Military Historical Society of Australia
Sabretache

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SABRETACHE

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FRONT COVER: *Maj. J. C. Ewen, MC, DCM, MM.*

An Unanswered Question

by JOHN E. PRICE

"PRO Deo Et Patria." Within half a mile of St. Matthew's Church, Cheltenham, are three, almost forgotten links with the dusty South African veldt; links taking us back nearly 80 years to the heyday of the British Empire. Queen Victoria's reign was ending; the Twentieth Century was about to commence.

Moorabbin was very much a rural community, with its residents paying scant heed to the diplomatic moves and intrigue being enacted on the other side of the Indian Ocean.

Bill McKnight (1), whose name heads the impressive list of past-scholars on the local State School's honour roll, was putting his citizen-soldiers through their paces in the Drill Hall, still standing (2) on Point Nepean Road.

Forty-eight other men — whose names are inscribed on the hunk of polished red granite standing, forlornly, in a corner of the lovely War Memorial section of Cheltenham Park — were going about their everyday tasks.

Amongst them was one — Christie. On the South African War Memorial at Melbourne Church of England Grammar School, he is grandly named "James."

Both Ballarat and Moorabbin's tributes record his initials as "J.W.", but on the tablet in Old St. Matthew's Church, he is affectionately called "Will", which is how I prefer to think of him.

Being educated outside the district and later, because his job — Surveyor's Assistant for the Melbourne Board of Works — took him far afield, he was comparatively unknown locally.

Nevertheless, he was a Cheltenham lad and should not be forgotten.

When the war between Great Britain and the Boer republics erupted in October 1899, everyone considered it would be a walk-over.

However, tactics which had defeated countless adversaries resulting in great chunks of the earth's surface being coloured red in school atlases, were of little value in a conflict where one's enemy could ride a horse, almost before he could walk, whose earliest toy had been a firearm and who could live for weeks on scraps of dried meat and a handful of coffee beans. If the war was to be won, the foe had to be beaten in his own element.

In the early flush of patriotism, men from Australia, Canada and New Zealand volunteered to fight for the Mother Country.

At first, however acceptable these part-time soldiers were, they were regarded, by the British War Office, as raw colonials.

Later — when these same colonials proved equal, if not better, to the Boer — the cry went out for more.

Victoria sent seven Contingents to South Africa (3), the last two forming part of the infant Australian Commonwealth's force.

To gain a place, in any contingent, was a prize indeed. So eager were the

3.

volunteers that the authorities could afford to be choosy.

Whereas, some 70 years later, young men were ballotted into National Service, with service in Vietnam a probability, for the South African War they were ballotted out.

The "unlucky ones" paid their own fares, or worked passages and, upon arrival, joined such units with flamboyant names as Kitchener's Fighting Scouts, or Steinaecker's Horse.

A large percentage of the Marquis of Tullibardine's Scottish Horse was recruited in Victoria from the unselected. Will Christie joined the 3rd Victorian (Bushmen's) Contingent.

He must have felt very proud as he rode, with his detachment 360 strong, up along Point Nepean Road, from their camp at Langwarrin, to the trooopship berthed at Port Melbourne.

He little knew that, as he passed St Matthew's Church, he was seeing Cheltenham for the last time.

In the journalistic style of the period, the "Moorabbin News" of December 15, 1900 reported: "A great gloom has been cast over the homecoming rejoicing of 'Our Boys' this week by the sad news of Will Christie, who succumbed to enteric fever at Rustenburg hospital on Wednesday last. Christie was one of the seven Victorians who so bravely saved a convoy by holding the Boers in check. He was a thorough Bushman and entered in to the spirit of his work with that unflinching bravery for which the Australians are now famous."

Whilst J. Collins and F. Clay (4), two other names on the local Memorial, fell in the heat of battle, Will Christie died in a war which claimed more deaths from disease than the impact of the Mauser bullet. Still a death and mourned just as deeply by loved ones.

The tablet in the Old Church is similar to many found in churches scattered throughout what used to be termed the British Empire.

At the base is the representation of a Martini-Henry rifle. Surrounded by a laurel wreath are the words: "In Memory of Will Christie of the Bushmen's Contingent, South African War. Died at Rustenburb, December 7, 1900. Erected by his friends as a memorial of noble deeds done by Australians."

At the top is a sculpted version of the Victorian Mounted Rifles badge, included in which was the unit's motto: "Pro Deo Et Patria" — For God and Country.

This article — modified slightly from its original form — appeared in the August 1977 issue of an Anglican Parish magazine, primarily as an expression of thanks to the former curate for some research which he had undertaken, on my behalf, but also to assess what information, either written or verbal, might still be available, regarding the district's Boer War participants, from the present-day parishioners. "Pro Deo Et Patria" had been researched in a minimal form and was written purely for the reader with scant knowledge of military history and, probably, even less information of Australia's involvement in the Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902.

It aroused a modicum of interest amongst those who read it, but no tangible evidence regarding Christie or his family for, as was stated in the article, he was fairly unknown locally.

His mother had, apparently, re-married during his lifetime, taking the surname Muir, which did not assist my

researching. None of my workmates, at Cheltenham Post Office, knew either names. Obviously the trail was cold.

When I travelled to South Africa, in mid-1978 — one of my field trips was to the Magaliesberg Ranges.

The first part of the day was spent at Swartruggens, inspecting the site of the Elands River siege, so it was afternoon by the time we reached town centre of Rustenburg and its cemetery.

The warm winter sun made it just slightly uncomfortable for graveyard visiting.

I walked past the graves of the men who had fallen at Koster River, also those, of the Scottish Horse, who had died on wounds at Moedwil. I saw the ornate celtic cross, with its globe and laurel device, marking the resting place of Captain C. W. Robertson, RMLI, O.C., B. Squadron, NSWCBC, but nowhere could I see the grave of one, J. W. Christie.

Backwards and forwards I traversed those silent ranks, stopping occasionally to read an inscription, make notes, or take a photograph.

Still no Christie. Time was slipping by, Don Forsyth, my host and guide for this trip, decided to enquire at the Municipal Chambers leaving me to widen my search area, a somewhat futile action for the man, whose grave I sought, had to be buried in the main military section.

Finally I gave up and sat in the shade of a tree. Don eventually returned with the news of finding the entry listing Christie's death, written in copperplate script, in a volume which carried the dust of some seventy-odd years.

This vital information revealed that he was buried in Plot 35. With renewed vigour I retraced my steps.

Camera poised I was ready to collect photographic evidence. I paused, looking again at the grey painted metal cross with its customary legend "For King and Empire" but instead of Christie's name there, for all to see, was that of an Argyll and Sutherland Highlander.

What had happened? Was there a mistake?

I have never found out and have only deductions. The most probable one is that when peace arrived and time for all war graves to be officially recorded and marked, in a permanent manner, a squad of men went to Rustenburg cemetery with a batch of memorial crosses, as each grave was planted with its cross an NCO would tick the appropriate name off on his roll.

Somewhere, somehow, someone may have slipped up and there, at the end of the duty, was one unmarked grave and one cross over.

"What shall I do with this cross, Sarge?" asks a perspiring Tommy.

"I could tell you....but bung on that unmarked site over there!" Could have been the possible conversation.

Relieved that their task was over, the detail would depart safe in the assumption that no one would take the trouble to check up on them... Well not until 1978.

Alternatively, over the passage of time, vandals, practical jokers, or just an unthinking cemetery attendant may have replaced the crosses thereby destroying valuable evidence to at least one researcher.

True, the logical task was to check out the Municipal records, sketched a map of the layout of the military section of Rustenburg cemetery, but this would have taken up time that I could ill-afford and, from my companion's remarks, a working knowledge of Afrikaans.

For me the question remains unanswered. Just who lies buried in Plot 35?

NOTES AND SOURCES

1. William McKnight, Captain & Adjutant, 3rd Victorian (Bushmens) Contingent. Major, 5th Victorian (V.M.R.) Contingent.

2. At the time the article was originally written, the Victorian Rangers Drill Hall was almost in its original state. Now it has been restored as a Reception Room.

3. Victoria actually raised six contingents before Federation. The Fifth and Sixth Contingents went to South Africa as the Fifth Victorian (V.M.R.) Contingent.

4. 1007, Pte. J. Collins, 5th Victorian (V.M.R.) Contingent, Died of Wounds, 13 June 1901, received at Wilmansrust, 12 June 1901. 31561 Pte. F. W. Clay, 2nd Scottish Horse, Killed in Action Elandskloof, 3 July 1901.

Liber Melburnensis, centenary edition, Melbourne, C.E.G.S.

Victorian Military Forces. Third (Or Bushmen's) Contingent for For Service in South Africa. Australian Archives (Victorian Div.)

Official Records of the Australian Military Contingents to the War in South Africa, P. L. Murray, For the Department of Defence, Melbourne, 1911.

South African Field Force Casualty List 1899-1902. Oaklands Press

Moorabbin News several issues 1900 and 1901.

Salt, Parish Magazine of St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Cheltenham August 1977

Municipal Records, Rustenburg, Transvaal, South Africa.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MHSA

THE Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at RSL Headquarters, Canberra, on Monday, October 15, 1979. Fourteen members were present. The President, Mr Neville Foldi chaired the meeting.

Election of Officers

As reported in "Sabretache" Vol. XX No. 3, the only nominations received for positions on the Federal Council of the Society were for those members of the 1978/79 Council who had indicated their agreeement to stand for office in 1979/80. The following members were therefore declared elected to Federal Council:

President — Mr. N. Foldi.
Vice President — Maj. H. Zwillenberg ED (RL).
Honorary Secretary — Lt. Col. T.C. Sargent (RL).
Honorary Treasurer — Mr. M. Kennedy JP.

President's Report

The President presented the following report to the meeting:

As I commence my second term as Federal President I think it appropriate not only to take stock of the Society's affairs but also to look to the future.

Federal Council has met on seven occasions during the past year as we found it necessary to deal with a considerable amount of business, particularly that raised by Branches. These meetings and the work that they have generated have made severe calls on the time of Council members, and the Secretary in particular, and I extend to them my sincere thanks. I might add that copies of the minutes of these meetings have been sent regularly to Branch Secretaries.

"Sabretache" continues to be the main medium of communication for all members and while some changes have been made we continue to look for further improvements. There have been some criticisms concerning the content of the Journal and the lack of articles of interest to some collectors. Be that as it may the Editor can only publish material received and the answer is in your hands.

Also, the cost of producing "Sabretache" is not likely to remain stable. Already advice from our printer indicates an increase of some 12% in his charges during the coming year. Significant economies have been made but there is a limit to the savings that can be made without compromising quality and we do not believe that any reduction in quality would be in the best interests of the Society or of members.

As to the future we have established a publications fund to be financed by profits from the sale of Federal Council publications and donations. The first of these was from Bill Rowlinson DCM*, a member from Wagga Wagga, N.S.W. On behalf of the Society I warmly thank Bill for his fine gesture. The fund will

be used for publication of carefully selected material relating to Australian military history.

The 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Society falls in 1982 and, at the suggestion of the Secretary of the A.C.T. Branch, Federal Council has commenced planning to mark this event. Comments have been sought from Branches so let us have your ideas.

The financial statement presented by the Treasurer makes clear the situation which is not as secure as we would wish. Without prompt payment of members' subscriptions the future cannot be guaranteed. What can be done? A further increase in subscriptions might be in tune with these inflationary times but we have put aside this option. Rather, we are convinced that the solution is an increase in the number of financial members. This would reduce the part of each subscription spent on "Sabretache" thus enabling subscriptions to be held at the present level for a longer time.

Let us make this coming year year a time for actively seeking more members. Branches might examine their programmes to ensure continuing appeal while each individual member can introduce at least one new member. It's up to you.

In conclusion, as part of our continuing close contact with Branches I invite your support for the National Militaria Exposition being organised by the Geelong Branch for Easter 1980.

Thank you.

Neville Foldi

THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA — FEDERAL COUNCIL —

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 1979
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 1979

Balance Sheet
The balance sheet for 1978/79 was submitted by the Federal Treasurer, Mr. M. Kennedy and is shown below.

Treasurer's Report for Year ended 30th June 1979

Attached is the audited financial statement for the year ended 30th June 1979.

The balance of $2128.36 is disclosed in the income and expenditure account includes:-

Subscriptions paid in advance	$647.17
Advertising paid in advance	367.36
Amounts due to MHSA (ACT Branch)	
- Postage	40.00
-Book sale receipts	22.20
	1076.73

The financial position of the Society has improved over the past financial year. Provided the present level of membership is maintained and continued control of costs can be exercised the Society will be able to meet its future financial obligations.

(J.M. Kennedy JP. AASA)
Honorary Treasurer
1st July 1979.

THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
FEDERAL COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1979
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30th JUNE, 1979.

1977/8	INCOME		1978/9	1977/8	EXPENDITURE	1978/9
14.67	Balance B/F.		713.55			
	Subscriptions			4290.00	Publication of Sabretache	3644.00
	1977-8	111.25		219.36	Postage	469.46
	1978-9	3146.82		126.00	Stationery	168.46
	1979-80	632.17			Rental of Post Box	24.50
3567.06			3890.24	.10	Bank Charges	2.00
	Less capitation fees					
32.90	retained by branches	66.40				
3534.16			3823.84			
	Commission on Auction		402.59			
1442.00	Donations		657.20			
151.24	Advertising		540.36			
41.60	Sales		58.60			
40.94	Postage		59.78			
15.40	Bank Interest		37.87			
	Refund of Stamp Duty		.80			
	Special Project A/c.					
	Publication of					
	From Khaki to Blue					
	(See Note 1)					
	Sales to 30.6.78	159.00				
	Sales to 30.6.79	2132.19	2132.19			
	Sales in progress	446.81				
	Stock (at valuation)	1200.00				
		3938.00				
	Less				Cost of Publication of	
	Costs of Publication				From Khaki to Blue	
	— Editing	300.00			(Transferred from Special	
	— Printing	3240.00			Project A/c.	1990.00
109.00	Project Surplus	398.00		713.55	Balance C/F.	2128.36
5349.01			8426.78	5349.01		8426.78

NOTE 1. There is a contingent liability in respect of an advance by Mrs Brownell to the Society against the costs of publication of From Khaki to Blue.   500.00
LESS Books supplied to Mrs Brownell plus postage.   442.00
Balance   1058.00

It is unlikely that any deficiency will arise as sales in progress and stock on hand are expected to realise an amount in excess of the balance of $1058.

Uniforms to Moscow

- **Following a recent donation to the Australian War Memorial of three Soviet uniforms by the Armed Forces Museum in Moscow, three Australian uniforms plus newspaper headlines dealing with the Eastern Front during World War II are to be sent to the Russian museum.**

BOOK REVIEWS

THE MEMOIRS OF SERGEANT BOURGOGNE 1812-1813 — Reprint by Arms and Armour Press, London, 1979, 220 x 145 mm, 356 pages, maps, hard cover, recommended Australian retail price $20.25, distributed by Thomas C. Lothian Pty Ltd, Melbourne.

Another book in the reprint series by Arms and Armour Press and a worthy addition to the series covering the Napoleonic period. The work is well known to the students of the period, presenting a colourful soldier's account of the occupation of Moscow by Napoleon's Imperial army in 1812, and the disastrous retreat which followed. Original editions of Bourgogne's Memoirs have become rarer and prohibitively expensive over the past ten years and this reprint will be welcomed by Napoleonic enthusiasts.

Bourgogne has created a very vivid picture of the campaign. He was taken prisoner in the action at Dessau in October 1813 and while a POW began to record his memories of the Russian campaign. The first account, an edited form, was first published in France in 1857, then a full version in 1896 and an English translation in 1899.

