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Sabretache



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SABRETA CHE

JOURNAL OF
THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF AUSTRALIA



Vol XVIII

OCTOBER, 1977

No. 4

Registered for posting as a publication, Category 'B'. Price \$3.00

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"SABRETACHE"

JOURNAL AND PROCEEDINGS OF
THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF AUSTRALIA

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Featured on Cover: Instructor Captain M. H. Moyes, OBE, BSc, RAN(Ret)

(An article about Captain Moyes appears on page 232)

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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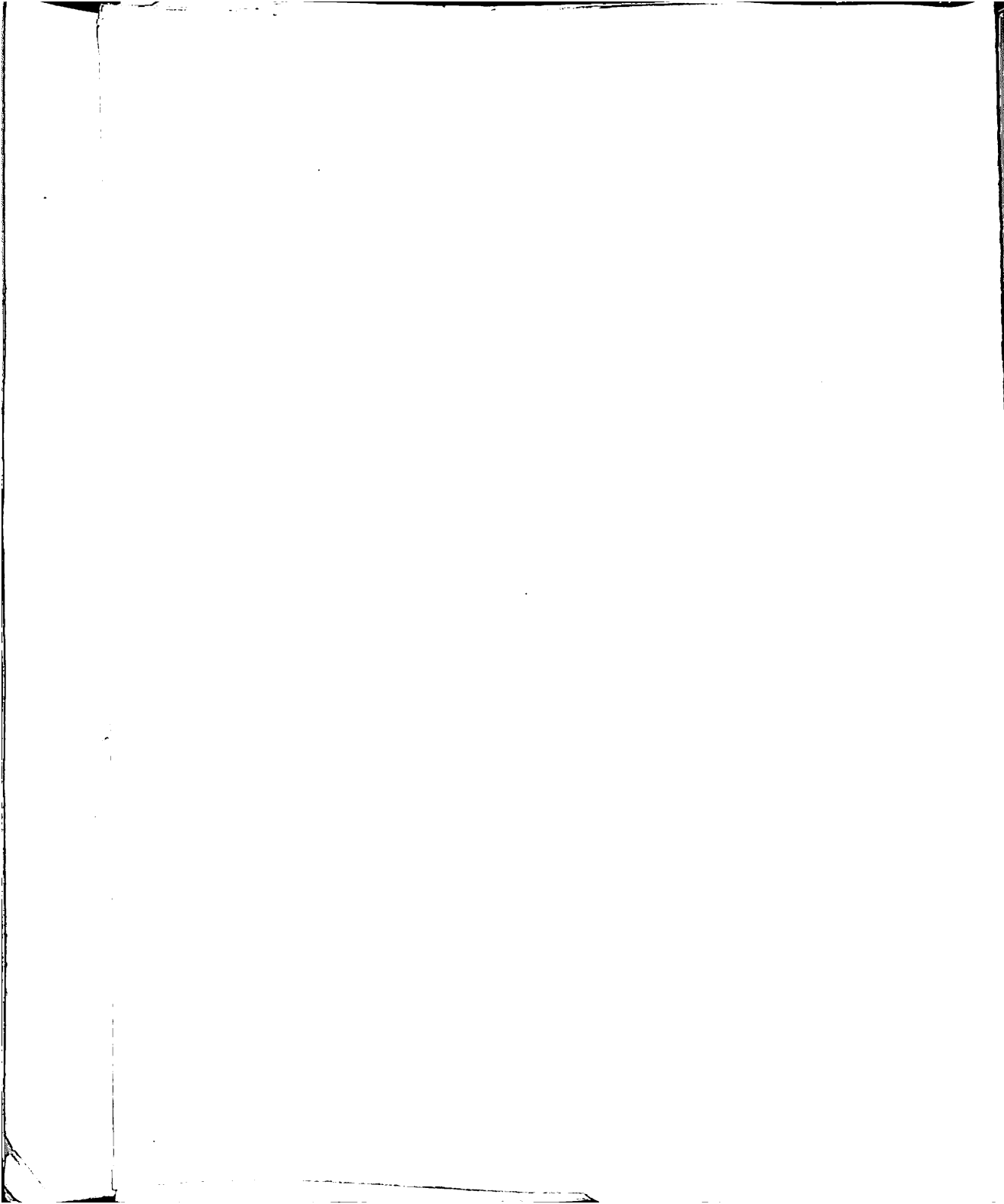
Mr I. D. Jenkins

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.



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IN MEMORIUM

Members will be saddened to hear of the untimely death on 13th August 1977 of
JULIAN GRIFFITHS

Secretary of the South Australian Branch, following a serious illness. Aged 27 years, his interest and knowledge of Military History, which he was so willing to share with others, was a credit to himself and the Society; he will be sadly missed by his many friends and colleagues. We extend our condolences to his parents and brother.

Deepest sympathy is also extended to the wife and four young children of Victorian member

Major ADRIAN KIRBY, E.D.

who died as a result of a car accident in Gippsland on 29th September 1977. Aged 46, Major Kirby was an enthusiastic medal collector, a keen reader and researcher of military history, and a member of the Victorian Scottish Regiment from 1948 until recent years. His death is keenly felt by his many friends.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

It is with much pleasure that I advise you of our new Patron, General Sir John Wilton, KBE, CB, DSO. General Sir John has a long and distinguished record as one of Australia's foremost soldiers and his support of the Society is most sincerely welcomed.

On behalf of the Society I would at the same time like to thank our past Patron, Major Warren Perry, who has kept a fatherly eye on us for the past five years. We trust his interest in the Society will continue and we wish him well for the future.

Our request in the last issue to members and readers for financial assistance has provided some much needed working capital. The individual contributions are acknowledged below and it is hoped to publish a further list in the next issue of "Sabretache". I would also like to take the opportunity to remind members who have yet to pay their annual subscription to do so as early as possible. In the near future it is intended to publish a directory of financial members, so those who delay too long risk being deleted from the mailing list.

I would ask that our advertisers do read the small print concerning advertisements on page 230. It is for your benefit as well as the Society's.

As this will be the last issue for 1977, I will wish you, your families and your friends the compliments of the season for the forthcoming Christmas and New Year.

Donations to the Society

Federal Council wishes to acknowledge with thanks the generous support of the following for their donations to assist the Society in meeting its commitments, principally in the production of "Sabretache".

Ted Rigley
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M.H.S.A.'s NEW PATRON

General Sir John Wilton, KBE, CB, DSO, idc, psc.

Born in Sydney on 22nd November 1910, John Gordon Noel Wilton is the son of Noel V. S. Wilton, an electrical engineer of Grafton, New South Wales. He was educated at Grafton High School and entered the Royal Military College, Duntroon, in 1927. He graduated in December 1930 and was allotted, not to the Australian Staff Corps, but to the British Army, owing to the depression; he consequently spent eight and a half years with the British Army, from 1931 to 1939, serving in the U.K., India and Burma.

During World War II he served with the A.I.F. in the Middle East 1940-41 and in New Guinea 1942-43. In August 1943 he went to Washington with the Australian Military Mission and remained there until February 1945. He finished the war with the rank of Colonel and for his war services was awarded the D.S.O. in 1944 and an O.B.E. in 1946. He became Deputy Director of Military Operations and Plans, a post he retained until November 1951. He next attended the Imperial Defence College in England, and in February 1953 took command of 28 British Commonwealth Infantry Brigade in Korea for a year, earning a C.B.E. After three years in Eastern Command as Brigadier in charge of administration and as Brigadier on the General Staff at Army Headquarters, he was appointed Commandant of Duntroon in March 1957 and promoted Major-General.

In 1960 he became Chief of the Military Planning Office of SEATO in Bangkok for two years and was made C.B. in 1962. On 21st January 1963 he became Chief of the General Staff with rank of Lieutenant-General, only the fifth R.M.C. graduate to reach the position. He was created K.B.E. in 1964. He relinquished the CGS post on 18th May 1966 and the following day became Australia's third Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, succeeding Air Chief Marshal Sir Frederick Scherger. He was promoted full General on 1st September 1968, thereby becoming the first RMC graduate to attain that rank and only the sixth Australian soldier to do so. General Wilton retired in 1970, but in 1973 continued his fine record of service by becoming Australian Consul-General in New York until 1975.



General Sir John Wilton.
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ON ACTIVE SERVICE IN BURMA, 1887

By H. P. AIREY*

About the latter end of November, 1886, a telegram appeared in the Sydney daily papers from His Excellency General Sir Frederick Roberts,¹ Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, who was then at the head of the forces in Burma, addressed to the Government of India, and asking for more officers. Lieutenant Le Mesurier,² of the New South Wales Artillery, called my attention to this telegram, and after talking the matter over, we went down to Government House to ask Lord Carrington³ whether he thought that our services, if offered, would be accepted by the Indian Government.

Lord Carrington told us that he thought it just possible, and that he would ask by wire. We thereupon sent in an application for six months' leave of absence. Other officers of the New South Wales Artillery also wished to go to Burma; but eventually, and after the greatest difficulty, leave of absence from the colony was granted to myself only. So vexatious, however, had been the delay, that I did not receive the information that I could go until Christmas Eve.

His Excellency the Governor most kindly gave me letters of introduction to General Roberts, Lord Beresford,⁴ military secretary to the Viceroy, and Colonel Pole-Carew,⁵ private secretary to the Commander-in-Chief. Major-General Richardson,⁶ Colonel Roberts,⁷ Colonel Bingham, R.A.⁸ and Major Bunbury, R.A.,⁹ also most kindly gave letters to take with me, some to officers commanding, others to personal friends of their own. These letters were of invaluable service to me, and enabled me to go to the front as soon as possible; indeed, I do not think that my services would have been accepted in Burma save for the urgency of Lord Carrington's letters.

The s.s. "Rome" having left Sydney on Christmas Eve, I was able to join her at Melbourne by rail, leaving Victoria Barracks on the 27th of December. Colombo was reached on the 17th of January, and finding that there was no boat to Calcutta for the next ten days, and time being of the utmost importance to me, as I always had before me a horrible dread lest the war in Burma should be over before I could get there, I took a boat sailing next day for Bombay, at which place I arrived on the evening of the 20th. After a sort of scratch dinner, I took a gharrie

and drove to the Major of Brigade's bungalow. As it was after 9 p.m., and he did not know me, he was naturally surprised at seeing me then; but, on explaining to him who I was, and that I very particularly wished to see the officer commanding at Bombay as early as possible the next day, with a view to obtain leave from him to go on to Calcutta, the Brigade-Major asked me to meet him next morning, when he would introduce me to General Heathcote,¹⁰ who was then in command, in the absence of the Duke of Connaught¹¹ on inspection duty.

The next day I was introduced to General Heathcote, and showed him General Richardson's letter. He told me that they had heard that an Australian officer was coming to India on his way to Burma, but that they had not expected him for some weeks; further, he said that he would telegraph to the Adjutant-General, Simla, that the Australian officer had arrived. He was particularly anxious that I should either wait in Bombay for four or five days until the return of H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, or go and report myself to him at Poona. I did not wish to do this, my object being to get to Burma as soon as possible. He then gave me permission to go on that evening.

That afternoon General Heathcote sent me by an orderly a railway pass, and I was informed that a sleeping berth had been taken for me in the mail train leaving that evening for Calcutta, and that I might take five servants and as much luggage as I required. I engaged two servants who went with me to Burma, a Hindoo and a Mussulman. This trip by rail, over a distance of 985 miles, lasted from Saturday 6 p.m. till Tuesday 5 a.m. The carriage was quite full and among my fellow-passengers was a Mr. Merks, who had been surveying the country round Herat, with a view to us occupying it in the event of war with Russia.

Howrah, the Calcutta station, was reached at daylight on Tuesday. I went to the Great Eastern Hotel, and after breakfast got into uniform and went to report my arrival to the Adjutant-General. Fortunately for me it was General Chapman,¹² to whom Colonel Bingham had given me a letter. He was most kind, and at once telegraphed to Mandalay to General Roberts to say that I had arrived. He asked me to call again next day, when he would have some answer to his message about me.

