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# SABRETACHE

JOURNAL OF  
THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF AUSTRALIA



VOL. XVIII

APRIL, 1977

NO. 2





# "SABRETACHE"

JOURNAL AND PROCEEDINGS OF  
THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF AUSTRALIA

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**Featured on Cover:** Lieutenant of the 1st Australian Horse in the Boer War period.  
Published by authority of the Federal Council of the Military Historical Society of Australia. The views expressed in the articles in this Journal are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Society.

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

Membership is open to all, subject to payment of \$10.00 annual subscription (due 1st July each year). Overseas applicants are advised that airmail delivery of Sabretache is available for an additional sum of \$4.00 (all rates in Australian currency).

All members will receive Sabretache, the journal of the Society, which is published quarterly. Contributions are welcomed from members and non-members but must further the Society's aims.

Correspondence and contributions should be addressed to the Federal Secretary, P.O. Box 67, Lyneham, A.C.T. 2602.

## A NEW EDITOR FOR SABRETACHE

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Due to increasing commitments and failing health, Jim Courtney has been unable to continue as editor of Sabretache. A number of the recent editions have been the work of other willing helpers, whilst a search for an editor was being undertaken.

All of us thank Jim for the outstanding contribution as editor. He has improved the magazine and thus given the Society a better image as most can only judge the Society by the standard of Sabretache.

We are most fortunate in obtaining as our new editor, Captain Chris Coulthard-Clark, author of the Society's 1976 publication "The Citizen General Staff". His most recent book is a biography of Major-General Sir W. T. Bridges which is expected to be published in the very near future. Chris is a captain in the Australian Intelligence Corps. He attended the Royal Military College, Duntroon, graduating in 1972 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Military Studies. All readers are asked to give Chris their full support by forwarding articles for publication.

—FEDERAL SECRETARY

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**Lieutenant Joe Green, MC\* taken with  
Lieutenant Albert Borella, VC, MM.**



# THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY UNIFORM OF 1914-18

By P. J. BURNES

---

At 11 p.m. on 4 August 1914, English time, Britain declared war on Germany. Australia immediately pledged her support and offered an initial force of 20,000 men. The offer was quickly accepted.

At that time Australia had a home-service army based on universal conscription for part-time service in the citizen's forces. However, this scheme was only in its infancy and it was decided to raise a totally separate force for overseas service. This force was named the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) and recruiting was commenced on 10 August.

The authorities were faced with the enormous task of recruiting, clothing, equipping and training a force for war almost from scratch. Despite this immense amount of work the 1st Australian Division sailed from Australia on 1 November 1914.

In such a short time there was little opportunity to design a special uniform and distinctive insignia for the A.I.F. The shirt used by the local forces instead of a tunic was discarded as being unsuitable for overseas service, and a uniform designed just before the war was adopted. The slouch hat and the "Rising Sun" badge were already in wide use and were selected for the A.I.F. simply because they were readily available.

The basic items of clothing worn by the Australian infantryman during the 1914-18 War were:

- 1) A uniform tunic known as the "jacket service dress" worn with khaki cord breeches.
- 2) A soft grey flannel shirt without collar.
- 3) Underclothes consisting of a vest and drawers. These were regarded as a major rampart against skin disease.
- 4) Puttees which covered the leg from ankle to knee with a spiral of woollen cloth, commencing from the inner side of the ankle, and winding forward and upward.
- 5) Pair of ankle-boots.
- 6) Pair of socks, either woollen or cotton.
- 7) Khaki woollen greatcoat, the soldier's chief protection against cold and wet, and often his only bedding.
- 8) The khaki felt slouch hat.

## **THE UNIFORM**

The following comments apply only to the Australian Service Dress uniform which was issued to all ranks of the A.I.F., was the uniform most widely worn, and was distinctively Australian.

The khaki Service Dress tunic was made from Australian wool and was devised as a result of consultations between medical and physiological advisers and officers of the Department of Defence. It provided the soldier with a garment which was comfortable, serviceable, and hygienic. Unlike the British Army tunic the Australian issue was fitting, to allow free movement of the arms, chest, or neck and to permit circulation of air. At the back it was pleated to provide a double thickness of cloth down the spine. It had two pockets on the chest, two larger ones in the skirt and another on the inside to hold the first-field-dressing packet.

The tunic buttoned at the neck and wrists and had a stand-and-fall collar. Regimental buttons were not worn. Buttons were made of a plastic-like composition, leather, or oxidised copper. The latter bore a design featuring a crown above the map of Australia with the words "Australian Military Forces".

The Service Dress jacket was worn with khaki cord breeches of riding pattern. There was a little difference between the breeches worn by infantry and those worn by mounted troops. Breeches were laced below the knees, and worn with either woollen puttees or leather leggings. During the 1939-45 War the Australian tunic was retained but the breeches were replaced by trousers which were more practical for dismounted troops.

The main weakness of the uniform adopted for the A.I.F. was the puttees, widely worn by many nations during the 1914-18 War. Soldiers considered them awkward and restrictive, and they bound the legs too tightly and prevented proper circulation of blood. They are considered to have largely contributed to the cause of a complaint known as "Trench Foot". Mounted troops wore leather leggings instead.

For footwear the Australian soldier wore well-made tan ankle boots. The pattern of boots was criticised early in the war and the design was altered. Finally the Australian soldier considered his boots to be the equal of any worn on the Western Front.

## **HEAD-WEAR**

The most distinctive article of clothing worn by the Australian soldier was the khaki felt slouch hat. This item of headwear had been worn in Australia for some years before the turn of the century and was also popular elsewhere in the world. A similar hat was worn by the New Zealanders, the Canadians, the U.S. Army, the Gurkhas, and even the colonial German troops during the 1914-18 War, but it is the Australians with which it will probably always be most strongly identified.

The slouch hat was first adopted in Australia by Colonel Tom Price in 1885 as the head dress for the Victorian Mounted Rifles regiment which he commanded. Originally it was worn looped up on the right-hand side. The hat was widely worn by Australian troops during the Boer War, and in 1903 after Federation it was universally adopted for the Australian Commonwealth Military Forces. During the 1914-18 War, the slouch hat was normally worn with a plain khaki hat band and the Australian General Service ("Rising Sun") badge on the looped up (left) side, and with a leather chin-strap.

During the early period of the war members of the Australian Light Horse wore emu plumes, cocks' plumes, or a band of wallaby fur on their hats. By the end of the war the emu plume, which had its origin amongst the Queenslanders, had become the sign of the light-horseman, and remained so until the Second World War.

The British Service Cap and sun helmet were occasionally worn by Australians, particularly in Egypt before the Gallipoli campaign. Ironically, when the 1st Australian Division landed at Anzac on 25 April 1915, most were wearing the British issue cap, not the Australian slouch hat. Between 1916 and 1918, on the Western Front, the Australians wore the British issue steel helmet as head protection whilst in the trenches.

#### **UNIT BADGES**

The A.I.F., unlike the forces of most other British Empire countries, did not adopt metal regimental badges. All units were issued with the Australian "Rising Sun" badge.

The "Rising Sun" is the popular name given to the Australian Army General Service Badge which has the appearance rather like the sun's rays shining above the horizon. The badge was in common use before the war but became so widely known during the 1914-18 War that it is now almost always identified with the A.I.F.

The badge had its origin during the Boer War. The Australian States had sent troops to South Africa as early as 1899, but in 1902, soon after Federation, Commonwealth troops were sent for the first time. Eight battalions of Australian Commonwealth Horse were sent to South Africa and all wore a newly designed badge which after some refinement was adopted in 1911 as the General Service Badge for the Australian Commonwealth Military Forces. It still remains in limited use today.

Because units of the A.I.F. were dressed identically, consideration had to be given to providing distinctive insignia on uniforms to identify the wearer's unit. In September 1914 it was announced that black copper oxidised letters and numerals would be issued for wear on the collars of officers' tunics and on the shoulder straps of other ranks. Examples of the shoulder titles are: "4/Inf/Australia" worn by the 4th Infantry Battalion, "12/LH/Australia" worn by the 12th Light Horse Regiment, and "AVC/Australia" worn by Veterinary units.



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INF

AUSTRALIA



In 1915 a new scheme of unit identification was devised to replace the wearing of unit titles. This consisted of cloth colour-patches on the upper arms of a soldier's tunic. The shape and colour of the patches indicated the wearer's unit. For example, in the infantry a rectangular patch was employed to identify the 1st Australian Division. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd Brigades wore rectangular patches of green, red and light blue respectively. Battalions were identified by a colour patch divided horizontally, with the upper colour indicating the battalion and the lower the brigade.

This system had its origin in the (system of) flags used to mark tent lines and unit areas during the early months of the war. The colour patches were first issued to the infantry early in 1915 in time for them to be worn during the Gallipoli campaign. They were eventually adopted throughout the A.I.F.

A chart of the colour patches worn by the A.I.F. during the 1914-18 War was published in Volume III of "The Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-18." This book should be available at most major public libraries.

An exception made in regard the wearing of the General Service Badge by Australians overseas during the 1914-18 War read: "In the case of personnel of the 1st and 2nd Australian Siege Batteries and Artillery personnel serving with HQ 36 (Aust) Heavy Artillery Group and reinforcements thereto, the hat, cap and collar badge will be the "R.A.A." scroll in oxidised copper in lieu of the Commonwealth badge." These men were regular soldiers of the Royal Australian Artillery first sent from Australia in mid-July 1915.

There was also a period when certain A.I.F. regiments in Egypt designed and had regimental badges made. These were worn for a short while and were quite unofficial.

### **BADGES OF RANK**

In addition to the badges worn on hats and collars, and the badges identifying units, men also wore badges of rank on their uniform. Officers wore their rank on their shoulders whilst Warrant Officers and N.C.O.s wore theirs on the sleeve of their right arm.

Apart from Major General W. T. Bridges, who was appointed to command the A.I.F. on 15 August, the senior rank held in the A.I.F. in 1914 was Brigadier-General, this rank being indicated by a crossed sword and baton on each shoulder-strap. Other officers' badges of rank were identical to those still worn today. Staff officers had red gorget patches, "red tabs", on their collars and generally wore armlets. General Monash described the wearing of the armlets in one of his letters. "All majors dress alike, but if he wears a blue arm-badge, he is clearly a brigade-major, if a red one he is a junior divisional staff officer, and so on. A major-general with a red band is a divisional commander, if red and black he is head of an army administration. If he wears no arm-badge he belongs to a 2nd Line Unit. If on Staff of Inspector General of Communications, he has a black band with the letters I.G.C. in red."



**BADGES OF THE A.I.F.**

**RANK AND TRADE**



Regimental Stretcher-Bearer



1st Class Aircraftman



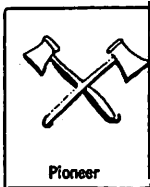
Flight Sgt.



Shoo-Smith



Lewis-Gunner



Pioneer



Farrier Q.M.S.



A.A.M.C. Q.M.S.



A.A.M.C. W.O.1



A.A.M.C. Sgt.



Signaller



Trumpeter Sgt.



Saddler-Collar-maker



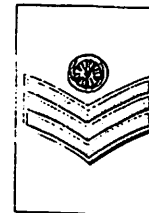
Bandsman



Armourer: Sgt.



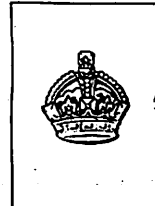
Farrier: Sgt.



Wheeler: Sgt.



W.O.1



S S.M. or C.S.M.



Conductor A.A.O.C.



R.Q.M.S. & S.Q.M.S.



P.T. Instructor

## **WOUND AND PROFICIENCY BADGES**

In March 1916, A.I.F. Orders announced that the only badges to be worn by Australians were hat and collar badges, unit colour-patches, badges of rank and the curved metal titles "AUSTRALIA" on the shoulder straps. Unit letters and titles had by this time been phased out.

Some months later approval was given for another badge; the wound stripe. This was a strip of narrow gold Russia braid, two inches in length, and worn perpendicularly on the left sleeve of the jacket to mark each occasion a soldier was wounded. Many Australians earned the right to wear multiple stripes as the following table shows:

Wounded 3 times	—	5,583
Wounded 4 times	—	807
Wounded 5 times	—	105
Wounded 6 times	—	10
Wounded 7 times	—	1

During 1917 further badges were approved to indicate skill at arms. Amongst these proficiency badges was the 1st Class Vickers machine-gunner's badge consisting of the letters "MG" within a wreath and worn on the lower left arm. A similar badge with the letters "LG" was worn by the 1st Class Lewis gunners, and "HG" by 1st Class Hotchkiss gunners.

Qualified battalion and regimental bombers were allowed to wear an embroidered scarlet bursting-grenade badge below their colour-patches (this was later restricted to instructors) and a blue embroidered grenade could be approved for members of Trench Mortar Batteries on the recommendation of Commanding Officers. During 1918 qualified physical training instructors were permitted to wear the crossed swords badges of the British Army.

