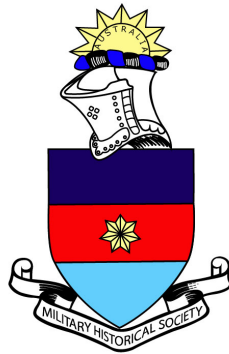


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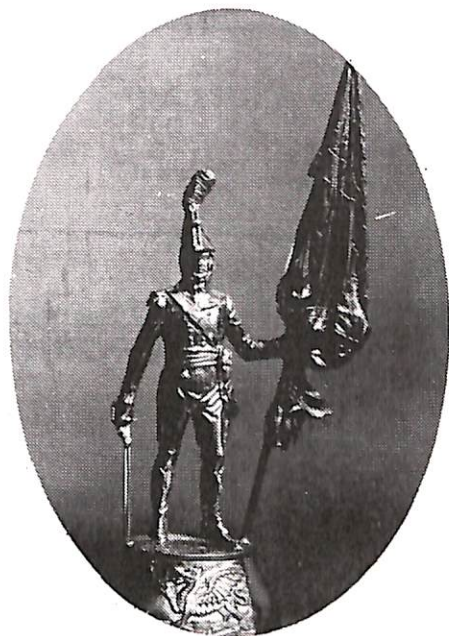
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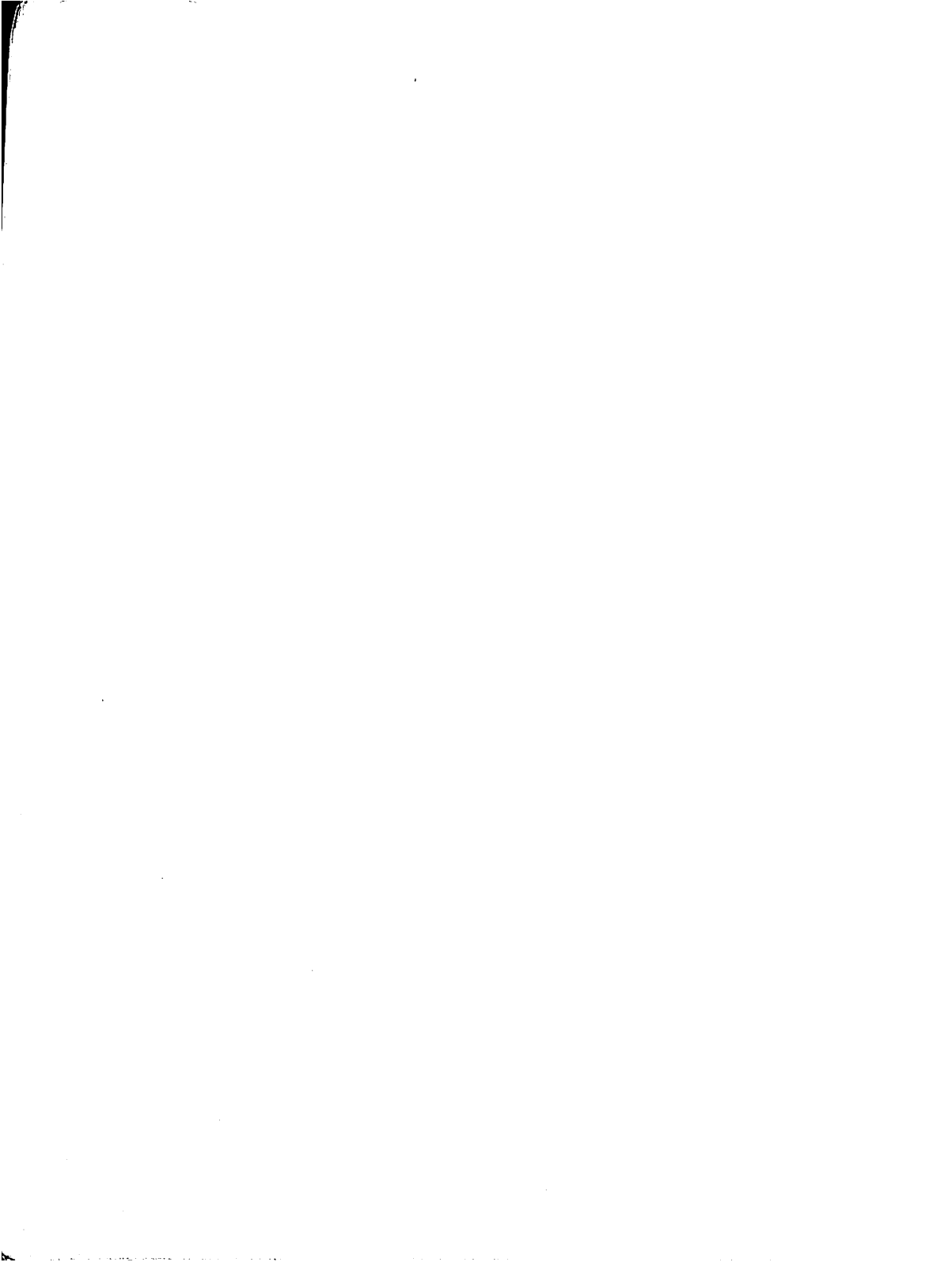
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Some Early Barracks in Australia

by BRIG. M. AUSTIN (RL)

VICTORIA

The original barracks in Melbourne date from October 1836. Composed of clay and bark, bush huts were erected on the "Government Block" below the Flagstaff Gardens towards Spencer Street.

Within four years these "temporary" buildings were badly in need of repair, although it was not until 1842, when the detachment of troops at Portland was withdrawn to Melbourne, that about half the troops were moved to the bottom part of the Government Store.

Governor Gipps approved, provided no expenditure was made by, or inconvenience caused to, the local government. He had no doubt that La Trobe, Superintendent of the Port Phillip District, knew "that Her Majesty's Troops are not (except under very special circumstances) provided with Barrack accommodation at the Expense of the Colony". (1)

In January, 1843, the Barrack Master in Sydney drew the attention of the Master General and Board of Ordnance to the need for proper barrack accommodation in Melbourne.

The matter was referred to the Colonial Office, Ordnance, observing that barracks for 200 men, at a cost of \$50,000 had been requested, but had been deducted from the 1841-42 estimates for want of funds. "What allotments and distributions of permanent garrisons were contemplated in that quarter?" (2)

The Colonial Office had little faith in the estimate. There was plenty of convict labour which could be made available; the site would cost nothing and many of the building materials were readily available. Somewhat garrulously

In such a state of things I can't conceive the enormous outlay which is here proposed. It seems to be the common and it certainly is a very natural opinion in the Australian colonies that in every encounter with the British government all is to be carried to the debit and nothing to the credit side of the account — that we are to buy food for convicts, who could be made to grow their own — and to pay for free labourers while the convicts are making roads for the benefit of the colony!

With the proposed reduction of troops in Sydney: move of the Headquarters, and cessation of work on the Victoria Barracks, Sydney, there seemed little reason why the cost of the Melbourne barracks could not be offset by the sale of part, at least, of the "very extensive buildings in the central (sic) and valuable part" of Sydney.

The proposed cost of \$50,000 obviously was the cost to a private person who had to pay the full price for labour, land and materials. The Respective Officers of

Ordnance (the Commanding Royal Engineer, the Deputy Commissary and the Deputy Ordnance Storekeeper) and the Governr. should confer, and both should report to London. (3).

Gipps advised Stanley, the Secretary of State for War and the Colonies, in January, 1844 that there were no convicts in the Port Phillip district and all work and materials had both fallen, and he considered that Lieutenant Colonel Barney's estimate, which had been for 200 men, could be reduced to between \$14,000 and \$16,000 for about 50 to 100 men. Nevertheless, the "Tyranny of Distance" quite defeated the Colonial Office, who remained under the impression that abundant convict labour was close at hand. More importantly, attention was again focussed on the actions of the Respective Officers.

It seems idle to be so often repeating the same remark, but it is difficult to avoid once more observing how fatal to all efficiency in the Public Service is the indulgence, in these distant places, of that Departmental spirit which induces the Officers of the Ordnance to write from the Antipodes to their Superiors without previous communication with the Governor on subjects which the Governor must at last be consulted. (4).

It was not until March that the Respective Officers forwarded their report, and even then it did not contain the revised estimates, and little could be done until these were received in June, 1845. Ordnance advised the Colonial Office that in the normal course these should be returned to the Respective Officers for revision, but as the estimate of \$16,814 was the best approximation which could be obtained, only technical comments would be returned for the attention of the Commander, Royal Engineers.

However, portion of the "barrack allotment" had been occupied by squatters, and so that the matter could be cleared at once, the Respective Officers were advised to apply for the grant before the Commissioners for investigating the claims, and the Crown Solicitor, were instructed to conduct the proceedings. This was done, but when the appropriate notices were published a protest was lodged by one Cummings. His attorney was advised to lodge a caveat. This did not occur, and when the Ordnance claim was heard publicly, it was reported uncontested by the Commissioners and approved by Franklin.

However, before the issue of the deed, the Officer Commanding the troops determined to remove the squatters and most of the huts were demolished without the assistance of the civil authorities. Cummings became troublesome, urged their claims, but not being in possession of the grant, all the Respective Officers could do was to request assistance from the Law Officers. The grant was issued, but fresh difficulties arose.

The Crown Solicitor requested that instructions be given to the Attorney General to proceed with the filling of an Information of Intrusion. Eardley-Wilmot, who had succeeded Franklin as Governor, declined, being "unwilling to exercise a right not recognised in favour of private individuals", a stand which he felt was fully justified, when he subsequently received Stanley's Circular Despatch of 14 May 1844, which directed no such action be taken without the sanction of Her Majesty's Government.

The Respective Officers reported to Ordnance, who in February 1845 stated that as the "barrack allotment was derived from the colonial government it assumed all the

rights annexed to Crown Lands, including exemption from costs, and the right to sue by Information of Intrusion, by the Attorney General in the name of the Queen". The Respective Officers were directed to request the Attorney General to institute proceeding, "in which case possession of 26 years will not avail the defendant."

Eardley-Wilmot directed the Law Officers to adopt this course. Action was declined, however, on the grounds that no Writ of Intrusion could be maintained for the "barrack allotment", as it had already been granted away by the Crown, and further proceedings would have to be taken in the normal course, and be subject to costs. The Crown Solicitor forwarded a declaration of ejection to the Respective Officers for service on Cummings, which was declined on the grounds that their instructions were so positive that they would not assume responsibility for proceeding in any other way.