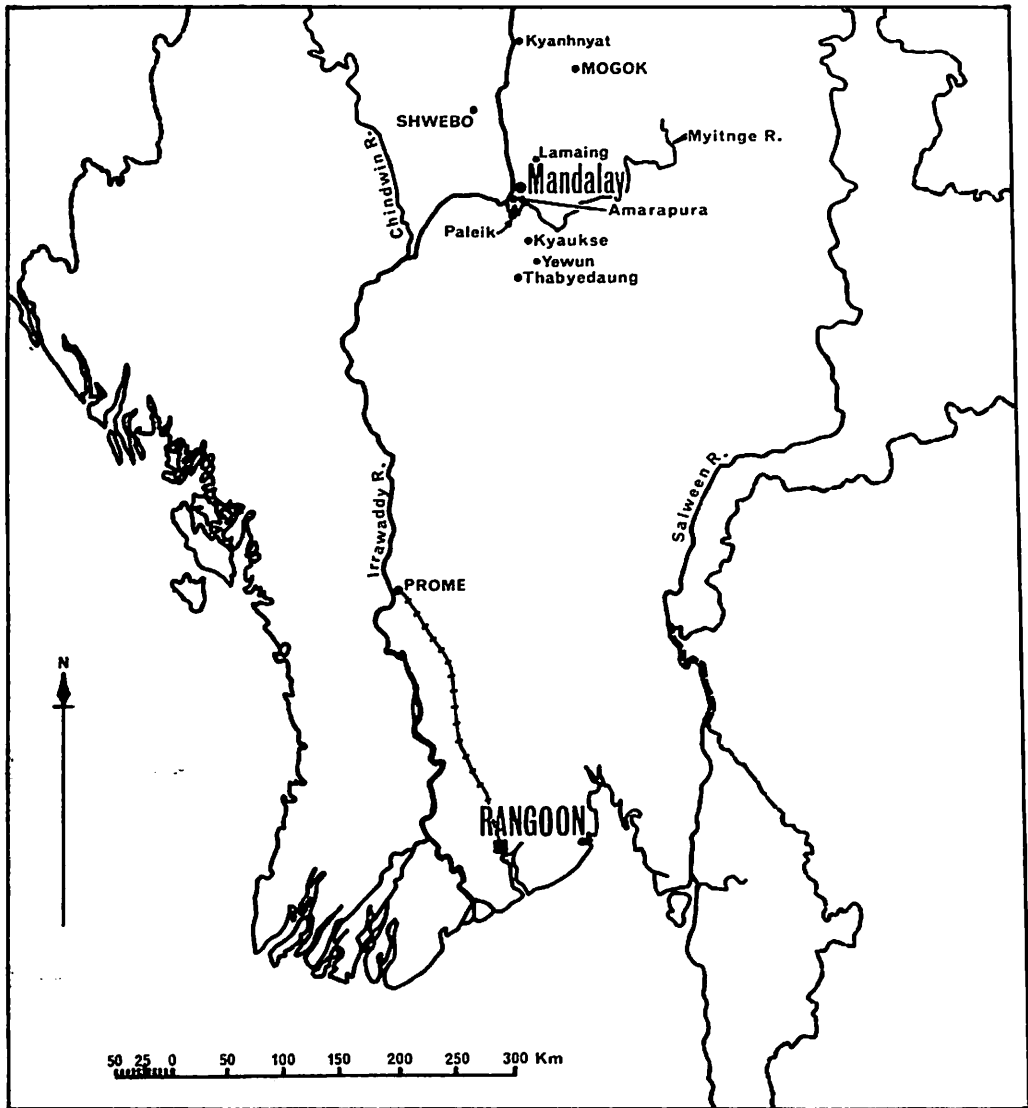
I next went to Government House to deliver Lord Carrington's letter of introduction to Lord William Beresford. He could not possibly have been more kind to me than he was then and during the three days I had to remain in Calcutta. I had to go and see Colonel Cullen,¹³ the military secretary to the Government of India, and was agreeably surprised to find he was the same Colonel Cullen who

had been in Suakim, when the New South Wales contingent was there. He asked after General Richardson, and kindly alluded to my having wished to stay behind in the Soudan when the contingent left it. He told me what Lord William Beresford had also said, that on the receipt of Lord Carrington's first message of inquiry on the subject of my offer, the Governor-General had wired to the Secretary of State for India asking if my services could be accepted, as, of course, the New South Wales Artillery are not on the Indian roster. The reply to this was, Yes.

Colonel Cullen wished to know what sort of work I desired to do. I could only reply that above all I wanted to be sent to the front at once. On the afternoon of the same day I received an official letter from Colonel Cullen saying that the Government of India accepted my services, and offering me an appointment for three years in Burma. This offer I had to decline at once, as I had only got six months' leave of absence. Next morning I received a second letter saying that my services were accepted for any time that they might be available up to three years; that I should be paid from that date as a staff-captain, plus the salary attached to any special duty given me to do in Burma; and also that I was to apply at once to the D.A.Q.M.G., at Fort William, for a passage in the mail steamer leaving for Rangoon on the following Friday.

Thursday I spent in getting my traps together and making preparations for the journey. I had to get khaki clothing and a Sam Browne belt, a rifle bucket to fix on the saddle, camp bed, cooking utensils, bath, basin, and various other necessary articles, which had all to be chosen with an eye to being easily packed on mule-back. Next day, after getting all my belongings together, I went on board the British India s.s. "Rajpootana" in the evening. Next morning we made a start for Rangoon. The "Rajpootana" is only a small boat, and I think it used formerly to run to and from Brisbane and Sydney. She had on board, however, some 800 passengers, nearly all Indians and Burmese, who lay packed like sardines on the deck. Fortunately, the trip only lasted three days and a half, and the sea was as smooth as the Parramatta River.

On arriving at Rangoon, I reported myself to General Gordon,¹⁴ who was in command, and also to the Brigade-Major. The latter showed me a telegram from the Commander-in-Chief, to the effect that I was to go on to Mandalay and report myself to General Sir George White.¹⁵ The same evening I left Rangoon by rail. Our train had a pilot engine all the way as the line had been tampered with and shots fired at the train a few nights previously to this. Prone (Prome), the end of the line, was reached next morning at daylight, and luggage and passengers were



Burma.

exchanged into the Irawaddy Company's boat, the "Maumain". These boats are built like the American river steamers and always anchor at night, as there are no lights anywhere to show the proper channels. Every ten miles or so they take on board Burmese who are supposed to know the deepest channels for the short distance they pilot the boat. Sometimes the river was only five hundred yards wide, and again, farther on, it would be nearly five miles from bank to bank. The steamers frequently get aground, although nearly flat-bottomed, and drawing only four or four-and-a-half feet of water.

On our way up we passed two armed river boats, both manned by parties from H.M.S. "Ranger", and carrying Nordenfeldt guns. They patrol the rivers to prevent Dacoits from crossing, but I did not hear that they had been fortunate enough to meet with any. The s.s. "Sir Frederick Peel", with General Roberts and the whole of his staff on board, also passed us on the way down to Rangoon, en route for Calcutta. I was greatly disappointed at not meeting General Roberts, as I had letters from our Governor (Lord Carrington), Colonel Roberts, and Colonel Bingham, to nearly all his staff, as well as to the Commander-in-Chief himself.

We reached Mandalay on Friday, the 4th February. We got on shore at about 11 a.m., all officers wearing khaki uniforms, and after getting my luggage and putting it in a bullock gharrie, I drove in one of the Mandalay cabs to the Palace, where General White, Commander-in-Chief in Upper Burma, had his headquarters.

The whole of the Headquarters staff were quartered in the palace of the deposed King Theebaw, and also the 2nd Battalion Hampshire and the Somersetshire regiments, together with a detachment of Royal Artillery and two regiments of native infantry. Outside the palace there were the 13th Madras Infantry and the 7th Bengal Cavalry, and the Hyderabad contingent.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief received me most kindly, and after some conversation, gave me a letter which Colonel Pole-Carew had left with him for me. This letter had been addressed to me by Colonel Pole-Carew at the desire of Sir Frederick Roberts, and for it I really had to thank Lord Carrington, as it was entirely owing to the kind letters written by him that much that might otherwise have been disagreeable was made easy and pleasant.

General White wished to know what I desired to do. My answer, of course, was to see active service as soon as possible. He then told me that a column had left Mandalay two days previously under the command of Major (now Colonel) Deshon, R.A.,¹⁶ but that I could not overtake it. Upon my urging him to let me

try to do so, he went with me to the quarters of General East,¹⁷ who was in command of the 1st Brigade, to which the column belonged. They talked together for a few moments, and then sent for Colonel Protheroe,¹⁸ who was in command of transport, and asked him what could be done to forward my wish. These officers finally agreed that I was to start next morning, and try and overtake the column, which had, fortunately for me, been delayed some twenty-two miles out.

General White took me to the gunners' quarters and introduced me to Colonel Bugden,¹⁹ officer commanding the Royal Artillery. I was given a room next to their mess, of which they made me an honorary member there and then. This room I retained until I finally left Mandalay. I was also made a member of the Headquarters mess, which had for its mess room a most marvellous apartment. In length it was more than 60ft., and in breadth 22ft., and height 22 ft.; the walls and roof were of dark coloured wood, and round the sides were enormous mirrors, while pieces of glass of various colours glistened and sparkled over the whole expanse of the walls. At intervals of about 6ft. there were huge pillars composed of the trunks of teak trees, each 18 inches in diameter; from the floor to a height of 3ft. they were painted red and the remainder was gilt. Down the centre ran a long table, at which were some 30 officers, some in khaki, some in blue, and others in scarlet, each with an Indian servant clad in spotless white behind his chair. The whole effect was more like a scene out of the "Arabian Nights" than anything else.

After mess I went to my room, which I was told had belonged to the queen mother, and with the help of my two servants got things straight for starting next morning. The Royal Artillery messman put me up what I should require in the way of catables, such as biscuits, cocoa, potted meats, and a bottle of whisky, as nothing is procurable on the expedition, and each officer of the column had taken something similar. The Commissariat Department supplied biscuit, more or less weevily, Chicago tinned meat - the N.S.W. contingent men will recollect what nice stuff the 'red bully beef' was - and tea to the men, and also a tot of rum per man, daily. After much trouble in finding the two ponies and three mules provided for me, I finally got fairly away about 8 a.m. The pony I rode was barely thirteen hands, but wonderfully strong.

A Burman had been engaged by transport authorities to go with me as a guide. He kindly accompanied me for half-a-mile and then bolted. About three miles from the palace the Hyderabad contingent were encamped, and, after breakfasting with them, they gave me an escort of one corporal and three men.

The dress which I wore was most comfortable, either for riding or walking - khaki cloth patrol jacket with no braid and lots of pockets, brown helmet, cord breeches and field-service boots of brown leather, laced across the instep, and reaching as high as the calf of one's leg; Sam Browne belt for sword and revolver, and a Martini-Henry short rifle in a bucket fixed on to the saddle. At 3 o'clock I arrived at a place called Tamain (possibly Lamaing), a stockaded outpost, held by some fifty Sikhs. The road had hitherto been along a large lagoon, on which were countless ducks, snipe, and strange-looking birds. I changed my escort ponies and mules for fresh ones, and started again. After a most interesting ride of fourteen miles through a dense jungle, where there was only a narrow track cleared, sufficient for a bullock gharrie to get through, we came to the bank of a strong-running river. It was 8 p.m., and quite dark, as mules and ponies travel very slowly, the former seldom exceeding three miles an hour. On the journey they are invariably tied together in single file, as the tracks often would not allow two abreast. On the opposite side of the river, which was 30 yards wide, the column, which I had come to join, was encamped. I crossed on a raft, made of bamboos lashed together, taking my luggage, and my two servants, bearer and syce, who were with me. I had left my khitmutgar at Mandalay to look after the rest of my possessions in my room at the palace. The ponies and mules crossed the river by swimming alongside the raft.

Major Deshon's column was composed of 15 gunners of the Royal Artillery, with two Gardner guns (a weapon which superseded the Gatling Gun), 75 men of the Somersetshire Regiment, 80 Hyderabads and 120 men of the 17th Madras Infantry.

After a long talk round the camp-fire with Major Deshon and the other officers, we all turned in for the night. A tent belonging to the hospital department was given to me as I had come without any, being informed by the authorities at Mandalay that there was no necessity to take one. We struck camp at daylight on Sunday morning, that is about 6.30 a.m. All the luggage, excepting that which two elephants carried, was packed on mules and ponies. Nearly all the transport is carried out by a race of hill Chinamen, called Panthays; they contract with the troops to carry all their luggage, etc., for so many days; they are a sturdier race than the Burmese or the Indian native, the Gurkha excepted.

The Royal Artillery always have Government transport mules for their guns; they are better cared for and are finer animals altogether. They are invariably

groomed by the gunners, and their harness and trappings kept as clean and bright as possible; these are always picketed with the proper line gear of head and heel ropes. Although the marches were frequently most fatiguing, the men, whether gunners, linesmen or Indian troops, kept all their belongings in very good order. Our march lay through the jungle. An advance guard is kept, of course; but it is quite impossible, on account of the denseness of the undergrowth, to put out men for flanking purposes. Our camping-ground was a deserted village, which had, we had been told by some Burmese whom we met, been looted by some Dacoits a short time previous. As far as I could make out, these Dacoits were either small parties of the troops possessed by King Theebaw, or what we should call gangs of bushrangers; only rather large gangs, as they sometimes number 700 or 1000 strong.

Next day soon after our start we had to cross a river which was about sixty yards wide and of fair current. First it was decided to make the passage on rafts of bamboo which the Hyderabads were supposed to be expert in using. These, however, failed, and one of the men was nearly drowned through the raft striking a snag. So the men took off their trousers and boots and waded through the water, which was about up to their waists.

After putting on their garments, the Hyderabads were thrown out in skirmishing order, and, with some of the Somersets as a support advanced to the village, but found it deserted. Some few Burmans or Dacoits were seen in the jungle on the far side of the village, who, on the approach of the Hyderabads, fired two or three shots at them and then bolted into the thicker parts followed by the bullets of the soldiers. None of our men were hit, nor do I think were any of theirs. After marching for about eight hours, the ascent became very steep, and in the last four of a ten miles' march we ascended 2200 feet. Fortunately, there was any quantity of water, as the path crossed a great number of streams. The men force the beef tins open with their bayonets and eat as they go along. We only made one regular halt, and that for about five minutes. The men were obliged to go in single file as the path was so narrow. All the animals got up fairly well, the elephants being the best climbers. As we ascended the hill we found that here and there trees had been felled and thrown across the path, as if the people had intended to make a stand. Next day the commanding officer took 50 Somersets, 50 Hyderabads, 30 Madras Native Infantry, and 1 Gardner gun, and leaving camp at 3.30 a.m. reached a

village before dawn where the spies had reported Dacoits to be. The men were ordered to lie down after being extended nearly all round the place, and, as soon as it was light enough to see, they rose and rushed into the vilage, but found it also deserted. It is almost impossible to get reliable information about the Dacoits, and still more difficult to surprise them. We all returned to camp about noon.

Next day, while on the march, the advance guard met a party of Dacoits, who fired on them, and then, as usual, fled into the bush, which, as it happened unluckily for them, was not thick. The Somersets followed, firing; but it is difficult to shoot a man whose head you can only see now and then through the long grass, while both parties are running as fast as they can. However, two Dacoits fell. I was mounted and calling to the Somersets not to shoot me if they could help it. I hustled my pony after one of the Dacoits, who, as he ran, kept turning round and firing. Luckily, just before I reached him, he fell, so I was able to jump from my horse and take him prisoner. His gun and dha, a sort of sword they use, were taken from him, and, with his hands tied behind him, he was marched into the camp.

Next day the column remained in camp, and some of the men making a small redoubt, as a detachment of the Somersets, and the Madras Infantry, were to remain here. Long bamboos were lashed together, and a sort of zareba made of them; a ditch was dug outside the bamboo fence, and the earth taken from it was built up over the fence making it bullet-proof to the guns of the Dacoits.

On the 11th February the column was partly broken up while the transport officer went back for fresh supplies of rations, taking with him also a party of sick.