## **BADGES FOR LONG, DISTINGUISHED, AND OVERSEAS SERVICE**

In January 1917 approval was given to the wearing of long service and good conduct stripes by A.I.F. Warrant Officers, N.C.O.s and men. This consisted of a single khaki inverted chevron worn on the lower left arm for each year of service meeting certain requirements of good conduct.

Also in 1917 it was announced that Gallipoli veterans would be entitled to wear a brass letter "A" for Anzac, on their unit colour-patches. It is understood that this idea was first suggested by General Gellibrand to General Godley early in 1916, and the badges first appeared late that year. The idea was well received by the Anzac veterans who were proud to wear this token of the honour they had achieved for the A.I.F. in the 1915 campaign.

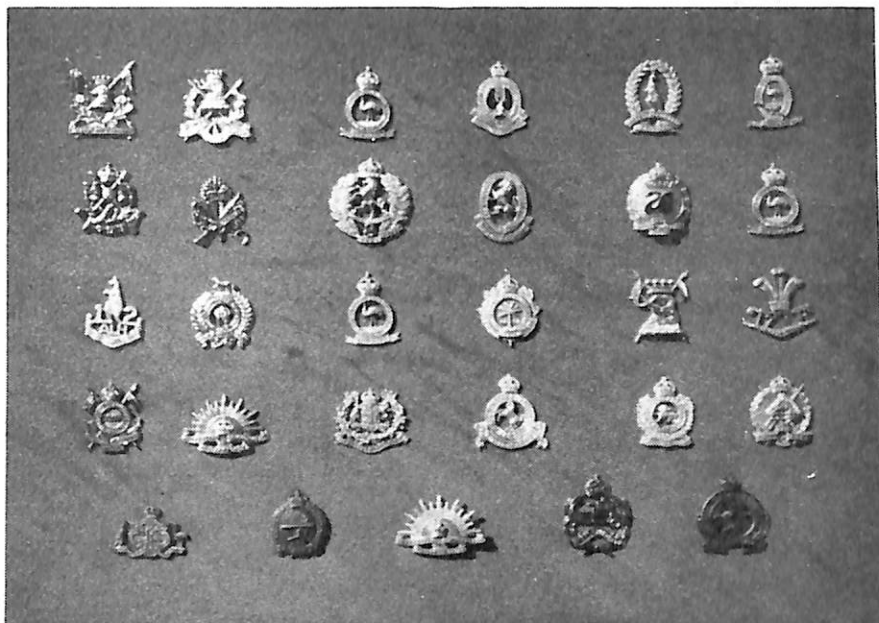
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15 LH, 16 LH, 17 LH, 18 LH, Rising Sun (19 LH), 20 LH, 21 LH, 22 LH,  
23 LH, 24 LH, Rising Sun (26 LH), 1 Armd Car, 2 Armd Car. 25LH

OFFERS CLOSE 10th JULY, 1977

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

PHYSICS 311

LECTURE 1

MECHANICS

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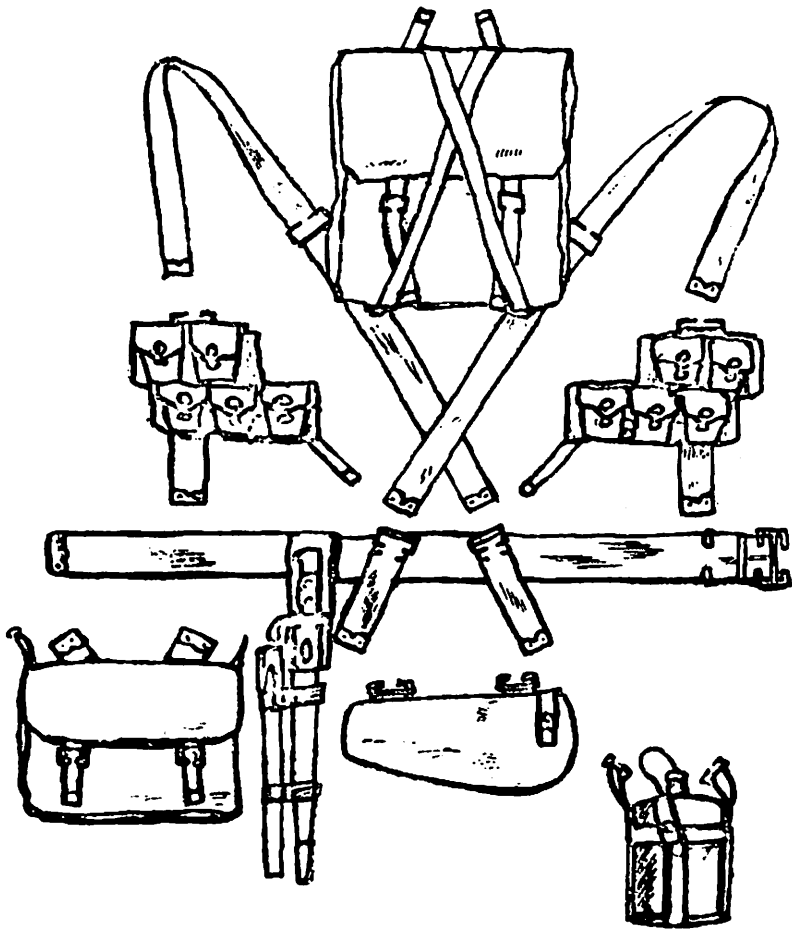
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"1908 Pattern" Webbing Equipment



In 1918 the A.I.F. also approved the wearing of the overseas service chevrons adopted by the British Army. These were embroidered inverted chevrons worn above the cuff on the right arm. For each year of war service a blue chevron was awarded and those men who had embarked in 1914 received a red chevron to indicate that year's service.

Many thousands of Australians were decorated for service and gallantry during the 1914-18 War. On service these decorations were normally indicated by wearing a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch length of the medal ribbon on the chest above the left pocket.

In the late months of the war a scheme was finally adopted to allow men who had embarked in 1914 to go home to Australia on furlough. This scheme was called "Anzac Leave". Men on Anzac leave were given a final distinction; they wore a red, white and blue rosette on each arm below their colour patches.

### **EQUIPMENT**

The equipment carried by the Australian soldier allowed him to carry his ammunition, tools and surplus clothing and was basically of two types:

- 1) Webbing equipment worn by foot soldiers.
- 2) Leather equipment carried by mounted troops.

This can best be discussed by examining the equipment of the infantryman and the light-horseman.

The Australian infantryman was equipped with the "1908 pattern" webbing equipment consisting of a waist-belt and supporting braces, two sets (LH and RH) of 5-pocket ammunition pouches containing 150 rounds of small-arms ammunition, water bottle, bayonet, haversack, pack, and entrenching-tool (with head in cover). The water bottle, bayonet and haversack were worn on the hip, suspended from the belt. This pattern equipment was introduced into the British Army following the Haldane reforms in 1907-8. An identical pattern equipment made in Australia from leather was found to be unsatisfactory.

Although the webbing equipment was a vast improvement on earlier types, the soldier of 1914-18 was still far too burdened. In addition to this original equipment a gas-mask, steel helmet, and Mills bombs were added in 1916.

In France the soldier's load was further increased by the need for warm clothing and bedding in winter. Blankets and rubber ground-sheets were sometimes carried in his pack, and a lamb's wool jerkin supplied from home was also worn by Australians.

The following table shows the approximate weight of equipment actually carried by a soldier on the march:

Napoleonic Wars c.1800 — 35lb.	1914 — 58lb.
Crimea 1854 — 65lb.	1918 — 78lb.
South Africa 1900 — 58lb.	



1915



1918

The Australian light-horseman had the advantage that he, and his equipment, was carried by his horse, although weight still had to be kept to a minimum.

The light-horseman wore a leather waist-belt on which were two pockets containing 15 rounds of ammunition and two containing 10 rounds each. He wore his bayonet suspended from his waist-belt and a leather "1903 pattern" bandolier with nine pockets, each containing ten rounds, slung from his shoulder. His water-bottle was suspended from a leather shoulder strap and also worn slung. He carried a General Service haversack.

A 5-pocket, 50-round "1903 Pattern" leather bandolier was issued to mounted troops such as artillery, service corps, etc., in lieu of the 90-round type used by the light-horse.

The Australian soldier was normally issued with the SMLE .303-in Rifle and bayonet. This same rifle remained in service with the Australian Army during the 1939-45 and Korean Wars.

#### **THE A.N.&M.E.F.**

During 1914 another Australian force, the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force, was raised quite independently of the A.I.F. The A.N.&M.E.F. was raised on the outbreak of war for immediate service against the German possessions in the south-west Pacific.

It was a small volunteer force comprising a battalion of infantry enlisted in Sydney, another of naval reservists and ex-seamen to serve as infantry, and a third comprising part of a young citizen force battalion from northern Queensland which had been hurriedly sent to garrison Thursday Island. The two first mentioned bodies were responsible for the capture of German New Guinea, and suffered Australia's first casualties of the war.

Photographs of the early activities of the A.N.&M.E.F. show that the force was issued with the then current citizen-force uniform consisting of slouch-hat or forage cap, woollen military shirt, cord breeches, puttees, ankle-boots and "1908 Pattern" webbing equipment.

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#### **NOTES ON AUTHOR**

P. J. Burness is a well known contributor to the journal who in addition to articles published, researched and wrote a book (yet to be published) on the First Australian Horse. The outstanding knowledge on Australian Military History of Peter Burness is evident from the marked improvements being made at the Australian War Memorial, where he is the Curator of Relics.

## A V.C. MISSED: THE CASE OF DUGALD DRUMMOND

By CHRIS WOODS

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It is a fact of life where military awards for gallantry are concerned that there is a large element of chance involved. Many soldiers have performed outstanding acts of bravery which, but for the absence of "acceptable" witnesses or other local and often political factors, would normally have been recognised with a higher award than that actually granted. It is for this reason that the Distinguished Conduct Medal is frequently rated as a "V.C. missed". One such example of this is the case of Lieutenant Dugald Drummond.

Drummond was born on 24 January 1867 at Ulmarra, New South Wales, the son of blacksmith James Drummond, a native of Glasgow, Scotland, and his wife, Annie (nee Cameron). He was a stock and station agent when he volunteered for service in South Africa in 1899. He went to the Boer War as a private with the first contingent of the N.S.W. Mounted Rifles, departing Sydney on 3 November and landing at Capetown on 7 December. The contingent, under the command of Captain J. M. Antill,\* subsequently became "A" Squadron of a five-squadron regiment following the arrival of additional drafts from Australia on 17 February 1900. Drummond thus served with the 1st N.S.W. Mounted Rifles from its earliest days at the front and saw action at the relief of Kimberley and at Paardeberg, Driefontein, Johannesburg, Diamond Hill and Wittebergen, during which time he was promoted Corporal. It was during the latter half of 1900 that he won the D.C.M., although the award did not appear in the London Gazette until 27 September 1901 and neither the date of the action for which Drummond received his award nor the citation are given. According to a family account, Drummond and a colleague had been detached from the column which included their unit to reconnoitre when they were suddenly attacked by Boers from three sides simultaneously. The two Australians immediately wheeled about and attempted to ride back out of the trap. The horse of Drummond's comrade was shot and fell, whereupon Drummond rode back and took the man up on his own horse before galloping to safety. Drummond escaped the incident with nothing more than a bullet through his hat, a factor which probably robbed him of a V.C.; it was reportedly said at the time that had he been wounded the award would have been the V.C. The whole incident was supposedly witnessed by Lord Roberts, who demanded to know of his staff the identity of the man

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\* Major-General John Macquarie Antill, CB, CMG (1866-1937), returned from South Africa as Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel; served World War I in Egypt, Gallipoli, Palestine, France and Belgium; retired 1924.



LIEUTENANT D. DRUMMOND, DCM



who had performed the feat. Drummond had returned to Australia, having arrived in Sydney on 8 January 1901 and been discharged on that date, before the award of the D.C.M. was announced. A character reference written for Drummond back in Sydney by one of the squadron officers, Captain A. A. McLean, referred to the fact that in South Africa he had done 'exceptionally good work, being specially mentioned by his Corps Commander for bravery under fire'.<sup>2</sup> Another such reference from Antill dated 14 January stated that Drummond was 'the only man of my command whom I have recommended for the Distinguished Conduct Medal for "personal bravery" and I note with gladness that in General Orders this order is to be awarded to Corporal Drummond'.<sup>3</sup>

On 28 February 1901 Drummond was appointed an honorary Second Lieutenant in the Imperial Drafts Contingent being raised for service in South Africa. At that time, however, the 3rd N.S.W. Mounted Rifles was being raised also, and when "A", "C" and "E" squadrons, with the Regimental Staff, embarked on the transport 'British Princess' on 21 March ("B" and "D" squadrons had sailed a week earlier), Drummond accompanied this unit as a temporary Lieutenant with "E" Squadron, commanded by Captain S. F. Stokes. Following the unit's arrival in Durban on 17 April, Drummond saw active service in the mopping up operations and final drives in the Eastern Transvaal and Eastern Orange River Colony. The regiment entrained for Capetown on 28 April 1902, having 'put in a most valuable year's service with Colonel Rimington's column'.<sup>4</sup> Drummond took the opportunity in Capetown on 4 June to obtain a reference from Lieutenant-Colonel C. F. Cox,\* commanding the 3rd N.S.W. Mounted Rifles; Cox also commended him as a 'splendid soldier' and 'thoroughly reliable officer'.<sup>5</sup> The unit arrived back in Sydney on 3 June 1902 and Drummond returned to his former civil occupation.