The reprint has been enhanced by a foreword and an historical introduction, both by the eminent British historian David G. Chandler. Maps from the atlas to 'Alison's History of Europe' published 1875 have also been included to illustrate the route to and from Moscow and the major battles of the campaign. Personally I would settle for less historical atmosphere in the maps and more clarity for they are of questionable quality. The end-paper map to the Folio Society 1969 edition of Vossler's 'With Napoleon in Russia 1812', another comtemporary account, is a good example of what could have been achieved.

The historical introduction by David Chandler is most useful as it provides an outline of the campaign against which the detail of Bourgogne's individual account can be more clearly appreciated. As for Bourgogne's account itself — what is there to say on a volume which has been available to the Napoleonic buff for eighty years, except that for those who do not have it the reprint presents an opportunity to add it to their shelves now. for the general military reader the volume gives interesting interpretations on themes of leadeship and morale and on the endurance of the ordinary soldier who is inspired by his leadership. There are some obvious comparisons which can be made with the smaller and less spectacular British retreat on Corunna in 1808.

Not an inexpesive book, I recommend it to all students of Napoleonic campaigns and it is worthwhile library reading for all with a general interest in military history. —

Clem Sargent.

STRATEGY AND ETHNOCENTRISM. By Ken Booth. London, Croom Helm, 1979. 182pp. UK price £10.50.

Ken Booth, a lecturer in International Relations at the University College of Wales, has taken an idea worthy of a good article and turned it into a short and (alas) not very good book.

The idea is not new, but is worth restating: That the leaders who make decisions about national strategy have usually been constrained by an ignorance bred of the notion that they are culturally and intellectually superior to their enemies.

Again, academic strategists are "culture-bound", ascribing their own values and thought processes to the other side or sides.

Mr Booth would like to "abolish" such strategists as they have developed over the past twenty years, and replace them with the purveyors of "strategy with a human face", imaginative, informed, culturally aware people, capable of looking at conflict from "the other side of the hill", resistant to "groupthink", with first-class minds and first-class hearts — "sophisticated realists", indeed: people, one must conclude, like Mr Booth himself, who has read so much of the secondary literature and is determined to expose knaves, fools, and the truth.

The book is wordy, repetitious, and didactic. No cliche is too old, no generalisation too sweeping, no jargon too current for the author's pen. Yet he does have points to make.

His illustrations are pertinent, if not necessary to his central thesis which expands in all directions under his enthusiastic kneading.

There is certainly a great deal of ignorance to be overcome, in strategic theory and practice. Mr Booth is in favour of overcoming it. That at least is a start.

Australian National University   **T. B. Millar**

American Visitor

A recent visitor to Canberra was Mr W. Mark Durley Jnr of Santa Maria, California, who visited Australia in early November to research at the Australian War Memorial and in the Australian archives on the Northern Solomons Campaign 1941-1945.

Mr Durley made contact with members of the ACT Branch during his visit.

Progress on Mosquito Restoration

● On 11 October the Director and the Curator of Relics visited the Hawker De Havilland factory at Bankstown, Sydney, and inspected progress on restoration of the Memorial's Mosquito aircraft. Under the skilled hands of Hawker De Havilland's tradesmen and apprentices, the aircraft is beginning to look a most presentable display piece. Mr Flanagan and Mr Burness took the opportunity to inspect the factory buildings where Australia's World War II Mosquitoes were built and the Messerschmitt and *Oscar* aircraft at the Marshall hangar. Both these aircraft were at one time owned by the Memorial.

Visit by Imperial War Museum Officer

● Mr David Lance, Keeper of the Department of Sound Record, Imperial War Museum, London, visited the War Memorial recently for discussions with staff. He made several suggestions which the War Memorial hopes to be able to put into effect so that the important task of collecting oral history and audio-visual material may be continued.

THIS is the fourth instalment in a series of articles on the history of South Australia's defence forces, taken from a major work submitted by the author of the University of Adelaide some years ago as part fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Arts.

THE IMPERIAL LEGIONS — THEIR WITHDRAWAL

BY H. J. ZWILLENBERG

That this House (while fully recognising the claims of all portions of the British Empire to Imperial aid in their protection against perils arising from the consequences of Imperial Policy) is of the opinion that colonies exercising the rights of self government ought to undertake the main responsibility of providing for their own internal order and security and ought to assist in their own external defence.

ON March 4, 1862, Arthur Mills moved the foregoing resolution in the House of Commons and sounded the death knell of the garrison system in the self-governing British settlement colonies. The Mills resolution was the culmination of a development which began in the early thirties, took some 30 years to mature, and a further 10 years to be put into effect.

The debate on the withdrawal of Imperial troops was triggered off by the question of military expenditure on Imperial garrisons in the settlement colonies which had little or no strategic defence significance.

It was inaugurated by Earl Grey, Secretary of State for War and Colonies, who, naturally enough, turned his attention to the Australian colonies.

At that time (1847) these colonies were not threatened by a foreign foe, their convict establishments were about to be broken up, and the need for Imperial protection had effectively ceased to exist.

Henceforth the barracks and military stores would be transferred to the colonies at a nominal rent, while any Imperial soldier wishing to take his discharge in the colonies would be encouraged to do so (101).

In 1855, the Imperial Order of Battle in Australia was as follows:

99th, Headquarters and seven companies in Hobart, one company each on Norfolk Island, at Launceston and in Perth.

40th, Headquarters and five companies in Victoria, one company in South Australia.

12.

11th, Headquarters and six com-
panies in New South Wales.
12th, Headquarters and six com-
panies in Victoria.

The opportunity to reduce the military establishment presented itself at the outbreak of the Maori wars in 1856.

The Governor of New South Wales, Sir William Dennison, suggested that since the number of convicts in Tasmania had decreased appreciably, 300 men would be sufficient there. At the same time, Governor Hotham of Victoria felt that he had to have a full regiment (1,000 men) in view of the troubles on the Victorian goldfields.

As a result the War Office decided to bring the 40th Regiment up to full war esablishment by moving the South Australian contingent to Melbourne, releasing two depot companies from England and also bringing from Ireland the two remaining companies, which had been ready to move to Australia since August, 1854.

The new disposition was as follows:
40th, Headquarters and ten com-
panies in Victoria.
11th, Headquarters and six com-
panies in New South Wales.
12th, Headquarters and one com-
pany each in Hobart, Laun-
ceston, Castlemaine, Norfolk
Island, Perth and Adelaide.

This meant an overall reduction from 2,800 to 2,200 men, and a corresponding saving for colonial budgets because, by that time, *all* garrisons in Australia were being paid by the colonies concerned, with the exception of troops guarding the remaining convict establishments at Perth and Hobart.

The re-organisation in the middle fififties was the first instalment of total troop withdrawal. Yet, the Governor of South Australia, Sir Richard MacDonnell, had somehow failed to appreciate the fact that a complete reversal of Imperial defence policy was about to take place.

In 1860 he actually wanted to add another three companies to the South Australian Imperial Order of Battle, for reasons which cannot now be ascertained, other than, and this is purely speculative, to induce South Australians to be more enthusiastic about volunteering themselves.

Cost estimates supplied by Major General C.S. Pratt from his new Australian military headquarters in Melbourne,* showed that three additional companies would have cost South Australia £11,756 in pay, plus another £6,787 to cover contingencies, that is, lodging allowance, rations (less Imperial stoppage), fuel and light, palliasse straw, washing and repairing of bedding, transport costs, advertising, barrack and hospital expenditure, chimney sweeping and the emptying of latrines (102), all of which amounted to an annual expenditure of some £70 per man, and thus well in excess of the cost of Imperial troops in the past.**

In 1859 the Secretary of State for War, Major - General Jonathan Peel, sought the creation of an Inter-Departmental committee, charged with defining the respective liabilities of the War Office and the Colonial Office. This Committee was to deal with the question

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* Australian military headquarters, by that time, had been transferred from Sydney to Melbourne, not without protest from South Australia, which objected to contributing funds for the maintenance.
**Vide Appendix B1.

of the colonial contribution to Imperial defence.

Nine years earlier the Governor of New South Wales, Sir William Dennison, had suggested that the cost of colonial defence should be shared equally by the colony concerned and by Great Britain (103).

On this question the Committee was unable to reach unanimity.

The main argument against the Dennison scheme was that a uniform policy would be impracticable and unfair, in view of economic and social differences between the colonies.

In South Australia, the reaction to the opinions expressed by the Committee was quite violent.

The Observer considered them absurd. After all, New Zealand could not have made any stand against the Maoris, save for the presence of Imperial troops, particularly since the natives were outside the jurisdiction of the local legislature.

Besides, if Great Britain intended to drag the colonies into her own wars, on the Rhine or in Sicily, then Great Britain was also obliged to protect them.

She could not "expect to enjoy the glory of an Empire" on which the sun never sets without some little responsibility. "If she cannot protect her colonies she should give them independence." (104).

In England the Inter-Departmental Committee more or less subscribed to the existing policy of withdrawing troops when circumstances allowed.

However, this vague attempt to resolve the problem of maintaining garrisons in self-governing colonies did not satisfy Arthur Mills, M.P. for Taunton, or Charles Adderley, a leading member of the colonial reform group in the House of Commons.

They were instrumental in the formation, in 1861, of The Select Committee of the Commons on Colonial Military Expenditure. A. Mills was appointed its Chairman, and it became widely known as the Mills Committee.

The Mills Committee began its task by collecting data on the cost of overseas military commitments. It was found that at that time the cost of maintaining garrisons abroad was £1,715,000 per annum of which the colonial governments contributed £370,00 or approximately 22 per cent, with the largest amounts coming from Ceylon and Victoria.

The size of the Victorian contribution was influenced by the inclusion of colonial pay, which was high, due to the high cost of living in the Australian colonies (105).

The report of the Mills Committee, tabled in the House of Commons on March 4, 1862, became "the most important single document ... which was to lead at last to the evacuation of the self-governing colonies by the Imperial British Army"(106).

The report divided British dependencies into two: Firstly, colonies proper (settlements with varying degrees of self-government); secondly, military garrisons, coaling stations and convict settlements maintained for Imperial purposes.

The main resolution adopted by the Commons, as quoted at the beginning of this section, meant that Imperial troops would no longer be available for police duties nor, in the absence of an external threat, would there be any justification for maintaining garrisons for national defence.

Immediate, total withdrawal from

Australasia was not practicable in the early sixties.

There were hostilities in New Zealand, and the troops there had to rely on ˙ɔgistic support from a secure base, Australia.

Nevertheless, the policy of withdrawal was inaugurated by a circular to the Australian colonies, signed by the Colonial Secretary, the Duke of Newcastle, on June 26, 1863 (107), which set out the policy, to be followed in Australasian colonies.

It specified that, for the time being, New Zealand was to be excluded from this policy, on account of the hostilities there. Western Australia was to have no troops at all (this was subsequently modified), and the Tasmanian garrison was to be fully maintained by England, because the convict settlement still existed at the time.

But there are, in the remaining colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland, no exceptional circumstances to prevent the free application on the part of the Home Government of those principles which arise from or are correlative to the grant of responsible government (108).

Henceforth, England declined to accept responsibility for maintaining internal peace within her colonies and only recognised a defence obligation in the case of actual or threatened war.

In Australia, an island land mass, sharing no frontiers with a potentially hostile country, the defence obligations were assumed to be met by the Royal Navy, while the colonies themselves were expected to make provisions for the defence of their capital cities and principal ports.

These provisions were to consist of

local defence forces, and such fortifications and other installations "as may be needed for efficiency and accommodation of such troops as may be raised in or sent to Australia" (109).

Actually, Britain was prepared to make some Imperial troops available to serve as the nucleus for local forces.

Subject to the convenience of the colonies concerned, and to their ability and willingness to pay the agreed financial contribution, the British Government proposed the following Order of Battle for Australia:

Colony	Regt. H.Q.	No. Coys.	Offi- cers	Other Ranks	Aust. H.Q.	Total	Financial Contributions
N.S.W. (1)	1	4	19	340	—	359	£14,360
Queensland	—	1	3	88	—	91	3,640
Victoria (2)	1	5	22	423	50	495	19,800
Tasmania (2)	—	3	11	249.	—	260	10,400
South Aust.	—	2	6	166	—	172	6,880
TOTALS	2	15	61	1,266	50	1,377	£53,080

(1) New South Wales was to be the Headquarters of one regiment, with four companies in New South Wales, one in Queensland and four in New Zealand.

(2) Victoria was to be the Headquarters of the second regiment, with five companies in that colony, two in South Australia and three in Tasmania, paid for by the Imperial Government. In addition, the Headquarters of the Australian Command with a strength of fifty all ranks, was to be stationed in Melbourne.

The colonial contribution was calculated on the basis of £40 per man (infantry) including colonial pay, but excluding officer lodging allowance.

The British Government was to bear the cost of moving the troops from England to Australia, as well as the transport of relief forces. The cost of troop movements within a colony, or any expenses incurred by transporting troops from one colony to another on request, had to be borne by the colony making the request (110).

The colonial contribution was to be paid in regular instalments. If the number of troops were to decrease — "H.M. Government could not, under all circumstances, guarantee the definite number of troops originally envisaged"(111) — then the instalments would decrease accordingly.

If, for any reason, the number of troops was to be augmented to suit the convenience of the British Government, no additional contribution would be payable by the colony concerned.

If the colonies themselves desired to have infantry in addition to their quota, or required specialist troops (artillery, engineers, etc.), then they would have to

pay for them at the rate of £70 per man per annum (112).

The foregoing provisions had to be ratified by the colonial legislatures.;

In 1863, the South Australian Government passed an act to authorise payments to be made to the Imperial Government as a contribution towards the cost of the military stationed in South Australia, to cover expenditure up to 31st December, 1870, at a rate of £6,880 per annum.

In general the principle of colonial contribution was not questioned. While South Australians had never been very enthusiastic about the presence of Imperial soldiers in their midst, they had always in the past voted the funds necessary for the troops' maintenance.

This time, however, considerable debate ensued in the legislature (113).

Firstly, there was some confusion because the debate also dealt with a request for funds to maintain a military establishment of fifty all ranks in the Northern Territory, to protect the settlers there.

Strangways opposed the Bill on the grounds that "the Home Government seemed desirous to settle a number of military unemployed comfortably in the colonies until they were wanted elsewhere..." (114).

Other members still saw the military as a means of maintaining law and order, at least till the colony could look after itself, rather than as a means of protection against aggression, and the government of the day did not make the distinction clear.

The question of removal of troops at the will of the British Government was not properly understood.

The belief that the general officer commanding had no power to remove the troops without the colonial governor's consent, was disproved by just such an occurrence in the colony at the Cape of Good Hope, whence Imperial troops were removed against the wishes of the Governor, Sir George Grey.

The House also voiced the opinion that the quota of two companies was unnecessarily high.

One was considered sufficient to supply the Government House guard and to protect the stockade.

The House did not want to make the whole measure a permanent fixture and inclined towards treating it on an annual basis, like the English Mutiny Acts, a provision which was accommodated when the bill was reintroduced.

By this means the measure ceased to be an addition to the civil list and became a vote of supply to the Queen. Even so, there was an overall feeling of resignation towards the presence of Imperial troops.

It was generally felt that, although no one wanted them, South Australia would still have to accept whatever troops were sent, and would have to pay for them. Only one member, Duffield, really did want to retain Imperial troops in South Australia, on account of the "revolutionary spirit that was about"* (115).

Although the passing of the bill served to formalise what had been a fact of political life since 1842, the situation which emerged in the early sixties would have made the Adelphi planners turn in

17.

their graves at the sight of their successors openly trading the lofty moral principle of self-support for a business proposition.

The business proposition did appear to be quite sound, as long as the order of battle did not exceed one company.

Imperial soldiers brought into the colony almost as much money (£31) as the colony paid out in royalties (£40) per man.