Eardley-Wilmot assured Stanley that the delay in making the transfer to Ordnance was not due to objections by the local government. However, he could not resolve the statements without further instructions. The Crown Solicitor now believed that an action for ejection would probably succeed, and this view appeared to be supported by Ordnance who considered "that it will turn out on further inquiry that Cummings has not had possession in his own right adversely, but for many of the years stated merely as a Soldier, and therefore occupying as a servant of, rather than as owner against the Crown". (11)

As far as Ordnance was concerned the "emancipation" of the barracks allotment was indispensable, and Gladstone who was now Secretary of State for War and the Colonies, accordingly directed that the Law Officers take their directions from the Respective Officers. (12)

The best summary came from within the Colonial Office. Ordnance

have made a great object in getting what they have called 'Vesting Bills' throughout the colonies...thereby they throw away all the advantages of suing and being sued, in the name of the Crown, and must fight all their legal battles under the disadvantages affecting a Corporation — and that they would gain no one advantage by the very change and unconstitutional innovation of erecting an Executive Department of the Military Government into a Corporate Body distinct from, and independent of the Sovereign... Very undue weight was given to some idle notions of Departmental Authority and dignity consequent on the measure. It was however, insisted on and taken, and the present embarrassment is only a specimen of the inconveniences inseparable from it. (13)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The detachment of the 96th — the first troops located in South Australia, arrived in Adelaide on 16 October 1841. His Excellency, Lieutenant Governor George Grey in the press of public business had overlooked the necessity of informing the commander, Captain Butler, that he would have to take the unusual course of paying for troop accommodation from the Military Chest, and it was a very surprised Butler who was confronted with a bill for \$300 for the first quarter's rent for the store in Grenfell Street, which sum was to be free from taxes, rates and assessments.

However, no funds were available and further guidance from Treasury would be required. The Colonial Office could see no reason why construction should be deferred, but Treasury would have to fix the period when the work should be commenced.

By the beginning of 1846, no instructions having been received and with apparently no response to advertisements by the Respective Officers, arrangements were made for the troops to be accommodated in the Court of Requests, the adjoining store, and the old gaol on the north side of Collins Street, at an annual rent of \$200. (5)

In 1852 under the impact of the gold discoveries, the 40th Regiment had been despatched to Australia. It was obvious that more extensive quarters would be required, and in August, "a barrack capable of accommodating 500 men had been commenced on the vacant ground adjacent to the large house of Messrs. Langlands at the foot of the Flag-staff hill, and the house itself has been purchased by the Government, we believe, for a place of residence for the officers." The new site was on the western side of Spencer Street between Labrobe and Little Lonsdale Streets. (6)

On the 18 September La Trobe informed Pakington, the Secretary of State for War and the Colonies, that he had advised the Legislative Council of the conditions under which the troops were being despatched to the Colony: estimates, including the costs of the troops, were soon to be laid before the Council: and every exertion was being made to erect temporary barrack accommodation. Shortages of labour and materials made "many checks, and a prodigal outlay", but he hoped to have a barrack of wood and corrugated iron, with a slate roof, ready in about six weeks time.

He again suggested the use of "cast iron quarters". "Pay, both for officers and men, should be liberally considered, and — no reasonable advantage should be withheld" but the temptation of gold being what it was, he did not dare anticipate that these measures would be completely successful. (7)

Reporting to Pakington on the public works of the colony in October, La Trobe mentioned that the troops had moved from the old gaol, which after eight years had reverted to its former use, although they had temporarily taken over the Emigrant Orphan Barracks until the new Army barracks had been completed. (8) These were still not ready when the 40th disembarked in November, and the troops camped "on an open space of ground in the direction of the Benevolent Asylum", leaving the women and children to occupy such parts of the buildings which had been completed. The officers expressed surprise at the comfortable appearance of the barracks — they had expected to live in tents which they had brought with them. However, not anticipating such action, Governor Young, at La Trobe's earnest entreaty, had forwarded tents, wooden houses, and ammunition from SA. (9)

On the 18 January, 1853 a small detachment of the 11th together with four 2.7kg field pieces, also moved into the new barracks — six buildings in the form of a rectangle enclosing a parade ground of one hectare, allowing about fourteen cubic metres of space for each soldier. The sides were of corrugated galvanised tinned iron, lined with galvanised sheet iron, a ceiling of sheet iron plates, and a slate roof. Altogether the cost during 1852 had been a little over \$54,000 using day labour, although the Colonial Architect had estimated the cost at only \$41,000.

But then — “as higher wages are paid to men the less work is performed in proportion” and “from the gold excitement high wages, and unlimited demand for mechanics, one third of an actual day’s work was all the men would do in a day”.

As far as the troops were concerned the barracks were reported as maintaining a cool temperature during the summer months — ‘the correctness of the principle of ventilation being thus fully tested and confirmed’. (9)

In the same month authority to purchase thirty six iron houses for “government employees at a cost of \$28,800 was given to the Colonial Agent in London.” (10)

TASMANIA

Anglesea Barracks, Hobart, named after the Master-General of the Ordnance, “One Leg”, the Marquis of Anglesey, was first built and occupied during the period 1814-1818.

In 1836 the Board of Ordnance started to tidy up its land and property holdings in the various colonies. The question of transferring the Barracks had come under consideration by Governor Franklin at a time when consideration was being given to building new barracks in Hobart, and a portion of Windmill Hill had been reserved for that purpose. Ordnance had suggested that the Barracks be transferred, and then retransferred to the colony when the new barracks had been built, and the area to be granted had been mutually agreed between Franklin and the Commander Royal Engineers, Major Kelsall.

The Colonial Office was also surprised since it had been the intention to provide barrack accommodation in one of the colonial buildings. Treasury was informed, and at the same time advised that the Province did not appear to be in a position to defray *any portion of the cost of its military protection.*

“In what way is the expense to be defrayed of lodging the troops while they remain in South Australia?” In the meantime the troops moved in October 1842 to another store on the north side of Flinders Street, where they appear to have remained until April 1851. (14)

Treasury agreed that the Province was not in a position to defray its military costs, and consequently had no objection for the barracks accommodation, as well as half-pay officers, and Chelsea and Greenwich pensioners resident in South Australia being paid from the Commissariat Chest. At the same time My Lords Commissioners had no intention of allowing Grey *carte blanche* to organize matters as he thought fit and ride rough shod over the Commander and the Commissariat Officer who had accompanied the troops from Tasmania.

Grey was to be instructed to “rescind the appoint of Mr Darling as a colonial officer, and to discontinue his interference with the management of the Commissariat Chest.”

Moreover, Butler was authorised to sign warrants, and a Commissariat Officer was to be sent from Enland “to conduct the duties of the Department as a separate and distinct charge”.

Grey left for New Zealand in 1845, and his subsequent actions show clearly that his capacity for inter-meddling was quite unimpaired. (15)

In 1840, it had been agreed that a Royal Engineer officer should investigate the defences of Western Australia although it was not until 1846 that he did so, returning through Adelaide in May. No doubt this visit gave rise to the report that it was "confidentially stated" that new barracks were to be erected in Adelaide at the expense of the British Government, although it was not until the following September that Robe raised the question with Gladstone.

Captain Twiss, RE, Commanding Royal Engineer Tasmania, had selected a site for barracks in parklands to the west of Adelaide, as there was no unappropriated land within Adelaide itself. Robe had agreed, although he would have preferred a site to the north-west.

This area, however, although still clear of buildings was all privately owned, and Robe feared that any move to purchase would have been accompanied by a rise in price. He suggested that the new site should be all embracing, and as well as the barracks should include the Commissariat store and office, a "treasure vault", officers' quarters, and a depot for militia arms and ammunition.

The advantages were many — a saving in rent for barracks and the Commissariat office, and less handling and transport costs for stores. He could see no reason why the Province should not meet the cost of the militia armoury. With all of which Twiss could not agree since his instructions limited him to infantry barracks only, although he did suggest that these "be defensible by, and against, musketry."

Nine days later Robe again wrote to Gladstone suggesting that the proposed enclave should also contain a powder magazine. (16)

By now Earl Grey had become Colonial Secretary and even though he had already decided that barracks and defensive works were unnecessary in both South and Western Australia, he merely advised Robe in April 1849 that the propriety of building barracks in Adelaide would be considered when Twiss' report had been received.

He was also under the impression that the barracks were hired at the expense of the Province, and consequently with this comforting thought, His Lordship considered there were no grounds for immediate construction and further consideration could be postponed. By April 1848 he had made it quite clear that South Australia should have no expectations that military buildings or defences would be built for many years to come.

In conformity with his overall policy Grey advised Governor Young in November the following year that the troop strength would be reduced to a "guard" in Adelaide, and if the local legislature did not "make adequate provision for the maintenance of the Barrack in such a manner that the health and comfort of the troops will be as well served as at present, it will be the duty of Her Majesty's Government to remove them altogether". (17)

When the question was raised, Ordnance were informed that it would not be necessary to renew the lease of the barracks when it became due in October 1850. It was up to South Australia whether the present barracks were leased beyond that point or new ones constructed.

The previous June, however, the Legislative Council had adopted a unanimous resolution that if the troops were maintained at Imperial expense, the Council was prepared "to recognise the propriety of continuing to provide for the internal order and tranquility of this Province at the charge of the general Colonial Revenue". In support of this, \$1600 had been voted in the 1851 Estimates for barrack accommodation. (18)

In Sydney, in the absence of specific instructions, the Respective Officers continued to pay lodging allowances for the Headquarters staff, although such allowances for regimental officers continued as a charge against colonial funds, when barrack accommodation could not be provided. After consultation with Treasury, in 1851 the Colonial office directed that the same system apply in South Australia. (19)

In April 1851 the troops again moved, this time to a site in Topham Street where new barracks had been built and leased to the Government. While this found favour with the press, it suffered from some inconveniences both to the owner as well as the troops, and in 1854 barracks were erected in Atherton some distance back from the Old Port Road. (20)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The original barracks in Western Australia were commenced in 1832 in the centre of Perth and funded from the Commissariat Chest. Mrs Lochee described the scene she remembered as follows:

The military force occupied a large square between St. George's Terrace and Hay Street, stretching from Barrack St. to the Deanery fence in St. George's Terrace, and from Barrack St. to Pier St. along Hay St. There were rows of tents all around the square. The hospital tent was almost in the middle of the square, the officers' tents on the site of the Burt Memorial Hall, and the non-commissioned officers' tents on the site of the Treasury Buildings, at the corner of Barrack St. and St. George's Terrace.

Adequate for a few years they became unsatisfactory because they were located in the centre of the town, and were "much in the way" since, apart from any other considerations, they contained a small powder magazine. (21)

Captain Twiss, RE, as a result of his visit in 1846 to advise on the coast defences, recommended that the barracks be moved to the eastern end of the town, about one and a half kilometers from their present location. His attitude was somewhat ambivalent.

The proposed site was elevated: open to the sea breeze and therefore healthy: close to level ground suitable for drill and exercise: assured of good water, and commanded the Causeway and bridge to the interior, as well as the proposed line of road to Fremantle.

However, the present barracks were in good repair, and unless the garrison was increased by an additional 100 men he saw no reason why they should be replaced. So it is not surprising that Earl Grey advised Governor Clarke in October 1846 that he was not prepared to recommend the proposal to Treasury. It was not until 1863 that new barracks were commenced at the western end of St. George's Terrace to accommodate the enrolled pensioners when the 1/12th Regiment was withdrawn (22).

Meanwhile it was not long before the garrison was increased as a result of transportation. Governor FitzGerald had many problems to face with the arrival of the first convict ship *Scindian* in June 1850 and "in consequence of their arrival in the colony previous to the receipt of despatches notifying their approach no preparations had been made for them".