With the raising of the First A.I.F., Drummond joined the 6th Light Horse Regiment (commanded by his old C.O., Colonel Cox) on 9 October 1914 and was appointed Lieutenant on 1 May 1915. He served with the 6th in Egypt and at Gallipoli, where he was badly wounded by shrapnel late in September 1915.<sup>6</sup> He was evacuated to England and was subsequently invalided to Australia on board the 'Ascanius', leaving England on 17 March 1916.

In December 1916 Drummond was asked if he would be available for duty as Adjutant and Quartermaster on board a troopship to England, it being stressed that officers appointed would 'not be permitted under any circumstances to accompany the troops after disembarkation beyond the depot where they will be available for duty until required to return on duty on troopships returning to Australia'.<sup>7</sup> He accepted

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\* Major-General Charles Frederick Cox, CB, CMG, DSO, VD (1863-1947), served Boer War 1899-1902, and World War I in Egypt, Gallipoli and Palestine (called by troops "Fighting Charlie Cox"); Senator for N.S.W. 1919-38.

the offer of active service again and made at least one such trip. Subsequently he was for a time at the Holsworthy training camp. A group of the soldiers he trained evidently thought enough of him to enclose in a bottle a note wishing him 'goodbye and good luck' and drop it in the sea from their troopship on 9 September 1917; the bottle was washed ashore near Robe and was found by a 13-year-old girl on 18 August 1918 and forwarded to him. He had enlisted in the Sea Service Unit on 11 September 1919, and although this appointment was terminated on 11 May 1920 he acted as an escort officer to German prisoners being repatriated in 1921.

Drummond had married on 11 September 1918, aged 51. His wife was 29-year-old Elsie Gertrude Hearndon, the matron of Moree Hospital. The wedding took place at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney. The couple had three children: a son, Douglas Frederick, was born in June 1919; a daughter, Elsie Florence, was born in January 1921; a second daughter, Jeanette Elizabeth, was born in April 1926, eight months after Drummond's death. One of Drummond's sisters, Lute, became prominent in Sydney as an artist and musician, having studied in Germany, France, Italy and England before returning to Australia in 1925. She became a strong supporter of opera in New South Wales and trained and helped soprano Joan Hammond and tenor Kenneth Neate.<sup>8</sup>

Drummond himself became well known after the war as manager of an experimental cotton farm for Mr George A. Bond at Castlereagh. It had been decided to continue the work in Queensland, in an attempt to make the venture profitable by producing three crops a year instead of only two possible in New South Wales, and Drummond was preparing to move to Maryborough when he died of acute pneumonia and nephritis on 24 August 1925. He was buried in Rookwood Cemetery.

Drummond is an obscure figure in Australian military history today, an illustration of the capriciousness of history. His act in returning under fire for an unhorsed comrade was repeated many times during the Boer War; no fewer than five of the six V.C.s won by Australians in South Africa involved cases of men returning for comrades who had become dismounted under enemy fire. Had his bravery in 1900 been recognised with a V.C., Drummond's place in history was assured. But for the fact that he missed being hit while rescuing his comrade, his D.C.M.—a "V.C. missed"—would have been the more coveted decoration.

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3. *ibid.*
4. J. Stirling, *op. cit.*, p. 404
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6. G. L. Berrie, "Under Furred Hats" (6th ALH Regiment), Sydney 1919, p. 44
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8. Melbourne "Argus," 18 December 1945.

## KITCHENER'S ARMY AND THE NORTH OF ENGLAND, 1914-16

By P. STANLEY

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In August 1914 few realised that the war would not be over by Christmas, but Lord Kitchener, taking over as Secretary of State for War four days after its declaration, saw the need for an improvised army large enough to count in a major European war. On August 8th the War Office issued the call for an 'addition of 100,000 men to His Majesty's Regular Army.'<sup>1</sup> By August 24th the "first hundred thousand" were encamped,<sup>2</sup> and a further 1,086,337 followed by the New Year.<sup>3</sup>

It has been noted that the contribution of the industrial North was 'more than their actual population warranted'.<sup>4</sup> Reasons for the enlistment of so many men were necessarily varied, but some explanations stand out to give us some idea of the sort of society that was Britain in the first decades of this century. Undoubtedly, the war 'offered a way out for all sorts of men with complicated lives, with debts that had been rather a worry',<sup>5</sup> and from personal problems, like the man who joined the Loyal North Lancs. because his spouse was "a formidable prize-fighter".<sup>6</sup>

One Lancashire recruit said, 'I can stand this no longer',<sup>7</sup> meaning that the monotonous grind of manual labour, 1914-style, was intolerable. This was perhaps the real reason behind the "desire for a bit of adventure"<sup>8</sup> professed by many. The North is scarred to this day by the effects of Victorian industrialism, but one of the most tragic must be the legacy of squalor which caused thousands of men to escape by going to war, an escape that often ended "somewhere in France", or Italy or Mesopotamia.

Another left-over from the previous century was the sense of duty which compelled other, chiefly older, men to enlist. These were men who were concerned over the Rape of Belgium, and saw the Teutonic menace as an evil to be crushed. They liked 'bayonet practice, especially after looking at pictures in the illustrated dailies',<sup>9</sup> which no doubt depicted the excesses of "the Hun" in vivid detail. Men dyed their hair to pass the recruiting officer, and sixty-six year old Henry Webber actually became Transport Officer of the 7th South Lancs.<sup>10</sup>

The demands of total war quickly outpaced the machinery of mobilization. The newly-created Territorial Force was decimated and then raised again. By February 1915 four T.F. divisions were in France and others were on the way to garrison the Empire, but more men were needed than the pre-war structure could cope with. In 1913 the Army had expected to receive 30,000 men each year;<sup>11</sup> between September 1914 and June 1915 an average of 125,000 per month actually enlisted.<sup>12</sup>

Liverpool offered the solution, in a way characteristic of Edwardian England, in the first month of the war.<sup>13</sup> Private individuals and committees and local government bodies would raise units composed of volunteers, many of whom were connected by friendship, residential or occupational bonds. The Northern battalions were called "Pals", and were paid for and trained by the raisers until the War Office could take over. Not only did the Pals lessen the strain on the official effort, but it was hoped that 'men would enlist more readily if they could be sure of serving with friends and neighbours'.<sup>14</sup>

Lord Derby raised the first four Pals battalions of the King's Liverpool Regiment with the aid of local commercial bodies such as the Seed Oil, the Cake Trade, and the Chartered Accountants Associations. The 'pick of the younger Liverpool business men'<sup>15</sup> were placed in the same division as the Manchester Pals, and were commanded by the noble Lord's brother. Such was the enthusiasm of the Manchester men that they stormed the Town Hall, demanding to be sworn in.<sup>16</sup>

A paternalistic, free-enterprise spirit was displayed by the Pals which seems quite foreign to society today. Men enlisted in groups, often under their chief clerk or foreman; indeed, enough workers from Messrs Brunner's and Mond's joined the East Lancs for two full platoons to be formed.<sup>17</sup> Composed of men from similar backgrounds (the Newcastle Commercials, for example, were mostly clerks), the Kitchener men exhibited a fierce local pride; the 11th (Lonsdale) Bn, the Border Regiment, wore the badge of their raiser—Lord Lonsdale's griffon—instead of the badge of the County Regiment.<sup>18</sup>

Raised before they were named, the New Army battalions were assimilated into the military machine by the unique flexibility of the British regimental system. Created on territorial instead of numerical lines by the Hugh Childers reforms of the 1880s,<sup>19</sup> the regiment was an administrative, not a tactical, unit. The citizen battalions were thus added to the parent formations as Service, or Works, or Labour, or (in the case of the King's Liverpool) Dock, battalions, and so inherited the traditions of centuries. This esprit de corps, along with a more apparent pride in being Kitchener men, sustained them through the slaughter to come.

Britain still relied on its class structure in responding to the call. The 18th (1st County of Durham) (Service) Bn., Durham Light Infantry, was raised by "a number of gentlemen", headed by the Earl of Durham. A "superior class of man" was obtained through subscription, and the 18th D.L.I. was the only battalion raised entirely at the expense of patriotic individuals; the gentlemen, of course, declined all offers of compensation.<sup>20</sup> Unquestionably, the New Army was different from the Old Army that died at Ypres. The old officer class were joined by the 'natural officers'—managers, foremen and university men: men who had 'sat in no saddles save those of bicycles'.<sup>21</sup>

The ranks, too, filled with men unlike pre-war recruits. C. S. Forester, in his novel, 'The General', commented, '. . . These were no unemployable riff-raff, no uneducable boys', but many were 'men who had made some part of their way in the world, men of some experience and education . . . accustomed to think for themselves'.<sup>22</sup>

Enthusiastic as they were, they were still civilians, and they reacted to army life as such. The weavers of the 11th Lancashire Fusiliers struck a few days after joining because they were expected to wash their feet.<sup>23</sup>

Early in 1915 the New Army began to move overseas, seeing action in the offensives of that year, Gallipoli, Loos, Festubert, and holding the line. At first the general impression among the Regulars and first-line T.F. was that 'the New Army can't be much military use', but the Pals were accepted as they gradually proved themselves.<sup>24</sup> In 1916 the great test came, when Haig launched the "Big Push".

On 1 July 1916, after the 17th King's attended Church Parade and the Newcastle Commercials were told 'You will be able to go over the top with a walking stick',<sup>25</sup> 143 battalions launched the attack that commenced the Somme offensive. Just as recruiting had been on a huge scale (the Northumberland Fusiliers had expanded from eight to fifty-five battalions),<sup>26</sup> so too were the casualties. By November the 20-mile front had claimed 419,654 dead, wounded or missing, and the effort was called off.<sup>27</sup>

Kitchener's Army, as an entity with a distinctive character, died on the Somme. The dead were 'mainly men of simple faith in God, King and Country',<sup>28</sup> and hapless pitmen and labourers who had seen only excitement in donning khaki. The staggering casualty rate (629 out of 700 for the 4th Tyneside Scottish and the 23rd Northumberland Fusiliers) and the differing recruiting potentials broke the Kitchener battalions. Southern and Eastern Counties could not compete with the populous North, and within the North the cities could supply more than the Border or the Fylde.

The system of restoring wounded men to their units broke down. My own great-uncle, a Liverpool man, ended up with the Royal West Kents. Even if a man was returned, the Pals with whom he joined were gone. 'It was never again a Manchester City Battalion', said Private Hall of the 2nd Pals.<sup>29</sup> Filled up with strangers, Derby-men and, later, conscripts, the esprit de corps of the Pals was lost.

After the Somme the Liverpool battalions no longer sang "We are Kitchener's Army", but instead "What did you join the Army for — You must have been bloody well barmy". It was irreverently sung to the tune of one of the Regimental Marches,<sup>30</sup> which perhaps explains how the armies of 1917-18 endured the "years of slaughter and mismanagement"<sup>31</sup> to come.

The volunteers of 1914-15 were incomparable to any armed force to have previously left Britain, yet they were stupidly misused and wasted on the Somme. In recalling the futility of their sacrifice we should see them as a product of a society which was greatly changed by the war. That society, especially its grinding industrial poverty and middle class morality, made them the kind of men and the sort of soldiers they were.

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COLONIAL CONTINGENTS AT QUEEN VICTORIA'S 1897 JUBILEE

## MAJOR J. S. DOOLEY, M.C.

By R. CLARK

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Among the members of the Volunteer Defence Corps during the Second World War was an officer who had the unique distinction of having been the only New South Wales Lancer to be selected as one of Queen Victoria's mounted bodyguards at the occasion of her Jubilee in 1897. John Sylvester Dooley was born at Gerringong, New South Wales, on 13 October 1873, the son of Thomas Dooley, an Irish emigrant farmer, and his wife, Margaret Matilda (nee Daly). At an early age he showed an interest in the military but after completing schooling at the Gerringong Public School he worked on his father's farm. In 1885 he joined the Berry Half-Squadron of the NSW Lancers. His first overseas service was as a member of the NSW Lancers Detachment which went to England for Queen Victoria's Jubilee. After service as Her Majesty's bodyguard Trooper Dooley was presented to the Queen and awarded the Jubilee Medal.