The slight imbalance of payment was compensated for by the increase in business turnover, which resulted from the presence of these additional people in the colony.

However, as soon as the military establishment exceeded one company, the colony was obliged to pay for a number of supernumeraries (mainly officers) at a rate of £70 per man.

In addition, the lodging allowance which the legislators had at first hopefully misunderstood to be a charge on the Lords of the Treasury, also had to be borne by the colony.

It is not surprising, therefore, that a number of proposals were put forward in an effort to rectify this uneconomical arrangement.

Some suggested reducing the strength of the police force (116), others recommended limiting the Imperial military establishment to one company (117), and some even wanted to suspend the colonials volunteers' effort (118).

The last suggestion prompted Robert Lowe, one time member of the New South Wales Legislative Council and witness before the Mills Committee, to observe ironically that the presence of one Imperial soldier prevented one hundred colonials from arming and drilling" (119).

By 1870 the Imperial government was preparing the climate for a total withdrawal of troops from the colonies.

The first step involved increasing various charges associated with the presence of Imperial garrisons.

Lodging allowance rates for the senior officer in a colony were increased (120), while instructors or other supernumerary personnel had to be paid for at the higher capitation rate of £70 (121).

The standard of barracks maintenance required by the War Office added another 6/- per man to the colonial expenditure, (122) and the Imperial Government also ruled that its troops would not be subject to customs duties (123), and they were to be granted the privilege of reduced postal rates (124) and that Imperial officers were to be exempt from paying rates and taxes (125).

Perhaps by the late sixties, Great Britain realised that, as long as Imperial troops remained in the colonies, the British taxpayer would be obliged to foot the bill for an arrangement from which only the colonies stood to profit (126).

Or perhaps Britain just wished to force the self-governing colonies to accept responsibility for their own military protection.

Whatever the motive, in 1869 it was announced that all troops in excess of one regiment would be withdrawn (127).

The headquarters of the Australia Command was to remain in Melbourne, the regimental headquarters would be in Sydney.

The revised order of battle meant that four companies would be stationed in New South Wales, two in Victoria, two in South Australia and one each in Queensland and Tasmania, one battery of Artillery to be in Sydney and, if desired, one in Victoria.

Although, existing capitation fees were to remain in force for the time being, Britain intimated that a new enquiry was to be held soon to re-determine costs and " ... it would be for the Australian Colonies to consider whether or not it (would be) worth their while to pay this increase for the presence of a small body of Her Majesty's troops" (128).

The British Government would be prepared to sell to the colonies, at cost price, any equipment surplus to requirements and to discharge other ranks of good repute and conduct in the colonies, prior to the departure of their units.

It was also laid down that at least four companies were to be stationed in the same locality as a regimental headquarters (129), to prevent fragmentation of military strength, and, therefore, that if a colony requested troops in addition to the proposed Order of Battle, it would be obliged to take at least four companies and a headquarters.

Perhaps predictably, the new conditions proved unacceptable to the colonies, and an Intercolonial Conference was convened, from February 20 to March 5, 1870, to reconsider the whole question of Imperial protection.

One of the South Australian delegates, J. H. Barrow, even suggested that, since Imperial troops were to be withdrawn, the Australian colonies should be declared neutral in the event of a war involving Britain (130).

Barrow's suggestion proved acutely embarrassing for South Australia's Governor Fergusson, who hastened to reassure the Colonial Office that a single proposal for neutrality was not to be taken as a reflection of the Colony's attitude generally (131).

Fergusson pointed out that public opinion in the Colony " ... must always be determined by the circumstances of the day".

At the time when war with Russia appeared to threaten, the Colony called for troops and guns; now, only a few years later " ... it fretted at the presence of a small detachment".

The Governor even suggested that, provided troops could be guaranteed to the colony under any circumstances, she would actually be glad to retain them.

While the 2/18 Regiment of Foot, the Royal Irish, prepared for departure, Fergusson made a last unsuccessful attempt to retain the unit in the Colony.

The Colonial Secretary's refusal (132) implied that, in principle, Great Britain was determined to end the Imperial garrison system in the settlement colonies, but would consent to garrisons under certain conditions.

For instance, Britain would only send a complete regiment overseas, hence, since Queensland and Victoria declined to have any troops at all, Tasmania was undecided, and South Australia only wanted one company, it would be impossible to have a full regiment in Australia.

Also, since regimental fragmentation was not acceptable, Royal Artillery, in itself requiring additional expenses for specialised equipment and horses, could not stay behind without infantry protection, either (133).

The fact that in Australia, artillery would have been used for training purposes only, was completely ignored.

One gains the impression that England acted with almost indecent haste.

The South Australian Legislative Council debate in July, 1870, (134) once

again embarrassed the Governor, for the tone of the debate showed that South Australia just was not interested in Imperial forces, not even naval forces which would have cost the colony nothing.

The effect of a naval squadron stationed in the colonies would be to cause a considerable amount of money to be circulated in Sydney and Melbourne ... but so far as this Colony South Australia was concerned the visits of the squadron would be like angels' visits, few and far between.(135).

The South Australian upper house apparently felt that any defence forces were bad unless good for business.

Finally, on August 17, 1870, the Royal Irish Regiment left South Australia on the "Aldinga", bound for Melbourne and England. The era of Imperial protection was at an end.

The Effects of the Imperial Withdrawal
The British View — The South Australian View

It is not likely ... that our colonists would ... engage to aia us in our purely European wars. Australia would scarcely find herself deeply interested in the guarantee of Luxembourgh, not Canada in the affairs of Servia.

Sir Charles Dilke, 1868

Independence (from the Crown) could scarcely make us more independent whilst it would entail upon us pure responsibilities from which we are now happily free ... Our loyal attachment to the Crown ... is unimpaired and we have the best of reasons — self-interest — for seeking to continue under Imperial protection.

"Observer" of April 1, 1871

The British view, indicated by Sir Charles Dilke (136) was a logical one and based on personal observations.

Dilke did not agree with Gladstone's assertions hopefully stated before the Mills Committee in 1861 and some years later in a speech at Leeds, that the Australian colonies would come to Britain's assistance in the event of war (137).

Comtemporary English opinion saw in the withdrawal of the Imperial garrison a turning point in the history of the Empire (138): Empire ties had been ruptured because the outer visible signs of Imperial unity had been removed (139).

South Australians did not shed any tears over the withdrawal of the British garrison, mainly for political reasons.

Although the colony had paid the piper half of the cost, she had no share in calling the tune.

For instance, South Australians had little say in what sort of troops they could obtain, nor was the presence of troops in the Colony ever guaranteed.

There was some irritation, more so in Victoria than in South Australia, that colonies had no control over their monetary contributions, because all dealings with the Imperial troops went through the governor as the agent of the Crown rather than as the Head of the colonial government.

20.

Secondly, very strong objections against the imperial troops were felt on the grounds that the garrison was a state within the state.

The troops had little contact with the people. In South Australia there were too few officers to mix effectively within the stratas and circles normally open to them, quite apart from the fact that they could not afford, financially, to participate in the social rounds.

They were relegated to a comparatively minor position on the precedence table.

It was not until 1864 that lieutenant-colonels in South Australia began to rank next to the bishop or the chief-justice and majors next to the solicitor-general (140).

The other ranks fared little better. The high rate of drunkeness and the very obvious idleness of the soldiers did not endear them to a population which contained a high percentage of non-conformists: the dissenters were quite glad to see that sort of Imperial representation go because it did not conform to their ideas of moral values.

Overall, South Australians took a very practical view of the whole question.

From the establishment of responsible government in 1856 onwards, the colonists had unfettered control over their lands, their economy, and their overseas trade. The only acknowledgement of allegiance to the Crown was the granting of a salary and certain prerogatives to the Queen's representative.

At the same time, they were not particularly interested in Empire defence, let alone the notion of assisting Great Britain in any of her wars: other than in 1854, the occasion simply had not arisen. Secondly, they were ' ... imbued

with a touching belief in the ubiquity and omnipotence of the British fleet ...' (141)*, and in this belief all Australians drived on for many decades.

But in 1870 or 1871 it was very much a case of having the best of two worlds — protection by Great Britain through her navy with no obligation to return a *quid pro quo*.

The Colony's attitude is perhaps best explained by an unawareness of the winds of change in Great Britain towards Empire following Disraeli's famous Crystal Palace speech in June, 1872.

Empire, with the more obvious financial burden removed from the taxpayer, was now looked upon as a potential asset, a view which took quite some time to filter through to South Australia, and it was not until two years later that a more positive attitude to Empire defence became noticeable in the Colony.

In the end the termination of the garrison system did not rupture Imperial ties but rather strengthened them. Non-British activities in the Pacific and fears of foreign attack made South Australians appreciate the advantage of connection with Empire and brought home to the colonists the "stern necessity of self-reliance"(142).

It was these considerations which eventually led to the formulation of a South Australian defence policy and the establishment of the South Australian military and naval forces.

* These were the words of a South Australian volunteer officer, G. Le M. Gretton, who eventually obtained a commission in the 3rd Battalion, Royal Warwickshire.

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Emden — "Beached and Done for"

by BOB LEONARD

HOW many people who cross Sydney Harbour have noticed a flagpole standing on the water's edge at Bradleys Head, or part of the bow of a ship cemented into the wall at Milsons Point?

Both are relics of the same ship, perhaps the most publicised man-o'-war ever commissioned into the Royal Australian Navy — the first of threee vessels to carry the name HMAS "Sydney".

"Sydney 1" gained her fame just on 65 years ago, when on November 9, 1914, she engaged and sank the German raider "Emden" off the shore of Cocos Islands in the Indian Ocean.

In the preceding months, the "Emden" had carried out a lone war against Allied shipping in both the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Flitting like a phantom across the trade routes, she sank or captured more than 20 merchantmen without causing loss of life to either herself or her opponents — a truly remarkable achievement.

She bombarded oil installations in Madras harbour, and for good measure sailed into Penang and sank a Russian cruiser and a French destroyer.

Just before World War I broke out on August 4, 1914, "Emden" was at the port of Tsingtao, then capital of a thriving German colony in China.

It was from this point she began a cruise which won the admiration of friend and foe alike.

Chased and hunted by the fleets of four allied nations (British, French, Japanese and Russian) the elusive "Emden" soon began to make world headlines.

Some Western Australians feared that the raider might even attack Fremantle, only three days' journey from the Cocos Area.

"Emden" was one of the first ships in the world to use wireless telegraphy in wartime, first to arrange rendezvous points with her supply ships, and second to ascertain the whereabouts of enemy vessels.

During the first decade of this century, fleets of the various powers had adopted a new device which enabled morse code signals to be transmitted from ship-to-ship and ship-to-shore.

Britain was first to realise the potential of this wireless telegraphy, which gained prominence with the sinking of "Titanic" in 1912.

A liner near the scene of the tragedy missed "Titanic's" SOS signals, although equipped with wireless she carried only one operator who had gone to bed for the night.

Had the "Titanic's" message been received, many who lost their lives could have been saved.

With World War I only three months old, many wireless operators had not learnt the necessity of maintaining radio silence.

They used to talk via their morse
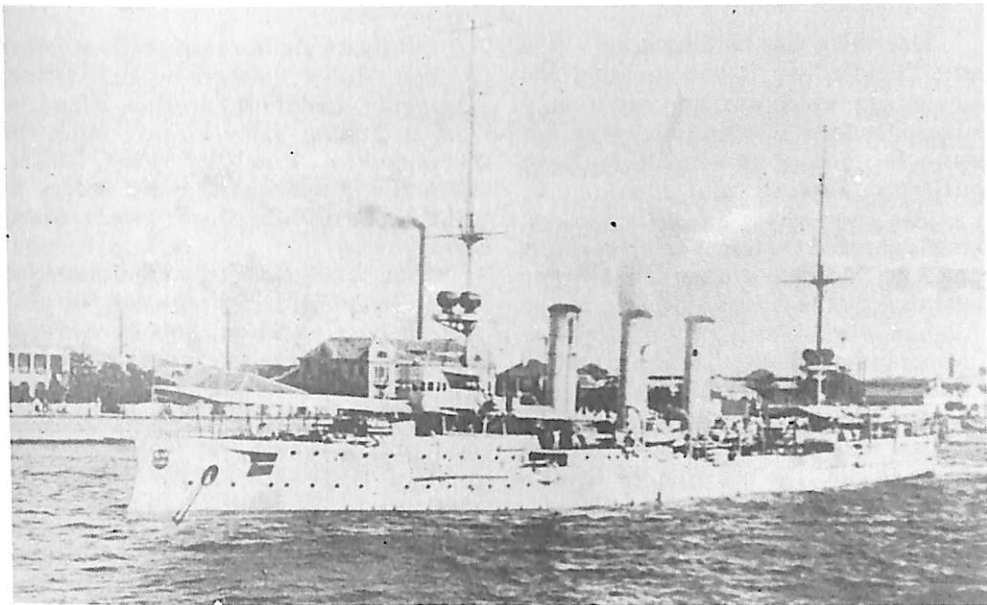
* ABOVE: The "Emden" photographed in her home port of Tsingtao, the capital of a thriving pre World War 1 German Colony in China. It was from here the "Emden" sailed on her three month's sortie against Allied shipping.

keys to one another. So when radio signals were numerous and loud, "Emden" knew that likely quarry were nearby. She also was able to learn the names of ships hunting for her.

The German cruiser on the other hand never gave her position away by transmitting unnecessary messages. This enabled her to sneak up on her victims, whereupon she would identify herself and flash a signal by lamp. "Stop your engines. Don't use your wireless."

Ironically, it was a wireless message that led to "Emden's" doom — but more of that later.

"Emden", and other ships of her era, were coal burners and that was a big problem, especially for Von Muller, her captain.

When he headed the "Emden" out to sea, Von Muller was well aware that he had no friendly port where he could refuel, and coal was his life-blood. Undaunted, he decided he would take on coal at sea, from captured ships. That was the pattern for the next three months.

When war broke out, both Australia and New Zealand were quick to offer support to Great Britain. Recruitment of expeditionary forces began almost immediately and arrangements were made to send these troops overseas.

By the end of October, 36 ships had assembled at Albany, Western Australia, two more joined the convoy from Fremantle.

The largest convoy ever gathered to carry men from Australia and New Zealand to war was ready to sail.

One thing was holding it up — the little "Emden" — if you discount the Konigsberg, which was supposed to be at large in the Indian Ocean at that time, but was in fact bottled up in the Rufiji River in German East Africa.

An impressive line-up of naval vessels guarded the transport ships — the powerful Japanese cruiser "Ibuki", (we tend to forget that Japan fought with the Allies in World War I), the British cruiser "Minotaur" and two Australian light cruisers, "Melbourne" and "Sydney".

On November 1, the great convoy weighed anchor and steamed towards the Indian Ocean. The log from the HMAS "Melbourne" recorded this as follows:

6-25 am "Minotaur" and "Sydney" sailed.

6-45 am First Australian division sailed.

7-15 am Second Australian division sailed.

7-55 am Third Australian division sailed.

8-20 am New Zealand division sailed.

8-53 am All transports clear of Sound upon which "Melbourne" herself at 8-55 am weighed anchor and proceeded. (Division in naval sense, meant a division of the convoy.

Returning to the "Emden": After the raid on Penang she headed back into the Indian Ocean.

Von Muller decided that he would destroy the vital Allied communications installations, at the point where all the cables from Australia, India and Africa met on Direction Island on the Cocos group.

Unawares, the German captain was steering a collision course with the convoy of troopships taking our men to the Middle East.

Early on the morning of November 9, Von Muller reached his destination. Dropping anchor off Direction Island, he sent a landing party ashore under the command of "Emden's" First Officer, Helmuth von Mucke, with orders to destroy the telegraph and radio installations.