However, twenty-five of the pensioner guard were enrolled for full-time duty, and barracks provided by the purchase of premises known as the "whaling jetty" under the promontory of Arthur's Head.

These were subsequently used by the Royal Sappers and Miners who accompanied Captain (Sir) Edmund Henderson RE to "examine and report upon the public works which can be undertaken with the most advantage ... and to exercise a general control of convict labour".

While Twiss did not consider that new barracks were necessary he was concerned with the state and location of the garrison hospital. Built in 1830-31 by the local government prior to the establishment of a Commissariat, subsequent repairs had been carried out by public tender on the authority of the Commandant, under the direction of the Commissariat, assisted by the Colonial Works Department.

At the time of his visit in 1846, the hospital was in a "wretched condition"; erected behind the church where it received no sea breeze, on land vested in the church trustees. His recommendation that a new hospital be built was completely overshadowed by the Colonial Office refusal to build barracks and batteries.

The question of a new hospital was raised in March 1849 by Ordnance on receipt of a report from the Commissariat at Perth. The necessity for a new building appeared to rest entirely on its proximity to the church, and there was not sufficient evidence available to decide whether it merely needed repair. Grey was not satisfied that a new hospital was required, any more than he was convinced that new barracks were necessary.

However Lieutenant Colonel Irwin, then administering the Government, had already informed Treasury that he had authorised the construction of a new hospital (at a cost of \$386!). The necessary documentation had been passed to Ordnance, who had returned Grey's decision.

Treasury informed the Colonial Office that as the contract had been signed six months previously it was quite useless to stop the work. The Lords Commissioners proposed to authorise Ordnance to admit the expenditure provisionally, and suggested that Irwin be called on to justify his action without obtaining prior approval.

Grey agreed. Irwin's explanation was forwarded the following September, but his action having already been "acquiesced", the papers were "put by". (23).

In an area where the water supply is a constant concern the following General Order of 14 February 1853 is not without interest. Moreover accounting practice appears to have altered little in the intervening period. (24)

The Assistant Commissary General having represented to the Lt Col & Commandant, that hitherto the supply of water to the Royal Ordnance Hospital and Temporary Sappers Barracks on the Whaling Jetty at Fremantle, has been effected by means of a Government Team spared from the Convict Public Works, and driven by a Convict; and that this practise is represented by the Comptroller General to be objectionable, first, as interfering with the Public Works, and, secondly, because the Convict driver is beyond control, being without an Officer, and liable to be led into temptation; The Lt. Col. & Commandant is pleased to direct that water shall in future be supplied by the Commissariat, in such manner as the Assistant Commissary General may be able to arrange, whether by contract or otherwise.

The quantity of water to be supplied daily to each man in Barracks, will be two gallons, and to each woman and each child one gallon; and to the Hospital, such quantity as the Medical Officer may deem sufficient, limiting as far as possible any undue expenditure.

The Officer Commanding Royal Sappers and Miners, and the Medical Officer will each grant a receipt for the Water Supplied, to be sent to the Resident Commissariat Officer on the 1st day of each month succeeding the issue.

NOTES

1. 6.8.40 La Trobe/Colonial Secretary Sydney (CS) 40/588, Victorian Archives Letters Out (VALO) B384 ; 1.6.42 Captain Lewis (80th)/La Trobe, Victorian Archives Letters In (VALI) 42/1023; 21.6.42 La Trobe/CS, 42/815, NSW Archives (NSWA) 42/4776(4/2660.1); 5.7.42 CS/La Trobe VALI 42/1337; Garryowen-The Chronicles of Early Melbourne 1835 to 1851, p 691.
2. 1.43 Barrack Master Sydney/Ordnance (Ord) NSW 4/2660.1; 26.6.43 Ord/Colonial Office (CO) War Office (WO) 1/431, Australian Joint Copying Project microfilm reel (R) 894, Folio (F) 775.
3. *ibid.*, minute of 13.7.43; Historical Records of Australia, Series 1 (HRA), Volume 23, p 55 gives the whole correspondence.
4. 22.1.44 Gipps/Stanley WO 1/432 R894 F1.
5. 11.2.46 *Sydney Morning Herald*; 19.2.46 La Trobe/CS, VALO H p38; 7.3.46 CS/Respective Officers (RO) 46/34, 46/1602 NSW 4/3802; 4.7.46 La Trobe/CS VALO H p234; 15.7.46 CS/RO 46/77 NSW 4/3802.
6. 26.8.52 *Argus*
7. 18.9.52 La Trobe/Pakington WO 1/577 R903 F61
8. 5.10.52 La Trobe/Pakington CO 309/8 R807 F210
9. 3.11.52 *Argus*
10. 15.1.53 CO/Agent — General CO 309/10 R808 F80; 24.1.53 La Trobe/Pakington, House of Commons Papers 1852/53, Volume 64, p559.
11. 15.11.44 Ord/CO WO 1/432 R895 F 535; 9.7.45 Eardley-Wilmot/Stanley CO 280/183 R535 F68.
12. 28.1.46 Ord/CO WO 1/574 R902 F647; 11.2.46 CO/Ord *ibid.* F651; 5.3.46 Gladstone/Eardley-Wilmot WO 1/433 R895 F327.
13. *ibid.* Minute F297
14. 4.8.42 Military Secretary/CO WO 1/431 R894 R449.
15. 14.1.43 Treasury/CO CO 13/35 R595/596 F92.
16. 16.9.46 Robe/Gladstone WO 1/435 R897 F29; 25.9.46 Robe/Gladstone *ibid.*, F37.
17. 13.4.47 Grey/Robe *ibid.*, F45; 14.1.48 CO/Ord WO 1/437 R898 F295; 11.4.48 Grey/Officer administering South Australia WO 1/435 R897 F111; 21.11.49 Grey/Young WO 6/97 R1505 F48.
18. 24.4.50 Ord/Co WO 1/435 R897 F371; 2.5.50 Grey/Young *ibid.*, F375; 2.5.50 CO/Ord *ibid.*, F373; 21.6.50 Young/Grey *ibid.*, F263.
19. 15.6.51 Ord/CO WO 1/436 R897 F259; 4.7.51 CO/Treasury *ibid.*, F267; 23.7.51 CO/Ord *ibid.*, F275; 15.7.51 Treasury/CO WO 1/523 R900 F353; 5.8.51 Ord/CO WO 1/437 R898 F397.
20. Zwillenberg H.J. — Citizens and Soldiers (MA Thesis University of Adelaide 1970).
21. Journal Western Australia Historical Society, Vol 1, Part 1, 1927, p3.
22. 26.1.33 Irwin/Goderick CO 18/12 R298 F182; 20.6.33 Stirling/Stanley *ibid.*; F 134; 2.5.46 Clarke/Stanley WO 1/437 R897 F1; 21.10.46 Grey/Clarke *ibid.*, F9; 18.7.50 Henderson/FitzGerald, House of Commons Papers 1851, Volume 45, p. 240; 7.11.50 FitzGerald/Grey, 26.11.50 FitzGerald/Grey *ibid.*, p 354-357.
23. 27.10.48 Irwin/Treasury WO 1/437 R898 F453; 14.3.49 Treasury/CO *ibid.*, F449; 24.5.49 CO/Treasury *ibid.*, F457; 17.9.49 FitzGerald/Grey *ibid.*, F77.
24. 14.2.53 WO 28/266 R1074 F188.

WANTED: Australian Flying Corps (A.F.C.) 1914-18 pilot's cloth or metal wings and observer's cloth or metal wings, also cloth or metal shoulder titles and tunics complete with insignia (any rank). Prepared to offer cash (Australian currency), reply guaranteed.

M. Forman, 92 Piccadilly, London W1, England.

Research on British Regiments Associated with the Pacific Area

Researchers into British military history in the Pacific area frequently need to examine the micro-film records prepared under the Australian Joint Coping Project. Brigadier M. Austin has prepared the following list of reels relating to the micro-film of the Muster Rolls in the War Office 12 series of records.

Both the National Library, Canberra, and the NSW State Library, Sydney, hold copies of all the reels. However the holdings by similar institutions in other States are not known. It is believed that the other State Libraries hold only those reels relating to regiments which were located in their States.

It should be noted that the notation 2/14, 2/18 does not identify the 2nd Battalion of the Regiment, but the second occasion on which the Regiment served in the area.

The information given in this table is of particular significance to members who wish to authenticate medals.

British Regiments Associated With the Pacific Area

Regiment	Location	From	To	WO12/	AJCP Reel No.
3	Australia	Dec 22	Dec 27	2118-2119	3694-3696
4	Australia	Jan 31	Mar 38	2213-2219	3696-3699
10	Straits Settlements (SS): Hong Kong	Aug 71	Mar 77	2809-2814	3700-3703
11	Australia	Apr 45	Mar 58	2874-2890	3703-3714
12	Aust: NZ	Apr 54	Aug 68	2971-2994	3714-3732
14	Java: India	Feb 11	Dec 13	3129-3131	3732-3733
2/14	Aust: NZ	Apr 60	Dec 70	3206-3219	3734-3748
17	Australia	Dec 28	Mar 36	3434-3438	3748-3750
2/18	Aust: NZ	Apr 63	Mar 70	3578-3585	3750-3758
21	Australia	Apr 32	Mar 41	3802-3809	3758-3763A
26	China	Apr 40	Mar 41	4283	3764
28	Australia	Apr 35	Mar 43	4443-4450	3764-3768
30	India: Batavia	Jan 06	Dec 08	4570-4572	3768-3770
39	Australia	Dec 24	Mar 33	5263-5266	3770-3772
40	Australia	Dec 23	Dec 28	5336-5339	3772-3774
	Aust: NZ	Apr 52	Sep 66	5363-5386	3774-3792
43	New Zealand	Apr 63	Mar 66	5618-5620	3792-3795
46	Australia	Dec 12	Dec 17	5809-5810	3795-3796
48	Australia	Dec 15	Dec 24	5969-5974	3796-3799
50	Australia	Apr 34	Mar 42	6127-6134	3799-3802
	Aust: NZ	Apr 63	Mar 69	6156-6162	3802-3809
51	Australia	Apr 37	Mar 47	6200-6209	3809-3815
57	Australia	Dec 24	Mar 33	6650-6656	3816-3818
	New Zealand	Apr 60	Jul 67	6683-6695	3818-3826
58	Aust: NZ	Apr 43	Mar 59	6743-6761	3826-3837