In 1899 he again went to England with the NSW Lancers under Captain C. F. Cox\* for training at Aldershot. Here the Lancer Detachment was attached to the 6th Dragoon Guards and underwent training with the sword and lance, as well as taking part in various military tournaments. Dooley, who was a large man standing over 6' 2" tall, excelled at tent pegging and won a beautiful marble clock in this event. The day prior to the detachment's scheduled departure for Australia England declared war on the Boers, and on arrival at the Cape Sergeant Dooley was one of the 82 volunteers under Captain Cox who disembarked for service in the war which had commenced only 18 days previously. The Lancers were attached to Major-General French's force, serving with the 1st Cavalry Brigade, and participated in a strenuous campaign of continuous movement involving short but bitter engagements with the Boers. Two weeks after arrival a Troop of 29 men under Lieutenant S. F. Osborne was formed to support General Lord Methuen. Sergeant Dooley was one of these 29, whom the British Regiments called 'The Fighting Twenty Nine'. Out of the 29 members, only 11 survived sickness and wounds and continued to the end; of these eleven Dooley and seven others have the rare distinction of having been awarded eight clasps to their Queen's South Africa Medal, a distinction not held by any other Australian. Dooley and Osborne were the only two present at every engagement of the Lancers. The engagement clasps awarded were Belmont, Modder River, Relief of Kimberley, Paardeberg, Driefontein, Johannesburg, Diamond Hill and Belfast. General Methuen repeatedly complimented the Fighting

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\* Major-General Charles Frederick Cox, CB, CMG, DSO, VD (1863-1947)





SOUTH AFRICA  
1899-1900.  
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE.

Sergt. J. S. Dooley

of the Berry Half-Squadron New South  
Wales Lancer Regt. was on Active Service in the Orange Free  
State and Transvaal, S.A., and has been favorably reported upon  
by his Commanding Officer at the front.

Signed *James Burns*  
LIEUT.-COLONEL COMMANDING THE  
N.S.W. LANCER REGT.



BRANDS RIVER  
DRIFONTAIN  
WATERVAL  
MUSTERS  
PRETORIA



RELIEF OF KIMBERLEY BLOEMFONTEIN  
ROODER  
RIVER  
MACPHERSON  
PAARDEBERG  
BLUNDESBURY  
MORSTADT



Twenty Nine for their steadiness under heavy fire and their ability to adapt to any tactical situation. At one stage Sergeant Dooley and his companions lived on a cup of flour and a cup of water for three days until Dooley made a get away under fire and brought relief. In a letter home Dooley described the march to the Riet and Modder Rivers:

Next morning we were on the march at daylight and at dinner time had not passed all the wagons. There were 2,000 wagons loaded with supplies, and from 12 to 20 bullocks each. It was a very hot day, and the infantry were dropping all the way with exhaustion. We came to the Riet River about one o'clock where all the advance party halted for the night. We were shown where to camp and were not long in getting down to the river for a swim and a good lie down in the shade. The river is not very large, only about 40 yards across, but the water is good.

The next day was very hot, so we suffered greatly from want of water. There was not a drop on the road, so we had to push on and get to the Modder River, which was 26 miles away. We got there a little before dark and surprised a Boer camp. There were a few prisoners taken and lots of stores and cattle. The Boers had left in a hurry, as there were three wagons loaded with flour, and all sorts of knick-knacks. We remained at the river all day, and everyone was trying his hand at making damper out of the flour.

We were turned out 4.30 a.m. without breakfast for ourselves or our horses, and sent about 12 miles out to a place called Alexandria, where the Boers were entrenched at top of a kopje. We could not get them out of the trenches and when it was nearly dark Colonel Porter gave the order to retire. We got into the camp about 8 o'clock. We had been out since morning without anything but a bottle of water and a biscuit and I am sure it must have been 120 degrees in the shade.

The adventures involved and the narrow escapes experienced in earning the eight engagement clasps would in themselves fill a book. Sergeant Dooley served twelve months in the Boer War and returned to Australia at the end of 1900. He continued to serve with the NSW Lancers, being commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant on 9 October 1906.

In 1912 Lieutenant Dooley was seconded to the 28th Australian Light Horse Regiment until going onto the Unallotted List in 1914. Upon the outbreak of war Dooley volunteered for active service and, after completing No. 12 School of Musketry Course for officers and N.C.O.s of the A.I.F. (15-28 June 1915), he was posted to Egypt as a Captain with the 4th reinforcements of the 19th Battalion A.I.F. After periods of service with H.Q. First Infantry Brigade and 21st Battalion, he was transferred to the



**SGT. J. S. DOOLEY, N.S.W. LANCERS (1900)**

22nd Battalion in France on 11 October 1916 and was promoted Major on 5 February 1917. Soon after his arrival in France Major Dooley was wounded while leading his company in an attack on a German position. On 28 July 1917 he was awarded the coveted Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry in action during the battle of Flers.

The citation for the M.C. reads:

'For conspicuous gallantry in action. He handled his company with great courage and initiative. When his trench was subjected to a heavy bombardment he moved his men forward into shell craters, thereby saving many casualties.'

—Aust. Military Order 325 of 28 July 1918.

Among the most treasured possessions kept by Major Dooley was a letter he received from General Birdwood.\* The letter is as follows:

1st Anzac Corps, 20th December, 1916

Dear Dooley,

This is just a line to congratulate you very heartily upon the Military Cross, which I am so glad has been awarded you for your conspicuous coolness and ability when in command of your company in action near Flers on the 14th of last month. I know that, when the trenches were heavily bombarded, you quietly moved your men forward to occupy shell craters until dark. This I know must have saved many casualties from occurring, and it is just the sort of action one wants to see taken by officers.

Thank you for this good work, and with good wishes to you for the future.

Yours sincerely,

General Birdwood

Major Dooley was wounded a second time and later evacuated to England for treatment. While convalescing he was presented with the Military Cross by King George V at Buckingham Palace, where nineteen years previously he had received a Jubilee medal from the King's mother, Queen Victoria. Dooley returned to Australia due to his wounds in 1918 and on 10 April 1919 his A.I.F. appointment was terminated. The final period of active military service he undertook was during the Second World War, when he served as an officer with the Volunteer Defence Corps at Leeton.

In 1914 Dooley married Mary Baughton, the matron of Bulli Hospital, and they had two children, a son John and a daughter Mary Elizabeth. In addition to running his farm Dooley took a most active part in the community. Until advancing years and failing health forced him to relinquish his active participation, he was a prominent figure at public functions of any kind and in every movement for the betterment of the people and the district. His genial personality and friendly interest in the progress of the

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\* Field Marshal Lord William Riddell Birdwood, GCB, GCSI, GCMG, GCVO, CIE, DSO (1865-1951), created 1st Baron Birdwood of ANZAC and of Totnes 1938.



**N.S.W. LANCERS 1902—**  
**Sgt. E. A. E. Houston, DCM, Lt. Col. C. F. Cox, CB, and Sgt. J. S. Dooley**

town and district, the uplift of humanity and the furtherance of his country's cause, made him welcome always and everywhere. He was ever on the side of the weak against the strong whenever there was any semblance or suggestion of oppression or injustice; and yet, as went through life, he made no enemies, a very rare achievement for a man who was outspoken in his utterances and fearless in his defence of the right. One who knew him from the time he arrived on the Irrigation Area in the early days of the settlement as a strong vigorous man, fairly exuding physical energy and overflowing with enthusiasm for every worthwhile project, remarked that he did not believe that Major Dooley had made a single enemy during all the years that he had lived and laboured in the district, although his friends were legion. He has left his monument behind him in many flourishing organisations on the Irrigation Area today, the foundations of which he helped to lay broad and deep in the old pioneering days, for he was not only a pioneer of the land but also of local government and the business world. Other tangible monuments to him, resulting from public affection and regard for a great soldier and foremost citizen, are Dooley Park, in the vicinity of the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission Offices, and the Rosery in Mountford Park; the idea of creating a Rosery in the park as a memorial to the fallen soldiers originated in the mind of Major Dooley, and materialisation of that idea is evidence of the confidence that the community reposed in his suggestion and their respect for his feelings. On 28 October 1946 Australia lost a greatly distinguished soldier and citizen who truly had spent a lifetime in the service of his country and the people.

Major Dooley earned the following decorations and medals which represent nearly fifty years military service: Military Cross, Queen's South Africa Medal with 8 clasps, 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal, 1939-45 War Medal, Australian Service Medal, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Medal (Bronze), Colonial Auxiliary Forces Long Service Medal.

## BADGEMAN

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**Complete Collection of 1930-42 Australian Light Horse Badges.**—Badgeman has been informed that a reputable Melbourne medal and coin dealer, Regal Coin Company, has obtained a set of Light Horse badges of the 1930-42 period. There are only two complete sets of these badges known to exist so this set will be well sought after by individual collectors and museums.

**75 Years of Australian Head-dress Badges.**—Enclosed in the January 77 edition of Sabretache was a circular on what would be the 'bible' on Australian badges. Readers with an interest in badges were asked to complete and return the circular in order that an assessment on publication could be made. The response has been extremely poor so badge enthusiasts are urged to return their circulars to ensure a major undertaking by Albert Festberg is not shelved. Dealers could help by placing orders for bulk numbers.

# BERTRAM CHARLES BELL: A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

By PETER S. SADLER

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In April 1914 a 21-year-old Queenslander travelling to England with his sister was sightseeing in Port Said, where he allowed a fortune teller to read his future. The words, 'You are going for a long journey; you will not return home for some years and I see great adventures, narrow escapes, distinctions and honour', stuck in his mind for the next few years.<sup>1</sup>

Bertram Charles Bell eventually returned home to his birthplace, 'Coochin Coochin' near Boonah, in 1919 as Major Bell, DSO, DSC, RAF. He had also won the Croix de Guerre avec Palme and had been Mentioned in Despatches. His distinctions and honours had been won as a pilot in the Royal Naval Air Service and the Royal Air Force.

Bell was born at 'Coochin Coochin' on 5 April 1893 and was educated at Toowoomba Grammar School.<sup>2</sup> When World War I broke out the Queensland Agent-General in London, Sir Thomas Robinson, asked him to take the first 'Queensland' motor ambulance to France. At Bologne he joined the Red Cross, then later the Australian Volunteer Hospital. However, he became dissatisfied with driving casualties from the front and decided that he wanted to join the fighting as a pilot. (In 1914 his cousin, Eric Conran, had taken him up for two flights at Upavon, the H.Q. of the Royal Flying Corps.) In February 1915 he returned to England and took private flying lessons at Hendon with Mr Ruffy Baumann's Flying School.<sup>3</sup>

The R.N.A.S. commissioned Bell as a Probationary Flight Sub-Lieutenant on 2 May 1915 and sent him to complete his flying training.<sup>4</sup> He received Pilot's Certificate Number 1362 in June 1915<sup>5</sup> and in July joined 1 Squadron, R.N.A.S., at Dunkirk,<sup>6</sup> which flew patrols over the English Channel. He served with the squadron until February 1917, winning the D.S.C. for 'conspicuous skill and gallantry as a pilot of reconnaissance, photographic and fighter aircraft'.<sup>7</sup>

Although due to go to England on leave, Bell transferred as Senior Flight Commander to 3 Squadron, R.N.A.S.,<sup>8</sup> which was equipped with Sopwith 'Pups' and was flying in support of the R.F.C. in the Amiens area.<sup>9</sup> The German aircraft were, at that time, gaining the ascendancy over the British flyers, a development which culminated in 'Bloody April', a time of severe British losses in the air.<sup>10</sup> Although Bell served with 3 Squadron for only two months, he shot down at least six enemy aircraft.<sup>11</sup> In late March he was presented with an immediate D.S.O. in the field by Field Marshal Lord Haig<sup>12</sup> for 'conspicuous bravery and skill in attacking hostile aircraft' during 14 combat



missions.<sup>13</sup> His Mention in Despatches (gazetted on 15 May 1917)<sup>14</sup> was probably won in this period also.