The Gardner guns went on a short distance to the foot of a hill, marching on next day. The force consisted of 30 rifles under a native officer and a few Somersets. Fifty Hyderabads and 30 Somersets went up to Pazee (unlocated), but met no Dacoits. Pazee is a fair-sized village, about 4770 feet above sea level. The remainder of the column, after marching for nine-and-a-half hours and searching different hills, got to Pazee in the evening. Four or five of the villagers had remained. They were questioned by Mr. Green, Assistant Commissioner, the civil officer with the column, and then allowed to go.

On the 12th, Major Deshon, Mr. Green and myself, and 30 of the Hyderabads, searched some of the roads leading across the hills. We came across a stockade made by Burmese. It was 4ft. high and very like a log fence. In shape it was like the three sides of an oblong, the front being about 12ft. long and the ends 8ft. The rear is left open so that after firing a few shots there is a clear outlet for flight.

(Continued p. 267)

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The prohibitions against misleading or deceptive conduct and certain other specified conduct in advertising are contained in various sections of the Act, some of which are as follows:

Section 52 of the Act provides in effect that no person or incorporated body whether within or in some cases outside Australia shall engage in conduct that is misleading or deceptive, in trade or commerce.

Section 53 of the Act provides in effect that it shall be a criminal offence for a person or incorporated body whether within or, in some cases, outside Australia, in trade or commerce in connection with the actual or possible supply of goods or services or in connection with the promotion by any means of the supply or use of goods or services—

- “(a) falsely represent that goods or services are of a particular standard, quality or grade or that goods are of a particular style or model;
- (b) falsely represent that goods are new;
- (c) represent that goods or services have sponsorship, approval, performance characteristics, ac-

cessories, uses or benefits they do not have;

- (d) represent that the corporation has a sponsorship, approval or affiliation it does not have;
- (e) make false or misleading statements concerning the existence of, or amounts of, price reductions;
- (f) make false or misleading statements concerning the need for any goods, services, replacements or repairs; or
- (g) make false or misleading statements concerning the existence or effect of any Warranty or guarantee.”

The penalties provided for breach of this section are, in the case of a person, a fine of \$10,000 or 6 months' imprisonment, and in the case of an incorporated body by a fine of \$50,000. Additionally the court may grant an injunction restraining a person from engaging in conduct that constitutes a contravention of the Act. A person who suffers loss or damage as a result of a contravention of the Act may recover the amount of the loss or damage by action against that person.

Section 54 of the Act prohibits the offering of gifts, prizes or other free items with the intention of not providing them as offered.

By **Section 55** of the Act a person or incorporated body whether within or in some cases outside Australia in trade or commerce shall not engage in conduct that is liable to mislead the public as to the nature, the manufacturing process, the characteristics, the suitability for their purpose or the quantity of any goods.

By **Section 56** of the Act there is a prohibition against "bait advertising" or advertising goods or services at a special price not intended to offer for supply at that price.

By **Section 57** of the Act the practice of referral selling is prohibited.

By **Section 58** of the Act the practice of accepting payment without intending to supply goods or services rendered is prohibited.

By **Section 59** of the Act the making of false or misleading statements concerning profitability or risk or any other material aspect of any business activity is prohibited.

It is clearly impossible for the Society to ensure that all advertisements published strictly comply with

the provisions of the Act. We will, however, take what action is available to us in this regard by carefully scrutinising all advertising material presented to us for publication. Advertisers and individuals involved in the preparation of advertisements must bear the prime responsibility for ensuring that advertisements do not contravene the prohibitions contained in the Act.

As a general rule advertisers should, in order to avoid contraventions of the prohibitions, make their advertisements informative and ensure that claims made are capable of substantiation. Where doubts exist it may be in your interest to seek legal advice prior to submitting advertisements for publication.

STOLEN MEDAL

A gold medal presented to FRANCIS WARNER JACKSON (1889-1906) was stolen, with its case, from St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney, on 4th August. The medal was mounted on a shield made from a piece of H.M.S. "Conway", and the frame encasing the shield was made from timber from "Captain Cook II" and from "Sobraon". If any member comes across the medal or case please contact the Dean of Sydney, the Very Rev. Lance Shilton, at St. Andrew's (telephone 20642) or Detective Luke at Central Police Station, Sydney (telephone 20966).

WANTED

1914-15 Star, War Medal and Victory Medal awarded to Sgt. F. Gregory, R.F.A., known to have been bought from C. A. Lusted, Tunbridge Wells, England, by an Australian collector. Wanted to complete group, as have 3 bar IGS 1908.

Contact—PAUL SILVEY, CD, GENERAL DELIVERY, C.F.B. TRENTON, ASTRA, ONTARIO KOK 1BC, CANADA.

**WINNER OF THREE POLAR MEDALS:
INSTRUCTOR CAPTAIN M. H. MOYES, OBE, BSc, RAN
By I. C. TEAGUE**

Captain Morton Henry Moyes was born on 29th June 1886 at Koolunga, South Australia, and was educated at St. Peter's College, Adelaide, and the University of Adelaide. While at university he obtained blues for football and athletics, and was the high and broad jump champion of South Australia for the years 1906-1908. He also represented Queensland in the Australian Athletic Championships of 1909. He started a teaching career in 1908 as a science master at St. Peter's College; he later taught at Townsville and then Rockhampton Grammar School in Queensland.

He had been interested in the Antarctic for some time and in 1913 joined the second Base Party of the Australian Antarctic Expedition. This was the start of an 18-year association with the Antarctic which earned Captain Moyes three Polar Medals.

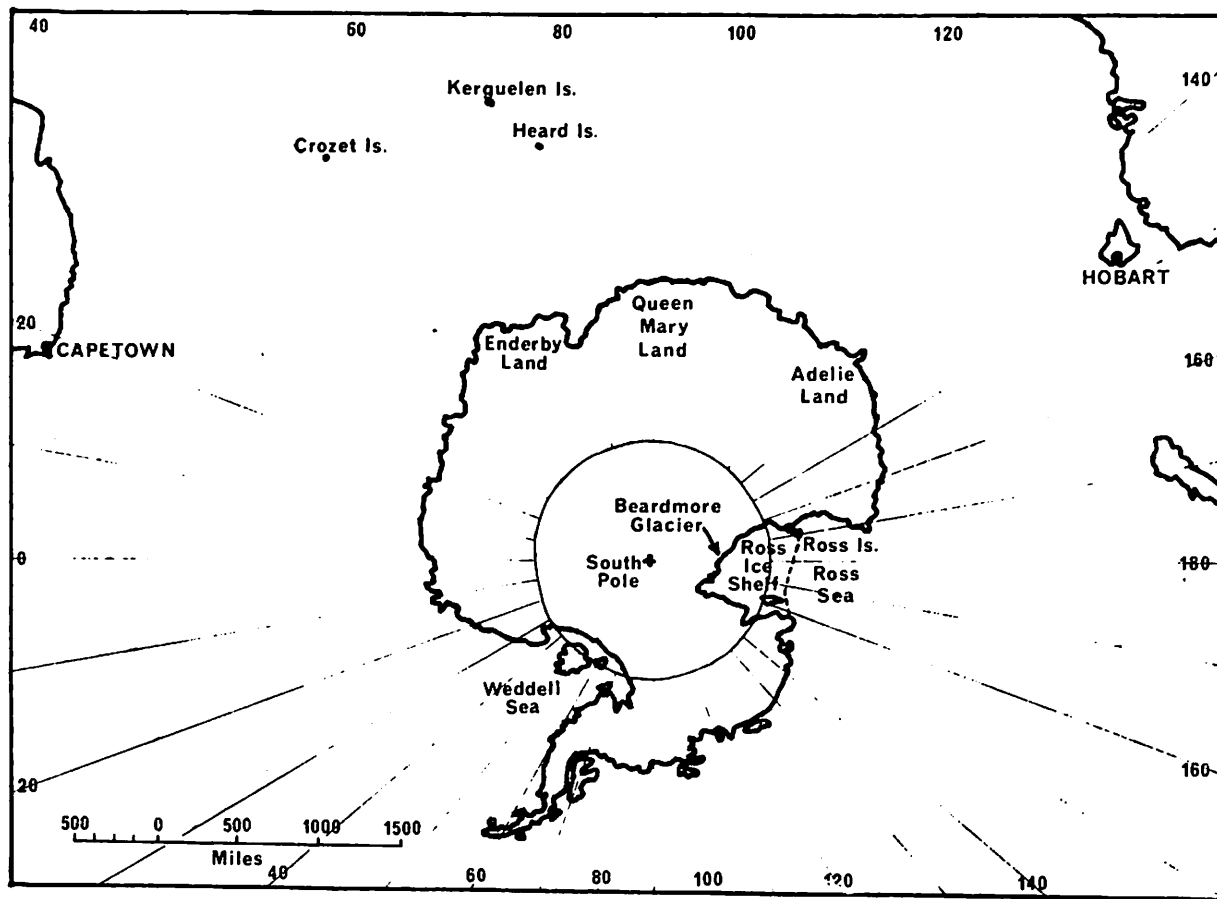
Silver Polar Medal 1913-1914

Awarded for service as Meteorologist at Mawson's 2nd Base in the Australian Antarctic Expedition of 1911-1914.

Dr. Mawson's party of 18 and their equipment were landed at Adelie Land in the middle of January 1913, and the ship "Aurora" sailed westwards through the ice-pack with the intention of landing a party of eight to establish a second base about 1200 miles from the Main Base. No land could be seen until the ship was more than 1200 miles from Adelie Land, but then high ice-covered land was discovered. The party landed and erected their hut on a large ice-shelf attached to the land.

During the year 1913 parties sledged to the east, west and south so that when the "Aurora" returned at the end of January 1914 more than 250 miles of the coastline of Queen Mary Land had been added to the chart and much meteorological, magnetic and geological information had been collected.

In January 1914 Moyes was appointed as an Instructor in navigation to the Naval College which was then situated at Geelong in Victoria. In March 1915 he joined HMAS "Encounter" and was at sea until the end of 1915 when he returned



Antarctica.

to the Naval College. In 1916 Captain John K. Davis, the master of the "Aurora", requested the services of Lieutenant Moyes (because of his previous Antarctic experience) to accompany a relief expedition to the Ross Sea for Ernest Shackleton.

Bronze Polar Medal 1916-17

Awarded for service with the Shackleton Relief Expedition to the Ross Sea.

In 1914 Sir Ernest Shackleton planned an expedition to cross the Antarctic continent from the Weddell Sea to the Ross Sea, via the South Pole. To ease the task of sledging the large amount of food required he planned to land a support party in the Ross Sea area with the task of placing food depots across the Ross Ice Shelf to the foot of the Beardmore Glacier, the final 400 miles for the trans-continental party. For the purpose he obtained Mawson's ship, the "Aurora", which left Hobart at the end of December 1914 for the Ross Sea with a landing party of nine. The "Aurora" returned to New Zealand in May 1916 with a story of disaster. On 5th May 1915, while moored near Captain Scott's 1910 hut on Ross Island, a storm caused a large mass of ice floe to move out and the "Aurora" was torn from her moorings to drift helplessly for 11 months until she became free and sailed to New Zealand. On the night of the disaster ten men were sleeping in the hut and they had only the clothing they were wearing at the time and no food except seal meat and sledging rations. There was no tinned fruit, vegetables, soap or tobacco.

At the request of the British Government a relief expedition was organised under the leadership of Captain Davis. It was not known what had happened in the last 18 months and it was feared that a search might be required. This would call for someone with Antarctic experience and Captain Davis requested that Lieutenant Moyes be seconded for that purpose. In the event a search was not necessary. Seven men were awaiting rescue and the other three were dead (one from heart failure after severe scurvy and the other two by drowning).

Moyes married on 11th January 1919. He was promoted to the rank of Instructor Lieutenant Commander on 19th December 1916 and Instructor Commander on 22nd October 1924.

Bar to Bronze Polar Medal

For service as Survey Officer with the BANZARE 1929-1930.

In 1830 Captain Biscoe, Master of one of the Enderby Brothers' sealing ships, noted that in the south-west of the Indian Ocean, beyond a wide stretch of



Polar Medals (obverse).



Polar Medals (reverse).

ice-pack, he had seen "high white cliffs like the cliffs of Dover" and high mountains. He called the area Enderby Land. It had never been landed on, or claimed, but in the late 1920's England realised that other nations were interested in the Antarctic area and asked Australia to organise an expedition.

England supplied Captain Scott with the ship "Discovery" and a scientific team, headed by Sir Douglas Mawson, boarded her at Capetown in November 1929. Carrying out oceanographic work the "Discovery" made her way to Enderby Land via Crozet, Kerguelen and Heard Islands, and in January 1930 Sir Douglas raised the Union Jack on Enderby Land.

Moyes was awarded the O.B.E. for outstanding service in the New Year's Honours of January 1935. He was promoted Instructor Acting Captain on 30th June 1941 and appointed Director of Education for the RAN. He retired as an Instructor Captain on 29th June 1946. Captain Moyes currently lives in Sydney and still displays an active interest in Antarctica. Like many Australians he is particularly interested in what developments the next few years will bring regarding Australia's land claims in Antarctica.

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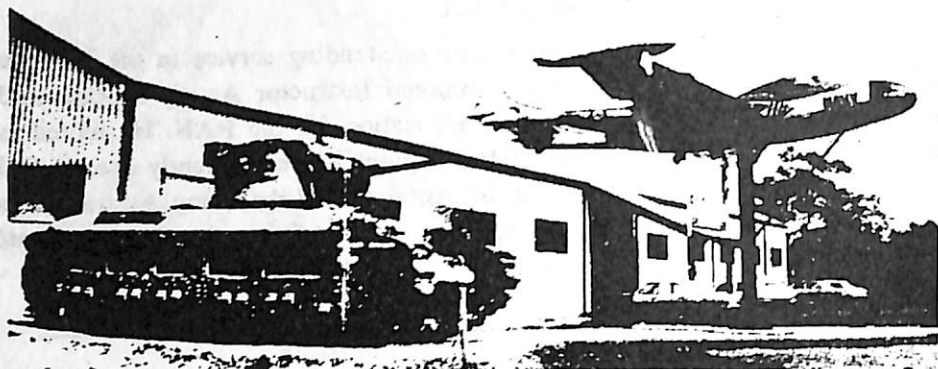
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MAJOR JAMES LIONEL FLETCHER,

DSO, MC and BAR, MID

By R. CLARK

On the 18th August 1977 one of the last surviving great and gallant combat leaders of the 1st A.I.F. passed away. James Lionel Fletcher, holder of the Distinguished Service Order, two Military Crosses, mentioned in despatches and wounded four times, was a veteran of both world wars.