59	India: Java	Jan 10	Dec 15	6798—6802	3837—3839
63	Australia	Dec 27	Mar 34	7261—7265	3839—3841
65	Aust: NZ	Apr 45	Dec 65	7415—7446	3841—3860
68	Burma: NZ	Apr 63	Mar 66	7676—7678	3860—3862
69	India: Java	Jan 11	Dec 11	7707	3863
70	New Zealand	Feb 61	Dec 65	7830—7835	3863—3868
73	Australia	Dec 08	Dec 15	8000—8002	3868—3870
	HK. Singapore	Apr 68	Mar 69	8050	3870—3871
74	Cape of GH: HK	Apr 68	Mar 72	8179—8182	3872—3875
	SS	Apr 76	Mar 77	8128	3871—3872
77	Australia	Apr 57	Mar 59	8293—8294	3875—3877
78	Java	Jan 11	Dec 16	8319—8324	3877—3880
80	Australia	Apr 36	Mar 45	8478—8486	3880—3884
	SS: HK	Apr 71	Mar 76	8513—8517	3884—3888
89	India: Java	Jan 11	Dec 13	9100—9102	3888—3889
96	Aust: NZ	Apr 39	Mar 49	9611—9623	3889—3896
99	Aust: NZ	Apr 41	Mar 57	9804—9822	3896—3905
NSW Corps	Australia	Jun 89	Dec 97	11028	417
102	Australia	Jul 98	Dec 12	9399—9905	412—416
	Bermuda	Dec 12	Dec 15	9907	3906—3908
	New Brunswick	Dec 15	May 18	9906	416—417
Army Hosp. Corps	New Zealand	Mar 61	Feb 70	10432—10448	3909—3910
Ceylon Rifle	Labuan:				416, 3909
Regiment	Singapore	Apr 69	Dec 71	10645—10649	3910—3911
Commissariat					3911—3913
Staff Corps	New Zealand	May 61	Jul 68	10655—10670	3913—3914
Commissariat					
Transport Corps	New Zealand	Jul 61	Jun 66	10678—10681	3914—3916
4 Bn. Military					
Train and Horse					
Transport	New Zealand	Apr 63	Oct 67	10977—11008	3916—3917
Royal Staff Corps	Australia	Sep 26	Oct 29	11084—11087	3917
Veteran's					
Battalions	Australia	Mar 10	Sep 23	11228—11229	417—418
		Jun 26	Jun 32	11230	3917

TRADE: Hat badges — 6 AIR, 56th "The Yarra Borderers", 10 ALH (VMR), 9 ALH (VMR), 17 ALH (VMR), 18 ALH (WA), 25 ALH (WA), 12 ALH (officer enamelled.) All are pre-WWI. 8 INDI LH 1930-42, 2 Inf Regt (NSW) pre-Fed. Will consider multiple trade badges for badges wanted.

P. Aitken, 16 Graham Pl., BOX HILL, VIC 3128.

Inscriptions on Medals to Australian and Mandated Territory Personnel 1939—1945

by ADAM DE TOTTH and R.C.H. COURTNEY

Army

The inscriptions on medals to military personnel, won or issued during and as a result of the Second World War, begin with an area prefix, i.e., the prefix of the State, Territory or country in which a soldier enlisted. It is not to be taken as being proof of the soldier's State, Territory or country of origin. Many men, refused entry in their own State, crossed a border to apply again, this time successfully.

In the case of those men who volunteered for and were accepted into the 2nd AIF, the area prefix was followed by an "X". The absence of this letter denoted members of the militia, who could serve only within the Commonwealth of Australia and the Mandated Territory of New Guinea. The letter "P" after the area prefix denoted members of the Permanent Military Forces who did not volunteer for the AIF.

The area prefixes were:

AIF	Militia	PMF	
DX	D	DP	Northern Territory
NX	N	NP	New South Wales
NGX	NG	—	New Guinea
PX	P	—	Papua
QX	Q	QP	Queensland
SX	S	SP	South Australia
TX	T	TP	Tasmania
UKX	—	—	United Kingdom
VX	V	VP	Victoria
WX	W	WP	Western Australia

Medals (save those to the militia, who had no letters after their area prefix) were thus impressed: area prefix + "X" or "P" + serial number + initials + surname.

Members of the Volunteer Defence Corps (VDC) had their medals impressed in the same way as those of the militia. There was no unit abbreviation after the surname. It should be noted that they did not receive serial numbers until 1942, after the Military Board assumed control and responsibility. From July 1940 to May 1941, the VDC had been a Returned Soldiers' League organisation.

Women serving in Australia and the Mandated Territory of New Guinea were distinguished by the letter "F" (for "female") after their area prefix. Nurses who served overseas had further the same "X" designation as their male counterparts. There was no unit abbreviation after the surname to denote members of the Australian Army Medical Women's Service (AAMWS), the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS), or the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS).

Medals to women were thus impressed: area prefix + "F" + "X" (if serving overseas) + serial number + initials + surname.

It should be noted that medals to native troops had different prefixes:

NGN New Guinea Infantry Battalions
 PN Papuan Infantry Battalion (PIB)
 R "M" Special Unit of the Allied Intelligence Bureau

The New Guinea Volunteer Rifles was a formation composed of whites, the bulk of whom consequently bore the "NGX" prefix. Mainland Australians who also served in that unit had their usual area plus "X" designation.

The Pacific Islands Regiment was a composite unit, and had no special prefix of its own. Most of its personnel were drawn from the PIB and the New Guinea Infantry Battalions, and hence bore the prefixes "PN" and "NGN".

The Aborigines of the Torres Strait Light Infantry constituted a special case for the military authorities. They were militia troops and bore the prefix "Q". Apart from getting all their serial numbers from the same 'block', they had no distinctive identification.

The Royal Papuan Constabulary was another unit whose members served with distinction. However, as it was a civilian formation, medals awarded to RPC members fall outside the scope of this article.

Navy

Unlike their military counterparts, naval officers were not distinguished by serial numbers. Medals issued to them thus bear only their initials, surname and branch of the Service.

Ratings of the Permanent Naval Force were allotted serial numbers, but without any prefix.

Ratings of the Naval Reserve belonged variously to the:

Royal Australian Naval Fleet Reserve (RANFR)
 Royal Australian Naval Reserve (RANR)
 Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve (RANVR)
 RANVR (Naval Auxiliary Patrol) (RANVR (NAP))

The RANVR (NAP) was further divided into Mobilised and Unmobilised.

RANR	RANVR	RANVR(NAP) (mobilized)	RANVR(NAP) (unmobilized)	Port Division of Entry
B	B/V	B/V(NAP)	B/P	Brisbane
F	F/V	F/V(NAP)	F/P	Fremantle
H	H/V	H/V(NAP)	H/P	Hobart
PA	PA/V	PA/V(NAP)	PA/P	Adelaide
PM	PM/V	PM/V(NAP)	PM/P	Melbourne
S	S/V	S/V(NAP)	S/P	Sydney
W	—	—	—	Williamstown

Members of the RANFR, who had been Permanent Naval Force ratings and had volunteered for war service, retained their Permanent Naval Force serial numbers.

Just as male naval officers, officers of the Women's Royal Australian Naval

Service (WRANS) were not given serial numbers. Their medals bear the same style of inscription as that of their male counterparts, i.e. initials + surname + branch of the Service (as initials).

Ratings of the WRANS, however, were given both a serial number and a prefix. Thus their medals are inscribed with the recipient's initials, surname, the letters "WR" and her serial number. These numbers were not broken up into 'blocks' for allocation on a State basis.

Air Force

Both officers and airmen of the Royal Australian Air Force drew serial numbers from the same 'blocks', which were allocated on a State basis. It should also be noted, that while the numbers 400001 — 459999 were allocated to aircrew, they were retained irrespective of the men's later careers. As the inscriptions on all medals to the RAAF were in the style: serial number + initials + surname what can be gleaned from a particular medal is the identity of the State in which the recipient of that medal enlisted, and whether he had joined as aircrew or not.

The following two points must be emphasised:

- a) not all numbers in the authorised 'blocks' were utilised
- b) some post-war enlistees were allocated serial numbers out of the World War II 'blocks'.

The 'blocks' of serial numbers authorised and the States to which they were allocated were:

1 — 5999	VIC	49001 — 60000	VIC
6000 — 6999	NSW	60001 — 75000	NSW
7000 — 7271	WA	75001 — 80000	QLD
7300 — 7599	VIC	80001 — 88000	WA
7600 — 7899	NSW	88001 — 89999	TAS
8001 — 9465	VIC	115001 — 116500	SA
9500 — 9749	QLD	116501 — 121500	VIC
9750 — 10000	WA	121501 — 123000	SA
10001 — 12000	VIC	123001 — 125000	QLD
12001 — 12443	NSW	125001 — 130000	VIC
12444 — 14000	VIC	130001 — 140000	NSW
14001 — 16000	NSW	140001 — 142000	SA
16001 — 18000	WA	142001 — 150000	VIC
18001 — 20000	VIC	150001 — 152000	QLD
20001 — 22000	NSW	152001 — 155999	SA
22001 — 26000	QLD	156000 — 160999	VIC
26001 — 29000	SA	161000 — 169999	NSW
29001 — 30000	WA	170000 — 172999	QLD
30001 — 32000	TAS	173000 — 173999	VIC
32001 — 38000	NSW	185000 — 186999	VIC
38001 — 39000	WA	187000 — 187999	QLD
39001 — 40000	SA	188000 — 188999	NSW
40001 — 43000	VIC	205001 — 207000	VIC

43001 — 45000	VIC	207000 — 210000	NSW
45001 — 47000	WA	210001 — 249999	WA
47001 — 49000	SA	250000 — 259999	VIC & TAS
428670 — 429299	NSW	260000 — 269999	NSW
429300 — 429619	QLD	270000 — 279999	QLD
429620 — 429800	WA	280000 — 289999	SA
429801 — 430000	SA	290000 — 299999	WA
430001 — 432000	VIC	300000 — Reserve: All	States
432001 — 434000	NSW	400001 — 401999	VIC
434001 — 436000	QLD	402000 — 403999	NSW
436001 — 437000	WA	404000 — 405999	QLD
437001 — 438000	SA	406000 — 406999	WA
438001 — 438250	TAS	407000 — 407999	SA
438251 — 439250	VIC	408000 — 408500	TAS
439251 — 440250	NSW	408501 — 410999	VIC
440251 — 441250	QLD	411000 — 413999	NSW
441251 — 442250	WA	414000 — 414999	QLD
442251 — 443250	SA	415000 — 415999	WA
443251 — 448999	NSW	416000 — 417999	SA
449000 — 452999	VIC	418000 — 419999	VIC
453000 — 454999	QLD	420000 — 424999	NSW
453000 — 454999	QLD	425000 — 426999	QLD
455000 — 456999	WA		
457000 — 458999	SA	427000 — 427999	WA
459000 — 459999	TAS	428000 — 428249	TAS
		428250 — 428669	VIC

There are two reasons for the 'gaps' in the serial number sequence:

- a) All Air Force personnel were allocated serial numbers from the one numerical sequence. 'Gaps' in the RAAF's sequence will be found to be largely 'filled' by the serial numbers allotted to the WAAF and RAAFNS.
- b) Provision was made for far more serial numbers than there would ever have been need for. As this was realised at the time, many numbers were not even officially grouped into authorised 'blocks'.

There is another point worthy of note. Overseas headquarters (London) (OSHQ) was at one stage allocated serial numbers 186000 — 186116 to cover overseas enlistments. It will be seen that this range of numbers falls into a 'block' allocated to Victorian enlistments. RAAF records indicate that this range of numbers was never used for enlistments in either place.

Unlike RAAF personnel, officers and airwomen of the Women's Australian Auxiliary Air Force (WAAAF) had separate sequences of serial numbers. In both cases, they were allocated in 'blocks' on a State basis. The style of inscription on their medals was, however, the same, viz. serial number (without any prefix) initials and surname.