On 21 April 1917 Bell was promoted to Acting Squadron Commander and given command of the newly raised 10 Squadron, R.N.A.S.<sup>15</sup> On 15 May 1917, 10 Squadron which up to that time had been under R.N. control, was attached to 11 Wing, R.F.C., at Droglandt, west of Ypres, where it remained until 5 October 1917.<sup>16</sup> During this period 10 Squadron destroyed 117 enemy aircraft.<sup>17</sup> The core of the Squadron up to 30 July, when it was disbanded, was Raymond Collishaw's 'Black Flight' of Canadian pilots.<sup>18</sup>

Returning to R.N. control, 10 Squadron flew from Leffrinckhoucke and Teteghem, near Dunkirk, until 1 April 1918.<sup>19</sup> On this date Squadron Commander Bell, R.N.A.S., became Captain (Temporary Major) Bell, R.A.F., and his squadron was redesignated 210 Squadron, R.A.F.<sup>20</sup>

From 2 April 1918 to 8 July 1918, 210 Squadron flew on the Western Front under R.A.F. control from Triezennes, Liettes, St. Omar and St. Marie Cappel.<sup>21</sup> Then, on 9 July 1918, it was transferred to 5 Group, R.A.F., at Teteghem and Eringham, where it carried out naval patrols.<sup>22</sup> On 23 October 1918 it was again transferred to the Western Front at Bousieres, where it remained until the end of the war.<sup>23</sup>

210 Squadron, under Bell, flew Sopwith Triplanes initially, then later the Sopwith B.R. Camel.<sup>24</sup> Although primarily a fighter squadron, it also did a considerable amount of low bombing and strafing.<sup>25</sup> During the war the squadron accounted for 321 enemy aircraft and eight kite balloons; its officers and men were awarded 35 British and foreign decorations.<sup>26</sup>

Bell was awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre avec Palme on 8 November 1918,<sup>27</sup> presumably as a result of 210 Squadron's work in support of the Belgian Army. (During September and October of 1918, 5 Group, R.A.F., consisting of 82 Wing and 61 Wing, of which 210 Squadron was then part, was placed at the disposal of the Belgian Army for the Flanders operation.)<sup>28</sup>

Bell left France on leave to England on 11 November 1918 and did not find out that the war had ended until he reached London on Armistice Night.<sup>29</sup> The following day he was admitted to hospital with pneumonia.<sup>30</sup> He was placed on the R.A.F. Unemployed List on 6 May 1919<sup>31</sup> and, after refusing a permanent commission in the R.A.F., returned to Australia in June 1919.<sup>32</sup> With him was his brother, Major Victor Douglas Bell, O.B.E., R.A.F., who had commanded 80 Squadron, R.A.F., during 1918 and 1919.<sup>33</sup>

Bell returned to manage the family property of 'Cochin Cochin' where, in 1920, he entertained the Prince of Wales.<sup>34</sup> After the property had been subdivided he managed some of the remaining holdings and won awards for fodder conservation and

farm design.<sup>35</sup> An accomplished sportsman, he won the Queensland Gun Club Championship in 1924 and 1925 and was a member of the Cressbrook Polo Team which won the Dudley Cup in 1923 and was runner-up in 1924.<sup>36</sup>

Only one published work by Bell has been found. This is a one-page article about R. S. 'Breguet' Dallas, a fellow pilot in 1 Squadron R.N.A.S., which appeared in 'Reveille' in May 1935. He had kept a journal during the war years and at the time of his death was preparing his memoirs.<sup>37</sup>

On 24 April 1926, Bell married Adeline Grace Barnes, daughter of J. H. S. Barnes of Canning Downs, Queensland. They had two children, a son John and a daughter Pamela.<sup>38</sup>

The onset of the Second World War disturbed Bell. He tried to enlist, but was told that his contribution to the war effort should be as a farmer. Then, in early June 1941, he suffered a breakdown and on 15 June he died of pneumonia in Brisbane General Hospital. He was cremated at Mount Gravatt Crematorium, Brisbane.<sup>39</sup>

Bertram Charles Bell has been described by his daughter as 'a brilliant organizer and natural leader with a tremendous sense of humour who did whatever he undertook thoroughly and well'.<sup>40</sup> His life and achievements, as a military aviator, farmer and sportsman, bear testimony to this assessment.

#### REFERENCES —

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5. Biographical note with article Bell wrote for "Reveille", published May 1935
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16. *ibid.*
17. *ibid.*

18. *ibid.*
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21. 210 Squadron History, *op. cit.*
22. *ibid.*
23. *ibid.*
24. *ibid.*
25. *ibid.*
26. *ibid.*
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30. MOD letter, *op. cit.*
31. RAF List, 19 June 1919, p. 3456
32. Correspondence with Miss P. Bell, *op. cit.*
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34. "Sydney Bulletin", 25 June 1941, Obituary notice, B. C. Bell
35. Correspondence with Miss P. Bell, *op. cit.*
36. *ibid.*
37. *ibid.*
38. *ibid.*
39. *ibid.*
40. *ibid.*



Captain G. C. Wilson, MC, AFC, DCM, mid, as a Second Lieutenant in 1917.  
Wilson's story appeared in the last edition of "Sabretache".



**Wilson and his Ryan monoplane "City of Sydney" at Parkes in 1929, taken several days before the road accident near Bogon Gate in which he was killed.**



**ORDNANCE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER G. PRIDEAUX, MBE, RAN**

# THE SURRENDER OF THE GERMAN FLEET

By G. PRIDEAUX

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The collapse of Germany at the end of the World War in November 1918, and that country's request for an armistice being granted, one of the conditions insisted on was the surrender of the German Fleet. Of necessity this was agreed to. Revolution had broken out and the internal condition of Germany left her no alternative. On 15th November there arrived in the Firth of Forth the new German light cruiser 'Konigsberg'; on board were Admiral Murier and his staff of three who had come to arrange with Admiral Sir David Beatty the terms of the surrender. The Admiral and staff were welcomed by the British Admiral, and accommodated on board the 'Queen Elizabeth'. They did not dine with Sir David Beatty but alone, in quarters set apart for their special use. Next day, 16th November, the terms of the surrender having been completed, they returned to Germany.

On 18th November the first batch of 'U' Class submarines were surrendered to the Admiral Commanding Channel Ports at Harwich. On 20th November, the day preceding the surrender, His Majesty King George V and Edward Prince of Wales visited the Grand Fleet and received a great welcome from the huge assemblage of ships then in the Firth of Forth.

At 3.30 a.m. on the morning of the 21st, in the dark, cold mist, the Grand Fleet left the Forth under easy steam for the rendezvous to the east of May Island. The light cruisers had preceded the main fleet, and made contact with the oncoming German Fleet, led by the battle cruiser 'Seydlitz', at 8.45 a.m.

We had hoped for a clear day, but the North Sea was as usual misty, with a visibility of only four miles; dense fogs had been the order of the day for a considerable time, and the sun had not shone for weeks. At 9 a.m. the alarms sounded 'action stations' as a precautionary measure, but was not taken seriously by anyone on board. On the 'Australia' were a number of distinguished visitors, principally Australians who had come up from London to witness the surrender, and were accommodated in extemporised cabins. There were also six Australian soldiers on board. They had been visiting relatives on the ship. Commander Brabant granted them permission to remain on board for the night and to view the surrender. Officers who had no special duty

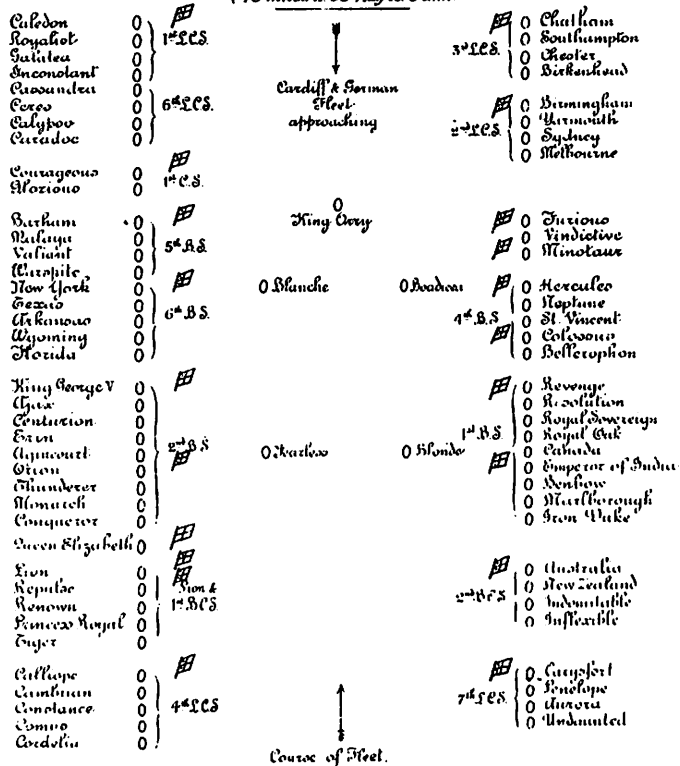
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This is the first of a number of unpublished articles by Lieutenant-Commander George Prideaux, MBE, RAN (1872-1965). Prideaux joined the Victorian navy in the 1880s as an armourer's apprentice and served in China during the Boxer Rebellion 1900-01. He was on service from the beginning to the end of World War I (he was actually present at the event he describes in the article) and led a detachment from HMAS Australia in the trenches on the Western Front. — Editor.

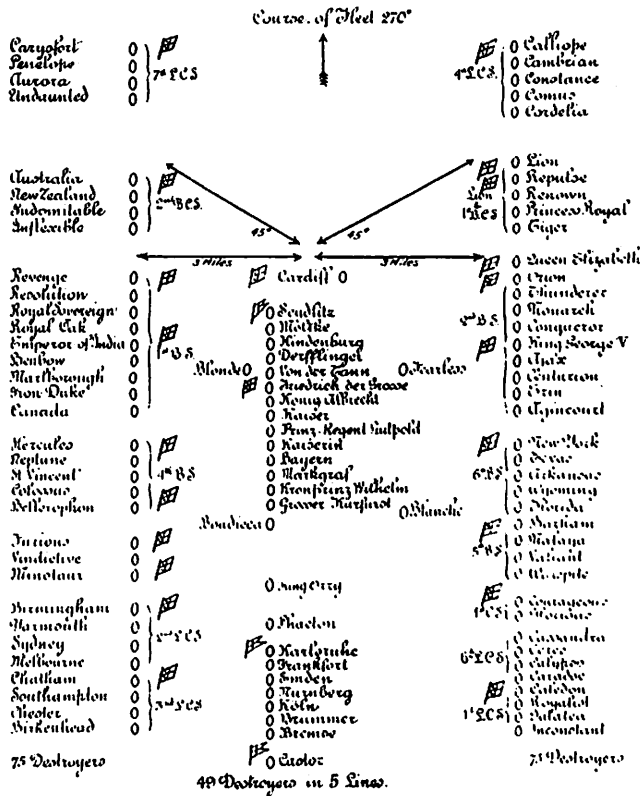
# SURRENDER OF GERMAN HIGH SEAS FLEET. 21. 11. 18.

## DISPOSITION OF GRAND FLEET PROCEEDING FROM FIRTH OF FORTH TO RENDEZVOUS.

(40 miles E. 90° May 12. 8 a.m.)



## DISPOSITION OF GRAND FLEET ESCORTING GERMAN HIGH SEAS FLEET INTO FIRTH OF FORTH.





for the day were detailed off to see that the day was made interesting to the visitors and to see that time did not hang heavy on their hands. I was attached to Major-General Sir Charles Rosenthal, commander of the 2nd Australian Division, and Mr (afterwards Sir) Keith Murdoch of the Melbourne 'Herald'. General Rosenthal has two sons, commanders in the Royal Australian Navy.

Shortly before 11 a.m. the German Fleet could be seen approaching, preceded by H.M.S. 'Cardiff', and on each side a squadron of light cruisers, the starboard led by H.M.S. 'Calliope' and the port by H.M.S. 'Carysfort'. At 11 o'clock we turned to port 180 degrees and took up our station in advance of the German ships; this applied to light cruisers and battle cruisers, the battleships being abreast the German ships. The 'Australia' had the very great honour of being flagship of the battleships and battle cruisers of the port line. The 'Lion' was flagship of the starboard line. The 'Australia' had behind her the following capital ships: 'New Zealand', 'Indomitable', 'Inflexible', 'Revenge', 'Resolution', 'Royal Sovereign', 'Royal Oak', 'Emperor of India', 'Benbow', 'Marlborough', 'Iron Duke', 'Canada', 'Hercules', 'Neptune', 'St. Vincent', 'Colossus', 'Bellerophon', 'Furious', 'Vindictive', 'Minotaur'; also the light cruisers 'Birmingham', 'Yarmouth', 'Sydney', 'Melbourne', 'Chatham', 'Southampton', 'Chester' and 'Birkenhead', and 75 destroyers.

The 'Lion' as flagship of the starboard line had astern of her the 'Repulse', 'Renown', 'Princess Royal', 'Tiger', 'Queen Elizabeth', 'Orion', 'Thunderer', 'Monarch', 'Conquerer', 'King George V', 'Ajax', 'Centurion', 'Erin', 'Agincourt', the American ships 'New York', 'Texas', 'Arkansas', and 'Wyoming', H.M.S. 'Barham', 'Malaya', 'Valiant', 'Warspite', 'Courageous', 'Glorious', and the light cruisers 'Cassandra', 'Ceres', 'Calypso', 'Caledon', 'Royalist', 'Galatea', 'Inconstant', and 75 destroyers—in all, with the light cruisers 'Blonde', 'Fearless', 'Boadicea', 'Blanche', 'King Orrif', 'Phaeton' and 'Castor' in close attendance on the flanks of the Germans, 231 British and American warships, a truly magnificent sight. The German Fleet, led by the H.M.S. 'Cardiff', consisted of the battle cruisers 'Seydlitz', 'Moltke', 'Hindenburg', 'Derfflinger', and 'Von der Tann', the battleships 'Frederick de Grosse', 'Koenig Albrecht', 'Kaiser', 'Prince Regent Lutipold', 'Kaiserin', 'Bayern', 'Markagraf', 'Kronprinz Wilhelm' and 'Grosser Kurforst', the light cruisers 'Karlsruhe', 'Frankfort', 'Emden', 'Nurnberg', 'Koln', 'Brummer' and 'Bremse', and 49 destroyers in 5 lines.