But "Emden's" arrival had not gone undetected. Officials at the wireless station who had been half expecting a visit from the German cruiser, flashed off in morse, "Strange warship approaching."

They repeated the message a few minutes later with the prefix "SOS". The time was a little before 6-30 am.

These signals, as well as one in an unknown code (it was "Emden" calling up her collier) were picked up by wireless operators in several transports and escorting warships of the big Anzac convoy, which at that time happened to be only 80 km away. From that moment, wireless telegraphy, the invention that had served Von Muller so well, sealed his doom.

The convoy had lost its most powerful escort, HMS "Minotaur", the previous day when the cruiser was sent to South Africa leaving HMAS "Melbourne" in command.

After momentary confusion, "Melbourne" increased speed and changed course towards Cocos. "Ibuki" ran up her battle colours. "Melbourne's" captain signalled "Sydney" to raise steam for full speed and to prepare for battle.

By 7 am, "Sydney" was on her way, doing 20 knots. At 9.15 am she sighted her quarry.

"Emden's" position was hopeless from the start. She was caught at anchor, 50 of her men were still ashore, and she was outgunned.

"Sydney's" heavier guns could be fired with accuracy from a greater distance.

Yet "Emden's" gunners were the first to find range — their first three salvos bracketed "Sydney", the fourth scored a direct hit, knocking out the Australians' fire detection system, but the success was short-lived.

"Sydney" withdrew from the range of "Emden's" lighter guns. After two hours, the German ship was "beached and done for" — the Australian Navy had earned its first battle honours.

When the result of the naval engagement seemed beyond doubt, von Mucke, who had led the landing party on Direction Island, commandeered a leaky old schooner, "Ayesha", anchored in the lagoon.

Under the very noses of the ships hunting her, the Germans sailed the "Ayesha" to Padang, Sumatra, where they met a German freighter.

In this vessel the Germans made for Hodeida, an Arabian port in Turkish hands. Turkey had by then entered the war on the side of Germany.

After many exciting escapades, including running fights with Arab bandits, von Mucke and nearly 40 of his party arrived back in Germany where they received a hero's welcome.

As for "Emden", she stood for many years on the coral ledge where she had grounded. Gradually, the sands of time have covered her up, until today she has gone forever.

But she is still remembered occasionally in Sydney. How many people who travel work from the Eastern Suburbs have noticed the gun in Hyde Park (nearly opposite RSL headquarters at Anzac House) which defiantly points up Oxford Street?

That is one of the four-inch guns salvaged from "Emden". Another gun is located on the north side of the harbour, in the Navy establishment of HMAS "Penguin".

And the men themselves?

One of them, Ernie Boston, of Croydon, now 81, was a 16-year-old seaman, the captain's messenger boy, on "Sydney". He is the youngest of the 10 remaining survivors of that ship.

Ernie says: "Over the years a spirit of comradeship has been forged between the men of the "Emden" and ourselves — some of us have exchanged visits. Today, however, there are only a handful of survivors left on either side. I recall when "Sydney" rejoined the convoy after the Cocos engagement, the "Emden's" captain, von Muller, was invited by our captain to come up on deck. When he saw the large number of ships, he said to me "Boy, what's this?", I told him, and he replied: "If all the Dominions respond like this it will go hard with the Fatherland' ".

Official casualties in the Sydney/ Emden battle were:

"Emden": 134 officers and men killed, 65 wounded, and 117 unwounded and taken prisoner of war.

"Sydney": 4 killed, and 13 wounded.

Paintings Sent to Canada

●**Thirty-three paintings by Australian artist Ralph Warner have been despatched to Canada for a travelling exhibition. It is the first time the Australian War Memorial's art work has been sent overseas. The Director of the Canadian War Museum has described the paintings as 'striking and attractive' and a 'magnificent exhibition'. The paintings will tour many Canadian provinces over the next two years.**

This article is summarised from a talk on the War Memorial Library collections given by Mr. M. Draheim, War Memorial Librarian, to the ACT Branch of the Society at the War Memorial in July. Following the talk Mr. Draheim took members through the library where he illustrated his talk with examples from the various collections.

The Australian War Memorial Library

THE collections in the Australian War Memorial library now total in excess of 3.5 million items.

They stand as evidence of the sympathetic stewardship of members of committees, the Board of Trustees, Directors and library staff.

Of the persons involved in its early development two stand out: Dr. C. E. W. Bean, Official Historian of Australia in the War of 1914-18 and Mr. A. G. Pretty, the first librarain.

Space does not permit description of Dr. Bean's visionary influence in the library's establishment and growth. His efforts require a separate discussion paper.

Mr. Pretty, as the first Librarian, had come from the staff of the Australian War Records Section in London where he had worked for Major Treloar who was to be the War Memorial's Director from 1921 until 1952.

Mr. Pretty was a grocer before the war, and he brought to the library attributes of discipline and organisation that he had known in both arranging material and providing the public with a service they deserved.

The legacy of our first Librarian endures, and it is on the basis of this arrangement and service that library readers today are able to pursue their research requirements.

There are 20 sub-collections, and while it is difficult to allocate a scale of importance to each, they are all extensively used by people who hold a wide range of interests.

For the Military Historical Society reader, it seems there are two specific fields: The more obvious being that of research related to objects of military or related significance; the less obvious, but equally important, being that related to research necessary in preparing papers, essays and other items which may be published.

The library is open five days a week, Monday to Friday, 9.00 am to 4.30 pm, public holidays excepted.

This may make it difficult for some researchers to make extensive use of the collections. Unfortunately too, there is not the staff to undertake lengthy research on behalf of public clients.

Staff do provide, however, answers to correspondence, telephone enquiries, and endeavour to point researchers in the right direction when they visit the library.

Not all of the 20 collections are of equal value to a reader.

The maximum value often wil be derived from published sources, both monograph and serial.

However, as many of these publications are readily available for purchase or on loan from other libraries, they may not hold the interest that some of our primary source collections will.

These are principally the photograph, film and written records. All the photograph collection is available for research, and copies of most photographs are available at nominal fees.

We also have a fairly extensive selection of prints suitable for exhibition purposes.

These may be borrowed for periods of up to three weeks. They will serve general rather than specific display purposes.

Certainly they are of value as a background to an exhibition of associated militaria.

The film collection is also readily available, but viewing facilities to all films are available only on Thursdays and Fridays.

The majority of the films held in the War Memorial is in the form that we describe as "raw footage".

It is untitled and without sound track.

They can, offer however, a great deal of implicit information in the portrayal of clothing, equipment and location. Such information could be of value in research of objects and their use.

For those involved in research of material for writing and preparation of papers, the Memorial's main service is in provision of archival resources.

Principal among these are official records including War Diaries, Squadron Books and Ships Logs, personal records, photographs and films.

In the main, personal records are also freely available. There are exceptions of course, for example, where donors of private papers have placed access restrictions or the official content of a personal collection preclude its availability.

Official records on the other hand must be cleared for public access.

The War Memorial has an administrative agreement with Australian Archives whereby official records in its custody are cleared for public access in acccordance with Government policy.

Many of the records by now have been cleared. Clients are able to check access status at the Memorial, and if records are cleared they may then proceed with their research. Where records have not been cleared, clients much approach Australian Archives directly and seek clearance.

It is advisable to provide Australian Archives with an accurate description of the material which will facilitate early attention to the request.

There are some particularly significant sections in the collection. Official Written Archives offer the greatest wealth of material for historical and other research.

Indexes were greatly relied on by the Official Historians and continue to attract the attention of all serious researchers.

The principal elements are the Unit War Diaries and Subject Classified Files (AWM Written Records).

These are already widely used by academic historians but also attract non historians to research their contents.

As these archives were compiled and maintained on instruction from the authorities they contain controlled records on day-to-day information such as health, rations and diet, manpower, recreation, and weather.

They also record contemporary military organisation, strategy, tactics, logistics, and planning. The records themselves infer much, such as the effects of social disease, morale, status of officers and other ranks, military justice and the role of education.

Many other official records support the value of the two categories outlined above, for example Headquarters registry files, files dealing with honours and awards, courts' martial, and corps records (such as education).

The Official records collection is principally Army in origin although some duplicate ships records and air force squadron books are held. While many Army records have been transferred, those for the Air Force and Navy are still administered by the Department of Defence.

The Poster Collection in particular is highly regarded by art and social historians. Few of the posters are original, being prints as used on hoardings and in offices, but they constitute one of the few such collections representing the international endeavours in war time to raise funds, troops and public sentiment prior to the advent of what we now call the "mass media".

The collection, including examples of recruiting posters by Norman Lindsay, urgings to buy war bonds, by Norman Rockwell, and those known by content rather than artist (e.g. England/America/Australia needs you, accompanied by a Kitchener-type face), may tell us more of official and private values than any other source.

From them we are told of security and the dangers of "loose lips", the need to conserve food and energy and how to "do your own thing" in the parlance of the day, to say nothing of the continuous need to do yet more, and more again for the war effort.

There are approximately 500,000 photographs most of which are archival, being the work of Official Photographers, from either the services or government information agencies.

The collection covers from the turn of the century to the present day, and represents every battlefield, and almost every aspect of service — from the cookhouse to the aftermath of battle.

The photographs are used to illustrate exhibitions, books and films where cine footage is not available. The photographs are invaluable also for comparative study.

Those by a young naval officer, Leighton Bracegirdle, during the Boxer Rebellion are singularly interesting today when news of modern China is much sought after.

The colour photographs produced by Captain Frank Hurley and his assistants in 1919 might also be mentioned. They represent a remarkable technical feat, when the constraints of facilities and equipment are considered.

In addition to that the professional quality of the photography can be regarded as being equal to that achieved by modern photographers in controlled environments.

The Souvenirs collection included the menus of regimental and official

dinners, the programmes of sporting contests, postcards for families and friends, reveal in another form that which captured the spirit of a number of generations.

In the delicately embroidered postcards one feels the sensivity for loved ones and desire to preserve something beautiful. In the same collection is shown the brashness of the soldier, the inevitability of winning, and the grief and despair of losing. The exact nature of the message conveyed may be left to the researcher's imagination.

From even this brief description, the War Memorial clearly houses a most diverse Library collection rich in historical source material. Members of the Military Historical Society are left to judge for themselves the relevance of individual collections to their particular research interests. They will be most welcome in the library.

Queries and Notes

PICTURED is a photo of an oil bottle (?) dated 1899 and RCD.

It is basically a square tin with brass fittings and encased in a leather box.

The circumferential strap apparently ties the affair to some sort of carriage.

Since I do not know its history, could a reader please help identify it?

It is also marked with a broad arrow above the letters CE.

Mr F. Garie, 159 Kensington Road, Kensington, S.A.
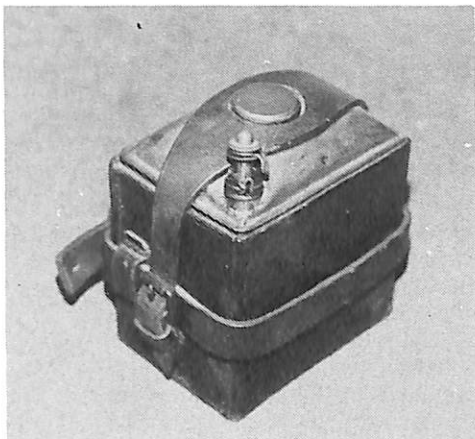
CAN any member identify the following:
Brass waist belt clasp, with QVC on the centre disc and "NIL DESPERANDUM — VICTORIA" on the outer circle.
R. Mamo, 138 Franklin St., Matraville, NSW, 2036.

Historic Relics Acquired

● A number of extremely valuable relics belonging to the late General Sir Harry Chauvel were recently handed over to the Australian War Memorial by his daughter Evelyn Mitchell, authoress of the 'The Light Horse'. The items include a standard of the Desert Mounted Corps carried in the triumphant entry to Beersheba, uniforms, honours and awards. Sir Harry was the first Australian to command an Army Corps and in 1929 became the first Australian to be promoted to the rank of General.

A ship's lantern from the past

by K. R. WHITE

A CHANCE visit to the home of a relative many years ago started a chain of research which recently ended in the presentation of ships lanterns to two museums, where they will remain for future generations to see as tangible relics of our naval heritage.

At first sighting the lamps, converted to electricity, were being used to illuminate the home of Mr. Rex Hazlewood, a landscape architect and 1st AIF signaller and Official War Photographer.

His home, "Barroul", located in a bush setting at West Pennant Hills, Sydney, was built in 1940 and incorporated in the decor were 10 brass lamps which had been purchased from a ship's chandler and broker in Balmain.

At time of purchase Mr Hazlewood was informed that they had come from HMAS *Psyche*.

Following Mr. Hazlewood's death and the sale of the property, the lamps were brought to Canberra by his son, who in turn included a number in the decor of his home.

All the lamps, with the exception of a candle burning lantern, were designed for oil burning, presumably kerosene and were not converted to electricity until installed by Mr. Hazlewood.
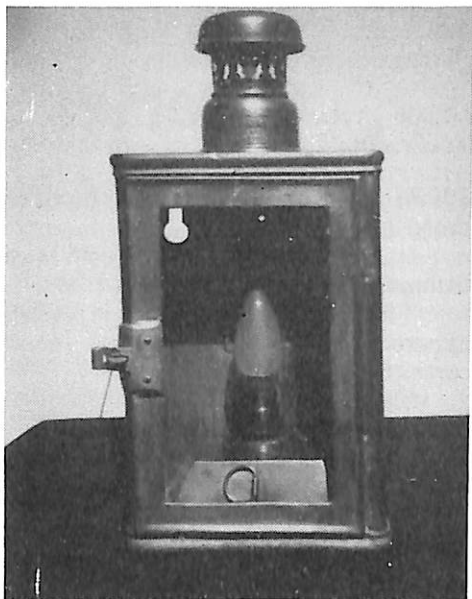
It seems amazing that a cruiser in World War I had not been converted to electricity and in fact still relied on oil lamps.

The photograph illustrates a copper and glass lamp included in the collection, which includes a tank for oil and a fine decorative chimney which bears the maker's name, Wm. McGeoch and Co. Ltd., Birmingham and Glasgow.

This lamp, by courtesy of Mr. Lawrence Hazlewood, was presented to Commander L. Forsythe, BEM, for inclusion in the naval museum of STD Snapper Island and a second lantern has been included in the 1914-18 Naval display at the Caloundra Military Museum.

HMAS *Psyche* was not the most famous ship to serve in the RAN and in fact it appears the class, Pelorus Class, protected Cruiser under 5000 tons, were outmoded before they were built.

The following details of the class were provided by Commander Forsythe, who well remembers *Psyche* in Sydney Harbour, when he was a member of the Naval Brigade, pre-1914.

Details of all the ships of the class have been included as five of the eight built served on the Australian Station.

PELORUS CLASS. 1898-1900. PROTECTED CRUISERS UNDER (5.000 tons)

Length 314ft. Beam 36½ft. Displacement. 2.135 - 2.250 tons.
Triple expansion (3-cylinder) 2 screws. 7.000 HP. 20.5 knots.
Guns. 8-4in. 8-3pdr. Torpedo tubes. 2-14in. Complement 224.

Name	Completed	Builder	Fate
* PEGASUS	1898	Palmers. Tyne.	1914 sunk at Zanzibar, by S.M.S. Koenigsberg September, 1914.
PELORUS	1897	Sheerness D'yd.	Sold 1920.
* PIONEER	1900	Chatham D'yd.	1912 to R.A.N. Sold 1926. Hull scuttled off Sydney 1931.
PROSERPINE	1898	Sheerness D'yd.	Sold 1919.
* PSYCHE	1900	Devonport D'yd.	1915. to R.A.N. Sold 1922. B.U. Waterside Ship-Chandlery. Melb.
* PYRAMUS	1900	Palmers. Tyne.	1920 to B.U. in Holland.
PACTOLUS	1896	Armstrong.	1921 Sold to B.U. Multilocular S. Bkg Co. Sttanear.
* PROMETHEUS	1898	Earle. Hull.	Sold 1914. B.U.