WAAF — Officers

350000 — 350999	VIC & TAS
351000 — 351099	NSW
352000 — 352099	QLD
353000 — 353099	SA
354000 — 354099	WA

WAAF — Airwomen

90000 — 91500	VIC	104001 — 105000	VIC
91501 — 92000	SA	105501 — 107000	NSW
92001 — 92300	VIC	107001 — 107700	SA
92301 — 93800	NSW	107701 — 110200	NSW
93801 — 94400	QLD	110201 — 111200	VIC
94401 — 95000	WA	111201 — 111700	SA
95001 — 96500	VIC	111701 — 112000	WA
96501 — 97000	SA	112001 — 112150	TAS
97001 — 97300	VIC	113151 — 113585	QLD
97301 — 98800	NSW	114151 — 114963	SA
98801 — 99400	QLD	174000 — 176000	VIC
99401 — 100000	WA	176001 — 178203	NSW
100001 — 103000	QLD	184000 — 184061	TAS
103001 — 104000	WA		

All ranks of the Royal Australian Air Force Nursing Service (RAAFNS) took their serial numbers from the same 'blocks', which were allocated on a State basis. The style of inscription on their medals was as for the RAAF and WAAF. The serial number 'blocks' were:

500000 — 500999	VIC
501000 — 501999	NSW
502000 — 502999	QLD
503000 — 503999	SA
504000 — 504999	WA

Points to Note

The various Stars were originally issued unnamed. Whereas they could later be sent back for official impressing, many were privately engraved. This accounts for many of the variations to the official style of naming medals.

It should also be remembered that several contractors were responsible for impressing medal inscriptions. Differences in die-faces can be detected.

Some "incorrect" impressments, that appear to be unwarranted deviants, could well be the result of honest mistakes. For example, upon occasion a Star to a female recipient will be found to have a different form of the prefix. Specimens (that appear to have been officially impressed) have been sighted on which the "F" of the prefix was under the area code, e.g. TX/F.

There are two quite valid additions to the official styles. Some decorations that were impressed in the United Kingdom bear the letters "AUS" (for "Australia") impressed before the official style details. In the case of medals that have been issued as replacements for lost items, the medals are further impressed with a "D" (for "duplicate") or an "R" (for "replacement").

Some medals will be found with "COLLECTOR'S ITEM" engraved or impressed on them. These were medals that could be bought by collectors, being thus impressed to differentiate them from "real" medals. They were available until 1977.

Philanthropic organisations: Organisations such as the Australian Red Cross, the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, the Salvation Army, the Y.M.C.A., the Y.W.C.A., etc. that gave assistance or service to the forces had a "B" prefix. This was followed by the Military District number, i.e.,

- 1 Queensland
- 2 New South Wales
- 3 Victoria
- 4 South Australia
- 5 Western Australia
- 6 Tasmania

and then the allocated State number of the individual, e.g. B3/302 B.I. Moriarty.

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THE MARCUSEN BROTHERS

— Service and Sacrifice

by *M.C. DICKER*

In World War 1 many families like the Leane family of 48th Battalion fame, lost several sons in the bloody fighting on Gallipoli and in France and Palestine. In the majority of cases the stories of these families have remained untold save for some cold and sketchy detail in official reports. One such story is that of the Marcusen brothers from Rockhampton, Queensland. There were three brothers. Ernest was born in 1890, Clive in 1893 and Vivian in 1895. All served in the Australian Imperial Force in the First World War but two of them failed to return from active service.

Only three weeks after the war broke out on August 4, 1914, Clive Marcusen, a clerk and the second of the brothers, enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force. (1).

He was allotted to the 9th (Queensland) Battalion and had the honour of becoming an original member with the service number 756. The Battalion remained for the first few weeks at Enoggera camp near Brisbane, training and commencing preliminary drill.

The 9th soon received its orders and embarked from Pinkenba Wharf, Brisbane on September 24, 1914 in the Orient Liner *Omrah* to join the rest of the Australian convoy which was to meet off the coast of Western Australia (2).

The ship was forced to enter Port Melbourne on its way and remain there for a month because the German warships *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* were thought to be in the vicinity (3).

When news was received that Germans had been seen in Tahiti the *Omrah* was allowed to leave Melbourne and proceed to King George's Sound near Albany in Western Australia where

the transports carrying the first overseas contingent of Australians and New Zealanders were being assembled.

By the night of October 31, the coaling and watering of the transports was completed. The convoy left Australian waters the next day bound for the Suez Canal and Alexandria.

It arrived in Alexandria on December 3, the troops disembarking the same day and moving by train to Cairo from where they marched to the nearby Mena camp at the foot of the Pyramids (4).

The 1st Australian Division on its arrival at the camp immediately began field training and manoeuvres. Clive Marcusen remained with "G" Company to which he had been appointed, until the general reorganisation of January 1, 1915 when the eight companies in each battalion were reduced to four, "G" Company forming part of the new "C" company (5). Training continued until March 2 when the Battalion was ordered to embark for the Island of Lemnos.

The 9th, with the rest of the 3rd Infantry Brigade, remained seven weeks on Lemnos during which it finished its training, a "great deal of attention being

paid to practising landing from boats, followed by hill climbing." (6).

Orders were finally received to embark on April 15, and after spending several days aboard the *Malda* the Battalion left with the rest of the Australian troops headed for a landing on the Turkish held Gallipoli Peninsula.

At about midnight, April 24-25, the destroyer *Beagle* took on the members of Marcusen's "C" Company. Beside the ship were the rowing-boats in which the troops were to land. "A" and "B" Companies of the 9th Battalion were ordered to land first, and they reached the shore near Ari Burnu (about a mile north of the planned landing place) at approximately 4.30am amid sporadic rifle fire.

"C" Company boarded the rowing boat at about 4:00am from the *Beagle* (which was some 500 yards from the shore) and their landing was completed soon after that of the earlier companies (7).

Once they had landed, the troops immediately began to push in shore in the face of enemy opposition.

Fierce fighting began, amidst precipitous and difficult terrain and the 9th Battalion, after establishing lines on the hill later called Baby 700, was subjected to increasing pressure from Turkish attacks throughout the day. Despite substantial casualties, the 9th Battalion with reinforcements, and the rest of the 3rd Infantry Brigade was able to hold the line.

The next few days was a period of consolidation and the Battalion was not fully relieved until April 30. By then the parade state of the Battalion was 10 officers and 419 other ranks; the total casualties since April 25 had been 19 officers and 496 men (8).

During the early period after the landing, either at the end of April or at the beginning of May, Clive Marcusen was wounded in action and evacuated to Alexandria for treatment (9).

However, the Marcusen name was not long to be absent from Gallipoli because towards the end of May 1915, the 4th reinforcements for the 9th Battalion arrived, (10) some 140 troops, one of whom was Clive Marcusen's elder brother, Ernest.

Ernest Marcus, a 24-year-old labourer, enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on January 11, 1915 (11).

After preliminary training he embarked with the 4th reinforcements at Brisbane on the transport *Star of England* on April 4.

Soon after their arrival in Alexandria, the troops were sent to Gallipoli, where the 9th, due to the severe casualties incurred at the landing, were urgently in need of further reinforcements.

Ernest remained with the Battalion throughout the remainder of the Gallipoli campaign, and a few months after his arrival on the peninsula was joined by Clive who had recovered from his wounds. Both brothers left with the Battalion when it was evacuated from Gallipoli in late November.

After several weeks on Lemnos the 9th Battalion boarded the transport *Grampian* and arrived in Alexandria on January 3, 1916 (12).

The Battalion spent most of the next three months reorganising and training at Tel-el-Kebir camp, about 70 miles from Cairo, and later at Gebel Habeita on the east side of the Suez Canal.

In February, part of the 9th was drafted to the new 49th Battalion of the 4th Division but the Marcusen brothers

remained with their original Battalion. The stay in Egypt was soon to end and on March 26, 1916, the Battalion entrained for Alexandria and the next day left in the *Saxonia* destined for France.

The ship arrived on April 2 in Marseilles, and the Battalion, after disembarking, boarded troop trains and spent the next two days travelling north. The Battalion arrived in the Ypres area of Belgium where it remained for the next two weeks.

Soon after, the 9th marched to Rouge de Bout near Armentieres, where it experienced for the first time the front line conditions in northern France.

On April 19, the Battalion took over the billets of the 17th Lancashire Fusiliers in farmhouses about two miles from the line (13). The area was so quiet that many of the French civilians were still living in their houses.

However, this lull was not to continue.

The next day, April 20, 1916, at 1.15pm "C" Company's billets at Rouge de Bout were heavily bombarded by 5.9 inch enemy howitzers, about "fifty or sixty high-explosive shells bursting in their vicinity" (14).

Several men were wounded and others who ran to their assistance were caught by another shell. Later 47 casualties were caused by a shell which struck the wall of a house, behind which many men were sheltering.

The enemy shelling resulted in 25 troops being killed and 48 others being wounded (15).

One of those killed was Clive Marcusen (16). It can perhaps be seen as an injustice that he survived the landing and the terrible fighting of Gallipoli, only to be killed two miles from the front line in France.

His body was later transferred by the

War Graves Commission to the Rue-du-Bacquerot graveyard at Laventies, some six miles from Armentieres (17).

The 9th Battalion took part in several successful trench raids in May and June. A few weeks later it was sent into the line at Pozieres, where it fought with great distinction in the vicious battles which occurred there in July.

After a brief rest it formed part of the attacking force at Mouquet Farm and spent much of the rest of the year in and out of the line in the Flers area. Ernest Marcusen took part in most of the fighting the Battalion was engaged in, in 1916.

However, during the tour of operations soon after Mouquet Farm it is believed that he contracted a severe illness at the front. After treatment in France and England, he was returned to Australia, arriving in February of 1917 (18).

It was during this month that the third Marcusen brother, Vivian, a twenty-one year old clerk, left Queensland with the 19th Reinforcements for the 26th Battalion, aboard the transport *Wiltshire* (19).

Vivian had joined the Australian Imperial Force on February 8, 1916 and had spent the remainder of 1916 training in Australia.

The reinforcements, on arrival in England, spent several weeks in camp before being sent to France. Vivian experienced the heavy fighting involving the Battalion in the battles of Menin Road and Broodseinde soon after his introduction to the front line (20).

Towards the end of October, 1917 the 26th Battalion was sent into the line in the Passchendaele sector, as the third battle of Ypres was drawing to a close.

Although there was little heavy fighting, casualties were still frequent and on November 2, 1917 Vivian Marcusen

was killed in action when the front line was subjected to five hours of intensive gas bombardment (21).

On this occasion a large number of troops were gassed and had to be evacuated. Vivian Marcusen was buried the next day and his body was later transferred by the War Graves

Commission to the Perth Cemetery near Zillabeke in Belgium (22).

The Marcusen family gave much in the Great War, two sons were killed and another suffered severe illness. Between them, the three saw much of the action that the Australian Infantry were engaged in between 1914 and 1918. The story of the Marcusen brothers is indeed one of service and sacrifice.