J. L. Fletcher was born at Warwick, Queensland, on the 4th December 1890, being the son of George Frederick and Matilda Fletcher (nee Roper). After education at the Sandy Creek State School (near Warwick), during which he spent four years in the Cadets and 18 months (July 1911-December 1912) in the Senior Cadets under the Universal Training Scheme, he became a trainee school teacher and prior to enlistment in the A.I.F. taught at the Warwick and Cunnamulla State schools. After the war, at Cunnamulla, Queensland, on the 22nd April 1920, James Fletcher married Leila Warner and they had four children: Janet Roper, Marion, George and Leila. Except for service in the Second World War, James Fletcher farmed at Palmwoods from 1920 until he retired in 1973.

James L. Fletcher enlisted as a private in February 1915, was soon promoted to sergeant, and promoted to lieutenant in 1915 before leaving Queensland, and at the end of war was one of the two original officers still with his battalion, the 25th. His combat experiences covered Gallipoli, Egypt, and the whole of the campaign of the Western Front. At the battle at Pozieres he was slightly wounded in the hand, and later severely wounded in the knee. For his gallantry and valuable information gathered in this battle he was recommended for the D.S.O. but was finally awarded the M.C. and promoted to Captain. He was the only officer of his battalion to survive unharmed the ghastly battle of Flers, all the other officers being either killed or wounded. At Zonnobeke he was again severely wounded, this time in the thigh. Later on, when the Australian forces made their memorable rush to Amiens to stem the German advance, he was in many engagements and received a rather bad wound in the left arm two days prior to the successful battle near Saily Laurette and Morlancourt. He remained on duty and was in command of the attacking forces of his battalion. For his services in this fight he received a bar to his Military Cross. Captain Fletcher was promoted to temporary major and

was in temporary command of his battalion during the absence of the Commanding Officer.

Fletcher was awarded the D.S.O. for conspicuous gallantry and leadership in the attack on Mont St. Quentin. The notification states: " At Mont St. Quentin N.E. of Peronas on the 2nd September 1918, this officer was commanding 'A' Company. Very strong resistance in the shape of heavy machine gun fire was encountered. After a personal forward reconnaissance, Captain Fletcher's company surrounded the post, himself leading one party. While leading his party round, he had to bomb and clean up a machine gun nest, which he successfully did, capturing three guns, and accounting for a good number of the enemy. He finally surrounded the strong point, which, on being captured, was found to contain 17 machine guns and two trench mortars. He then reorganised his men and led the attack on the objective. When the objective was captured he went out under very heavy fire, and made personal reconnaissance for his forward posts. During the attack the acting commanding officer of the battalion had been wounded, but Captain Fletcher, although wounded, remained in the front line, and would not go back to battalion headquarters until the whole operation was cleared up. He took command of the whole front line, and by his gallantry and untiring efforts set a wonderful example to all. The prompt action, fine leadership, and very gallant conduct of Captain Fletcher was mainly responsible for the success of the operation, and saved many casualties, also causing heavy loss to the enemy."

The outstanding gallantry of Captain Fletcher is indicated in the following citations for the M.C.:

' For conspicuous gallantry in action. He laid telephone wires under heavy machine-gun and shell fire, and continued to maintain communications after the men with him had suffered severe casualties. On another occasion, though wounded, he refused to retire, and rallied his men under heavy shell fire.' (CAG No. 29765/16).

Bar to the M.C.:

' For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an attack on enemy trenches. Seeing his company held up on its right flank by heavy machine gun fire, he rallied the men, and rushed the enemy trench well ahead of them, killing six of the enemy with his revolver. He did very fine service.' (MO 87 of 15 Feb 19).

Fletcher was appointed to the Reserve of Officers on 1st January 1920. During the Second World War Captain Fletcher (Q120162) served for three years with the 1st Australian Garrison Battalion.

AIRFIX MODELS

As mentioned in the last issue, the Federal Secretary has a copy of the latest Airfix Kit Catalogue. Send him your order, where possible specifying the kit number as well as the name, and you will be pleased with the special price.

To plastic modellers Airfix needs no introduction, but I wonder if other members have considered enhancing a display of their militaria with an appropriate model. For example:

- a medal group awarded to a member of 460 Sqn RAAF teamed with a model of a Lancaster
- a pair of armoured vehicles mounted as bookends
- a display of bayonets with a group of infantry figures.

The variety is limited only by your imagination.

Don't put yourself off by saying that even if you could assemble a kit you have neither the time nor the skill to paint it accurately. These models can be very eye-catching if painted all over in silver or gold. If you give it a try, share your ideas with other members by a short letter to the Editor.

For the more serious modeller the range is very wide and conversion possibilities boundless. Aircraft (ancient and modern), vehicles of all types, cars and ships are available in scales from 1:24 to 1:1200. The range of figures in OO/HO is well known, but have you seen the 54mm Collectors' Series or the 1:32 Multi-purpose figures? The 1911 Prince Henry Vauxhall and "Old Bill" double decker bus have possibilities for 1914-18 dioramas.

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ABORIGINE MEDAL-WINNERS

By C. D. COULTHARD-CLARK

One of the less well-known aspects of Australia's participation in the First World War is the service in the ranks of the A.I.F. rendered by members of Australia's native population. Some 300 aborigines from New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland are known to have enlisted, and nearly a third of these became casualties.¹ It is also not well-known that at least three of these soldiers received awards for gallantry and at least one other was mentioned in despatches.

The highest-decorated aborigine "digger" was Corporal Albert Knight of the 43rd Battalion, who received the Distinguished Conduct Medal. Knight, a half-caste, was born in February or March 1894 at Toorale Station near Bourke, New South Wales. He became a station-hand in the Bourke area and enlisted at Dubbo on 4th November 1915. He embarked for overseas service in May 1916 and accompanied the 13th Battalion in England and France. While still a member of that unit he was wounded in action at Bullecourt on 11th April 1917. He was transferred to the 43rd Battalion on 6th September 1917 and was appointed Lance Corporal in December that year; a promotion to Temporary Corporal on 26th August 1918 carried with it command of a Lewis-gun section.

The action for which he received the D.C.M. occurred on 30th September 1918, during operations to break into the defences of the Hindenburg Line by the 3rd and 4th British Armies and French troops. The attack, involving the units of the 3rd Australian Division, was successfully launched on 29th September but became stalled near the strongly-fortified village of Bony. The 43rd Battalion was in the forefront when the advance resumed at 3.30 the following morning, and by 7 a.m. had reached the Hindenburg Line. The battalion continued clearing the enemy trench and by 1 p.m. was within 600 yards of Bony.² It was here that several bombing parties were held up by heavy machine gun and trench mortar fire. Knight, handling his section with great skill, worked his Lewis gun forward to a suitable position and handed over to his No. 1 before pushing forward with another non-commissioned officer to reconnoitre the enemy position. In broad daylight and in full view of the enemy lines, the two men moved from shell-hole to shell-hole for 300 yards through machine gun, trench mortar and artillery fire. Knight succeeded in locating several enemy machine guns and trench mortars and

returned with the information to friendly lines, with the result that artillery was successfully brought onto the troublesome weapons.

Knight was promoted Corporal on 24th October 1918 and received his D.C.M. award on 3rd June 1919. He returned to Australia in July and was discharged the following month. He reportedly died on 15th October 1973.

Considerably less is known of the military career of Private William Reginald Rawlings, one of two Victorians to win the Military Medal. He was a full-blooded aborigine, the son of William and Betty Rawlings of Purnim, and was born about December 1890. His father was noted as an athlete and won first place in a Forced Handicap Race at the 1884 Easter Athletics Meeting at Stawell;³ his youngest sister, Adelaide, became the grandmother of another noted sportsman, Lionel Rose, while another sister became the mother of Reg Saunders, distinguished soldier of the Second World War and the Korean War and the first aborigine to gain commissioned rank in the army.

Rawlings enlisted in the A.I.F. from Warrnambool on 14th March 1916 and left for overseas in August, serving in England and France with the 29th Battalion. According to family sources he won the M.M. for storming a German pill-box and using grenades to kill its eight or nine occupants and destroy a machine gun. Rawlings was killed in action at Vauvillers on 9th August 1918; he was awarded his M.M. eighteen days later although news of the award did not appear in the London Gazette until 11th December. He was buried at the Heath Civilian Cemetery north of Harbonnieres, Department of the Somme, France.

The last known medal-winner, Corporal Harry Thorpe, also won the M.M. He was a half-caste aborigine, born about October 1887 at Orbost, Victoria, the son of William and Lilian Thorpe. He enlisted at Sale on 12th February 1916 and embarked for overseas service in April. He joined the 7th Battalion and saw action with this unit in France and Belgium. He was wounded in action at Pozieres on 21st August 1916 and again at Bullecourt on 29th April 1917, and was appointed Lance Corporal on 10th January 1917.

During operations near Ypres on 4th-5th October 1917, Thorpe displayed great courage and initiative in mopping up enemy dugouts and pill-boxes. He was conspicuous for his courage and leadership in the capture of the 7th Battalion objective, and he both handled his men with skill and materially assisted his company commander. For his example and disregard of all danger, which served to inspire the men he commanded, he was promoted Corporal on 5th October and awarded the M.M. on 31st October. Thorpe met his end at Lihons Wood, south-

west of Vauvillers, in a costly advance on the afternoon of 9th August 1918.⁴ The 7th Battalion had been caught with its left flank exposed to severe enemy fire owing to the failure of a flanking unit to support it, and it was here that a stretcher-bearer found Thorpe shot in the stomach. He asked for water but the bearer refused, knowing the further harm that would be caused to his injuries. The bearer made him as comfortable as possible and took the casualty he already had to the dressing station. Returning for Thorpe, the bearer found him in agony, apparently caused through some misguided samaritan having given him a drink. He died shortly after reaching the dressing station and was buried, like Rawlings who was killed the same day, in the Heath Cemetery at Harbonnieres. Thorpe left a wife, Julia, and a son, Reg; his widow remarried, becoming Mrs. Con. Edwards of Lakes Entrance, Victoria.

The only other known recognition for bravery accorded to an aborigine was that of mentioned-in-despatches to Private Frank Stewart, a half-caste who served with the 5th Pioneer Battalion. Born at Walliga Lakes, New South Wales, about July 1894, he was a labourer in the Milton area before the war. He enlisted on 29th November 1915 at Casula and embarked in March 1916 for service in the Middle East, England and France. He was mentioned-in-despatches on 16th March 1919 and returned to Australia in July, receiving his discharge on 12th September.

At least one full-blooded aborigine is known to have been awarded the Military Medal during World War II. Timothy Hughes was born at Port Pearce, South Australia, on 28th April 1919. He was a labourer at Stenhouse Bay in South Australia before enlisting in the Second A.I.F. in December 1939 and joining the 2/10 Battalion. He saw service in the Middle East from December 1940 until February 1942 and in August 1942 went to New Guinea with his battalion. Hughes received the Military Medal for his conduct during a fierce 10-day action at Gona over Christmas 1942, during which his company (A Coy) was reduced from five officers and 120 men to one officer, a lance-corporal and 20 men. On 26th December, Hughes, a private, volunteered to go forward under concentrated fire from three directions to engage two enemy posts with grenades. He later gave covering fire while his platoon moved into cover, and made three separate sorties with grenades and a machine gun. The citation commended Hughes for his 'remarkable bravery, exceptional coolness and initiative. His total disregard for his own safety set a fine example throughout the platoon and also throughout the company.' According to Hughes' former company commander, retired insurance executive R. W. Sanderson of Kensington Gardens, Hughes was recommended for the Victoria Cross, but the award did not "go through". Sander-

son also states that Hughes distinguished himself at Sanananda in January 1947 and was again recommended for a gallantry award. His claims to recognition on this occasion were overridden in cavalier fashion by the officer temporarily acting in Sanderson's stead (he had been wounded at Buna), who dismissed suggestions of an award with "He's alright, he got one at Buna." Hughes had been made Acting Corporal on 3rd January 1943 and sixteen days later was wounded in action. He was promoted Corporal on 30th June 1943. In August he was transferred to 31 Employment Company, in March 1944 to the Terowie Transshipping Centre and in July 1945 he joined 20 Australian Works Company. He was demobilised on 5th September 1945.

After the war Hughes went to the south-east of South Australia, worked for Land Settlement and was allotted a 400 hectare block at Lucindale. His success as a soldier settler was singled out by the State Minister for Lands in 1955 for special commendation. At this time he was running 450 sheep and 20 cattle and had four neatly fenced paddocks (fenced by Hughes himself) containing 249 hectares under clover. He was planning to divide the property into eight paddocks to carry 1000 sheep and expected to pay off the Government in 12 years instead of the statutory 30. Hughes became Chairman of the Aborigine Lands Trust of South Australia in 1970 and was honoured with an M.B.E. in June that year. He retired after three years because of ill-health and died two years later, aged 56. He was survived by a son, Paul, and a daughter, Denise.

Yet another aboriginal serviceman won a gallantry award during the Korean War. Corporal Charles Mene from Queensland received the Military Medal for bravery in action in Korea. The "Sydney Morning Herald" of 11th June 1957 carried a photograph of Mene (then serving with the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, in Malaya) receiving his medal from Sir Donald MacGillivray, the High Commissioner for Malaya, at King's House, Kuala Lumpur.

The foregoing undoubtedly does not represent all awards to aborigine servicemen, and the author would be grateful to hear from any reader with additions to the list.