As we contemplated the German ships, like things without life, we could not but feel for the humiliation of our late foes. We were witnessing a tragedy without parallel in the world's history. It has been said that the German people did not understand the sea, that in the hour of its destiny it did not use its fleet, so that in surrendering it wrote its own epitaph. For over four years the relentless pressure exerted by the Grand Fleet from its bases at Scapa Flow and the Firth of Forth had sapped the

morale of the German people, culminating in the revolution and, as a consequence, the sight we were witnessing.

The German ships were flying the German ensign for the last time. Approaching the Forth the German ships passed on ahead and anchored off Inchkeith, inside the Forth Bridge, after which the ships of the Grand Fleet went to their usual anchorage. It was perhaps significant that after anchoring the sun shone for the first time for weeks.

Inspecting officers visited all German ships as soon as possible after anchoring, to see that the terms of the surrender had been strictly observed. The 'Australia' was responsible for the 'Hindenburg'. Mr Dix, chief gunner, and Mr Stiven, chief torpedo gunner, inspected the magazines and torpedo flats and found no explosives of any kind on board. In all ships the conditions of the surrender had been scrupulously adhered to.

At the outbreak of the revolution, the Workman and Soldiers Council deposed all officers from positions of authority in the fleet. There were senior German officers on the ships whose duties were strictly confined to navigating the ships from the Kiel to their destination at Scapa Flow.

There were on the 'Hindenburg' 40 members of the Workman and Soldiers Council who were in control of the ship, a chief petty officer, a man of fine bearing being in charge. All over the ship, in conspicuous positions, were posted revolutionary posters setting forth the aims of the revolution. There was a total lack of discipline on board, and most marked disrespect for officers. They had all things common, all using the same dining messroom.

At 11.45 a.m. on 24th November, Admiral Sir William Pakenham in the 'Lion' left the Firth of Forth for Scapa Flow, followed by the 'Seydlitz', 'Moltke', 'Derfflinger', 'Hindenburg' and 'Von der Tann', and the rest of the 1st Battle Cruiser Squadron, 'Princess Royal' and 'Tiger', and in addition the 'Repulse' and 'Renown'. It is customary when warships pass each other for the bugle to sound "the still", and for companies of the ships to stand to attention. This was carried out on our ship as the German ships passed. On the German ships, however, the men were making merry, and in the case of the 'Hindenburg' were dancing on deck to the music of an accordion—but who would sit in judgment on them?

At the same time, on 25th November, the 'Emperor of India' and other ships of the 1st Battle Squadron: 'Benbow', 'Marlborough' and 'Iron Duke' left the Forth, followed by the German battleships 'Frederick de Grosse', 'Koenig Albrecht', 'Prince Regent Lutipold', 'Kaiserin', and 'Kaiser'. By the time the 'Frederick de Grosse' had got abreast of the 'Australia', the 1st Battle Squadron had turned 360 degrees, so that the 'Emperor of India' came abreast of that ship, the 'Benbow' abreast the 'Koenig Albrecht' and

the other ships in succession. It was a very pretty manoeuvre. The same lack of discipline was observed on the German battleships as in the battle cruisers, the crews lounging about as their ships passed us. The battleships 'Bayern' and 'Koenig' remained in the Forth, going up at a later date to their last resting place at Scapa Flow where they all met a watery grave.

The humiliation of the German Navy was complete at the beginning of the 20th century. Germany had possessed all the conditions of sea power, trade and commerce of world-wide importance, military genius, organising capacity, and an industrious temperament, a strong constitution and a patriotic people. When near their goal a calamitous policy set the country at war with the four strongest naval powers in Europe, of whom England alone was doubly as strong, thus emphasizing once again the influence sea power has upon history.

The end of the modern Imperial German Navy was more terrible than the sale of the old German Fleet by Hannibal Fischer.

## LIEUTENANT J. P. GREENE, M.C. and BAR

By I. C. TEAGUE

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Some who served in the Australian Imperial Forces with great gallantry were reluctant to become soldiers, but few who were discharged medically unfit were able to re-engage and win the Military Cross and Bar. One such person was Joseph Patrick Greene, who was born at Gordon, in Victoria, on 30 July 1890. After attending State schools at Gordon and Ballarat, Joe Greene took up employment with a grain merchant with whom he worked for three years, until he successfully gained an appointment as a Produce Inspector with the Victorian Government. Two weeks after his appointment, Joe Greene was called up for service in the First World War. Posted to the 14th Depot Battalion at Ballarat, Private Greene took a great interest in bayonet fighting and soon became an instructor. A medical examination, however, revealed that Corporal Greene was unfit for overseas service and he was discharged from the A.I.F. on 8 December 1915, having served for 121 days. On the advice of his local doctor, Greene refused to have an operation which had been recommended by the military doctors.

Corporal Greene decided to continue service in a "home only" capacity and he was posted to the Royal Military College (RMC), Duntroon. On 11 February 1915, while escorting a prisoner to Melbourne, Sergeant Greene decided to try and re-enlist in the A.I.F. and was greatly pleased when he was accepted as being medically fit. He was soon sent to RMC where he graduated from the 2nd Course as a Lieutenant, and was subsequently posted as a reinforcement to the 22nd Battalion for the duration of the war and was present at the many engagements in which the battalion fought. He gained a reputation for both courage and leadership and was wounded on two occasions. On 12 May 1918 he was given the task of establishing a new post in advance of the line in the area of Ville-Sur-Ancre. The establishment of such posts in areas controlled by the enemy were hazardous undertakings which required great courage and skill. Lieutenant Greene's party was attacked by a strong enemy patrol. Although outnumbered, Greene personally led his men into close engagements with the enemy and caused fifteen casualties to the enemy. A skilful extrication followed; however, one of Greene's men who was wounded was found to be missing. With total disregard for personal danger Greene returned to the engagement area where he held back the enemy with revolver fire until he carried the wounded man back to safety. For this action he received the Military Cross.

In October 1918 Lieutenant Greene was awarded a Bar to his Military Cross. The following letter from Field Marshal Birdwood describes the action:

"I have just received the Gazette Notification of the Award to you of a Bar to the Military Cross in recognition of your very good and gallant work in our operations near Geneva on October 4th last and I write now to congratulate you most heartily on this well deserved distinction.

When the attacking waves came under heavy Machine Gun fire near the objective you very gallantly rushed ahead and engaged the enemy with a Lewis Gun—thus enabling the advance to be continued.

You then displayed great dash and determination in leading a party against the enemy post which you mopped up and pushed on to the final objective.

This you held against strong opposition until the remainder of your company came up. At this stage the troops on your left was counter-attacked and your left flank was exposed and being enfiaded. You at once grasped the situation and collecting a few men crawled over ground swept by heavy fire and formed a defensive flank.

With total disregard for the great danger involved you crawled from one post to another—giving orders to your men and encouraging them by your cheerfulness and fine soldiery conduct.

It was a really good performance that you held this ground for two days, when you were relieved.

With kind regard and good wishes.

W. R. BIRDWOOD".

At the end of the war while still in the U.K., Greene undertook an A.I.F. retraining course in chemistry for six months in order to prepare for his return to civilian employment. However, on return to Australia he was unable to obtain employment with the Government so he became the Melbourne representative of the grain firm for which he had previously worked. He subsequently became the proprietor of the Elizabeth, Colonial Bank and Golden Age hotels and later purchased the property where he was born. During this period Greene remained a close friend of Albert Jacka, VC, MC, with whom he had served during the war.

During the Second World War, Lieutenant Greene served in the 24th Garrison Battalion at an Italian prisoner of war camp near Wangaratta. The other officer in the unit was Lieutenant Borella, VC, MM, who remained a life long friend. At this time Greene was still a single man and was having difficulty working his farm. He consequently sought his discharge, which was granted on 15 June 1943, having served for 517 days (Discharge Certificate No. 36328). While serving at Wangaratta he had met Mary Enett O'Callaghan, a nursing sister at the Myrtleford hospital. They were married in 1945 and settled in the Wangaratta area and in 1976 the charming couple have clear memories of both wars which fascinate any listener.

Lieutenant Greene was awarded the following decorations: The Military Cross with Bar, British War Medal, Victory Medal and 1939-45 War Medal.

# AUSTRALIAN RECIPIENTS OF THE AMERICAN DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

Compiled by K. R. WHITE

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## FIRST WORLD WAR (ARMY RECIPIENTS ONLY)—

564 Sgt J. R. Padgett, 44th Battalion  
Lt V. J. Brady, 13th Field Artillery Brigade  
2487 Pte T. Parkes, 55th Battalion  
5451 Sgt N. Rodakis, MM, 4th Machine Gun Battalion  
2295 Pte F. Trewarn, 5th Machine Gun Battalion  
435 Sgt T. E. Caddy, 43rd Battalion  
Capt V. L. Morissett, 31st Battalion  
91 Sgt A. Errington, 32nd Battalion  
Lt J. H. Hill, 50th Battalion

## SECOND WORLD WAR —

### Army

NX34853 Capt J. M. Blamey (Posthumous)  
VX1 Gen Sir Thomas Blamey  
NX3 Brig K. W. Eather  
NX7 Brig G. F. Wooten  
VP7669 Maj Gen G. A. Vasey  
VX15 Lt Gen Sir E. F. Herring  
VX4674 Lt I. W. Walker (Posthumous)  
VX45223 Lt W. T. Owen (Posthumous)  
WX11483 Lt Col D. G. Matheson  
SX3800 Lt H. D. Henstridge

### Navy

Lt Comd D. S. MacFarlane, RANVR  
Lt P. E. A. Mason, RANVR  
Lt Comd W. J. Read, RANVR  
Lt F. A. Rhoades, RANVR

### Air Force

403325 Flt Sgt F. W. Earp  
Gp Capt W. H. Garing  
253939 Flt Lt L. G. Vial (Posthumous)

## VIETNAM WAR

12222 WO2 K. Payne, VC, Australian Army Training Team  
13097 WO2 K. G. Conway (Posthumous)

**The Coastwatchers.** As a number of the Second World War awards were to Coast-watchers some background on this organisation may benefit readers.

The coastwatchers provided the paradox of realism originating in idealism and of resolute confidence in the face of defeat. The need for their services was greatest when the military situation was at its worst. Thus their operations were planned with cool deliberation on the assumption of enemy success and in expectation of their remaining in occupied territory to fight on single-handed except for such help as came from friendly natives. Acceptance of this specialised military attitude was well illustrated as early as August 1940 when an observation base was selected in the mountains behind Port Moresby. Here were secreted stores sufficient to maintain the head of the coastwatching organisation, Lieutenant-Commander Feldt, and 10 native soldiers for three months. Should the Japanese capture Port Moresby Feldt would retire to his mountain base with a teleradio as his main weapon.

The coastwatching organisation, as its name implied, had as one of its primary functions the reporting of enemy ship movements. The air force, however, attached very special value to its service because the watchers more often than not provided the first and sometimes the only reliable information about the movement of enemy aircraft. Watchers were deliberately posted within sight of key enemy-held aerodromes for that purpose. This added considerably to the danger of detection. The enemy, aware of the proximity of the watcher, would search for him not only with ground patrols but with aircraft which would try to obtain a bearing on his position from the teleradio transmission and then, in low-flying sweeps, rake the plotted area with gunfire in the hope of killing him or forcing him to retire.

## **MEDALMAN**

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According to "Battle" magazine (published in the U.K.), since Britain entered the Common Market all British ex-servicemen of the 1914-18 and 1939-45 wars are entitled to some, or all, of the four medals described here, provided they can produce evidence that they took part in the various campaigns for which the medals were struck. They will be worn immediately below those issued by H.M. Government following the two World Wars, or alternatively on the right breast.

### **Commemorative Medal of the Battle of Dunkirk 1940**

This medal was instituted in September 1948 by the Association Des Anciens Combattants De Flandres—Dunkerque 1940 under the patronage of the Town of Dunkirk, having the purpose of keeping alive the memory of the engagements of 1940 and to affirm their very great significance.