NOTES

1. Nominal Roll of the Australian Imperial Force.
2. Nominal Roll of the Original 9th Battalion.
3. C.E.W. Bean, *Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-18*, Volume 1, The Story of Anzac, pp. 91-93.
4. *Ibid*, pp. 114-115.
5. N.K. Harvey, *From Anzac to the Hindenburg Line*, 9th Battalion, A.I.F. Association Publishers, Brisbane, 1941. pp.19.
6. *Ibid*, pp.27.
7. *Ibid*, pp.43.
8. C.E.W. Bean, *op. cit.*, pp.536
9. Military Order 298 of 1915.
10. N.K. Harvey *op.cit.*, pp.74.
11. Nominal Roll of the 9th Battalion, A.I.F. — 4th Reinforcements.
12. N.K. Harvey, *op.cit.*, pp.96.
13. C.E.W. Bean, *op.cit.*, Volume III — A.I.F. in France 1916, pp.139.
14. N.K. Harvey, *op.cit.*, pp.109.
15. *Ibid*, pp.110.
16. Military Order 300 of 1916.
17. Major-General Fabian Ware (Ed.), *War Graves of the British Empire*, France No. 707.
18. Nominal Roll of the Australian Imperial Force.
19. Nominal Roll of the 26th Battalion, A.I.F. — 19th Reinforcements.
20. Major P.V.O. Flemming, *Short History of the 26th Battalion A.M.F.*, Brisbane, 1957, pp.2.
21. 26th Battalion Unit War Diary.
22. Major-General Fabian Ware (Ed.), *op.cit.*, Belgium No. 115.

“FROM KHAKI TO BLUE”

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Letters to the Editor

Sir — I would be most grateful if you would include the following request for help in the next issue of *Sabretache*. I have written in similar vein to the Editors of the *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research*, the *Bulletin of the Military Historical Society*, the *Irish Sword* and *Dispatch*.

I am collecting documentary and illustrative material concerning the development of the gorget within the British Army; this will be collated and will form the basis of a book to be published by the Museum.

If any members of the Society have, or know of, gorgets which differ in any way from the "universal pattern" introduced in 1796 and worn, with one change in shape c1812, until 1830 I would be very grateful if they would write to me with brief details.

The book will also be concerned, briefly, with the extension of the military gorget to denote a mark of governmental approval or support when worn by senior members of native tribal societies.

I believe that, despite the comparative lack of a tribal system or hierarchy among Aborigines, this practice was followed to a small extent in Australia during the nineteenth century and so any information concerning Aboriginal gorgets would also be welcome. All requests for confidentiality will be respected.

S.C. Wood
Research Assistant
Department of Uniform
National Army Museum
Royal Hospital Road
London SW3 4HT.

Article wrongly credited

Sir — I would like to draw your attention to an error which appeared in the October-December 1979 issue of *Sabretache*. While I was gratified to be credited with the research and work for the feature on Major J.C. Ewen I was not, in fact, the author of the particular piece you published; it was written by the late Major Rex Clark. Perhaps the record could be set straight by publication of a correction in the next issue of the journal.

Chris Coulthard-Clark
138 Marconi Crescent
KAMBAH ACT 2802

The copy presented to the Editor was erroneously attributed — we apologise for the error — Ed.

SABRETACHE

Index to Volume XX 1979

Compiled by W.M. CHAMBERLAIN

The dates of issue of "Sabretache" in 1979 were No 1. Jan-Mar (incorrectly numbered 5) No 2. Mar-June No 3. July-Sept No 4. Oct-Dec. The pagination was complete within issues and in the Index that follows page numbers are prefixed by issue number e.g. 1/32. Number 4 was smaller in format than previous issues.

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THE remaining 16 RAAF Dakota transport aircraft, still in use, are to be phased out by 1981, after an association with the RAAF of more than 36 years. Four aircraft have been earmarked for preservation — one to go to the proposed Aviation Museum, one for the War Memorial, and two for the RAAF Base Wagga, where they will be used for technical training.

DAKOTA — A BRIEF HISTORY

The Douglas DC3 was introduced into service in 1935, and for its time it was a revolutionary passenger and freight aircraft. There were 10,926 DC's built, including 10,123 of the military (Dakota) version.

RAAF Dakotas began operating in February, 1943, and were used by many units during World War II, operating through the South West Pacific.

After World War II, RAAF Dakotas served during the Berlin Airlift, in New Guinea, Japan, Malaysia and Thailand.

They have been used in spraying experiments, glider towing, rain-making and Antarctic research with skis and jet-assisted take-off.

Nick-named the "Gooney Bird", the Dakotas about to be phased out are older than many of the RAAF's pilots.

The Douglas DC-1 flew for the first time on July 1, 1933, and from this version, of which only one was built, developed the DC-2 of 1934 and DC-3 of 1935. These aircraft were to become the most successful twin engine airliner series ever built.

On September 11, 1939, four Douglas DC-3's were chartered from Australian National Airways and impressed for RAAF transport duties. These aircraft operated for a limited period with No. 8 Squadron, and by mid-1940 had been returned to ANA. Their RAAF registration had been A30-1 to A30-4 with civilian markings VH-UZJ, VH-UZK, VH-ABR and VH-ACB.

At the same time, arrangements were being made by the Australian Government to lend-lease a number of Boeing 247 civil airliners. One of these 247's flown by Colonel Roscoe Turner had come second to a KLM DC-2 in the handicap section of the 1934 UK — Australia Air Race.

The Boeings subsequently went to Canada and between November, 1940, and May, 1941, 10 DC-2's were imported and carried the serial numbers A30-5 to A30-14. These planes were previously in service with Eastern Airlines of America and had carried the legend on their fuselage "The Great Silver Fleet". This was, sentimentally, left visible for some time during RAAF Service.

The DC-2's appeared in both silver and camouflage finish and served mainly with No.'s 1 and 2 Wireless Air Gunnery Schools, Air Trials Unit and No. 34, 36 and 37 squadrons. One aircraft, A30-8, was lost on operations between Surabaya and Koepang on January 26, 1942. Of the remaining four DC-2's on strength in 1946, A30-



ABOVE: Dakota of the RAAF in flight. Photo courtesy of RAAF Public Relations.

9 was issued to the CSIRO and A30-11, 12 and 14 were sold to Marshall Airways at Bankstown aerodrome near Sydney.

Military versions of the DC-3 were produced for troop and freight movements, and these aircraft entered service with the USAAF in 1941 as the C53 Skyrooper and in 1942 as the C47 Skytrain. The latter version being fitted with large freight doors.

RAAF DC-3's began operating in February, 1943, and included:—

Nine Dakota I's — A65-1/9;

50 Dakota III's — A65-10/59; and

65 Dakota IV's — A65-60/124

In addition to the above, No. 36 Squadron operated 23 C-53's and one C-49 (impressed DC-3) on loan from the USAAF during 1943/44.

Wartime Dakota units included No.'s 33, 34, 35, 36, 37 and 38 squadrons as well as No. 1 Communication Unit. At the end of the war, A65-61 disappeared carrying medical evacuees while on a flight from Biak to Australia. It was discovered at 13,500 feet on a jagged mountain range in West Irian 25 years later.

Post-war, the Dakota has served wherever the RAAF has operated. This includes New Guinea, Japan, Malaya, Korea and Thailand. RAAF aircrews also flew RAF serialled Dakotas in the 1948/49 Berlin Airlift. Other Dakota activities include spraying experiments (A65-43), glider towing (A65-93), rain-making (A65-97, 117) and Antarctic Research in which A65-81 was fitted with skis and JATO (jet assisted take-off) rockets. By mid 1962 it was estimated that these "Gooney Birds" or "Daks", as they were affectionately known, had flown in excess of half a million hours in RAAF service.

The Navy took over ex-RAAF A65-43 and A65-23 in 1949/50 and these operated in passenger and cargo configuration, as N2-43 and N2-23. The latter was modified to a flying classroom for the training of Sea Venom and Gannet navigators. The nose was elongated to accommodate radar and a further retractable radar was installed just forward of the main door access. This installation was later removed and the Dakota reverted back to the passenger layout.

In 1968, a further two were acquired from the RAAF — A65-19 and A65-123, which assumed the Navy registration N2-90 and N-123. Both operated in the passenger role also. By 1977 all had been phased out with N2-23 and N2-123 being sold. N2-90 went to HMAS Nirimba, west of Sydney, for apprentice training. The Navy Museum at Nowra was allocated N2-43.

Technical Data

Description	Douglas DC-2 14 passenger airliner impressed for military air transport duties.	Douglas DC-3 22 passenger airliner impressed for military air transport duties.
Power Plant	Two 740/180 h.p. Wright Cyclones	Two 900 h.p. Wright Cyclones.
Dimensions	Span 25.91 metres. Length 18.90 metres. Height 4.95 metres.	Span 28.96 metres. Length 19.66 metres. Height 5.18 metres.
Weights	Empty 5671 kgs. Loaded 8182 kgs.	Empty 7404 kgs. Loaded 10909 kgs.
Performance	Max. speed 166 knots. Initial climb 915 feet/min. Ceiling 18,290 feet. Range 1,056 miles.	Max. speed 189 knots. Initial climb 1032 feet/min. Ceiling 21,200 feet. Range 1,440 miles.

Art Acquisitions

Two works were recently purchased from Frank McNamara, a well-known watercolourist, who is represented in most Australian State and Provincial Galleries. The two watercolours, 'Prisoners, New Britain' and 'Sons of Nippon' were painted when the artist was serving in New Britain in 1945. Frank McNamara won the 'Land Prize' in the 1945 'Australia at War Exhibition' with 'Prisoners, New Britain.'

A cartoon, titled 'The Dardanelles' by the famous Sydney Bulletin cartoonist, Livingstone 'Hop' Hopkins, has also been acquired.

THE "BATTLE OF BRISBANE"

by *CAPTAIN C.F. BESZANT*

"Suddenly they all came for me and I had my back to the wall ... and I menaced them with the gun and told them to break it up, and one of the ... soldiers ... came close to me so I jabbed him with it. Then as I was standing against the wall they grabbed the front of the gun and this other ... soldier ... had a hold of me by the neck ... and this was when the first shot went off."

It was the firing of this and two other shots which marked the bloody end to a series of incidents in October—November, 1942, commonly known as the "Battle of Brisbane".

On November 29, 1941 the Prime Minister, Mr John Curtin told Australians, "Without any inhibitions of any kind, I make it quite clear that Australia looks to America, free of any pangs as to our traditional links or kinship with the United Kingdom ...".

In March, 1942, General Douglas MacArthur arrived to a rousing welcome in Melbourne to take over command of the South West Pacific Area. By June 1942, American troops were arriving in Australia in ever increasing numbers — the Australian-American alliance was thus created.

The cordial U.S. servicemen, the signs of welcome, the clusters of wide eyed children, the favourable press reports, all gave the image of a long and lasting friendship.

However as the war dragged on and the number of U.S. servicemen increased, this image became somewhat tarnished by an undercurrent of mistrust, contempt and resentment.