REFERENCES

- 1 See C. D. (Coulthard-) Clark, "Aborigines in the First A.I.F.", Australian 'Army Journal', No. 286, March 1973, pp. 21-30.
- 2 A more complete account of this action is contained in E. J. Colliver & B. H. Richardson, 'The Forty-Third', Adelaide, 1920, pp. 117-121.
- 3 J. J. Maher (ed.), 'History of the Stawell Athletic Club', Stawell, 1927, p. 27.

- 4 A. Dean & E. W. Gutteridge, 'The Seventh Battalion, A.I.F.', Melbourne, 1933, pp. 120-125, describes this action more fully.

The author wishes to acknowledge the very valuable assistance of Mr. William Jamieson, Secretary of the 7th Battalion Association; the War Graves Commission; the Archives History Section of the Central Army Records Office, Melbourne; and Mr. Reg. Saunders.

FOR IDENTIFICATION



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MEDALMAN

AUSTRALIANS AT ELANDS RIVER: There have been a number of enquiries regarding Australians present at the Defence of Elands River. Medalman does not have a roll of the defenders, however the following Australian units had members at the defence and others may have served there at a later date: 'A' Squadron, NSW Citizen Bushmen, plus 50 other members of NSW Bushmen contingents; 141 Queenslanders - mainly 3rd QMI; 2 Tasmanians; 42 Victorians - mainly 3rd Bushmen Contingent; 9 West Australians of 3rd Bushmen Contingent.

A number of medals awarded to Elands River defenders have been examined and it has been found that the type and manner of naming does NOT differ from medals awarded to other members of the same unit. Collectors should treat WITH GREAT SUSPICION any purported Elands River medal that has different naming. Medalman is attempting to obtain a roll as a medal to a defender should increase the value of the medal by about 5 per cent.

SCOOP TO MELBOURNE COLLECTOR: A Melbourne collector recently obtained from England what must be one of the best Suakin groups known to be in existence. As well as the Suakin pair, the group includes a British South Africa Company Medal and a Queen's South Africa Medal with a "DEFENCE OF MAFEKING" clasp. All collectors of medals to Australians are green with envy - well done Dick! The same collector also scored a 1914 Star group to the 1st Australian Volunteer Hospital.

MERCANTILE MARINE MEDALS: These medals, when awarded to a crew member of an Australian ship, have 'AUSTRALIA' stamped on them. If an Australian merchant seaman served on a British ship then his medals should not have 'AUSTRALIA' on them, even though he was an Australian seaman. There is a variety of naming seen on Second World War merchant navy medals, but the most common appears to be initials, name and 'MN'. Collectors of medals to Australians are no doubt aware that mercantile marine pairs and groups are hard to come by and those groups covering two wars or with 'killed on service' documents are rare and at present under valued. Australian merchant seamen were involved in action throughout the world during both wars and in many cases saw as much or more action than their comrades in the RAN.

'YANGTZE' CLASP TO AN AUSTRALIAN: The Navy General Service Medal with any clasp when awarded to an Australian is rare, but the clasp 'Yangtze' to

an Australian makes this one of the rarest medals yet discovered. In the next issue of "Sabretache" the story of this unique award will be told by the recipient. Don't bother writing for a value on such a medal as it can only be what a collector-investor will pay for it. Of interest, Medalman knows of only 3 Naval General Service Medals to RAN in collections, so if you have a NGS (Aust) then I would like to know about it.

MEDALS SOLD THROUGH THE SOCIETY: Members have written complaining that medals listed in the magazine have been sold when they have phoned their order. This is disappointing to the collectors concerned, but simply reflects the heavy demand for choice Australian items. However, don't despair. Keep trying, and even write and let the Secretary know what your particular wants are.

V.C. to KEYZOR: Medalman agrees with those who wrote commenting on the ridiculous price paid for this V.C. It was an outrage that the public had to pay this amount when a little less publicity would have secured the V.C. for perhaps half the price. Sotheby's have sold a number of V.C.'s this year - one dating from the Indian Mutiny was sold for \$2800. A V.C., D.S.O. group to an R.N. recipient fetched only \$6000, so I would have to agree that someone was taken to the cleaners.

ANOTHER V.C. GIVEN TO AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL: The V.C. won by Cpl. W. Dunstan at Lone Pine was recently presented to the A.W.M. This brings the total V.C.s displayed in V.C. Corner to 19. Medalman agrees with those who have complained that one sure way to detract from such an outstanding award is to display a number together (some without the other medals of the recipient). The V.C. should be the centre piece of the display for the campaign or battle in which it was won. No wonder some recipients have stated in their wills that their V.C. is NOT to go to the A.W.M.

P.N.G. AWARDS TO NATIVES: In response to the comments by Medalman (July 1977) the following gives detail on wartime awards.

G.R.O.A. 360 Dated 6th October 1944.

LOYAL SERVICE MEDALLION

1. In addition to the civil awards of the "George Cross", "George Medal", "British Empire Medal" and "Commendation Badge", New Guinea natives who are members of the A.M.F. may be eligible for awards authorised for members of the military forces generally, and those who are members of the Royal Papuan Constabulary may be eligible for the "King's Police and Fire Services Medal"

and the "Papua-New Guinea Native Police Valour Badge".

2. During the present war, however, there have been acts of exemplary and loyal service performed by natives, who are neither members of the A.M.F. nor of the Royal Papuan Constabulary, which, although not sufficiently outstanding to qualify the performer for one of the civil awards abovementioned, are deserving of commendation. It is intended that the medallion authorised by this order shall be the medium of the expression of such commendation.

3. Authority is now given for the award, subject to the provisions of this order, of a medallion, designated the "Loyal Service Medallion" (in this order referred to as "the medallion").

4. The medallion may be awarded by the C-in-C A.M.F. or the general officer commanding the senior Australian formation in the Territories of Papua and New Guinea, for devoted service during the present war, to a New Guinea native who is neither a member of the A.M.F. nor of the Royal Papuan Constabulary and who is recommended for an award by or through the GOC ANGAU because of some special service or services rendered.

5. The medallion will be a circular disc of sterling silver with a diameter of 1½ inches. On the obverse, the Commonwealth coat of arms will be embossed, and on the reverse the words "For Loyal Service". It will be worn on a chain 30 inches long, suspended around the neck.

6. A recommendation for this award will be submitted through the usual channels to the headquarters of the senior Australian formation in the Territories of Papua and New Guinea, on an AF W3121, as soon as possible after the execution of the act or expiration of the period which it is considered deserves commendation. In the "Rank and Name" column of the form, the home village of the nominee will be stated in addition to his full name. When HQ ANGAU is not included in the usual channel of communication, the approving authority will refer any recommendation to the GOC ANGAU for comment prior to approval being given.

7. Records of awards of the medallion will be maintained by the headquarters of the senior Australian formation in the Territories of Papua and New Guinea.

8. The C-in-C AMF may, in his discretion -

- (a) order the medallion to be forfeited by any person to whom it has been awarded whose conduct, in the opinion of the C-in-C, has been such as to justify the forfeiture;

(b) order the medallion to be restored to any person by whom it has been forfeited, if he considers that the subsequent conduct of such person justifies such restoration; or

(c) order the surrender of the medallion in case of unauthorised possession.

9. In the event of the death of any native to whom the medallion has been awarded, either before or after the presentation has been actually made, the medallion will be held in trust by HQ ANGAU until such time as a settled administration has been established and further instructions issued.

(81/1/234)

MEDALMAN NOTES: (a) The awards mentioned could be and in many cases were awarded to native members of the Military Forces and to members of the Royal Papuan Constabulary.

(b) Medals examined have both a number and details of the recipient on them. However, in most cases the numbers do NOT correspond with those listed as being issued to a particular individual. This was, no doubt, caused by medals being numbered in Australia and sent to PNG in the expectation of the awarding officer issuing them in accordance with a list that wasn't with the medals.

V.C., M.C. GROUP PURCHASED BY AUSTRALIAN COLLECTOR: The Armoury recently arranged the sale of the Towner V.C., M.C. group to a well-known Australian collector, the transaction being completed on 27th October. It is understood that the price was not influenced by the ridiculous amount paid at a recent London auction for a lesser group. Congratulations to the Armoury, the collector and the family who appreciated the value of the medals.

WANTED

WANTED: 1914-15 STAR, British War Medal, and Victory Medal, awarded to 1406 Sgt. Sydney W. M. Hillman, 12/Aust. Infantry.

Also: 1914-15 Star, and Gallipoli Medallion, awarded to 379 Lieutenant Frederick Gawler. Will purchase or swap other medals and decorations awarded to Australian recipients.

Contact — **MARTIN KENNEDY, 28 HAINES STREET, CURTIN, A.C.T. 2605.**

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A concise history of the 1914-18 War

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2nd VIENNESE DRAGOON SQUADRON, 1931

By J. R. WILLIAMS*

In 1920 the Armed Forces (Wehrmacht)¹ of the new Austrian Republic adopted uniforms with features akin to those of the German Reichswehr². The imperial black and gold and crowned double headed eagle had already disappeared in November 1918.

The illustration (Fig. 9) with these notes shows an Oberleutnant of the 2nd Viennese Dragoon Squadron in parade dress circa 1931. The squadron was a unit of the 2nd Viennese Brigade³ and was garrisoned in the Meidlinger Barracks in Vienna. From 1st June 1936 it became the 2nd Horse Squadron of Dragoon Regiment Eugen Prince of Savoy No. 1. In September 1924 the squadron officially adopted the traditions of the pre-1918 Imperial and Royal⁴ Dragoon Regiment Friedrich August, King of Saxony No. 3. The squadron's trumpet call was the opening bars of Strauss' "Blue Danube".

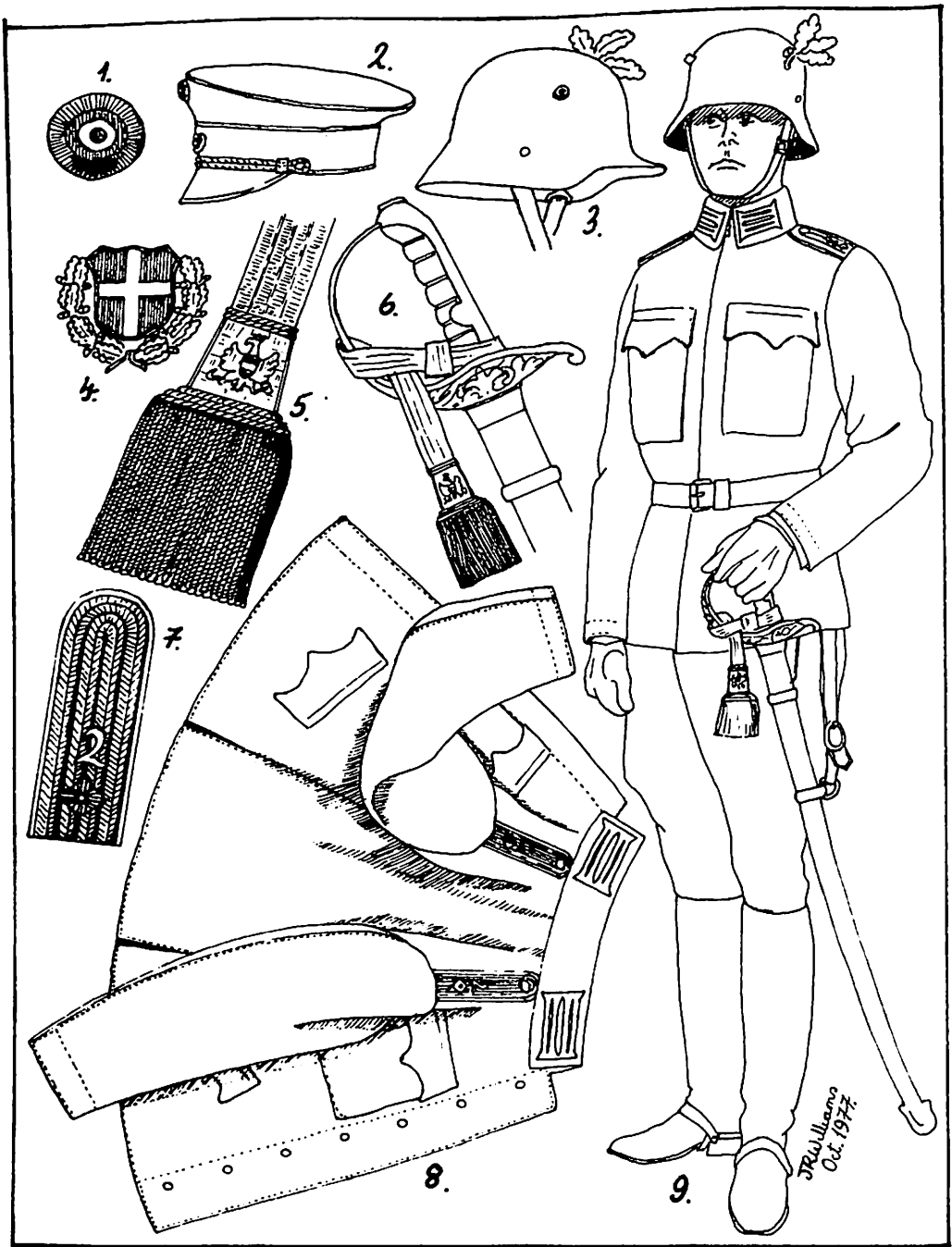
The Oberleutnant wears a field grey steel helmet (Fig. 3) of the same pattern as worn by German and Austro-Hungarian troops in the 1914-18 war. The chin-strap was brown and on the upper left an oak-sprig was worn in parade dress (a fir spray replaced the oakleaves in winter). For ordinary duties a field grey peaked cap (Fig. 2) with a black peak was worn. It had a dark green band and yellow piping around the top and above and below the band. Twisted silver cap cords had replaced black leather chinstraps in 1928. On the band were the provincial arms of Vienna - within an oak-spray a shield bearing a cross (Fig. 4), all in gilt - and above this the federal cockade of red-white-red enclosed by a gilt ring (Fig. 1). The oakleaf sprig was sometimes worn on the left of the peaked cap.