In 1970 the constitution governing the award was amended to permit British personnel to receive the medal. Members of the Navy, Army, Royal Air Force, and Auxiliary Services who served in the Dunkirk Sector from May 10th - June 1940 are eligible to receive the medal as are Merchant Seamen and Civilian Volunteers who took part in the sea evacuation of Dunkirk. The rank, unit (at the time of Dunkirk) and the name of each recipient of the medal will be entered in the Book of Gold kept in Paris.

### **Description of the Medal**

Obverse: A medieval French shield bearing the arms of Dunkirk. At the top, two Gallic swords, crossed, points uppermost. At the point of the shield, a marine anchor. The whole rests on a crown of laurel leaves.

Reverse: On the sling of the shield the inscription "DUNKERQUE 1940". The medal is of Florentine bronze and hangs on a chrome yellow ribbon bearing four vertical red bands and four vertical black stripes.

Application forms for the above medal should be obtained from H. Robinson, Hon. Sec. Dunkirk Veterans Association, 6 Derwentwater Terrace, Leeds, 6.

### **Medaille Commemorative des Batailles de la Somme 1914-1918 and 1940**

This bronze medal covers service on the Somme front in both world wars in and around Abbeville, Mametz, Amiens, Fricourt, Albert, Thiepval, Beaumont Hamel etc, up to and including Bailleul.

Application for the Somme Medal should be made to the British Representative of the "Ceux De La Somme" Association, Captain A. W. F. Gibbons C de M, C de R, 57 Frant Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.



### **King Albert 1st "Fidelity" Cross, and King Albert 1st "Veteran" Cross**

This medal covers service in Belgium in the 1914-1918 war and is now eligible to those who served there in 1940. First War veterans should apply for the "VETERAN" cross and their 1940 counterparts should apply for the "FIDELITY" cross.

Application forms may be obtained from the British Representative of the Royal Federation of the Veterans of King Albert 1st, J. Maitre-Jean President United Kingdom F.R.N.V.R.A. 82 Williamson Terrace, Monkwearmouth, Sunderland SR6 0BG, County Durham. All members who hold these crosses will be entitled to the award of a bronze palm after holding same for two years, a silver palm after four years, followed by a gold palm after seven years. A bar to the crosses is also granted after twelve years. This is a bronze medal.

### **La Croix du Combattant de l'Europe (The European Cross)**

This finely enamelled cross issued by the Confederation Europeenne des Anciens Combattants with headquarters in Paris is eligible to all members who fought in the 1914-1918 or 1939-1945 wars for the liberation of Europe.

Application for the necessary forms should be made to the U.K. Representative J. Maitre-Jean at the address mentioned above.

### **The Medal of the Town of Rethymnon**

An extraordinary meeting held at midday on Monday 25th April, 1975, considered the proposal of the Mayor and Chairman of the Town Council of Rethymnon that, during the forthcoming celebration of the anniversary of the "Battle of Crete", honorary distinctions should be awarded to those men, who, during the historic "Battle of Crete" (20th-30th May 1941), courageously and with no thought for themselves defended the high ideals of Freedom and humanity, as well as the honour of Greece, and especially of Crete.

His Worship the Mayor and the Chairman of the Town Council introduced a motion in respect of the foregoing, and their proposals were approved by a unanimous vote.

The following resolution was then passed:

Resolution No. 41/1975.

It has been unanimously decided that—

1. The following should be awarded the freedom of the Town of Rethymnon:
  - a) Lt. Colonel Ian Ross Campbell of Australia, Commander of the Greek and Allied Military Forces in Rethymnon.
  - b) Police-Colonel Iakovos Haniotis, retired, Commander of the Police-Cadet School of Crete.

in token of respect and gratitude for their courageous and inspired leadership of the units under their command during the "Battle of Crete".

2. The following should be awarded the Medal of the Town of Rethymnon:

- a) The Holy Monastery of Arkadi.
- b) The Abbot of the Holy Monastery of Arkadi, Dionysios Psaroudakis (posthumous award).
- c) The Police-Cadet School of Crete.
- d) The following Allied Military Units:
  - 1) 2/3rd Field Regiment R.A.A. of Australia.
  - 2) 2/1st Infantry Battalion of Australia.
  - 3) 2/1st Machine Gun Battalion of Australia.
  - 4) 2/8th Field Company R.A.E. of Australia.
  - 5) 2/11th Infantry Battalion of Australia.
  - 6) 2/7th Field Ambulance of Australia.
  - 7) The attached British sailors, soldiers and airmen of Great Britain.

in token of respect and gratitude to the heroic fighters, namely, the Abbot and Monks of the Holy Monastery of Arkadi, and the men of the above-mentioned military units, who, during the historic "Battle of Crete" (20th-30th May, 1941), bravely fought for the lofty ideals of humanity, as well as for the honour of Greece, and especially of Crete.

—Mayor. Chairman. Members of Council.

**Device for Naming of British Medals.**—In the last issue of Sabretache, Medalman mentioned a machine being used to name British medals. It is understood that police action has been taken to prevent further use of the machine. However, collectors must wonder how many medals came on the market before the machine was discovered. Any further information obtained will be published in later Medalman columns.

**Photographs of Medals in Sabretache.**—A number of photographs, without captions, of medals have appeared in Sabretache. These were left without captions in order to make the medal experts think and try to identify the recipient. Medalman is pleased to report that a number of readers have written making identification of the medals. In the next edition Medalman will put in the missing captions. As most readers would have guessed, the person on the front of the last issue of Sabretache (January 1977) was our youngest living Victoria Cross winner, Captain Keith Payne, VC, Frontier Force, Sultan Armed Forces.

**1914 (Mons) Star with Bar to Australian.**—Regal Coin Company recently discovered a group of medals to an Australian which included the 1914 Star with clasp. The star was named to A.I.F. attached to the British unit with which the recipient was serving. A small number of Australians saw service with British units in 1914. However, the number who were awarded the clasp to the 1914 Star must be very few.

**Egypt Medal with Clasp: Suakin 1885. Latest Prices.**—The prices on the recent sales will be of interest to medal collectors and investors. Pair, Suakin 1885 and Khedives Star to Driver NSW Artillery, \$850; Suakin 1885, Khedives Star, Mayor of Sydney Medal and Soudan Veterans Association badge to Gunner NSW Artillery, \$900. A number of local collectors contacted a London firm to obtain a NSW Soudan medal at a price below those mentioned. However, the medal was previously sold, which did not surprise the potential buyers. Medalman would be interested to know who, if anyone, obtained the said medal. It only seems a short time ago that collectors hesitated to pay over \$100 for these medals, which will soon bring prices in excess of \$1,000.

**How Rare and Valuable is the G.S.M. Clasp 'Kundistan' to I.A.W.S.S.?**—There is no doubt this is an extremely rare medal to an Australian recipient (53 issued). However, Medalman is unable to give the present market value as none are known to have come on the market. In fact, only two collectors are known to have the medal mentioned in their collections.

**New Medals to Oman.**—His Majesty the Sultan recently approved the As Sumood Medal to commemorate the victory in Dhofar. The medal will be of similar design to other Sultanic awards but will have a ring suspension. The ribbon is to be red, symbolizing land forces, with light and dark blue edges representing sea and air forces. All uniformed members of SAF who meet the following qualifications will be entitled to the award.

- a) Completed 30 days service between 23 May 1965 and 2 December 1975, or been awarded medal for bravery, or killed or wounded.

The permission of Her Majesty the Queen is being sought for her subjects to wear the medal. Australians who qualify for this medal should apply to: SCA, HQSAF, P.O. Box 602, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, saying when they served in Oman.

**Silver Jubilee Medal.**—The British Soldier magazine suggested all those members of the Armed Services who have served in Her Majesty's Forces for the full period of her reign should be awarded the Jubilee Medal. Medalman would strongly support such a sensible suggestion. However, this would mean a great number of the "undeserving" would miss out so the suggestion is NOT likely to be adopted. Another thought would be to allocate the Service ration of medals to those who were on the Silver Jubilee Parade. It will be an interesting exercise to publish the number of medals that are awarded to those who work in the personnel area and also the proportion awarded officers and other ranks. It is rumoured the Army ration is to be around 140 with the overall allocation for Australia being the same as for the George V Silver Jubilee of 1935. Apparently when asked how many medals Australia required a 'bright' Public Servant dug out the file for the previous Jubilee and asked for the same ration—someone forgot to mention that the population of Australia may have increased since 1935.

## BOOK REVIEWS

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THE AUSTRALIANS AT THE BOER WAR, by R. L. Wallace, Canberra, the Australian War Memorial and the Australian Government Publishing Service, 1976, 420 pp., \$11.95. Reviewed by C. D. Coulthard-Clark.

The Boer War had been over for two and a half years when the Prime Minister of Australia, Mr (later Sir) George Reid, publicly stated his intention to see published an authentic history of the campaign told from an Australian viewpoint. It was not, however, for another seven years that any sort of official account appeared and even then what was produced was a volume of Defence Department records, chiefly unit rolls and a miscellany of facts and figures; in short, a work of some antiquarian value but scarcely the 'authentic history' which had been promised. Thus it was that more than seventy years have slipped by before the appearance of the book under review. The author is to be warmly applauded for turning long overdue attention to this period of Australian military history.

Apparently without the benefit of formal academic training, Mr Wallace began this project as a labour of love while still a linesman with the old Postmaster-General's Department. He has stuck closely to the book's title and apart from recounting the events leading up to the war, has mainly confined himself to recounting the deeds and experiences of Australian troops at the front. This he has done well, largely by quoting letters written back to Australia, many of which were published in the press at the time. This work should be nicely complemented by any future study of the war's significance for Australia and its impact on and within this country. One can feel some sympathy for the author in writing this book in that there was obviously quite a problem because the Australian contingents were split up and attached to large British formations. Consequently at virtually no stage is it possible to focus wholly on Australians at the war, and the book often reads almost as one would have expected of a British history. Still, by using letters the reader is able to have accounts from the mouths of participants and also it is possible to "place" Australians within various actions, even where they played little part.

Not only is material from a range of scattered sources drawn together in this work, but the author also devotes a chapter to the Morant-Hancock affair in an attempt to shed new light on this old controversy. This case, the first involving executions of Australian servicemen, arose out of the murders of Boer prisoners by officers of the Bushveldt Carbineers in a wild area known as the Spelonken in Eastern Transvaal late in 1901. The author has unearthed a previously unpublished letter written in 1929 by Lieutenant G. R. Witton, one of the accused officers who served some three years of a

life-sentence after being found guilty, but rightly questions Witton's credibility in view of his embittered frame of mind and failure to make the same accusations in a 1907 book he wrote concerning the affair. It seems therefore that the suspicions of injustice which surround the executions of the colourful "Breaker" Morant and Hancock will remain until the official records are released by the British Government. And anyone who followed in the "Bulletin" Kit Denton's efforts in 1973 to gain access to these papers will realise the extreme reluctance of the War Office to let the truth be known.

This reviewer does have a number of complaints about the book. For a start there are misspellings of names and inaccurate statements, which, although small faults, do detract from the book's usefulness as a reference work. A few examples: A. G. Gilpin should read T. J. (Thomas John) Gilpin and it is Nursing Sister Bidmead, not Bidsmead. The author evidently did not realise that the Maori Wars started in 1861, and to say that 'All the Australian contingents fought as mounted troopers' is to forget the contribution of the NSW artillery battery and the Medical Corps, although the author does not overlook these units later in the text. Similarly to say Chauvel later became Lieutenant-General is also not quite correct as later again he became a General. Numismatists who have specimens of the Second NSW Infantry Regiment badge of the 1880's will no doubt dispute that Australians going to the Boer War were the first to wear the rising sun device on their badges. Perhaps too, the author might have referenced his text more fully. The reader is, after all, entitled to know the sources being used for the incidents recounted.

More significant are the gaps in the book's bibliography. The author was evidently unaware that Hutton's letters from South Africa are in the National Library in Canberra and many other sources, chiefly secondary, might have been included. Equally annoying are the maps provided. There are only four, and while these are adequate for tracing campaigns and locating battles they do not allow the reader to follow the narrative of individual actions, no matter how important.

Despite these shortcomings the book is well-designed and attractive, and well-illustrated. It is a credit to the publishers, especially in view of the War Memorial's shortage of suitably qualified staff which caused the release of this publication to be delayed by a year. The book is well worth reading by anyone seeking to gain an idea of the type of warfare involved and the hardships and sufferings endured by our soldiers in the Commonwealth of Australia's first war.

#### **FIVE BOOKS OF MILITARIA — Reviewed by B. J. Videon**

**SOVIET ARMY UNIFORMS & INSIGNIA 1945-75**, with an introduction by Lt. Col. A. J. Barker. Published by Arms & Armour Press (Australian Representatives: Thomas C. Lothian Pty. Ltd., 4-12 Tattersall's Lane, Melbourne, Victoria).

Size 8½in. x 5½in., hard cover, dust jacket, 91 pages. Recommended Australian price \$10.50.

