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland Regiments of the Royal Australian Artillery

I have etc,
J. Chamberlain.

Governor,
The Right Honourable Lord Brassey. K.C.B., etc.

For publication in "Sabretache".

Sent in by:—
R. Gray, South Australia.

28th October 1974.

ARTILLERY

Field Artillery. "A" Battery. "B" Bty., "C" Battery.
Garrison Artillery. NSW Artillery Regiment. 1st. Garrison Division.
NSW (Partially Paid) Artillery Regt. 2nd. Garrison Division.
Ref. Pages 7 and 8. The NSW Army and Navy List. 31st August 1893.

NSW Artillery Regiment. (Permanent).

Motto "Semper Paratus".

NSW Artillery Regiment. (Partially Paid).

Motto "Semper Fidelis".

Ref. Pages 11 and 12. The NSW Army and Navy List. 1st August 1898

NSW Regiment of the Royal Australian Artillery. Field & Garrison.

Motto "Semper Paratus".

NSW Artillery. (Partially Paid). Field Batteries & Companies.

Motto "Semper Fidelis".

Ref. Pages 12 and 13. The NSW Army and Navy List. 15th October 1900.

Also on page 36 of this issue it states the following:—

"Officers employed with the South African Forces" "A" Battery Royal Australian Artillery. It then gives the names and ranks of six officers.

Information supplied by:—

R. Gray,
5 Elder Tce.,
Glengowrie,
South Australia 5044.

BOOK REVIEWS

by

K.R. White

Crimean Uniforms

Two fine books have been received from the Historical Research Unit and both are worthy of a place on the bookshelves of all students of the Crimean War and those interested in the history of the British Army. Despite the title the books cover a much wider field than just the uniforms of the period.

1. **British Infantry** by Michael Barthorp

Price £ 6.00 stg. Format 128 pages, 210 x 283 mm, Casebound. Coloured frontispiece, 2 full colour illustrations, 115 black and white illustrations.

This book is a full and concise survey of the services, uniforms, equipment and weapons of the British Infantry during the early part of the Crimean War. The work covers the organisation drills and actions fought by the Infantry and details, both in text and illustrations, the necessaries, accoutrements, equipment, weapons and dress worn while on service.

Most of the illustrations are previously unpublished and will serve as a valuable reference to all interested in this period and particularly to modellers. The two coloured plates, from drawings by the author, are superb and illustrate frontal, rear and side views of the various uniforms shown. The Author, Michael Barthorp, is a retired Army Officer who has devoted his retirement to researching and writing military history.

2. **British Artillery** by Robert Wilkinson-Latham

Price £ 4.20 stg. Format 88 pages, 210 x 283 mm, Casebound. Coloured frontispiece, 2 full colour plates, 75 black and white illustrations.

This volume, which is a companion piece to *British Infantry* and to an earlier volume on the Light Brigade, covers the role of the Royal Artillery in the Crimean War.

The work deals with all aspects of the Regiment's service, uniforms, equipment and weapons even down to loading drills and battery formations. As in the previous volume much of the detail is shown both graphically and in text. The coloured uniform plates showing 16 different uniforms plus 2 horses are first class and will be of particular interest to modellers.

The material is expertly researched and covers all aspects of life in the Artillery during the War, ranging from embarkation to the Artillery role in many of the famous battles. The uniform and equipment chapters are supported by extracts from the 1833 Dress regulations and of interest to both Gunners and the rest are the chapters on artillery pieces, horse harness and limbers, gun drills and field formations.

The author, Robert Wilkinson-Latham, will be well known to many readers as he has written a number of well known reference books on uniforms and bayonets and has also contributed to many journals on military history.

Both these volumes are published by the Historical Research Unit, 27 Emperor's Gate, London, SW 7 and are recommended to all members.

Unfortunately details of Australian distribution are not known, but the Society has written to the publishers for further information and details will appear in the next issue of Sabretache.

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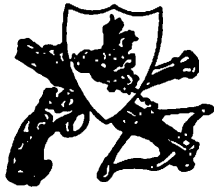
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