The field grey blouse (Fig. 8) had a dark green stand-and-fall collar with two matt silver buttonholes each side; the buttonholes had yellow lights. On each shoulder were two loops of matt silver cord edged in yellow (Fig. 7) and bearing the squadron number and a rank star in gilt. The waist belt was in brown leather.

Black kneeboots with black strapped steel spurs complimented the stone grey breeches and the gloves were grey.

The 1904 pattern cavalry officers' sabre with its fretted steel hilt (Fig. 6) was carried in a steel scabbard suspended from two red leather slings faced with gold lace; the upper swordsling ring was placed on the inside of the scabbard. The

* The author is a member of MHSA and lives in Stourbridge, in the West Midlands of England.



swordknot (Fig. 5) had a gold lace band with three nickel-gold lateral lines and a gold tassel. On each side of the tassel neck was worked the federal eagle crowned by a mural crown and holding a sickle in one talon and a hammer in the other all worked in matt gold, and with a red-white-red shield on the eagle's chest.

SOURCES:

- a) "1918-1968 Die Streitkraefte der Republik Oesterreich", Vienna 1968. Catalogue of an exhibition in the Heeresgeschichtliches Museum in Vienna.
- b) "Ueberlieferungspflege im Bundesheer", Vienna 1931.
- c) "Das Oesterreichische Bundesheer", by Anton Sassmann, pub. by Moritz Ruhl, Leipzig circa 1926.

REFERENCES:

- 1 From 24th May 1922 the title was officially changed to the Federal Army (Bundesheer).
- 2 Reichswehr - military forces of the German Commonwealth.
- 3 The Austrian Federal Army consisted of six brigades.
- 4 The regular armed forces of the Habsburg monarch were prefixed Imperial and Royal. The Habsburgs were Emperors of Austria and Kings of Hungary.

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- 6 CAPE OF GOOD HOPE GS 1880-1897. One clasp "Bechuanaland." Bugler A. Dickinson, Kimberley Regt. EF
- 7 One clasp "Transkei?" Tpr. W. Lemcke, Bakers Horse EF
- 8 TRANSPORT MEDAL 1899-1902. One clasp S. Africa 1899-1902. F. Shepperd In Command. VF+

All medals have been verified in the U.K. and are accompanied by photo copy research papers. Society verification and valuation certificates also available. Further details available upon request.

No decisions will be taken until one month after despatch of the journal to enable overseas members to submit offers. All correspondence will be answered.

J. M. KENNEDY

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WHO WAS THE FIRST AUSTRALIAN IN ACTION DURING THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR OF 1899-1902?

By A. BOX

This question has perplexed Military historians for many years. Was it a member of the N.S.W. Lancer Contingent? Was it an Australian seconded to a British Unit? Was it an Australian serving in a South African Irregular Unit? How can any claims be substantiated in any event? Possibly an answer has been found.

The actions at Talana (beginning 20th October 1899) and Elandsplaagte (21st October) are generally looked upon as the initial engagements on the South African War, although a small patrol of Natal Carbineers, patrolling from Dewdrop near Ladysmith, shadowed the Free Staters as they crossed the Natal border on 12th October 1899 and was in action on the 13th.

It would seem, however, that none of these men were Australians.

No evidence has come to light that any of the British Regular Units engaged at Talana contained Australian-born officers as regulars or on secondment, or that there were Australians in the Dundee Town Guard which also received the clasp 'Talana'. This turns our attention to 21st October and the field at Elandsplaagte, where South African Colonial units were well represented under the command of Colonel W. Royston, Natal Volunteer Force, from Ladysmith. One of these units was the Natal Mounted Rifles and had as its Medical Officer Lieutenant (later Captain) Rupert Walter Hornabrook, Natal Volunteer Medical Corps.

Hornabrook was born on 3rd August 1871 at Adelaide, South Australia. He was educated at Oakfield School, Highgate, London, and at St. Peter's College, Adelaide. He took degrees as Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery at Adelaide University in 1896. He became a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, England, and a Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, London, in 1897.

In January 1898, he was sent to Bombay Presidency by the India Office as a special Plague Officer, and in January 1899 he went to Transvaal, South Africa, as Plague Officer for the Transvaal Chamber of Mines. He became Plague Consultant for the Transvaal Government, and thus was to become Medical Officer

in the Natal Mounted Rifles and Royal Army Medical Corps throughout the Boer War 1899-1901. He was present at the siege of Ladysmith and served in Natal, in the Orange Free State and Transvaal, winning 6 clasps (Elandsplaagte, Defence of Ladysmith, Orange Free State, Transvaal, Laing's Nek, South Africa 1901) to his Queen's South Africa Medal. He returned to South Australia in 1901 and married a daughter of Sir Frederick Sargood, a former Minister for Defence of the Victorian State Parliament. He served on as Medical Officer to No. 1 Battery, South Australian Field Artillery, from 1901 until 1908 when he moved to Melbourne to take up appointments as Medical Officer at the Melbourne Hospital; Women's Hospital, Melbourne; Eye and Ear Hospital, Melbourne; and Dental Hospital, Melbourne, from 1908-1930. He served in World War I, as Fleet Surgeon on the RAN Flagship, H.M.A.S. "Australia", 1914-15, and as a surgeon (rank of Major) with No. 1 Australian General Hospital, Rouen, France, and No. 11 Casualty Clearing Station, Belgium, 1916-17. On his return to Australia in 1918 he went to the Military Hospital, Caulfield. For his war services he received the 1914-15 Star and British War Medal and Victory Medal. At the end of the war he resumed his private practice in Melbourne. He visited Great Britain and Europe in 1923, and in 1935 visited Japan, Korea, Manchuria and North Central China.

Hornabrook was not only present on the field at Elandsplaagte, but during the subsequent Defence of Ladysmith he kept a detailed, colourful and exciting diary of the siege. This diary gives a most detailed account of the investment, particularly the attack of Wagon Hill - during which Hornabrook was wounded - and describes some aspects of the siege as yet not published. Dr. Hornabrook's son and daughter have kindly consented to the publishing of this unique diary, which hopefully shall be soon seen in the pages of "Sabretache".

OVERDUE SUBSCRIPTIONS

There has been a good response to the request for early renewal of subscriptions for the 1977-78 year, which fell due on 1st July. However, many members are still unfinancial and are requested to forward their renewal as soon as possible to either their Branch Secretary or to the Federal Secretary.

MAGAZINES WANTED

The Society requires the following magazines; will accept as donation, purchase or exchange:

Australians in The Great War. Any edition after No. 8.

Illustrated War News: Parts 3, 6 to 10, 14, 16, 20, 22, 23, 26 to 33, 35 to 37, 39 to 42, any after 46.

Navy and Army Illustrated. Nos. 1 to 10, 39, any after 41.

Contact **FEDERAL SECRETARY.**

WANTED

A member wishes to obtain by purchase or exchange the following medals, required for his collection:

1. **U.N. Emergency Force in the Middle East (UNEF) Medal.**
2. **International Commission for Supervision and Control Service Medal—Awarded for Indo China 1954-73.**
3. **Korean Medals in Amhoric, Dutch, Greek, Italian, Spanish and Turkish.**
4. **First World War Victory Medal. Awarded by China, Japan, Cuba and Serbia.**
5. **Boxer Rebellion (China 1900) Campaign Medal Awarded by Italy, Russia, Japan, Germany, United States and France.**

King's African Rifles KC hat badge (5th Kenya Battalion)

Highland Light Infantry KC Glengarry badge.

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BOOK REVIEWS

NAVIES AND FOREIGN POLICY by K. Booth, Croom Helm, London, 294 pp., £9.95 (U.K. price only).

This book is an attempt to analyse the changing and increasingly complex relationships between navies and the making and execution of foreign policy. The author explains what function navies can perform in both war and peace, what influence they can have on particular situations, how relevant organisations can affect the character of naval actions, how capabilities can be assessed, how navies are affected by their domestic sources, and what the utilities are of different roles.

In the world at present navies are more costly and have more destructive potential than ever before. They are regarded as indispensable instruments of statecraft by a number of countries, while all countries with coasts find some need to threaten a degree of force at sea. The vulnerability of Australia's long coastline makes the question of naval power of considerable relevance to this country, and consequently this book is well worth the reading for anyone seeking to understand the changing character of this significant area of public policy.

NAVAL WARFARE IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY 1900-1945, edited by G. Jordan, Croom Helm, London, 243 pp., £6.95 (U.K. price only).

This collection of original essays on twentieth century naval history is dedicated to the naval historian Professor Arthur J. Marder on his retirement from the University of California. They were edited by Gerald Jordan, Assistant Professor of History at York University, Toronto, and carry a foreword by Admiral of the Fleet Earl Mountbatten of Burma.

Rather as a case in point for the study reviewed above, this book examines aspects of British naval power in the battleship era from its peak in 1900-1914 to its relative decline by World War II. There is a reappraisal of the 'rebirth' of the Royal Navy from Tryon to Fisher, as well as a survey of the recent scholarly writings on the Anglo-German naval rivalry, a comparison of the two arch-protagonists, Fisher and Tirpitz, in their political contexts, and Vice-Admiral Schofield supplies a vivid personal memoir of life aboard one of the first dreadnoughts, HMS "Indomitable".

The effects of scientific and technological development are implicit in all the essays and are dealt with specifically by two of the contributors. There are controversial re-examinations of anti-submarine campaigns in both World Wars by

Marshal of the RAF Sir John Slessor and Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Gretton. Among other topics are Japanese naval politics, the development of the Royal Canadian Navy during the Second World War and combined operations policy in 1940-42. Highly recommended to anyone interested in this field.

THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES AND THE REVOLUTION by D. Porch, Croom Helm, London, 273 pp., £7.95 (U.K. price only).

The announcement of 25th April 1974 that the 50-year-old regime of Prime Ministers Salazar and Caetano had been overthrown by a military coup took many observers by surprise and led to serious questioning of Portugal's dependability as a NATO ally. However, viewed in the context of Portuguese history and the experience of armies in other countries, the Portuguese coup loses much of its shock value for the West.

Douglas Porch traces the origins of the left-wing Portuguese army rebellion of 1974 to the traditional political independence of the Portuguese armed forces, their increasingly strained relations with the government and finally to the colonial wars which brought professional discontent to the boiling point.

The revolution which followed provides a unique laboratory for the study of an army in crisis, the strains which the attempt by officers to direct the political life of the country after April 1974 placed on military organisation, the traditional career patterns and attitudes of soldiers and on discipline. It is concerned with the role of officers in government and the day-to-day problems which political upheaval created in every barracks. This is a study of the armed forces in politics and politics in the armed forces, placed within the larger context of the events of the revolution. It is also useful reading for anyone attempting to fully comprehend the background to events in Portuguese East Timor. The book also does something towards putting that particular former colony - an almost obsessional centre-piece to certain circles in Australia - into truer perspective; it does not even mention it.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MODERN WARFARE by R. Parkinson, Routledge & Kegan Paul, London, 226 pp., \$21.90 (Aust.). Distributed in Australia by Cambridge University Press, Middle Park, Victoria.

This well presented encyclopedia covers 180 years - from 1793 to 1975 - with references to all major wars from the French Revolution to Vietnam. Major campaigns and battles within the two World Wars are also dealt with in accordance to their relevance to the overall conflict.

Roger Parkinson, who has written many books on military subjects, served for seven years as Defence and War Correspondent for the "Scotsman". During this time he served in Vietnam, Biafra, Aden and Malaysia and in these places he learnt much about the effect of modern warfare on the ordinary man.

The major emphasis of the work is the co-relation of the three main factors of warfare: battles, weapons and people. All three receive equal emphasis with frequent cross references to show the general pattern of the development of modern warfare. In writing of battles or when dealing with the overall campaigns the author provides a general background both political and military, details of strategy and tactics, effect of weapons, opposing leaders and statistics, and the final result. The political aspects are presented without bias and with no attempt to favour either side in the reporting of the battle.

The text is supported by an atlas of more than 20 maps and a very generous index, and also includes many entries on technical terms, strategy and tactics, military theories and principles. Both the military specialist and the student of modern history or warfare will find much to broaden their knowledge in this work.

The Citizen General Staff—The Australian Intelligence Corps.

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A M U S T F O R A L L

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ON ACTIVE SERVICE IN BURMA, 1887 (Continued from p. 229)

It was on rising ground, and the bank leading up to it was studded with sharp pieces of bamboo stuck in the ground and protruding about a foot. So sharp are these bamboos that they will pierce even the leather of boots. A bamboo fence about 8ft. high, also protected with the same sharp spikes, had been built about 5 yards in front of the stockade. When building a stockade they cut the trees down in front, so that their enemies may be fired upon while in the open.

Next day we marched eighteen miles, all down hill, and met General Stewart's²⁰ column. This had marched from Swehbo, and was composed of 25 men of the Yorkshires, 50 of the 43rd Assam Light Infantry Gurkhas, and 20 Madras Sappers. The General had his camp pitched rather differently from Major Dashon's. His own tent was near the centre and the transport animals also, and the troops placed round as nearly in a circle as the ground would permit. General Stewart gave me permission to join his column as Major Dashon's was going to return over the same ground. General Stewart's column, marching about twelve miles a day, soon came to the famous ruby mines.

The evening before Mogok, the name of the town, was reached, the cold was so intense that the water left outside the tents was covered with ice. Mogok itself lies in a large valley surrounded by high hills. The soil is dark red, and so are the hillsides in places where the grass has come away, either from landslips or attempts to work into the hill for rubies. As we came round a spur of the hill, we saw that the running water below was also of a dark red colour, which is caused by the Burmese washing the soil for stones. We saw many of them engaged in the process. They put the red earth into small baskets, through which they let the water flow. It is said that all the purest rubies in the world come from these mines.

The next ten days were spent in marching over the hills to the Irawaddy. The pass over which we had to go was 8500ft. high. We arrived at Khyan-Whyat (Kyanhnyat) on 22nd February. This place is situated on the Irawaddy, and is now famous as the place where Captain Vaughan²¹ was murdered by the Dacoits. The troops in the stockade comprised a company of the Yorkshire Regiment, one of the Hampshire, and one of the 43rd Gurkhas, and a few Madras Sappers. General Stewart made a searching inspection of all troops and the stockade generally; indeed, he invariably did this whenever we remained for a day, and officers in command of troops or detachments had to "sit up" when General Stewart or Major Chamberlain,²² the Quartermaster-General, were about.