* Served on the Australian Station prior to 1911.

WAR SERVICE. W.W.1

* PEGASUS	Cape Squadron. was sunk by the S.M.S. Koenigsberg at Zanzibar on 20/9/1914.
PELORUS	1914. Patrol of Ireland. 1915. Patrol of Gibralter. 1916 to Suda Bay, where she became Depot Ship.
* PIONEER	to R.A.N. 1912. 1914-1916 East Africa & Indian Ocean. Returning to Australia.
PROSERPINE	1914 Channel Fleet. 1915 Dardenelles later Indian Ocean.
* PSYCHE	1914. N.Z. Division. 1915 China. 1915 Australia.
* PYRAMUS	1915 East Africa & Indian Ocean. Later Mudros, becoming depot ship there.
PACTOLUS	Submarine depot ship at Ardrossan. 1913-1918.
* PROMETHEUS	Sold 1914 to B.U.
PHILOMEL	There was also this vessel of 2.575 tons sole survivor of an earlier class. 1914. N.Z. Division. 1890. Davenport Dockyard. Base ship Wellington N.Z. 3.1921. Sold 17.1. 47. to Strongman & Co. Hulk scuttled offeast coast N.Z.

TANKS OF THE PAST

A15, CRUISER TANK MK V1, CRUSADER 1.

The "Crusader" tank was designed by the U.K. Mechanization Board between 1938-40 with the co-operation of Nuffield Mechanization and Aero.

The steering and braking systems were similar to those on the "Covenanter" and the 12 cylinder Nuffield Liberty engine was almost identical to the similar engines fitted to Cruiser Tanks III and IV (A13 MKs I and II).

The hull of the Museum "Crusader" bears a marked resemblance to its "Covenanter" predecessor.

It has the same front mounted lighting port and is fitted with the original design of Covenanter turret with its add-on gun mantlet bulge.

The hull carried a forward machine gun sub-turret on the left and the driver is positioned on the right. This sub-turret was removed on later Marks.

Behind the drivers/front gunner's compartments was situated the fighting compartment which supported the turret and fighting basket with its three man turret crew.

The turret carried a 2 pounder main armament with a coaxial 7.92 Besa machine gun in a common cradle.

Experience later showed that the ammunition carried was insufficient and so the Crusader II was modified by removing the forward sub-turret. The later Crusader III was armed with a 6 pounder gun.

The rear portion of the tank housed the engine, clutch, gear box and final drives.

The "Crusader" was first used in action in June, 1941. The Mark I and II, armed with 2 pounder gun (40mmD), were comparable to and could meet the German Panzer III (short barrelled 50mm.) and the Panzer IV (short 75mm.) on reasonable terms of equality, but were no match for the Panzer IV with its long barrelled 75mm. gun.

Increased armour and a 6 pounder (57mm.) gun were introduced on the Mark III, and some earlier Marks were similarly modified.

This went some way to redressing the balance in armament but Crusaders were

mechanically temperamental and thus their speed and "live" suspension, which were good features, failed to compensate for the other disadvantages.

"Crusader" remained the standard equipment of the British 7th Armoured Division until the Battle of El Alamein in which about 100 "Crusaders" fought, some of which were equipped with the 6 pounder (57mm.) gun. From then on, it was replaced by American "Grant" and "Sherman" tanks, though it continued in use until May 1943.

Portions of the Divisional Cavalry Regiments of the A.I.F. in the Middle East were equipped with "Crusader".

The "Crusader's" development led to a new series of tanks known as the A24 "Cavalier" (1941) and then the 1942 A27 (Centaur). The next development was the 1943 "Cromwell" cruiser tank.

SPECIFICATIONS:

Power Plant:	Nuffield Liberty V12 petrol engine, 340 bhp.
Speed:	27 mph.
Armament:	2 pounder (40 mm.) Quick Firing Gun.
	2 x 7.92 Besa machine guns (one mounted coaxially.)
	One .303 inch Bren AA machine gun.
Crew:	5. Commander, Gunner, Loader, Driver, Hull Gunner (deleted in later Marks.)
Weight:	18.5 tons.
Armour:	9 mm. to 35 mm.
Designed:	United Kingdom Mechanization Board and Nuffield Mechanization 1938/40.

Major J. C. Ewen MC, DCM, MM
A Soldier of Both World Wars

by CHRIS COULTHARD-CLARK

OF THE seven members of the AIF to have been awarded the MC, DCM and MM, J.C. Ewen is the only one known to have had operational service during the Second World War.

John Carr Ewen was born at Digsbury, Manchester, England, on October 25 1892, the second son of Frederick William and Marian (nee Eastwood).

After attending school at Cheadle Hulme School he took employment with the Marine Superintendent of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway at Fleetwood.

"Jack" Ewen, as he was popularly called, was a keen cricketer and was secretary of the Fleetwood Cricket Club.

Whilst in England he served for six months with the Territorials.

He migrated to Australia in 1912 and became a farmer in the Bellingen River district of New South Wales.

Jack Ewen enlisted in the AIF on October 21, 1915, and soon was sent to Egypt as a Gunner with the 5th Australian Field Artillery Brigade.

He then went to France, and for gallantry and self sacrifice displayed during the fighting at Pozieres, which resulted in throwing the enemy back from the important and strongly defended locality, he was awarded the MM. (LG 20 Aug 1916).

During this action he mended and kept two lines of communications going although constantly under enemy fire.

Promotion to Bombadier, August 23, 1916, went with the award of the MM and this modest hero in a letter home, enclosed a photo wearing his new stripes, a piece of ribbon but made no mention of what the award was for.

Promoted to Sergeant on March 17, 1917, Ewen was again in the heaviest of the fighting and was awarded the DCM: "for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. After all the battery officers had been wounded, and many casualties sustained by heavy shell fire, he took command, and by his splendid example, under very trying circumstances, was able to complete the task of bringing the guns into position. ('LG 17 July 1917').

Bombadier Church who witnessed the action said Sergeant Ewen's coolness and bravery under fire were perfectly marvellous.

As a result of this action and outstanding leadership for the period of his service SergeantEwen was sent to England where he underwent a promotion course to gain commissioned rank.

Lieutenant J.C. Ewen DCM, MM, at Herleville on August 23, 1918, was in charge of the communications and forward observation party.

The forward observing officer was killed and Ewen at once took his place.

Throughout the day, under very heavy hostile fire, he moved about the newly-captured positions, sending back important information as to allied positions and bearings of hostile batteries, which were shelling his units new positions, and which were at once engaged.

Ewen displayed an utter disregard for personal safety, and much information of tactical importance was received from him.

This action resulted in him being awarded the Military Cross (LG February 1, 1919) and General Birdwood in aletter to Ewen made the following statement:

"I should also like to congratulate you on your splendid record in having gained the MC, DCM, MM. It is indeed one of which you may be proud."

Lieutenant Ewen was wounded in this action and did not return to duty until March 31, 1919.

Whilst serving in France Lieutenant Ewen rescued a little dog which became the unit mascot and when master went forward into hostile shelling areas he would be told to stay, and stay he would until his master returned and picked him up. The dog was eventually smuggled, inside Ewen's overcoat, to England where his mother and sister looked after him.

At Buckingham PalaceLieutenant Ewen was presented with his three decorations.

On his return to Australia his AIF appointment was terminated on July 24, 1919, being placed on the Reserve of Officers 2nd Military District.

Jack Ewen started a pest control business about 1925 which was very successful.

This business was extended to include building renovations and later to building contracting.

In 1946 the business was taken over by his two sons, both Chartered Builders.

J.C. Ewen & Co is today a well established company in Sydney (Chatswood.)

Although placed on the Retired List on September 1, 1926, Lieutenant Ewen volunteered for service in the Second World War and on April 1, 1940, was appointed to the Regimental Reserve List RAA (Militia) 2 MD and promoted to Captain on September 1, 1942.

After many attempts and great insistence, Captain Ewen was sent to New Guinea being promoted to Major on January 12, 1943.

Major Ewen's service in New Guinea was as Officer Commanding, 53rd Battery, 14th AFA.

After returning to Australia, Major Ewen served in training appointments in Queensland and on March 13, 1944, due to his age and the availability of younger officers, his military service ended.

On November 20, 1951, he died and was cremated at the Northern Suburbs Crematoriam, Sydney.

Some Observations on WW2 Japanese 7.7mm Ammunition

by S. W. WIGZELL

In 1932 the Japanese Army adopted the Type 92 heavy machine gun. The cartridge for this was semi-rimmed, bottle-necked and 57.7mm (often called 58mm) long. The calibre was 7.7mm (.303in) and the bullet diameter was .311in (the same as our .303in bullets.)

Experience gained in Manchuria in mauling the Republic of China (Nationalist) forces proved that this was a cartridge, quite equal to the 7.92 x 57 (German) cartridge as used by the opposition. Accordingly after six or seven years of indecision the Type 99 (1939) rifle was adopted in 7.7mm calibre.

The cartridge for this new rifle was 57.7mm long, bottle-necked and identical to the Type 92 cartridge except in one small detail. It was rimless.

Type 99 (rimless) ammo could be used in the Type 99 rifle, the Type 99 LMG, the Type 97 tank MG and the Type 92 HMG.

But then all that Type 92 (semi-rimmed) ammo could not be used in rifles. It won't chamber unless you are prepared to be vicious and exert so much force you shear the rim off.

Below is the colour code for the different kinds of loadings in these cartridges. The colour code applies to both Type 92 and Type 99 cartridges.

Ball — Pink band around case mouth
Tracer — Green band around case mouth
Armour-Piercing — Black band around case mouth

Incendiary — Magenta (purplish-red) band around case mouth
Explosive — Purple (in fact almost black) band around case mouth
Most cases were brass but steel cases were used in both types of cartridge.

The Japanese Navy used various Lewis Gun type machine guns all in .303in British. Japanese made .303in (British) ammo is at first glance identical in external appearance to the original but usually carried no headstamps.

The colour code for this clever counterfeit ammo is on the annulus (around the primer) and is as follows:

Ball	Black
Armour-Piercing	White
Tracer	Red
Incendiary	Green
Explosive	Purple

Large quantities of British arms and ammo were captured in Hong Kong and Singapore and no doubt the Japs used British .303in ammo with their own, which may make things a little more confusing for the collector.

If you can find some of the rarer ammo I would like to hear of it. Maybe others would too.

More queries from Members

QUERY: Barbed Wire — can any reader provide details of the introduction of the use of barbed wire and defensive grenades?

Mr. Franklin Garie, 159 Kensington Road, Kensington, SA 5068.

Answer on Barbed Wire: From "Arms and Armament" — An Historical Survey of the Weapons of the British Army, C.F. Foulkes, 1945.

"The invention of twisted wire studded with barbed points is credited to Lucien Smith, of Ohio, who took out an American patent in 1867. This was followed by a patent taken out in 1874 by J. Gilden, for making barbed wire in large quantities. The first English patent was taken out by D. Hunt in 1876 (No 4357).

"It was primarily used by cattle ranchers in America, and in the Spanish-American War of 1898 Roosevelt's Rough Riders introduced it as a protection for camps. Its general appearance and use are so well known that there is no need to go into details.

"In the days of acute shortage in Germany it was difficult to carry out the complicated operations necessary for the manufacture of barbed wire, and therefore much was made of stamped sheet iron with ¾ inch spikes which, after manufacture, were bent at various angles.

"During the war of 1914-18 a material called 'kapok' was invented which is impenetrable by barbed wire, but clothing and gloves of this material were so hot and inconvenient that men preferred to use bare hands. They became used to handling the wire between the barbs, and trusted to artillery or tanks to demolish it. No figures are available for the output of barbed wire between the years 1914 and 1918, but the vast volume used in 1937 may be gauged by the present world output of over 200,000 tons a year".

QUERY: The Tully (Qld) Sub-Branch of the RSLA has been presented with a photograph of HMAS Australia bearing a plaque ... "HMAS AUSTRALIA". First Flag Ship of the Royal Australian Navy, 1913-20, sunk under the terms of the Washington treaty, April 12, 1924. This frame is of Teak off her deck."

Does any member know if there are any other pictures of this type in existence and, if so, the value?

Any answer should be forwarded to the Federal Secretary.

Photographs to Thailand

● A number of photographs from the collection have been donated by the Australian War Memorial to a small museum in Thailand which commemorates allied servicemen who died during construction of the Thailand-Burma railway in World War II.

Donations by the Government of Greece

● A Greek army uniform recently donated to the Australian War Memorial by the Greek Government has been placed on display. In addition a book 'The Greeks in Korea' has been given to the War Memorial by the Ministry of National Defence in Athens.

In World War One Diggers rode into the embattled front line in France mounted on revolutionary . . . .

Pedal Power

"IT is in rapidly moving considerable bodies of infantry that the bicycle will find its highest function." — Harper's Weekly, April, 1896.

Cyclist companies were withdrawn from Australian Infantry Divisions in May, 1916.

But that merely signalled the start of a brief, yet colourful, era of pedal power progress in the AIF.

The "bike brigade" was reorganised into autonomous battalions, one of which was allotted to each of the 1st and 2nd Anzac Corps.

The 1st Anzac Cyclist Battalion, commanded by Maj. D. M. Davis, was formed in May 1916 and spent the ensuing few months on training, exercising and traffic control duty in France.

The strength of the unit in February 1917 was 18 officers and 455 other ranks.

The following month, patrols from two of the battalion's companies were sent out "to ascertain enemy dispositions" and took back valuable information.

After a further brief spate of patrols, the Battalion spent the rest of 1917 on traffic duties, fatigues and various detachments to other units of the Corps.

The unit was re-designated Australian Corps Cyclist Battalion in January 1918 when the 1st Anzac Corps became the Australian Corps.

The 2nd Anzac Cyclist Battalion, raised in July 1916, consisted of one Australian and two New Zealand cyclist companies.

Its first CO was Maj. C. Hellier Evans.

Then, in September the same year, orders were received that all surplus cyclists would be placed under the command of the 2nd Anzac Cyclist Battalion and the whole attached for duty to the 8th Australian Infantry Brigade.

The Battalion was relieved from front line duty in November.

During the following year the unit was engaged in traffic control duties, working parties, training and so on, with the usual detachment of groups to other formations.

The unit became part of the Australian Corps Cyclist Battalion at the same time as the 1st Battalion was redesignated such in January 1918.

For the remainder of that year, platoons from the reinforced unit were detached to Australian infantry divisions.

There were several cyclist casualties.

In May, reconnaissances were made of the river bridges between Cagny and Camon and, in July, the cyclists carried out valuable liaison work for the 4th Division and again during the August offensive.

The British Army was one of the first to realise the military potential of the bicycle.

40.

British military cycling was set in motion by Lt.-Col. A. R. Saville, Professor of Tactics at the Royal Staff College, Camberley, who was himself a keen cyclist.

He mustered the first parade of military cyclists in history in 1887 — the year of the pneumatic tyre — on a cricket ground at St. Thomas' College, Canterbury.

From "Soldier" magazine:

"They were a motley crowd — soldiers, retired officers and 'scorchers' from road racing clubs, some in uniform armed to the teeth with rifles, bayonets, swords and binoculars, and others in shirt sleeves and braces with no more lethal weapon than a spanner."

The exercise proved a success, nevertheless.

Within a week one of the retired officers asked the War Office for permission to raise a unit of volunteer cyclists, to be known as Cyclist guides, complete with band!

Five months later the War Office agreed, but frowned on the idea of a cycling band.