Seen at first as saviours, by the end of 1942, the presence of Americans in such large numbers was beginning to irritate a great many Australian servicemen and elements of the civilian population.

One of the first signs of these feelings was the protest by the Australian government to the decision to send Negro G.I.s to Australia. Possible racial problems were overcome by segregating the Negroes in camps away from large city areas. This even extended to the establishment of Negro only brothels, albeit staffed by Australian prostitutes.

The feelings of Australians were reflected in the type of graffiti and verse, made popular in both service and civilian Australia.

A favourite piece which expressed the mixed feelings of gratitude and resentment was:

*"They saved us from the Japs,
Perhaps;
But the place is at present too yankful
For us to be decently thankful."*

Another slightly xenophobic one read:

*"God made the Aussies
The Devil made the Dutch
But whoever made the Yankees
Didn't make much."*

The feelings of many Australians were summed up by the lament, "They are overpaid, oversexed and overhere!"

Beaten in the race for taxis, outclassed in the quest for women and jibed about their fighting prowess, the initially good natured jealousy among the Australian soldier was replaced by a vicious and deepseated hatred of the G.I. This not altogether unprovoked feeling was physically enacted in the streets of Brisbane in late 1942.

The "Battle" had its beginnings on the night of October 19, 1942, when an Australian soldier was stabbed to death in a street fight with two U.S. servicemen.

Had it not been for the strong anti-U.S. feeling prevalent in Brisbane, at this time, this probably would have been just another murder, however its consequences would prove to be of greater significance.

One of the sources of ill feeling amongst the troops was the PX store and its supply of cheap, good quality products, especially cigarettes.

For months the stores had been open to the Australian soldiers and some of the more enterprising of their number had cornered the supplies and the market. This and the concern expressed by Australian tobacco producers about losing their traditional market, led to the decision by American headquarters to cease the sale of cigarettes to Australian soldiers.

This unexplained order, to many seemed the last straw and the soldiers expressed the feeling that, "Those damn Yanks drink our liquor, run off with our girls and won't sell a man any bloody cigarettes."

The night of November 26, 1942, was not unlike any other night in the northern capital during the early war

years. The weather was hot, the pubs had shut at six and thousands of unsettled soldiers were looking for something to do in a town lacking amusement and entertainment and suffering from an overcautious 'brown out'.

The "Battle" itself had innocent enough beginnings. Outside the Australian canteen in Adelaide Street an American private was confronted by three, slightly under the weather Diggers. Had it not been for the entry of a 'gun toting, baton happy American MP' this may have just resulted in another uneventful street fight. However, the general feelings of resentment ensured that this was not going to be just another minor incident.

Turning their attention to the MP the three soldiers started a fight. Down the road at the Creek Street intersection, another fight erupted as other GIs attempted to provide assistance to the now helpless MP. By about 7.15pm there were about one hundred Australian soldiers outside the besieged PX. In answer to frantic calls for help, reinforcements of MPs began to arrive and formed an armed cordon around the PX.

As the riot intensified, it became apparent that things were getting out of hand. Eye witnesses were amazed to see Australian MPs removing their armbands and melting into the crowd. This was later defended as a move to, "see if they could influence them (the rioters) to desist." This action, plus the fact that members of a hastily drawn picket of Australian soldiers were seen to hand over their rifles to the rioters, only heightened the fear of the besieged men of the PX. Whether or not this may have been anticipated is debateable, however someone took the precaution of making

sure the rifles were unloaded. Unfortunately this did not prevent the spilling of blood.

The shots that were fired left one Australian dead and eight others wounded. The Americans suffered eight injured, all MPs.

Astonishing as it seems, the authorities did not confine the antagonists to barracks, however they did close both the canteens. Robbed of a focal point, the soldiers were forced to vent their anger in the streets.

The fights of the night before were confined mainly to the PX and the MPs. This night however, the soldiers took out their anger on any GI. The result was, two MPs and eleven other soldiers and sailors, including four officers beaten and hospitalised.

Much criticism was levelled at the Australian civil and military police for their apparent failure to contain the violence. Our eyewitness, the OC 8/14th MP Coy, complained: "I witnessed a group of about 25 to 30 Australian soldiers marching through Queen Street assaulting Americans. They were being followed by the civilian police, and directly behind them the Australian Provost, with two cages of the Australian Provost at the rear. This group was allowed to parade through the town for almost two hours."

The next night, new tactics were adopted which eventually contained the

trouble. Over the next few days the authorities took a number of actions which eventually diffused the violence as far as Brisbane was concerned.

As evidence of the widespread feelings of by now mutual dislike, the following week saw a violent brawl in Melbourne and the next year, a serious fight between Australian Commandoes and U.S. servicemen at Rockhamptom railway station.

The censors were quick to diffuse the issue and eventually the lack of publicity and the satisfactory progression of the war helped to stabilise if not cement the relations between Australian and U.S. servicemen.

As a result of these disturbances a suggestion was made by General Blamey to form closer ties between Australian and American soldiers. It was suggested that this take the form of interchanges of officers and lectures on the relationship between the two powers. These proposals were rejected by MacArthur as he was of the opinion that "talks by lecture teams as as mean to improve relations may do more harm than good ... The American soldier ... is quick to detect propaganda and inclined to resent it."

Considering the efforts of the American troops in New Guinea the proposal may have been seen by MacArthur as "a suggestion that the Australians could teach the Americans their business."

P. J. DOWNIE

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TWO VIGNETTES

An Ensign of the Buffs and a Drummer of the 57th Foot, 1811

LT—COL T.C. SARGENT (RL)

VIGNETTE — A portrait with background gradually shaded off:
The Oxford Concise Dictionary

The title for this article has been chosen to give an indication of its approach. It is based on two military miniatures; it considers the part played in the history of their regiments by the personalities they are believed to depict and it looks at the later service of those regiments in Australia. Because of the vast scope of this historical scene these aspects are looked at only in outline — the background is shaded off.

The figures are from the Buckingham Pewter series an Ensign of the Buffs the 3rd Foot, and a Drummer of the 57th Regiment of Foot, West Middlesex, both of 1811. They are sculpted in 80mm scale by the well known British modeller, Charles Stadden. Figures in the series are mounted on a hollow pewter base, the front of which carries the regimental badge.

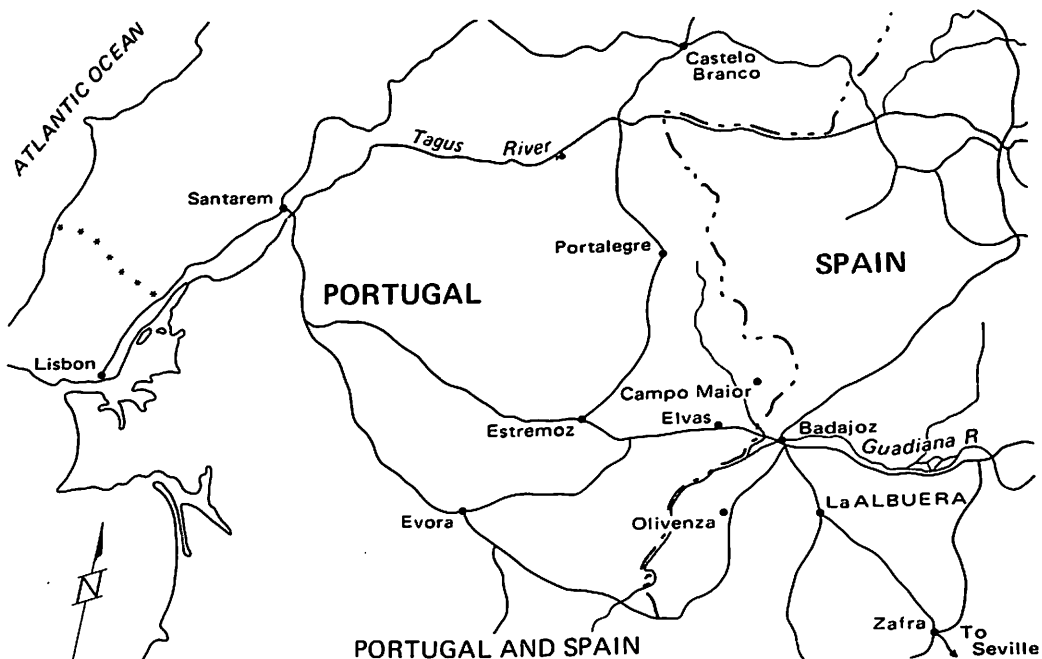
The sculptor's signature appears on the base. It is marked inside with the circle mark of the Association of British Pewter Craftsmen and the individual mark of the maker. Although not a limited series, the figures represent something more unique and of more lasting value than white metal models. Ordered direct from Britain they can be landed in Australia for about \$30

although they have been seen for sale in a major department store in Brisbane for \$45 each.

The models are produced with the usual attention to detail which collectors have become accustomed to in Stadden's work and have that stance so characteristic of his productions. When one considers the vast range of models which are now available, this series certainly offers real value for money.

It is not difficult to establish a nexus between the two regiments, for in the year 1811 they were both serving in Portugal and Spain with Wellington's army. At the beginning of 1811 they were within the Lines of Torres Vedras, covering Lisbon from Massena's French army, but when Wellington broke out of the Lines in March 1811, in pursuit of Massena, they became part of a force which Wellington detached under the command of Marshal Sir William Carr Beresford (1) to march to the relief of the Spanish frontier fortress, Badajoz.

On March 11, before Beresford's Army of Estremadura had concentrated for its task, Badajoz was surrendered to the French. Wellington then amended his orders to Beresford, instructing him to 'collect his corps' at Portalegre and to



PORTUGAL AND SPAIN
Showing the area of operation of Beresford's army

SCALE 1: 2,154,240

LEGEND - Lines of Torres Vedras · · · · ·
 - International Border - - - - -
 - Roads ————

The situation at Albuera, late morning May 16, 1811.

attack Soult at Campo Mayo (2). Soult however had garrisoned Badajoz, Campo Mayo and the small fort of Olivenza and then returned to Seville, the administrative headquarters of the French Army of the South, leaving a small force of infantry and cavalry in Estremadura. This force was commanded initially by Mortier, but from March 26 by Latour-Maubourg.

On March 25 Beresford's Army reached and retook Campo Mayo. The army consisted of the 2nd Division, (Major General William Stewart) and the 4th Division, (Major General Lowry

Cole), Hamilton's Portugese Division and a small force of cavalry and artillery, in all, about 20,000 men.

The 1st Bn 3rd Foot, commanded by Lt-Col William Stewart, was in Colborne's Brigade of the 2nd Division, and in Hoghton's Brigade of the same division was the 1/57, commanded by Colonel William Inglis. Having cleared Latour-Maubourg's troops from Southern Estremadura, Beresford was in a position to invest Badajoz. This was done on April 20, 1811 — the prelude to the first of three British attempts to regain this important border stronghold.

Wellington himself rode south from Sabugal to supervise the mounting of the siege. He stayed five days with Beresford and issued detailed orders for the conduct of operations. Wellington's orders authorised Beresford to raise the siege of Badajoz should Soult march to its relief in overwhelming numbers, but his orders provided that if Beresford '....should think his strength sufficient to fight a general action to save the siege of Badajoz, he will collect his troops to fight it.'