Over the years little has been available to the layman on the uniform details of the Russian forces, and it is good to see this book available to all who need it. Comprising a reprint of two earlier H.M.S.O. publications, "The Soviet Army: Uniforms and Insignia, 1950" and "Soviet Army Uniforms 1961", the book is purportedly entirely accurate and reliable in its detail. The black and white illustrations are admittedly inferior to the coloured originals, but a full colour reprint would take the price beyond the average pocket.

Complete colour descriptions in conjunction with the drawing make this a useful book for the student of uniforms and insignia (including decorations). Well up to the usual A. & A.P. standard.

MILITARY HEAD-DRESS. This book, reviewed in the August 1976 edition of Sabretache, is now available from Thomas C. Lothian Pty. Ltd. Recommended Australian price \$14.50.

PANZER COLOURS—CAMOUFLAGE OF THE GERMAN PANZER FORCES, 1939-45, by Bruce Culver and Bill Murphy, illustrated by Don Greer. Publisher, Arms & Armour Press (Australian Representatives: Thomas C. Lothian Pty. Ltd.).

Size 11½in. x 8½in., hard cover, attractive dust jacket, 95 pages. Recommended Australian price \$13.25.

With model-making enjoying an all-time boom, the ardent modeller is always keen to get more accurate details for the decoration of his models. This book, with its 69 coloured illustrations and more than 170 black and white photographic illustrations, will be most valuable for this purpose. During the Second World War, German experimentation in the arts of camouflage and concealment led to some exciting results, and the Panzer Forces employed these to the full.

In this book are described the history and the development of camouflage schemes which make interesting reading, and will contribute to the realism of the modeller's art.

Well detailed, very nicely illustrated, and a great gift idea.

GERMAN INFANTRY AND ASSAULT ENGINEER EQUIPMENT, 1939-1945, by Chris Ellis. Published by Bellona Publications (Argus Books Limited, U.K.), and handled in Australia by Thomas C. Lothian Pty. Ltd.

Size 8½in. x 5½in., card covers, 64 pages. Recommended Australian price \$4.25.

Although the German forces of the Second World War have now been "written up" from almost all viewpoints, there should still be space on the bookshelves for this little book.

It sets out, in a tidy sequence, the principal weapons and warlike equipment used by the German Army units mentioned above during the Second World War. The illustrations are very clear, being similar in quality to those found frequently in official publications. Descriptions of the equipments, and the conditions under which they were used, make this a useful little book.

**SAND, SWEAT AND CAMELS**—The Australian Companies of the Imperial Camel Corps, by George F. and Edmée M. Langley. Published by Lowden Publishing Co., Kilmore, Victoria, 1976. Royalties to Melbourne Legacy.

Size 8½ in. x 6 in., hard covers, attractive dust jacket, 188 pages.

With sketch maps, illustrations and appendices showing statistics, details of insignia etc. Price not available, but enquire at major booksellers.

The average Australian today is probably not aware that Australians in the First World War fought from camels, and it is quite probable that the men who did so would have shared this incredulity before the event.

Nevertheless, when Australians were asked to tackle the job of learning how to handle these unlovely and uncooperative beasts, they did so with a fresh approach which soon put them in control of their mounts. Indeed, in due course, man and beast formed an effective partnership based on mutual respect, and the camel units fought ably and successfully where other forces would not have been able to operate.

And who better than the C.O. to write the history of the Australian component? George Langley, a Victorian High School teacher, joined the A.I.F. and served at Gallipoli. When the Imperial Camel Corps was formed, he was one of the unit's first Australian captains, and he served thereafter with the camels until the force was disbanded in 1918. The Australian units were then re-designated Light Horse and re-mounted on horses until their eventual return to Australia.

The camels saw many adventures and George Langley has described them in a most lucid and readable way. This reviewer enjoyed the book all the more, because it deals with events and places known to him as a result of his father's service in the same area.

Interesting in the extreme are the author's comments on Gallipoli, and on the situation at the end of the war, when Britain was wooing the Arab cause. Lawrence of Arabia gets a mention, worth adding to the comments of other writers.

On page 143, a line has become misplaced, but this does not detract from the pleasure of the whole work. It was unfortunate that George Langley did not complete his work, but his Cairo-born wife, Edmée, was able to do so most capably.

Anyone interested in Australian military history must read this book.

**EYE-DEEP IN HELL: THE WESTERN FRONT 1914-18**, by John Ellis. Published by Croom Helm Ltd., 2-10 St. John's Road, London, S.W.11. U.K. price £5.95. Reviewed by K. R. White.

By October 1914 the mass movements of the opposing forces on the Western Front had ceased and what must be the most squalid war known to mankind began. For the next four years the armies of Germany, France and the British Empire lived and died in a sea of mud and blood, with millions of men, the best of the opposing nations, fighting a war that neither side could hope to win.

John Ellis has produced a well researched book which will help later generations to appreciate, in some small way, the sheer horror of trench warfare. The book deals with all aspects of life in the line, ranging from equipment, rations, weapons and tactics, to the human effect of taking part in mass attacks through to the handling of casualties, morale, etc.

How the troops were able to cope with this hellish form of life, completely unknown prior to 1914, is very adequately explained, with details of daily routines, rules and codes of conduct fully covered.

This is a most readable book with masses of photographs, some familiar but many completely new as a result of the author's extensive research. An extensive bibliography and index complete a very well produced book.

**ITALIAN ARMY POLITICS AND PLASTIC MODELS.** Three book reviews by Neville Foldi.

**THE POLITICS OF THE ITALIAN ARMY 1861-1918**, by John Whittam. Published by Croom Helm Ltd., London. U.K. price £7.50.

To those whose opinion of the Italian Army is based only on lines of prisoners moving East from Bardia, Tobruk and Derna this book may come as something of a surprise. But it is not a record of the previous successes of Italian arms. In the author's own words it is "a survey which attempts to do three things: to observe some of the familiar sights of the nineteenth and early twentieth century Italian history from a slightly different viewpoint; to enquire into why one of the least militaristic of societies has been plunged periodically into aggressive wars by the deliberate action of its government; and finally, to provide an account of civil-military relations in Italy". Whittam, Lecturer in History at the University of Bristol, has accomplished this in a workmanlike manner. While the stage is occupied by politicians and generals, the reader feels the presence of the men who accomplished the unification of Italy, withstood the bloodbath of the many battles on the Isonzo and the retreat from Caporetto and were finally victorious on the Piave.



**MAKING MODEL AIRCRAFT**, by Brian Philpott. Published by Patrick Stephens Ltd., Cambridge. Australian price \$12.70, hard cover.

Brian Philpott, editor of the magazine of the International Plastic Modellers Society U.K., will not disappoint model aircraft enthusiasts, be they experienced or beginner, with this book. In easy to read form he covers all aspects of this popular hobby, from tools to conversions, painting and finishing to scratch building for both wooden and plastic models. The informative text is well illustrated by photographs of both models and actual aircraft while points of detail are dealt with by numerous line drawings.

**AIRFIX MAGAZINE ANNUAL No. 6**. Published by Patrick Stephens Ltd., Cambridge. Australian price \$8.00, hard cover.

Airfix have done it again with a wide collection of articles of interest to the plastic modeller. As is to be expected, the articles are heavily slanted towards assembly and conversion of Airfix products but as the range and quality of these needs no comment this is little handicap. The range of subjects covers a wide field from Roman Artillery, through Foreign Legion Forts and Ford Model "T" vans to the MiG 15. In short, there is something for everyone interested in any aspect of plastic modelling. For the first time some colour illustrations have been included.

## LETTERS TO EDITOR

---

**Notice of Intention to write a book on South Australian Colonial Defences from foundation of the Colony until 1892-3, excluding Imperial expeditions.**

Dear Sir,

Since the time when my research began for the original purpose of restoring Fort Glanville (see Sabretache April 1971), my compilation of State Archival material relating to the fort and now S.A. defences generally, has expanded. I feared it would. However, my intended production of a book on S.A.'s Colonial defences looks to need another two years or so to complete research, let alone writing it, art work, alterations, etc. The prime subject of this book will be S.A.'s Garrison Artillery and the defence systems. Politics will be minimal.

Except for a depleted mountain of manuscript material yet to be sifted through at the mine of S.A.'s history (State Archives), I have been only mildly successful in extracting information from the public. Could you, therefore, publish in the next Sabretache a request for members who are sympathetic to S.A.'s Colonial Military and Naval History, particularly the artillery, to contact me with regard to the supplying of information. The most likely source for information would have been the Military and Naval departments, but to the grief of all seekers of colonial defence matters, little remains. The wholesale destruction of our heritage requires the society's voice of disapproval because the destruction is still going on.

—FRANKLIN GARIE, 159 Kensington Road, Kensington, S.A. 5068

Inst. de Phonétique ULB  
50, Av. F. D. Roosevelt,  
1050, Bruxelles, Belgium.  
11.3.77

Dear Sir,

Further to the article in the January Sabretache about the medal stamping machine, it may come as cold comfort, but what is described as American and (inaccurately) 'colonials' are not the only targets for the fakers. Let's face it, faking is big business now, and, at a guess, at least as much is off-loaded by the British end of the operation on the home market as is ever shipped abroad. In these days of dwindling supplies, this is how most of these dealers who maintain large shops survive—particularly in the badge field. They even come over here to Brussels and try to off-load their wares by the boxful—as a little Belgian dealer of my acquaintance found to his cost.

Best Wishes—MICHAEL LAMB.

Dear Sir

You may be interested in the following remarks regarding the article by Mr. R. L. White in the January 1977 issue of 'Sabretache' on 'The Tasmanian Corps Torpedo Boat'.

The torpedo boats 'Nepean' and 'Lonsdale' referred to in the first paragraph were not built for New South Wales, but for Victoria. Unfortunately, some blame falls upon this office, since Mr. White forwarded a preliminary draft for comment, but the error was not picked up by the relieving officer during my absence on leave. On my return I saw the draft, but inexplicably also missed the error.

In his final paragraph Mr. White implies that the transfer of the Tasmanian boat to South Australia occurred in 1900, but in fact it was between 6 March 1905 and 3 May 1905. The vessel was towed from Hobart to Adelaide by H.M.A.S. Protector, probably departing late in April 1905 and presumably arriving on 3 May 1905. This has been established from references in the report by the Director of the Naval Forces for the year 1905, which is held by the Australian Archives, Melbourne. A copy of the report was supplied to Mr. White by Australian Archives.

It will be noted that Mr. White acknowledges the assistance of Australian Archives. I am unable to understand why he produced such a misleading account.

I am writing to Mr. White to draw his attention to the errors.

—J. M. MACKENZIE, Historian  
Department of Defence (Navy Office).

Dear Sir

I noticed with interest the photograph of the badge of the Adelaide Rifles, c. 1895-1903, on p. 44, Sabretache Vol. XVIII No. 1. Whilst I am not a "badgeman" I believe that this badge may have been used some time prior to 1895.

I have a photograph of a group of South Australian Medical Corps (Volunteer?) which clearly shows several members of the group wearing this badge on their bonnets. The photograph names seven of the 16 men shown and was taken at "Easter Camp, 1890 at Black Forest" (now a Southern Adelaide suburb). I hope that this is of interest to the badge buffs.

—A. F. HARRIS

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## **NOTICE TO MEDAL COLLECTORS**

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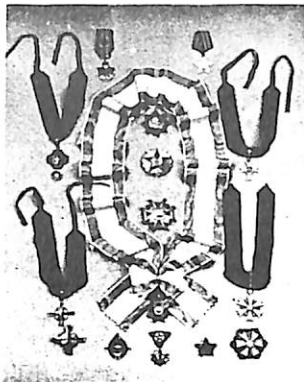
**GROUP — MC dated 1941, 1939-45 Star, Africa Star, Defence, War, Aust Service to QX5152 G. Stewart.**

**PAIR — BWM and Mercantile Marine to 388 Frank S. Durwood, Australia.**

**Naval LS & GCM (Geo V) to 228079 R. Pritchard P.O. HMAS Platypus.**

**Naval LS & GCM (Geo VI) to 3745 A. P. Duncan C.P.O. HMAS Moreton.**

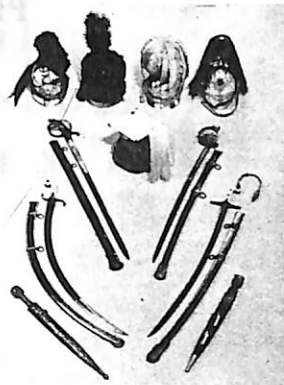
**QSA 3 Bars to 1505 Pte. J. J. Nugent Victoria MR.**



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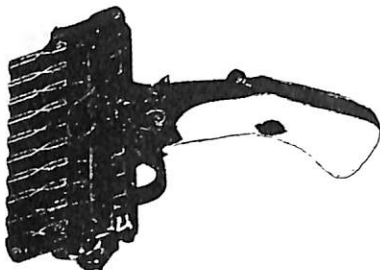
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