Here I parted with the two last-named officers. Their kindness to me was beyond words. They left to proceed to Swehbo, thence to Mandalay, and so down to Rangoon. The following day I left in the steamer "Aphy-Ouk" for Mandalay, which we reached next day. I re-occupied the room I had before, which was believed to have been occupied by some of the maids of honour to King Theebaw and was better than most of the others.

The following day being Sunday, Church of England service was held by the chaplain of the troops in the audience-hall of King Theebaw. The Somersets brought their rifles into the hall, and their band, with fifteen instruments, formed a good choir. Each officer had his camp-chair taken in by his servant. Communion service was held in a gilded temple of the Buddha. During the next ten days I had to remain at Mandalay, as there was no expedition against the Dacoits. These expeditions are called daurs, from the Hindustani word *daurna*, to run.

Mandalay is the chief city in upper Burma. The King's city is in the form of a square, each side being $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles in extent, enclosed by a solid brick wall, which is 35ft. high, and 4ft. thick. The bricks are 1in. thick and 8in. square, and are laid flat, one on another. From the top of the wall an earthwork slopes down to the base, where it is 20ft. wide. The whole wall is absolutely bullet-proof, but, of course, shot and shell would soon cut out a gap large enough for troops to get through. Thirty feet outside this wall is a moat, which is 60 yards wide, having a depth of 12ft. of water in the centre. There are bridges across the moat, and gates through the wall. Half-a-mile inside the city wall there is a high and strong wooden palisade, which encloses the King's palace, composed of logs of wood, nearly equal in diameter. The logs are sunk into the earth to a depth of 4ft., and thus they stand upright out of the ground to a uniform height of 24ft.; the upper ends are sharpened to a point.

On the 9th I obtained leave to join a daur, which was starting to suppress an outbreak forty miles away. We started from the palace at Mandalay on the morning of the 10th and camped at Umapoora (Amarapura) Pagoda, a famous temple where the Queen used to come and worship. The following day we marched at 3 a.m. with only 2 Gardner guns, and 15 gunners of the Royal Artillery. Each gun is carried on a mule, the stand on which it is placed on a second, and two cases of ammunition on a third mule. These guns can be taken from the mules' backs and brought into action in about two minutes. They are sighted up to 2000 yards and make splendid practice at that distance, firing from 80 to 100 rounds of Martini-Henry ammunition a minute.

At 9 a.m. we arrived at the banks of the river Myitnge. One of the 15 gunners fainted on the way, and had to be put on a pony; and as none of us had breakfasted before starting, we did not feel in very good fettle after our six hours' march. The mules and ponies were led down to the water's edge, and their packs and saddles taken off. These, with the guns and ammunition, were taken across on rafts. The river was 200 yards wide, with a strong current, and the men crossed in boats, each 40ft. long, made out of the trunk of a teak tree. The mules and ponies had to swim. They were tied together, two and two, and held until about halfway across, when they were let go and caught again on the opposite side. Before we had crossed we were joined by a company of the Somersets 13th Light Infantry, 50 strong; also 2 screw guns (2.5" guns) and 25 R.A. gunners. There were 100 mules and 25 ponies to be got over, and more than 300 men, including mule drivers, doolie bearers, bhisties and camp followers generally. They were not all across until 2 p.m., as there were only 15 boats and 1 raft. We had breakfast at noon. Two Somersets, and a gunner were down with fever and had to be left at Paleik, the name of the place where we crossed the river. A company of the 15th Madras Infantry was stationed here under a native officer, the place itself being in charge of Captain Mayne,²³ 25th Regiment Kings Own Borderers, who is, by-the-by, half an Australian by birth, and a most kind and capable officer.

The same evening the 50 Somersets were marched a mile from the river to a canal, and there embarked in similar teak log boats, each carrying two men and a certain proportion of baggage, rations, etc., and two Burmese, one at either end, with long bamboo poles in hand to push them along. The canal was 2ft. 6in. deep, and almost 3 yards wide. There was a procession of 30 boats.

"Tommy Atkins" approved of this way of marching very much. They travelled all night and did thirteen miles, when they landed and walked the remaining thirteen miles to Kanksee (Kyaukse). The guns left Paleik at 3 a.m.; after the men had a light breakfast of tea and stale bread, we walked the whole way, stopping for breakfast proper at noon. The whole march was along the bank of the canal, which extends for twenty-six miles, and irrigates 20,000 acres. The whole of this country on both sides is below the canal, which flows with a slight current, and is fed from a stream in the hills. Small embankments are built at different places for conveying the water where required. A Dacoit had been shot here the previous night, and his body with three bullet holes through the neck was found lying in the village. Kanksee is a small outpost with two companies of the Madras Infantry and one company of Somersets, under Major Persse,²⁴ whose brother is, or was, a member of the Queensland House, and who owned Cunnamulla Station.

At 4 a.m. next morning we left for Yewun, which was reached comfortably by 9 o'clock. The heat was great; the temperature in the priests' house, which the officers used for a mess room, was 100 degrees in the daytime, and 88 degrees at night. On the next day we all left Yewun for Thabiut-down (Thabyedaung). As there was a chance of an English mail having reached Yewun after we had left it, I obtained permission to ride back and see if it had arrived. It was to have been forwarded by cavalry escort, but it had not come when I got there. The ride was only twenty-two miles but the heat was intense, 103 degrees in the shade. Four other officers had arrived at Yewun, and thereupon Colonel Bance,²⁵ who was officer commanding, held a consultation. As information had been brought in that the Dacoits were being largely reinforced, it was determined to inform General East, V.C., who was at Mandalay. Lieutenant Staunton,²⁶ R.A., of the Intelligence Department, was ordered to take letters and explain all to General East. I asked leave to accompany him as there might be some orders to be brought back. We started at 5.30 p.m. with three sowars as escort, and reached Yewun at 7 o'clock. Fresh ponies and escort were obtained, and by 10 we were at Kanksee. I had a rattling fall, as my pony fell into a ditch, and was nearly stunned.

We slept that night in the house of the Commandant of Police there. The distance we had travelled was twenty-five miles, but I had done twenty-two more in my ride for the mail, which made a total of forty-seven miles for me that day. At 7 in the morning we left Kanksee and reached Paleik at half-past 9, a distance of twenty-five miles; we crossed the river and rode into Mandalay, seventeen miles more. Staunton was not able to ride fast, as he had been down with fever. I got General East's orders at 5.30 p.m. on the same day and started back. The river was reached and crossed by 8 p.m. I slept there and got into the saddle next morning for a rattling gallop of fifty miles, through a district where no one travelled without escort. This distance I did in less than four hours, including stoppages and changes. I used three ponies. It was just such a gallop as many an Australian would have dearly loved, and all the more for the danger that at any time as you rode along you might have been "potted" by the wily Burman.

Next day the column under Colonel Bance went out to attack the stockades some seven miles off. The officer in charge of the Gardner guns was so ill with fever that his going on was out of the question, and therefore the commanding officer asked me to take command, which I gladly did. We made the attack on the Dacoits on the 22nd of March, at "Hmawang".

The south column was composed of 60 rifles of the Queen's Regiment, 65 rifles of the 27th Punjab Infantry, and 107 rifles of the 27th Madras Infantry. The north column had 75 rifles of the 15th Madras Infantry and 30 Somersets. The centre column, which formed the main attacking force, was under Colonel Bance, 15th Madras Infantry, and was composed of 2 Gardner guns, under Captain Airey, N.S.W.A., two screw guns, 22 mounted infantry, 74 Somersets, 50 rifles of the 25th Bombay Infantry, and 40 rifles of the 15th Madras Infantry.

We marched at 7 a.m. The village and stockade to be taken lay in a hollow at the junction of two spurs of low hills, which ran nearly parallel to one another. The duty of the south column was to clear the hills on the far side of Dacoits, and to destroy their villages. This they did right well, and captured a good many guns, and accounted for a large number of the enemy.

The north column was to occupy both the right and left spur. After each had been shelled by the screw guns at 2000 yards, and then swept at a range of 1200 by the Gardners, the advance was continued. The country was thick jungle, with a good deal of underscrub, making it very difficult to advance, and much more so to keep any perfect formation.

At 9.30 we heard three signal guns fired. This is a strange custom of the Burmese; if they intend to fight, they invariably fire two or three guns, either to warn the enemy not to come nearer, or to inform their comrades of the hostile advance. At this time we heard some sharp firing from the south column.

After advancing up the main gorge for 1000 yards or more the firing became very heavy on all sides of us, but chiefly in front. The advance line replied and kept pressing on, seeking cover wherever obtainable, and lying down when the fire got hot, and replying with a perfect storm of bullets. Here the Gardners came into action again, and threw over 1000 bullets into the jungle, from whence came the heaviest fire of the enemy.

The Dacoits then fell back and the Gardners were limbered up, and a general advance was made, the firing being nearly continuous all along the line; the jungle getting more dense, and ambuscades and pitfalls being met with frequently. The pitfalls are holes about 4ft. deep, with sharp bamboo stakes at the bottom, and the top covered over with bushes.

After advancing very slowly for a short distance, the Burmese appeared to be making a stand, and their shouts were heard above the rattle of the musketry, and the bullets from their fire came thicker. The advance line was ordered to lie down. The only track for the mules and ponies was so swept by the fire of the Dacoits, that neither the Bombay nor Madras men seemed eager to face it. Colonel Bance here asked me what I should advise to be done. I asked leave to bring the Gardners and place them on the track, and so getting to work, silence the fire which evidently came from their stockade. At first he objected, as it might cost too many lives; but as the Somersets were wild to push on, I got permission to place my guns there. The Royal Artillery gunners behaved splendidly, no hurrying or getting confused - the guns ready to open fire in about two minutes. I made the men lie down, and those who had to supply cartridges only stood up to replenish the chambers.

We rattled away at a great pace, and fired neary 1500 bullets. It was while I was standing between the two guns, directing where I wanted their fire to be poured, that I felt a sharp blow on my left arm, and it dropped. I knew that the bone was broken, of course, and, telling the sergeant to keep up the fire, I went and reported myself to the commanding officer, and asked him to send for a doctor.

One of the Somersets then gave me my left arm and, holding it across my chest, I lay down as the blood was jerking out. While I was lying down, the screw guns were brought up and threw shot into the stockade with splendid effect. I had hardly been placed in the doolie before the Somersets rushed into the stockade.

After being carried about over stony ground I was at length put down inside the stockade, which was then destroyed by 150 coolies. Close by was a ghastly sight. Two of our men, who had been caught by the Dacoits the day before, were found crucified on big trees. Their bodies were taken down and buried. When all this had been done we started for the zarbea at Gonyna, which we had left at daylight. This we reached at about 6.30 p.m., and the three doctors then came to my doolie to put me straight. It was then quite dark. My arm was set and put in splints; the wound in my side, which was thought to be only superficial, was dressed; my clothes were taken off, and a pair of pyjama drawers put on. Unfortunately for me, a bullet was left in my arm, and a piece of splintered lead in my side, which I only had removed when I returned to Sydney. All this was done by the light of small lanterns. I was in my doolie, which was on the ground, and the place was so crowded that the doctors had barely room to move.

The doctors, and indeed everyone, were as kind and attentive as possible; and as wounds generally mortified out there, I was asked if I wished any letters written or other arrangements to be made. This was rather gruesome, and I was so weak since the tourniquets, of which I had two fixed on me, had not been able to stop the bleeding entirely. It was deemed best to try and send me down to Mandalay as soon as possible so; at 4 a.m. next morning I started in my doolie with an escort from the Bombay Light Infantry, and reached Yewun before the heat was very great.

At Kanksee I was lifted out of the doolie and placed on a stretcher in a teak-log boat, and so travelled all night along the canal. At Paleik my doolie was put on to a river steamer, and on reaching Mandalay was carried up to the Palace and thence to the Field Hospital, which was just outside. I had a room in a wooden house where it was cooler. It was indeed a comfort to know that at daylight, or rather a couple of hours earlier, I was not to be lifted up and carried on. The ninety-mile journey had been terrible; the jolting and heat had made the whole way one of utter misery. My wounds were carefully looked after now, and the next day my arm was reset, as it had been twisted out of its proper shape on the journey. That evening Generals White and East came to see me, and two days afterwards I was visited by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, Sir C. Arbuthnot,²⁷ Colonel Burgess, R.A.,²⁸ Colonel Tillard,²⁹ Adjutant-General, and many other officers. The chief medical officer ordered a notice to be posted outside my room, saying that officers wishing to see Captain Airey must obtain permission from the surgeon in charge. There were relays of coolies appointed to sit or stand, two at a time, day and night at my head and fan me, as there were no punkahs. I remained at Mandalay until Sunday evening, 10th April, when I was placed on board one of the river boats with 51 C.P. battery Royal Artillery, who were on their way to India. At Prone my doolie was placed in a luggage truck, and so I reached Rangoon. Dr. Hall was waiting to meet me with a set of doolie bearers from the base hospital where I was carried. This was on the 18th, as the trip down the river had been slow, and we had to wait at Prone thirty-six hours. I remained at the officers' hospital, Rangoon, until the 5th May, when I was thought strong enough to be placed on board the trooper, s.s. "Dalhousie".

The Indian Marine troop-ship "Dalhousie" was commanded by Captain Wilson,³⁰ who was formerly in the Royal Navy. He was in the "Rosario" when she was at Sydney. As we went down the river Captain Wilson asked if I should like to telegraph to Australia. I said, Yes, and when two miles above the Eastern

Telegraph Company's station, he sounded the siren and, as we passed, my message was placed in a sodawater bottle, fastened to a piece of wood, and thrown overboard. When a quarter of a mile away we saw a Burman in his boat who, Captain Wilson said, would pick it up, and take it to the office, and that it would be sent. And so it was, reaching Sydney all right.