The new unit was the 26th Middlesex S(Cyclist) Volunteer Rifle Corps, commanded by Lt.-Col. Saville.

It later became the 25th (County of London) Cyclist Battalion, The London Regiment.

These cyclists were divided into troops according to their machines.

"Ordinaries" — penny-farthings — and "safeties" were in one troop, tricycles in the second and tandems in the third.

Today, those relics of a chapter of military glory dating back nearly 90 years have been reintroduced into the British Army.

In a bid to beat the energy crisis the British Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst has resorted its stock of 650 man-powered machines.

Normally the bicycles are used only for pottering around the Academy's extensive grounds.

There are three types — 300 sturdy Phillips models finished in olive drab usually suffice for the officer cadets; there is the pick of another 300 sleek black Raleigh jobs for officers, senior NCOs, instructors and student officers; and 50 Raleigh sport models — the Rolls-Royces of Army bikes — for senior company commanders.

The nearest British Army bicycles have been to the battle's roar in recent times has been in Cyprus when they were ridden on patrols during the EOKA emergency by men of the Royal Horse Guards.

Churchill Scholarship 1980

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust has announced that a Fellowship has been awarded in 1980 to:

Mr. P.G. Spillett,
PO Box 706
DARWIN, NT, 5794

His Fellowship project is to study documents relating to early British settlements of the Northern Territory in England, Holland and France in order to write and publish a documental history of Fort Dundas and Fort Wellington in the Northern Territory.

THE Cyclist Training, Provisional, pamphlet, issued by the General Staff in 1917, lays out the drill for Army cyclists.

Some of the more common drill movements applicable to cyclists were as follows:

• **About turn:**

On the word "turn", the odd numbers will take three paces forward, after which the whole will turn about, taking the time from the right-hand man of the odd numbers; the odd numbers will then regain their places.

• **Ground cycles:**

Take a pace of 30 inches to the left, place the cycle carefully on the ground and come to attention.

• **Take up cycles:**

Raise the cycle, take a pace of 30 inches to the right, and come to attention.

• **Stack cycles:**

On the command "cycles", odd numbers will move round in rear and to the right side of their cycles, and each file will incline their cycles towards each other.

The front wheels will be turned outwards, the handle-bars interlocked, and the men will stand to attention.
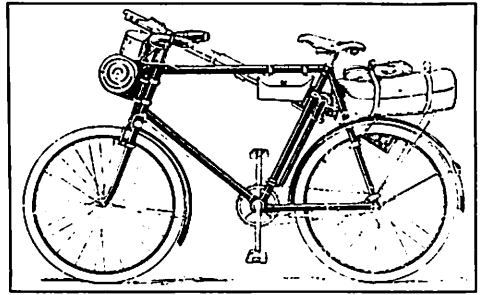
• **Unstack cycles:**

On the command "cycles", each man will grasp his cycle and unlock the handlebar.

Odd numbers will move round in rear of, and to the left side of their cycles.

• **Mount, or dismount:**

The cyclist mounts or dismounts in the manner to which he is accustomed, the quickest method to do so being from the pedal.

• ABOVE: Wherever the soldier went on his bike, he took his kit along too. His greatcoat was rolled and secured under the handlebars. On top of that· were his mess tins containing "any .unexpired portion of the day's rations". Over the rear wheel was a pack or valise carrier, containing blanket, small kit, and, if necessary, extra ammunition. The rifle was slung across the frame.

• **Detach and Returning Arms:**

On the command "Detach — Arms", detach the rifle with the right hand and rest it on the saddle, sling to the right.

On the command "Return — Arms," place rifle in the attachment, and come to attention.

Not only were there parade ground commands but special hand signals similar to today's drill for convoys. The practice of saluting whilst riding was deemed dangerous and was eventually abandoned.

There had been an embarrassing incident when a Royal Duke, a newly-appointed Colonel of a cyclist unit, collided with an orderly.

The orderly saluted and fell off.

The Duke, trying to return the salute, ran into him.

Rare medal of Eureka Commander donated to Gold Museum, Ballarat

A RARE medal, the Maharajpoor Star, presented to Lieutenant John W. Thomas in 1843 has been donated to the Gold Museum Ballarat.

This medal is unique as John Thomas was in command and participated in the action at Eureka Stockade on December 3, 1854.

It was in fact on his order that the troopers charged the Stockade.

It was customary for soldiers of this period to wear their medals into battle, and it is reasonable to assume that John Thomas was wearing this medal on the morning of the storming of the stockade.

The medal was one of two Stars issued for the Gwalior Campaign in India, 1843.

The Stars themselves were struck from the bronze guns captured from the enemy.

Two wings of the army of Gwalior fought battles independently of each other at Maharajpoor and Punniar respectively, on the same day December 29, 1843.

One regiment which particularly distinguished itself was that of John Thomas, of the 40th Regiment South Lancashire Regiment.

Mr John Reid, Curator of the Gold Museum, said that in his opinion, it is one of the most important gifts ever to be given to the Museum, and that it is one of the few authenticated relics associated with Eureka.

The medal was donated by Mr. Max Stern, a Melbourne Dealer, to Mr. John Hayden, President of the Ballarat Historical Park Association.

Letters to the Editor

SIR:

Please continue to place throughout "Sabretache", snippets and small items of a military nature which have been appearing recently.

I find them informative and interesting, and in some cases of value.

Recently I was attempting to establish (approximately) how many persons enlisted during World War 2 and on page 10 of Vol. 20 No. 1, I found the answer.

Fredk. Kirkland,
Apt 9, 46 Harriette St.,
Neutral Bay, N.S.W. 2089

Depth Gauge Acquired

● Rear Admiral F. W. Purves, CBE, has donated a depth gauge from an early British J Class submarine to the Australian War Memorial. This item fills a gap in the collection of naval relics. After service in World War I six J Class submarines and their crews were transferred to the Royal Australian Navy.

COLONEL C.H. DAVIS C.B.E. D.S.O. V.D. M.I.D.

AND THE AUSTRALIAN BASE DEPOTS FRANCE

BY DR. J. K. HAKEN

University of New South Wales

Colonel C.H. Davis followed his father in a life of public service in the city of Bendigo and his sudden death in 1923 was recorded by the press as the passing of a distinguished Bendigonian. His military career was highlighted by his role of commander of the Guard of Honour at the opening of the First Federal Parliament in Melbourne in 1901. Command of the 38th Battalion on its formation in 1916 which continued until 1918 with appointment as Commandant of the Australian Base Depots in France through which almost 100,000 Australian Troops were prepared for transport to England and then to Australia.

DAVIS was the son of a fairly early pioneer family, his father William Davis was born in London and came to Victoria at the age of 11.

On reaching Melbourne the family went into the country to the Mount Alexander North Station, the City of Bendigo earlier known as Sandhurst being established on part of the station.

William Davis received part of his education at nearby Castlemaine and in 1860 entered the service of the Colonial Bank (which since 1918 has been amalgamated with the National Bank of Australasia) as a junior clerk.

After promotion to accountant he was appointed Manager of the Kilmore Branch in 1868 and subsequently to the Bendigo Branch in 1875, this position being held for more than 20 years.

During his long residence in Bendigo, Davis Snr was a leader in public affairs and was President of the Bendigo Asylum, a founder of the Bendigo Art Gallery, of which he was a long standing office bearer, a justice of the peace, and one of the oldest magistrates in the district.

Charles Herbert Davis, the third son of William and Ellen Marion, nee Hayes, was born at Kilmore in 1872.

From the age of three he grew up and

was educated at Bendigo at St. Andrews and Bendigo Grammar Schools.

In 1889 he was articled to C. F. Kennedy, a local legal practitioner, and during 1890 to 1892 attended Melbourne University with admission to the Supreme Court of Victoria as a barrister and solicitor in 1895.

His military career began in December, 1896, with a commission as lieutenant in the Bendigo Companies of the 4th Battalion Infantry Brigade, Victorian Military Forces.

The Battalion had its headquarters and two companies at Castlemaine, the remaining two companies being located at Bendigo.

This dual location situation was a source of certain annoyance and local rivalry to the Bendigo men, particularly in view of the relative importance of the two areas.

The Bendigo companies formed the nucleus of the 5th Battalion raised in 1899, and Davis was promoted Captain in 1900.

The following year saw the opening of the first Commonwealth Parliament in Melbourne by The Duke of York (later King George VI).

This was accompanied by much military ceremony by troops from all of the former State forces, but with the majority provided from Victoria.

Davis was a conspicuous officer at the ceremony and was subsequently highly commended by Commandant Colonel Hoad.

As Captain of H company he commanded the guard of honour, an unexpected situation resulting from the Naval Brigade being late in assuming their assigned position.

Following Federation, amalgamation of the 4th and 5th Battalions

occurred and the designation changed in 1903. to the 8th Australian Infantry Regiment. Promotion to Major followed in 1904.

The Regiment formed 2 Battalions in 1908, and promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel and command of the 2nd Battalion (at Bendigo) followed in 1910.

With reorganization of the forces in 1912, Davis became Officer Commanding the 67th Infantry later the 67th (Bendigo) Infantry until transferred to the unattached list in 1913.

Appointed in 1914 as Senior Assistant Censor (Cables) then Censor (Cables) and Censor (Melbourne), Davis was transferred to temporary command of the 17th Infantry Brigade in 1915.

He was appointed Lieutenant Colonel in the Australian Imperial Forces in 1916 as officer commanding the 38th Battalion, with his citizen forces service being recognised by the award of the Colonial Auxiliary Forces Officers Decoration.

The 38th Battalion was formed on March 1, 1916, three miles north east of the City of Bendigo.

Training continued in the area until May when a severe outbreak of cerebo-spinal meningitis occurred.

The medically fit were finally removed to Campbellfield on June 5 and the Battalion was sufficiently recovered by June 14 to attend a ceremonial parade to receive the King's and Regimental Colours, presented on behalf of the Citizens of Bendigo by the Governor-General, Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson.

The Battalion sailed from Port Melbourne on June 29, 1916, on the transport No. 54 HMAT "Runic" with the 10th Field Engineers and the 10th Field Ambulance.

With brief stays at Capetown and

Cape Verde Island, the "Runic" reached Devonport on August 10.

The Battalion disembarked at Plymouth and proceeded by train to Lark Hill Camp on the Salisbury Plains.

King George V inspected the whole of the 3rd Division at Bulford Field, three miles from Lark Hill at the end of September.

The 10th Brigade (37-40 Battalions) were introduced to trench life during October, and in November the 3rd Division was ready for field service.

The 38th Battalion embarked at Southampton on November 22 and landed at Le Havre the following morning.

The journey to the front commenced by train to Bailleul and then by bus to nearby Strezaele.

A march of some 20 kilometres brought the Battalion to Armentieres, and the outskirts of the front on November 28.

After further preparations, the Battalion left billets on December 18 to relieve New Zealand troops in the left sector of the Houplines area.

This first experience of war lasted until December 10 when the Battalion was relieved by the 40th Battalion and then retired to Armentieres.

Further periods of action continued throughout January and near the end of this month, two companies of the 38th Battalion and two companies of 37th Battalion retired to billets at Erquinghem Bath for special training as a raiding battalion, commanded by Lt.-Col. Davis.

On January 27, 650 raiders entered the communication trenches at Armentieres and crossed silently through no-man's land and successfully attacked the perimeter of the enemy line.

The battalions were reformed and after several short periods of action the 38th proceeded to Steinwerch and then to Moringhem for periods of further training.

In early April the unit started back to the lines and Armentieres and subsequently to Houplines, where after 10 days of action the Battalion was relieved, and retired to the Ploegsteert Saint Yves Sector as a reserve battalion.

Lt.-Col. Davis was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for this service.

During May, action was seen in the Ploegsteert Woods, and in early June the unit was relieved and retired to Brune Gay in preparation for the major battle of Messines which started June 7.

Success at Messines with subsequent holding of the line at Douve Rivers placed the components of the Third Division in high esteem and the 38th moved to Kortepyp and to the Douvre River for relief until a return to the Messines trenches for further service.

The next major action was participation in the Ypres sector and subsequently the battle of Passchendale before Warneton and Armentieres.

The Battalion spent its second Christmas in France at Hollebeke Camp and saw further service in the Warneton sector during January and February.

With the expectation of a major German offensive the Battalion saw action at Heilly, Mericourt and in the Buire Treux sector during March and April.

Fighting in the area continued until it was taken during early May.

Lt.-Col. Davis was temporarily in command of the 10th Brigade for several periods during 1917 and 1918.

Davis was transferred to the Australian General Base Depot at Le

Havre and was promoted Colonel on June 11.

He was appointed Commandant of Australian General Base Depots on July 12.

In the Valley of The Legarde, many camps of allies were established, and through the Australian Base many thousands of Australians passed to and from the front.

Early in 1918 the Australian Prime Minister, W. M. Hughes, insisted that the time had arrived for Australian troops who had arrived in 1914 to have long leave in Australia.

Also with the approaching conclusion of hostilities it became necessary to considerably expand the depots to deal with the extra flow, and the the whole series of bases previously under separate command were placed under the command of Colonel Davis with Staff Captain — later Major — R. M. Marks, formerly commanding A Company 38th Battalion, as Staff Officer.

The bases were rearranged and after the Armistice all troops in quotas of 1000 passed through the bases on their way to England for repatriation to Australia.

The original base, formerly known as Australian Camp or A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot), remained under the command of Lt.-Col. F. M. O'Donnell, who held the appointment for several years while two new depots were established — one under the command of Lt.-Col. J. P. Clark D.S.O., who had been in command of the 44th Battalion; and the other, Lt.-Col. G. Hurry Davis' successor, as Commanding Officer of the 38th Battalion.

An additional existing base — the 1st Australian Convalescent Depot — was commanded by Lt.-Col. R. Burston, D.S.O.

The whole operation could accomodate five quotas, each of 1000 men. The quotas were not made up of battle units but of personnel who by the seniority of service were entitled to priority of return and thus in many cases the men had no common interests.

Lt.-Col. Clark's Depot received and deloused one quota each day then entirely refitted the men and passed them to one of the other depots for movement to camps in England to await transport to Australia.

As it was estimated that it would take about 12 months to evacuate all of the Australian troops from France, a theatre was built, tents were replaced by huts, and sports grounds provided.

All of the charitable organisations were represented and regular entertainment programmes and sport instructors were provided.

Rehabilitation was not neglected. General W. R. McNicoll, former Commanding Officer of the 10th Brigade, had been detailed to take charge of the Education Service and a small staff was stationed at the base to explain courses availabe in England while awaiting shipment to Australia.

Lt.-Gen. Monash became Director General for Repatriation, and with his headquarters in London, supervised the onward movement.

With the end of the seamen's strike, London was receiving about 5000 troups a week.

In March 1918, there were about 90,000 Australian troops in France.

In March 1919, about 60,000 in France and 36,000 in England.

Instead of the planned evacuation period of 12 months the last quota left in June 1919.

During the life of the base depot

complex, a newspaper, "The Digger", was produced which ran for the entire command of Col. Davis and the depot complex of 42 weeks.

The work was edited by a camp committee with Major Marks as advisory editor and published by a commercial French language printer Phillippe at XXe Siecle Imprimerie Le Havre.

Each issue was of 3,000 copies which sold for one penny, the profits being spent on the purchase of extra food.

Col. Davis wrote a foreword to the first issue published on August 4, 1918, and in the final issue May 18, 1919, there appeared a moving farewell to France.

Due to the energy of the Australian War Historian, Dr. C. E. Bean, issues of the paper were requested at the time of publication.

These remain in the library of the Australian War Memorial and show a detailed weekly diary of an amazing administrative complex through which all the troops in France passed prior to their return to Australia.

The final order of the depot was issued on June 18, when they were handed over to the royal Engineers for demolition.