The "Dalhousie" arrived at Calcutta on 18th April, and on the 12th May the P. and O. s.s. "Brindisi" took me to Madras, and thence to Colombo, where I had to remain ten days. From Colombo to Adelaide I travelled in the P. and O. boat "Parramatta", and from there overland to Sydney.

From the day I arrived at Bombay, until my trip was ended in Sydney, I received nothing but kindness. All the Imperial officers met me with the utmost goodwill, and wherever I went it was enough to be known as an Australian officer to ensure me even more friendship than they usually mete out to one another, and that is saying a great deal, for on active service all are friends. I saw many regiments of all sorts, but none that made me feel down-hearted because I belonged to the Australian forces; for if we only get the chance, the Australians will give a good account of any enemy we may have the luck to meet. There is nothing I desire more than the chance of taking 500 mounted infantry to Afghanistan if England goes to war with Russia, for I am sure no country can or will be able to turn out such mounted infantry as Australia if she only has the opportunity.

* Henry Parke Airey (1842-1911) was a Captain in the N.S.W. Artillery when he was accepted for special service with the British forces in Burma. He was the only serving member of any Australian colonial forces to be present there, and received the D.S.O. (an award instituted in 1886 to reward gallantry in Burma), the thanks of the Viceroy of India, and a promotion to Major for bravery in action. He later distinguished himself in South Africa and was awarded a C.M.G. before retiring in 1902 with rank of honorary colonel. An article on his career appeared in the January 1974 issue of "Sabretache". This account of Airey's experiences in Burma is a condensed version of an Article Airey wrote for the "Australian Naval and Military Gazette" in 1887 (October, pp. 206-210; November, pp. 231-233; December, pp. 248-250), to which some explanatory notes have been added.—Ed.

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- 21 Not identified.
- 22 Colonel Sir Neville Francis Fitzgerald Chamberlain, KCB, KCVO (1856-1944).
- 23 Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet-Colonel George Nisbet Mayne, C.B. (1854-1932).
- 24 Major Dudley Thomas Persse (1840-). Major Persse's brother was De Burgh Persse, a prominent pastoralist and member for Fassifern in the Queensland Parliament 1875-1882.
- 25 Colonel Lacy Bowring Bance (1839-).
- 26 There was no Lieutenant Staunton, R.A., on the British Army List at this time. Airey may have been referring to Brigadier-General Frederick William Starkey Stanton, DSO (1863-1930).
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- 28 Lieutenant-Colonel Harry Miles Burgess (1839-).
- 29 Major-General John Arthur Tillard, CB (1837-1928).
- 30 Not identified.

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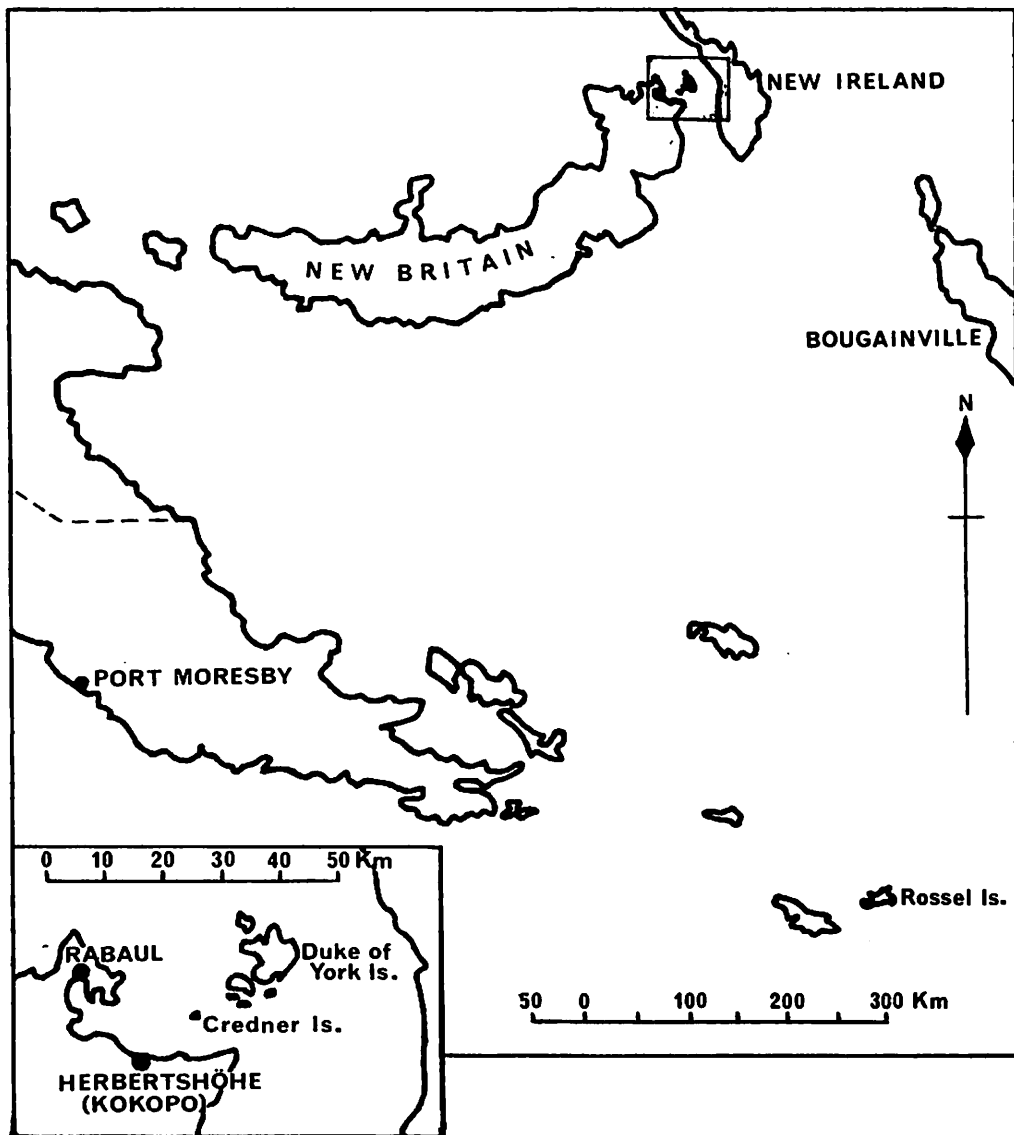
By G. PRIDEAUX*

We left Port Moresby on Monday, 7th September, and shaped a course for Rossel Island to the south of New Britain, HMAS "Sydney" and HMAS "Encounter" accompanying us along with a couple of destroyers. One destroyer had gone on with the submarines. On arrival at Rossel Island we met the "Australia" and three colliers and one oil ship. We did not stay any more than a couple of hours at Rossel Island and at 11 a.m. on Wednesday left for Rabaul, the German seat of Government, arriving there at 7 a.m. on Friday the 11th.

The "Sydney", together with two destroyers, left Rossel Island ahead of us and, steaming at 20 knots, arrived at Rabaul Harbour at 2 a.m. The three ships searched the harbour in case the German warships were there, which they were not, so they then went down to Herbertshöhe¹ and landed 50 naval men from the "Berrima" to take the wireless station. We had not been long at Rabaul when we got a wireless message to say that the German wireless station some five miles inland was protected by guns and asking urgently for reinforcements.

We went down to Herbertshöhe 16 miles away and commenced to land troops as fast as we could; at the moment when the last of the reinforcements landed the boat which we had commandeered brought off the first casualties, Dr. Pockley² and H. B. Williams, both shockingly wounded. I was at the gangway when they were brought on board, and I could see by the look on their faces there was no hope, which proved correct for before dinner time both had died. Next trip brought off a German who, while in a trench, had put his hand in his helmet and raised it up out of the trench to draw our men's fire - with the result that he received a bullet through his helmet and through his right wrist, injuring it so badly that his hand had to be cut off at the wrist. There were also two German officers brought off as prisoners. Lieut. Bowen³ is also wounded, to what extent we don't know at present. Lieut. Comdr. Elwell,⁴ who commanded the left half-battalion, was shot dead gallantly leading the attack to the relief of Lieut. Bowen's party. What the list of wounded is we do not at present know.

* Lieutenant-Commander George Prideaux (1872-1965) joined the Victorian Naval Forces on 4th May 1885 and retired from the R.A.N. on 17th July 1930 after more than 45 years' service. He saw active service in China during the Boxer Rebellion and during World War I, and was awarded the M.B.E. in 1928. The above article is drawn, with some editing, from two letters Prideaux, then a Warrant Armourer, wrote from HMAS "Berrima" to members of his family on 11th and 15th September 1914—Editor.



The wireless station was not captured the first day so we landed more men at night to renew the attack in the morning, but we have news now that Lieut. Bond's⁵ company attacked the station during the night and captured it, losing one killed and 3 men wounded in doing so. All the fighting up to the present has been done by the Naval men who have done splendidly. I was sorry to hear of Lieut. Comdr. Elwell's death for he was a very gentlemanly officer. Herbertshöhe is a veritable Garden of Eden with coconut palms by the thousand, and must be a wealthy place on account of the amount of copra which is shipped away.

II.

We are now (Sunday 13th) safely berthed alongside the wharf at Rabaul, another gloriously pretty place. Last night we landed four companies of infantry about 8 o'clock, in the dark. All the whites and natives were down to see us berth, but were not allowed to come on the wharf as the entrance was closed by high gates and guarded by blue jackets. The natives are very excited and unfortunately during the night one of the native police was shot dead by one of our troops and news travels very quickly among these people.

Rabaul has some fine buildings and a very mixed population: Japanese, Chinese and natives of the island. We havenot got the governor yet as he is away, but we have given him until tomorrow to put in an appearance, after which we shall go and take him by force. The doctor told me this morning that poor Lieut. Comdr. Elwell was shot in five places, twice in the head and three in the body. We have one seaman in hospital on the "Australia" with no less than four bullet wounds in him and doing fairly well.

III.

On Sunday the 13th, at 3 o'clock, all troops and seamen available were drawn up in the town square, together with the flagship's band which had played us up from the landing jetty through the streets lined with the black population who had evidently carried the news far and wide. The proclamation service was a very impressive and a very historic one. First, the Brigadier⁶ arrived and was received with a funeral salute, after which the Admiral⁷ and staff were also received with the same. The flag of old England was then hauled up in a ball to the top of the flagstaff and at exactly 3 o'clock was broken for the first time (or I should say the second time, as these islands were once under British rule). It fluttered proudly in the gentle breeze to the sound of a salute of 21 guns from the flagship in the harbour. The band then played the National Anthem. The National Anthem was then sung by all present after which three lusty cheers were given such, I warrant,

as were never given before. All the German residents were present and during the ceremony some showed a very disrespectful bearing, which was noted. All the native police in their gay uniforms were lined up at the rear of the flagstaff, together with the native population, and they must have been impressed with the ceremony. I was a company commander during the parade.

After this part of the parade was over we marched past the Admiral in the main street back to the wharf. When we had left the parade-ground, Captain Tynan, an immense big officer, read the proclamation to the native population, about the new big fellow with the plenty big war canoe. By the way they looked at him I think they had an idea that he was the new big fellow (George V). During the ceremony we saw a big Chinese kite flying from the top of the North Sister (one of the many volcanoes round the harbour) and when we got back to the ship signalmen and officers were rushing in all directions. The kite was a signal to the Germans down at Herbertshöhe to attack the place in large numbers. We immediately sent down about 200 men in the "Encounter" to strengthen the force there and they were able to repulse the attack. They had previously captured a German with the plans of their fortifications and trenches, so next morning we heard the guns of the "Encounter" shelling the same. They had the range worked out to a nicety. We heard that they made splendid shooting and this should have a great effect on the armed natives.

The disrespect of the Germans had the effect of them all being seized and brought before the Colonel. All those who would not take the oath of neutrality were promptly sent on board us by armed guard and later on were allowed to go ashore to their homes to pack their trunks. They were brought on board again and sent to the flagship for transport down to Sydney. This action was a great shock to them. The Mayor and the Administrator were allowed an officer to accompany them, so (name indecipherable) took the Mayor and I the Administrator, allowing them 30 minutes to pack up and say goodbye to their families. My man only had a wife and she spoke English well. I told her how sorry I was and she said it could not be helped, but I felt really sorry for her. He had a very nice home and some lovely dogs.

The Germans did not treat the English residents too well. They sent them away about 10 miles and made them prisoners in a sort of barn fit for four persons. They had to clean out a pigsty underneath and make it fit to live in. Just before we came the Germans told them there was no more food to spare for them, so they were immensely pleased when we arrived. When the German prisoners came on board



they asked for beer and cigars, etc. We are erecting a wireless station at the foreman's residence on the top of the hill. All the German stations have now been destroyed. We expect to catch a couple of German gunboats at the back of the island (of which we have had information) and I believe the "Melbourne" is away about the business at the time of writing.

We are very anxious about one of our submarines which has not been heard of all the morning and two search parties have gone out to look for her. It is quite possible the submarine may have touched a reef, or she may be quite safe, but we are very anxious about her.*

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- * The disappearance of the AE1 with all her crew on 14th September 1914 was Australia's first naval loss of the war and has remained a mystery ever since. It is possible that her final resting place was detected by HMAS "Flinders" on 17th May 1976 using a sonar scanner, but the identity of the contact, located about 1000 metres north-east of East Point Credner Island, has yet to be established (see J. D. Foster, " 'Tom Besant, where are you?' The Mystery of HMA Submarine AE1," 'Defence Force Journal', July/August 1977).

REFERENCES

- 1 Now called Kokopo, Herbertshöhe was the capital of German New Guinea until 1910.
- 2 Captain Brian C. A. Pockley, AAMC (1890-1914).
- 3 Commander R. G. Bowen, RAN (1879-).
- 4 Lieutenant-Commander C. B. Elwell, RN (1882-1914).
- 5 Commander T. A. Bond, DSO, VD, RANR (1872-).
- 6 Colonel (later Major-General) William Holmes, CMG, DSO, VD (1862-1917).
- 7 Rear-Admiral (later Admiral) Sir George Edwin Patey, KCMG, KCVO, RN (1859-1935).

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