Colonel Davis served briefly in London and arrived back in Melbourne on October 8 with his AIF appointment terminated on November 27.

For his services as Commandant he was mentioned in despatches in March 1919 (for the third time), and in June he was created a companion of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

While Colonel Davis remained on the Reserve of Officers of the 3rd Military District, and on moving to Sydney, the unattached list and the Reserve of Officers of the Second Military District, his military career had effectively finished with the end of his AIF appointment.

Davis was given a public welcome on his return to Bendigo, but his stay in his hometown was short.

Rather than return to his practice as a solicitor, he entered commercial life, and became the Sydney manager of H.M. Marks, Ltd., a firm of importers whose principal was Major R.M. Marks, his former staff officer.

Davis had married Emily Beatrice Deloitte, daughter of Marmaduke Levitt and Emma Mary May (nee Millett), at St. Johns Anglican Church Balmain, NSW, in April, 1907, and there were three children — John (1908-), Beatrice (1909-) and Charles (1915-).

The family lived at Neutral Bay in Sydney and the commercial pursuit was followed until the Colonel's sudden death in January 1923 from a perforated ulcer of the bowel.

The burial took place at the Anglican Cemetery Northern Suburbs and obituaries appeared in Sydney and Victorian newspapers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

APPENDIX

This work is an expanded version of an entry prepared for the Australian Dictionary of Biography which will appear in due course. During preparation of this work several references were provided which on investigation proved to be incorrect. As these are included in official records the following correct material is provided.

The South Australian Institute Journal of 1915 showed C.H. Davis as Treasurer of the Blyth Institute during that year. As Colonel Davis had no obvious connection with South Australia investigation has shown that the entry referred to another person, who was a resident of Blyth from 1909-1917 and was Manager of the E. and S. Bank later the E.S. & A. Bank.

"Who's Who in the Commonwealth of Australia", published in 1922, shows Colonel Davis as the former Commanding Officer of the 32nd Battalion and as having left Australia in March 1920 for India to join the 2nd Battalion Leicester Regiment.

The 2nd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment was in Dehli in April 1920 at which time a Major (Brevet Lieutenant Colone) Charles Stewart Davies CMG, DSO, was serving and it is possible that this is the source of the error reported.

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Presentation to War Memorial
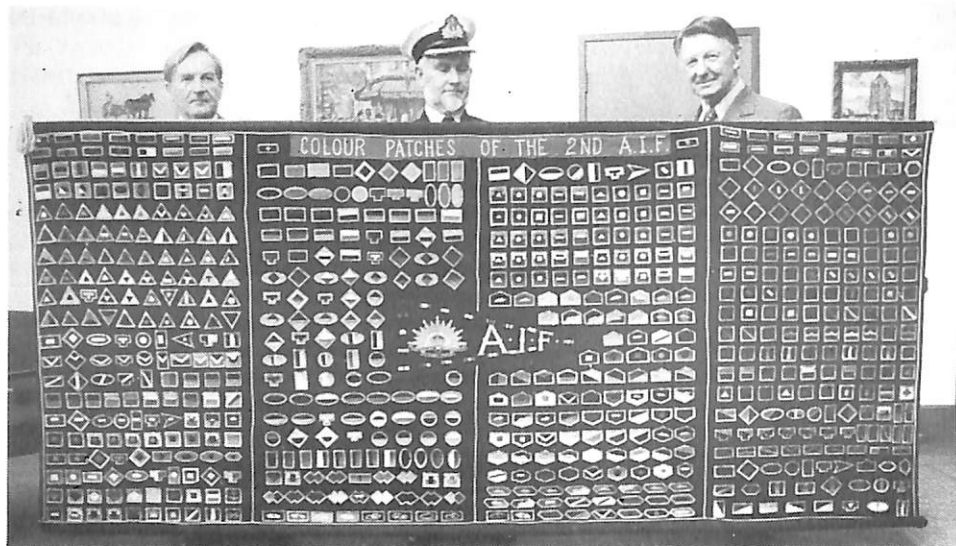
The Society was recently instrumental in arranging the presentation of a significant collection of WW2 Australian colour patches to the Australian War Memorial.

The colour patches, shown above were collected by the late SX9477, Pte. Albert Rushton, 2/6 Field Ambulance, 2nd AIF.

The collection was held by his widow, Mrs Eileen Rushton, of Port Pirie, and brought to the attention of the Federal Secretary, Lt.-Col. T.C. Sargent (RL) by the Director of Naval Recruiting, Commander E. Bell, RAN.

The Secretary arranged for the collection to be sent to Canberra for assessment and on examining it realised that a collection of such significance should be in the Australian War Memorial. The display contains over 600 patches.

Mrs Rushton agreed to its presentation and on Friday 19 October 1979, the collection was presented to Mr. Noel Flanagan, Director, Australian War Memorial by Commander Bell, on behalf of Mrs. Rushton.

ABOVE: Colour Patches of the 2nd AIF collected by the late Pte A. Rushton of Port Pirie. Holding the display are: from left: Lt.-Col. T. C. Sargent (RL), Federal Secretary, Military Historical Society of Australia; Commander E. BEll, RAN, Director of Naval Recruiting, Mr Noel Flanagan, Director, Australian War Memorial.

WAR MEMORIAL NOTES

Official Opening of Annex

● The Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon. R. J. Ellicott, officially opened the $2-million conservation and storage annex at Mitchell on 17 October. A highlight of the ceremony was the arrival of the V2 rocket which was moved to its new resting place from Duntroon. The official opening attracted widespread media coverage. Guests at the ceremony included several members of Parliament, Heads of Government departments and senior conservation and academic personalities.

War Memorial to be Upgraded

● On 21 October, the Minister announced that the War Memorial is to be upgraded. Legislation will be introduced into Parliament to give the institution full museum status. In announcing Cabinet's decision, Mr Ellicott stated that the legislation "will not only allow for more effective management but will also ensure that the institution has more meaningful interest to present and future generations." The Minister added that the new Act "would allow the Memorial's Trustees to better preserve an important part of the national heritage as well as meeting changing technological and educational needs."

Visit by Governor-General

● Their Excellencies Sir Zelman and Lady Cowen visited the War Memorial on 17 October for a private viewing of the documentary film "Mutiny on the Western Front" which used World War 1 footage from the Memorial's film collection. Made by Mingara Films, of Sydney, the film has received excellent reviews and recently received a Sammy award for the best television film editing.

Centenary Anniversary of Dr Bean's Birth

● An exhibition will be mounted in the galleries in November to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Dr C. E. W. Bean who conceived the idea of a national war memorial and whose contributions as a war historian, correspondent and Trustee of the Memorial are extremely significant in the development of the institution. It is hoped that Dr Bean's widow will travel from Sydney to attend the official opening by the Minister for Home Affairs on 19 November.

Loan to University of New South Wales

● The Memorial lent a selection of enlarged photographs of World War 1 battle scenes and reproductions of war-time posters to the School of History at the University of New South Wales. The School mounted a display on World War 1 for the university's open day in September. The School's Acting Head, Professor Patrick O'Farrell, said the exhibition was a considerable success and the Memorial's material was major factor.

Brazilian Embassy Presents Plaque

● In September the Ambassador for Brazil, Mr H. M. C. Cortes, presented a bronze plaque to the Memorial to commemorate the service of Brazilian forces in World War II. The plaque bears the insignia of the three Brazilian armed services and the words "World War II From the Brazilian Veterans to the Brave Australian Veterans, Rio De Janeiro, April 25, 1979."

51.

An Expert's Guide on Medal Mounting

by MAJ. IAN BARNES (RL)

INCREASING requests, to instruct in the technique of courtmounting and preservation of medals, has prompted me to write the following article, for what is apparently a developing need by medal collectors.

The older generation of collector preferred to have medals in mint condition, or if not, to leave a medal with original ribbon and in "as worn by recipient" condition.

Today, the pressure of price and availability on the new collectors, force them to disregard the condition of the item, and be satisfied with the history it represents.

To enhance the visual effect of the collection they "court mount" the medals and add personal items such as photographs, cap badge, identity discs and so on, of the recipient.

A soldier's way of mounting and wearing his medals is laid down by regulations in the British Forces.

The medals are sewn onto a metal bar with a ribbon display of 1½ inches and a total display to the bottom of a World War 2 medal of 3½ inches.

Since the set is usually overlapped and free swinging to a length of 2½ inches, it is very musical whilst on parade, but at the same time very damaging to the medals due to contact wear, and the wear through continual cleaning.

The alternative method of court mounting was developed in court circles mainly for civilians, soldiers on diplomatic duties, and very senior officers with a large chest of medals.

It is this method which is used today by collectors, wishing to remount their medals for display and preservation.

Of appeal, to the collectors like myself who would sooner dig a trench than sew on a set of medals are P.V.A. type glues "aquadhere" or "Gripit-65" with everflow tip, to fix the ribbons to the backing strip, instead of the traditional needle and thread.

Medals:
Repair and straighten bars and suspensions, polish to maximum lustre for:

Silver:
Dip in Goddard's Silver Dip, rub between fingers and wash immediately under tap. If bad areas still remain, apply Goddard's to area with a cotton bud until clean of tarnish, then wash, dry, and rub with polish cloth.

Cupro Nickel:
If soap and water are not effective clean with a mild abrasive, such as, "Silvo". Wash and polish with cloth.

Copper and Brass:
Depending upon state, if good wash with methylated spirits and polish with cloth. Otherwise, polish with
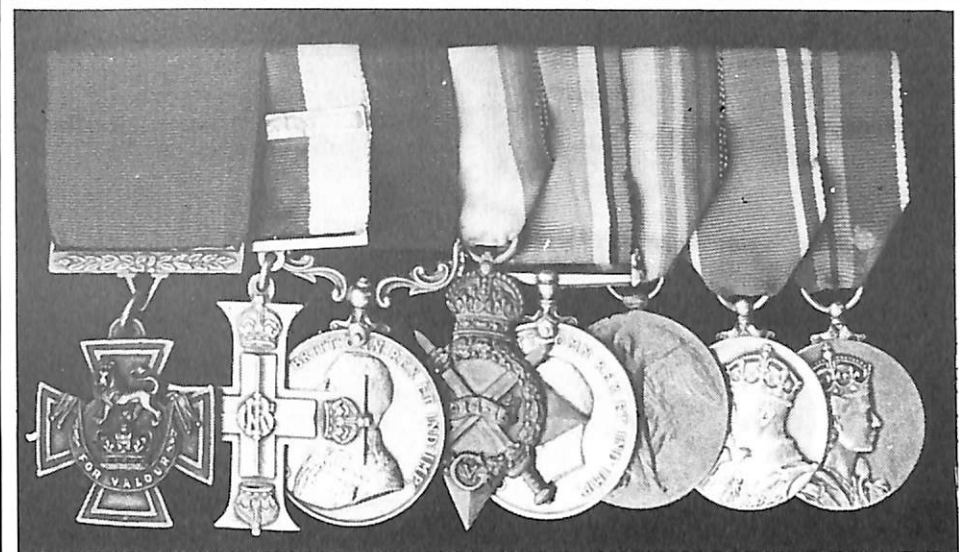
* ABOVE: A most impressive medal group in "original" condition.
* BELOW: This medal group, which covers the soldier's service from WW2 through to Confrontation, has been court mounted in the Method 'B".

BACKING MATERIAL

$1\frac{1}{8}''$

BACKING RIBBON

FIG. 1

BACKING MATERIAL

$2\frac{5}{8}''$

METHOD A.

LENGTH TO SUIT NUMBER OF MEDALS

BACKING MATERIAL

$3''$

METHOD B.

BACKING MATERIAL

DRAWING PIN

FIG. 4.

MEDAL RIBBON

BACKING MATERIAL

APPLY ADHESIVE TO BACK OF RIBBON

PUNCH 2 SMALL HOLES

BACKING RIBBON

FIG. 3.

$\frac{1}{2}''$
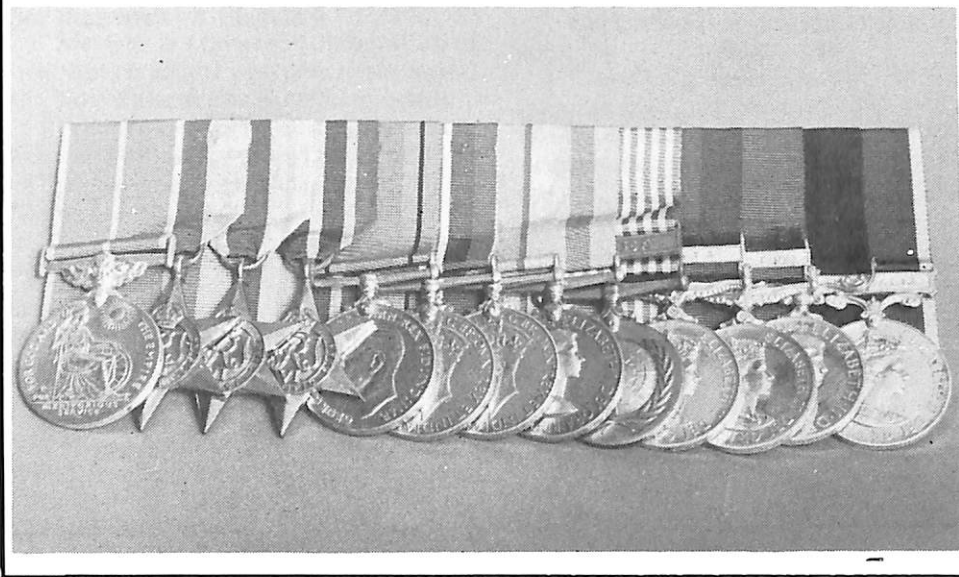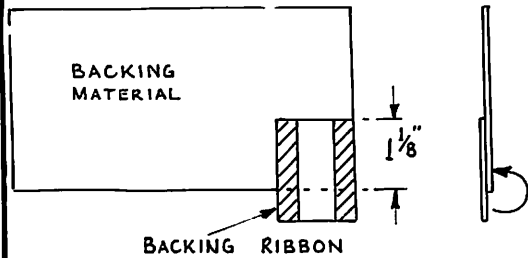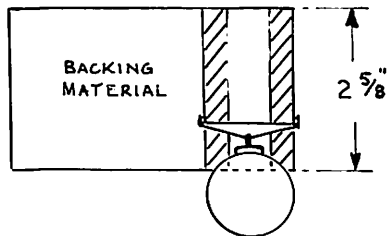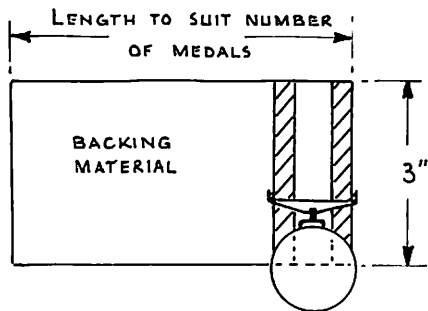
FIG. 2.

"Brasso", wash clean and polish with cloth.

Preservation:

Using a bottle of clear nail varnish and brush, cover one side, suspension and rim of medal, allow to dry on a clean surface. When dry, complete the other side. When coated, a medal can be handled, without damage for, in my experience, 30 years. If lacquer is to be removed, soak medals in "Amyl Acetate", which is available from any chemist, and the medals will be returned to pre-coating condition. When coating the medal ensure that the lacquer is not too thick or thin. When too thick add a few drops of "Amyl Acetate".

Mounting:

Cut two lengths of stiffening material, such as "Buckram" (used to stiffen dresses) and glue together with PVA glue to obtain the required strength and thickness. Dimension of strips is determined by the number of medals to be mounted and method chosen, A or B. (See diagrams on Page 53).

Method A allows the observation of three-quarters of the reverse of the medal (the side without the Sovereign head).
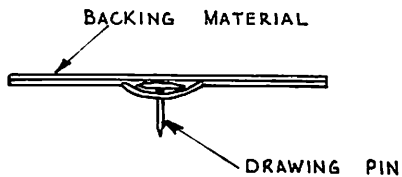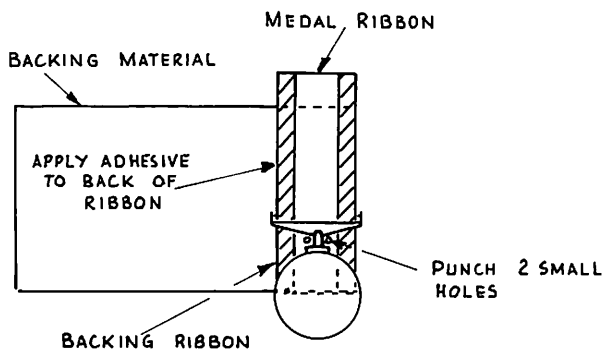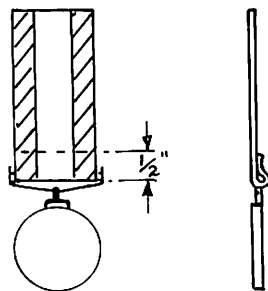
Prepare ribbon by cutting a backing piece of 1⅝" and a medal piece of 3" or 3½" (if bars are included).

Fixing:

Use PVA to fix the backing ribbon as per diagram. Fix to front of backing strip, let dry, then fix remaining ½" to the back (Fig. 1).

At the same time fix the medal ribbon to the medal (Fig. 2).

Allow to dry. Caution: Do not use too much glue and beware of ribbon which is old and porous (glue may stain).

Position medals from right to left, overlap as necessary. Apply adhesive

(sparingly). When dry turn tops over and glue to back. Put on flat surface use weights or Bulldog clamps to hold while drying. Caution: Too much glue and pressure will cause staining (Fig. 3).

Fixing Wire:

Using small awl, punch a hole each side of the neck of the suspender, and push through a sufficient length of a strand of thin picture wire, twist so that the medal is firmly held to backing. Cut off surplus wire and flatten on the back.

Back Cover:

The back of the mounted set is finished with a piece of velvet covering (self adhesive material like "Contact").

With a large set of medals, which are not to be individually displayed, medals must be overlapped starting from the right, (Junior Medals) and allow an equal amount of overlap, as you secure each medal.

Cut surplus backing material as final act.

Should a group required to be worn then the glue will not be strong enough and the medals must be wired through the suspender or sewn. In that case a suitable clasp must be put between the two pieces of backing material.

A simple method is to set drawing pins between the two pieces of backing material and secure to tunic with clutch pins (Fig. 4).

This is a simple summary of the technique to which you will add your own skills and enthusiasm to make an attractive display of your most treasured medals.

Australian Citizen Forces Infantry Badges of the 1912-18 Period

by DAVID LEGG

ON THE introduction of universal training in 1912 for the Australian Citizen Forces, 43 battalions were formed from the earlier 1903-12 units.

Later but within the 1912-18 period, additional battalions were raised from the original 43.

Acording to Vazenry (1967) this was done by dividing the country into 93 battalion areas, the 43 original battalions covering as many as four areas each.

Not all of the 93 battalions, however, were actually raised.

In addition to the numbered units, the Sydney University Scouts and Melbourne University Rifles were also in existence.

From the commencement of universal training the old regimental badges of the 1903-12 period were replaced by brass numerals supplied at public expense.

These numbers were worn on the front of the slouch hat and cap and ranged from one to 93 inclusive.

Later, subject to Headquarters approval, some regiments were permitted to supply from regimental funds regimental badges to replace the numeral.

At least one regiment (86th Infantry) continued to wear a badge of the 1903-12 period.

This order was amended later so that badges were to be supplied by Headquarters after approval from the Quartermaster General.

Considering the number of units in existence during the 1912-18 period, relatively few regimental badges are known to exist.

Watson (1931) has suggested that lack of funds as well as the disorganisation brought about by World War 1 when many of the Citizen Forces men and officers were enlisting in the AIF could be responsible for this apparent lack of badges.

Although many units designed badges they were either not made, or were made but not issued.

The latter were returned to Ordnance stores and later sold for scrap.

The following table lists the regimental number and territorial title (if any) of all the numbered 1912-18 infantry units whether raised or not.

Those known to have worn regimental badges are marked with an asterisk.

1.	Not raised.	44	(Riverina) Inf.
2.	(Kennedy) Inf.	45	(Gippsland) Inf.
3.	(Port Curtis) Inf.	46	(Brighton Rifles) Inf. *
4.	(Wide Bay) Inf	47	Inf.
5.	Not formed	48	(Kooyong) Inf. *
6.	Not raised	49	(Prahran) Inf. *
7.	(Moreton) Inf. *	50	(St. Kilda) Inf. *
8.	(Oxley) Inf. *	51	(Albert Park) Inf. *
9.	(Logan & Albert) Inf.	52	(Hobsons Bay) Inf.
10.	Inf.	53	(Glenferrie) Inf.
11.	(Darling Downs) Inf.	54	(Merri) Inf. *
12.	(Byron) Inf.	55	(Collingwood) Inf. *
12.	(Byron) Inf.	56	(Yarra Borderers) Inf. *
13.	Inf.	57	Inf.
14.	(Hunter River) Inf.	58	(Essendon Rifles) Inf. *
15.	Inf.	59	(Moreland Rifles) Inf.
16.	(Newcastle) Inf.	60	(Princes Hill) Inf. * 1912-15
17.	Inf.	60	(Brunswick Carlton) Inf. *
18	(North Sydney) Inf. *	61	Not raised
19	(Kuring-gai) Inf. *	62	(Carlton Rifles) Inf. *
20	(Parramatta) Inf.	63	(East Melbourne) Inf.
21	(Woolahra) Inf.	64	(City of Melbourne Regt) Inf. *
22	(Sydney) Inf.	65	(City of Footscray) Inf. *
23	Not raised	66	(Mt Alexander) Inf.
24	(East Sydney) Inf. *	67	(Bendigo) Inf. *
25	(City of Sydney) Inf.	68	Not raised
26	Inf	69	Inf.
27	Inf.	70	(Ballarat Bn) Inf. * 1912-14.
28	Inf.	70	(Ballarat Regt) Inf. *
29	(Australian Rifles) Inf.	71	(City of Ballarat) Inf.
30	Not raised	72	Inf.
31	(Leichhardt) Inf.	73	(Victorian Rangers) Inf.
32	Not raised	74	(Boothby) Inf.
33	Inf.	75	Not raised
34	Inf.	76	(Hindmarsh) Inf.
35	Inf.	77	Inf.
36	Inf. *	78	(Adelaide Rifles) Inf.
37	(Illawarra) Inf. *	79	(Torrens) Inf.
38	Inf.	80	(Gawler) Inf.
39	Inf.	81	(Wakefield) Inf.
40	Inf.	82	(Barrier) Inf.
41	(Blue Mountains) Inf.	83	Not raised
42	(Lachlan Macquarie) Inf.	84	(Goldfields) Inf.
43	(Werriwa) Inf. *	85	Not formed

86	(WA Rifles) Inf. *	90	Not raised
87	Not formed	91	(Tasmanian Rangers) Inf.
88	(Perth) Inf. *	92	(Launceston) Inf. *
89	Not raised	93	(Derwent) Inf.

The 1-11 Infantry are from Queensland, the 12-44 from NSW, the 45-73 from Victoria, the 74-83 from South Australia, the 84-90 from Western Australia, and the 91-93 from Tasmania.

The plate illustrates mostly hat badges from the authors collection and includes a representative badge for each of the units known by me to have worn its' own regimental badge.

However, many variations of these badges do exist in other metals and enamel but are not illustrated here.

A small selection of brass hat numerals is also shown.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

Row 1, left to right.
7 (Moreton) Inf. officers hat in gilt and blue enamel.
8 (Oxley) Inf. cap/collar in brass. A hat size badge is reported to exist.
18 Inf (North Sydney) hat in brass.
19 (Kuring-gai) Inf. hat in bronze.
24 (East Sydney) Inf. cap in brass.
24 (East Sydney) Inf. hat in brass.

Row 2, left to right.
36 Inf. hat in copper.
37 (Illawarra) Inf. hat in brass.
43 (Werriwa) Inf. hat in brass.
46 (Brighton Rifles) Inf. hat in brass. Enamelled version possibly exits.
48 (Kooyong) Inf. hat in brass.

Row 3, left to right.
49 (Prahran) Inf. officers hat in gilt and green, white and red enamels. Also known in bronze and enamels. Cap badge smaller in white enamel.
49 (Prahran) Inf. hat in bronze.
50 (St Kilda) Inf. officers hat in brass and blue and white enamels. Cap badge in white enamel known.
50 (St. Kilda) Inf. hat in black oxidized.
51 (Albert Park) Inf. hat/cap/collar in brass with green and red cloth backing.
54 (Merri) Inf. officers cap/collar in gilt and blue and white enamel. Hat size badges exist in gilt and enamel, brass, and whitemetal.

Row 4, left to right.
55 (Collingwood) Inf. officers hat in gilt and blue enamel. Also known in copper.
56 (Yarra Borderers) Inf. hat in bimetal. Voided variant exists.

58.

58 (Essendon Rifles) Inf. officers hat In brass and black and red enamels; centre volded. Other ranks badge reportedly non-volded.

60 (Princes Hill) Inf. officers hat in gilt and white and blue enamels.

60 (Brunswick Carlton) Inf officers cap/collar in gilt and enamels. Hat sizes reported in gilt and enamel, brass and nickel silver.

62 (Carlton Rifles) Inf. hat in brass. Also known in bimetal.

Row 5, left to right.

64 (City of Melbourne Regt.) Inf. officers hat in gilt and blue enamel.

65 (City of Footscray Regt) Inf. hat in bronze.

67 (Bendigo) Inf. hat in copper.

67 (Bendigo) Inf. officers hat in gilt and red and green enamels.

70 (Ballarat Regt) Inf. 1914-18 hat in brass. Also similar hat badge for 70 (Ballarat Bn) Inf. 1912-14 before change in title.

Row 6, left to right.

88 (Perth) Inf. hat In brass.

Selection of hat numerals in brass.

92 (Launceston) Inf. hat in brass. Officers badges have red enemal. Cap badges slightly smaller than hats.

Not Illustrated.

86 (W.A. Rifles) Inf. hat In brass and also a silverplated type. This unit wore the badge used during the 1903-12 period.

The designs of some of-the badges illustrated were based on those of earlier units. For instance similar badges to those of the 7, 24, 51, 70, 88, and 92 infantries were worn from 1903-12. Many others, however, were of new design.

The wearing of regimental badges was virtually discontinued after World War 1. In 1930 when individual unit badges were once again authorized, many of the 1912-18 designs (and earlier ones) were again adopted after modifications for changes in unit numbers, territorial titles and mottoes.

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GEELONG BRANCH
National Militaria Exposition —
Easter 1980

As announced in the July-September edition of "Sabretache" the Geelong Branch will hold an Exposition in "Osborne House" North Geelong over the Easter weekend in April, 1980.

Activities will include a chronological display of militaria from 1790 to the present day, a military vehicle display to be mounted by the Victorian Military Vehicle Corps, and seminars on aspects of member's interests. There will be sales of Society publications and of members' militaria, on a commission basis. Several dealers stands will also operate.

Major-General J.M. McNeill, OA, OBE, ED will officially open the Exposition at 1.30 pm, Saturday, 5 April 1980.

Seminars on the subjects advised in "Sabretache" Vol XX, No. 3, will be conducted from 11am on Saturday morning, through Sunday and ending on Monday morning with a general discussion on militaria and the official closing address by the President of the Geelong Branch.

A society shop and dealers stands will be open during display hours. A social evening will be held on Saturday evening, from 7.30pm to 11.00pm. A great deal of planning and effort has been put into the Exposition by members of the Geelong Branch. The Exposition will provide an opporunity for Society members to view a significant display of militaria, to join in discussion on items covering a wide range of interest and to enjoy meeting other members from Geelong, Melbourne and interstate.

Members Wants

WANTED: Biafra patch, East Indies metal signs, Italian metal shoulder boards, Commonwealth hat badges.

R. Hazenberg, PO Box 14058, Panmure, New Zealand.

WANTED: Vol. V of "Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-18" — The AIF in France 1918   Mr. F. Kirkland, 9/46 Harriette Street, Neutral Bay, NSW, 2089.

WANTED: To buy or borrow for copying "Matilda Tank Workshop Manual" and "Matilda Tank Illustrated Parts List" to assist in restoration of one of these tanks.

P. J. Ray, Ray's Orchard, Bell's Line of Road, Bilpin, NSW, 2758, (Phone (045) 67-1141).

Articles of Australian Military Historical Interest in Contemporary Journals

Coulthard-Clark C. D.
Australia's war time security service. *Defence Force Journal* No. 16 (May/June) 1979, pp 23-27.

Hyslop, R.
Captain F. H. C. Brownlow, O.B.E., V. D., R.A.N., *Defence Force Journal* No. 15 (March/April) 1979, pp 20-23.

Lind, L. J.
Old world charm on Sydney's shor *Triad* No 14 (Winter) 1979 pp 20-22. (Items of historical interest in Garden Island Dockyard).

Weston, B.F.
A chip off the old block. (The story of the second son of Lt. Col. George Johnston, CO, Rum Corps) *Despatch* 14 No. 10 (April) 1979, pp 194-197.

Audley, R.
New South Wales Cadet Encampment August 1890. *Despatch* 24(11)May 1979, pp. 220-223, *Despatch* 25(1) June 1979, pp.13-16.

"For Valour"
L.J. Maxwell, V.C., M.C., M.C.M. *Aust Army* 22(1) 25 Oct 1979, p.2.

Jones, R. M.
Jellicoe and the RAN, *Defence Force Jnl 18* Sept/Oct 1979, pp. 44-51.

Kilsby, A. J.
Australian Operations in Timor 1942-1943, *Defence Force Jnl 18. Sept/Oct* 1979 pp. 18-23.

McKeinan, M.
Clergy in Khaki: the Chaplain in the AIF. 1914-1918, *Jnl. Roy. Hist. Soc.* 64(3) December 1978, pp. 145-166.

Moorhead, M. J.
Once the Town of Leige (brief description of the 1914 German siege weapons). *The Volunteers,* Journal of the New Zealand Military Historical Society, Vol 6, No 1, June 1979, pp. 1-11.

Seaman, P.
He gave the order for his own death *Aust. Army* 21(10) 1 Feb 1979, p.10.

THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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

ORGANISATION

The Federal Council of the Society is located in Canberra.
The Military Historical Society of Australia has branches in Brisbane, Canberra, Albury-Wodonga, Melbourne, Geelong, Adelaide and Perth.
Details of meetings are available from Branch Secretaries whose names and addresses appear on page 2.

SABRETACHE

The Federal Council is responsible for the publication quarterly of the Society Journal, "Sabretache," which is scheduled to be mailed to each member of the Society in the last week of the final month of each issue.
Publication and mailing schedule dates are:
January—March edition mailed in the last week of March.
April—June edition mailed in the last week of June.
July—September edition mailed in the last week of September.
October—December edition mailed in the last week of December.

ADVERTISING

Society members may place, at no cost, one advertisement of approximately 50 words in the "Members Sales and Wants" section of each edition of the Journal.
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1 April for April—June edition.
1 July for July—September edition.
1 October for October—December edition.

QUERIES

The Society's honorary officers cannot undertake research on behalf of members.
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Society publications advertised in "Sabretache" are available from:
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