I believe that, upon the whole, the most central and advantageous place to collect the troops will be at Albuera ..."
(3).

Beresford had already been joined by the Spanish General Castanos and the wreck of the old Spanish Army of Estremadura — about 3,500 men under Ballasteros, and, as the investment of Badajoz began, a further 10,000 Spanish infantry and 800 cavalry — the divisions of Zayas and Lardizabal, commanded by General Blake, were marching to join the allied force. Ultimately 15,000 Spanish troops could be put into line with Beresford's 20,000 Anglo-Portuguese Army.

In Seville, Soult, unaware of the Spanish reinforcements which had joined, or were about to join Beresford, estimated that if he collected 25,000 men it would be a sufficient strength to force 20,000 Anglo-Portuguese behind the Guadiana River and to relieve the garrison of Badajoz. The Marshall, having gathered another 12,000 men to re-inforce his 5th Corps, reviewed his troops at Seville on May 8th and announced in public to his officers that they were destined to save Badajoz and drive the British from Estremadura.

By the afternoon of May 12 the news of his intention had been passed through the Spanish intelligence net to Beresford. This ample notice allowed Beresford to concentrate his force at leisure. When it became clear that Soult intended to take the route through Albuera Beresford began to deploy his troops in the position previously selected by Wellington.

The position at Albuera was on gently rising ground along the banks of an easily forded stream. The undulating slopes rose in spots to heights of between 20 to 50 metres but there were no steep banks nor did the river in front of the British position present any obstacle. There was a clear field of fire but the French side was timbered, providing cover for troop movements.

The village of Albuera stands on a rise in front of the main ridge line about 50 metres west of the stream, and the bridge lies to the south east of the village.

Beresford believed that Soult would endeavour to pierce his centre at Albuera village so he positioned his troops to counter the threat he foresaw, deploying to the right and left of Albuera and occupying the village with two battalions of the Kings German Legion supported by the 2nd Division. On the extreme right, which he thought least likely to be attacked, Beresford placed Blake's 12,000 Spaniards — the three infantry divisions of Lardizabal, Ballasteros and Zayas, in succession from left to right.

On the morning of May 16, 1811, Soult attacked and brought on the Battle of Albuera — in the words of Sir Charles Oman, historian of the Peninsular War — 'The most bloody of all the fights of the Peninsular War, in proportion to the numbers engaged ...' (4).

Soult had no intention of attacking Beresford's centre. He had decided on a feint attack on the centre and moved the bulk of his force against the Spaniards on Beresford's right flank. Two divisions of Soult's 5th Corps, Girard's and Gazan's, covered by the timber and the high ground between the Nogales and Chicapierna creeks, marched to place themselves on the top of the hill behind Blake's flank. Luckily, a German officer in the Spanish service, who knew Soult of old, expected such a turning movement and when the first gleam of French bayonets was seen moving towards the flank, the alarm was given. There was sufficient time to allow Blake to place a brigade of Zaya's division, and a battery of artillery across the summit of the ridge line, at right angles to the original position. At the same time Beresford ordered up Stewart's 2nd Division in support.

Girard's division of the 5th Corps led the French attack, nine battalions in close formation opposed to four Spanish battalions, and close behind Girard, the ten battalions of Gazan's 2nd division. In a reserve to the 5th Corps were 6000 infantry under Werle and away to the right of the allied position 3500 French cavalry formed under Latour-Maubourg. Only 3500 men of Godinot's brigade were in action against the British centre at Albuera while on their right flank Soult had now deployed 18,000 men.

The French column presented a front of only 500 men across a space of some 650 metres as it approached the Spanish line. The fire fight had begun and casualties were mounting when the first British troops marched up to support the Spaniards. Colborne's brigade, the



A Drummer of the 57th — 1811.

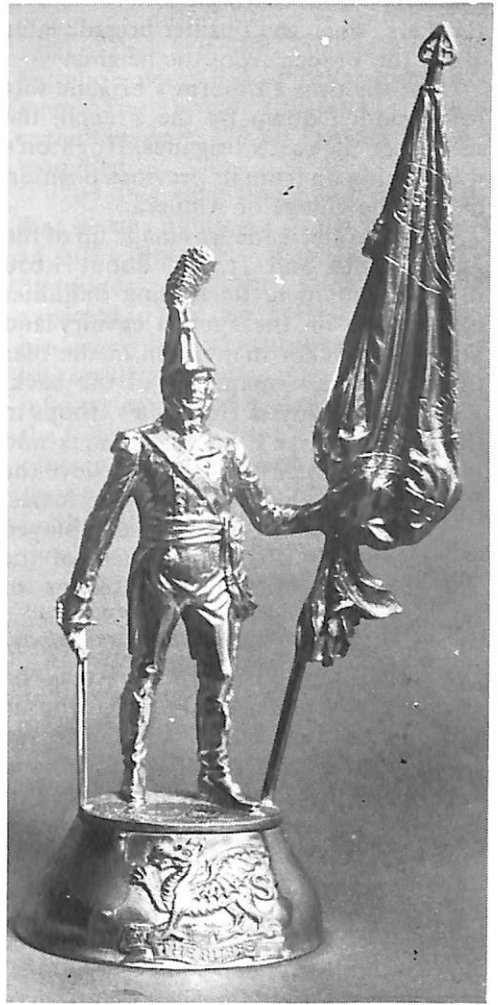
1/3rd, 2/48th, 2/66th and 2/31st passed around and through Zaya's right flank, deploying to fall on the flank of Girard's massive column, where they soon began to inflict severe casualties.

The first three British battalions were in line, with the Buffs on the right, then the 48th and 66th, the 31st not yet fully forward or deployed, when a dreadful catastrophe occurred. Latour-Maubourg, watching from his position on the left flank of the French force directed the 1st Lancers of the Vistula

and the 2nd Hussars onto the unprotected flank of the British regiments. In five minutes the three leading battalions were annihilated. Fifty eight officers out of 80, 1,190 men out of 1,568 captured, wounded or slain by the 800 French horsemen.

The brigade lost five of its six colours — the only colour not captured was the King's colour of the Buffs — saved by Lieutenant Matthew Latham who was terribly wounded in the struggle. The Regimental colour of the 3rd Foot was carried by Ensign Edward Thomas, who could quite well be our Ensign of the Buffs, 1811. He was barely sixteen years of age. The French cavalry made determined efforts to capture the colours and quickly cut down the escort. When Ensign Thomas was called on to surrender the Regimental colour he replied 'only with my life!' He was immediately struck down, mortally wounded and the colour was captured.

The Earl of Londonderry in his 'Narrative of the Peninsular War' wrote — 'Though young in years, and holding but an inferior rank in his profession, his name will be recorded in the list of those of whom England has just cause to be proud; and his example will doubtless be followed by others, as often as the chances of war may leave them only a choice between death and dishonour', and further, Londonderry reproduced a letter from Captain Stevens of the Buffs who wrote of Thomas '... He rallied my company after I was wounded and taken prisoner, crying out, 'Rally on me men, I will be your pivot' ... He was buried with all the care possible by a sergeant and a private, the only two survivors of my company, which consisted of sixty three men when taken into action.'



An Ensign of the Buffs — 1811.

This model on a collector's shelf will be a constant reminder of a boy who 'refused to resign the standard of his regiment except with life, and his life paid the forfeit of his gallantry.' (5).

It is some consolation to know that the Regimental Colour of the Buffs was recovered by a sergeant of the 7th Royal

Fusiliers, when the Fusilier brigade later drove the French from the heights.

At the time Colborne's brigade was being ridden down by the French, the second of Stewart's brigades, Hoghton's was coming up from its previous position behind the village of Albuera.

Hoghton's brigade was made up of the 29th, 1/48th and 1/57th, about 1,650 officers and men. Its leading battalion opened fire on the French cavalry and accidentally shot many men in the rear rank of Zaya's Spaniards in the back. Beresford deployed Hoghton's troops in the rear of Zaya's four battalions and then moved them through to relieve the Spaniards who had suffered heavy losses.

Lower down the slope he deployed Abercrombie's brigade, the last of the 2nd Division, behind the troops of Ballasteros.

A pause seems to have occurred in the battle after the cavalry attack on Colborne's brigade. The French troops in Girard's division had lost their impetus so Soult ordered up Gazan's two brigades to relieve it. These were unable to deploy properly so that the two French divisions formed a dense mass of about 8000 men, twelve deep, facing now Hoghton's brigade and the 2/31st — sole surviving battalion of Colborne's brigade, 1900 men in line, two deep.

Again a fierce fire fight commenced with the British line loading, firing and continuing to advance until they were within 25 yards of the French mass.

Colonel William Inglis, Commander of the 57th, struck in the breast by grapeshot, refused to be carried to the rear and lay on the ground in front of his battalion line exhorting his troops to 'Die hard 57th, Die hard.'

And die hard they did — losing 23 officers and 405 men killed and wounded from a strength of 647. In Beresford's Order after the battle, he wrote '... every individual most nobly did his duty ...' And it was observed that our dead, particularly the 57th Regiment, were lying as they fought, in ranks, and every wound was in front.'

There hangs in the Officers' Mess of the 3rd Battalion, the Queen's Regiment at Connaught Barracks, Dover, a magnificent painting by the celebrated military artist Lady Elizabeth Butler, a tribute to the Diehards at Albuera entitled 'Steady the Drums and Fifes.' It depicts a little group of young lads — the Drummers and Fifes of the 57th, undergoing an ordeal which tried many a mature man.

The Drums and Fifes are shown in the painting with uniforms of reversed colours, the regimental dress for musicians. Although our model — Drummer of the 57th — is presented in field dress, probably more realistically than in parade dress, it is easy to visualise the model — a Drummer of 1811, as that of one of the young Diehard heroes of Albuera.

As the battalions of Hoghton's brigade advanced on the French their losses mounted. There was a continual 'feeling to the centre' as more and more men in the British files fell — Hoghton's brigade was literally melting away and apart from Abercrombie's brigade which was moving onto the right flank of Girard's and Gazan's mass of men, Beresford was unable to move more troops with any speed to the support of the rapidly diminishing line.

There is controversy over the originator of the next British

development in the battle. Cole, with eight battalions of the 4th Division had earlier been positioned, on the far right flank, to face Latour-Maubourg's cavalry, and had been in that position for one and a half hours. Observing the shrinking line opposing the French 5th Corps, Cole deployed his battalions from column into line to march on the flank of the French infantry.

To avoid Colborne's fate he placed a battalion in column on each flank and covered his rear with British and Spanish cavalry.

As the 2000 British and 600 Portuguese advanced on the French, Soult committed the nine battalions of Werle's reserve to protect the left flank of his 5th Corps.

The three Fusilier battalions of Myer's brigade, the 1st and 2/7th, and the 1/23rd, and the Portuguese Lusitanian Legion clashed line to column with Werle's three regiments; 2000 British and 600 Portuguese faced 5600 French troops. Again a heavy fire fight

occurred, until the French broke, losing 1800 of their strength. The three Fusilier battalions lost 1045 of 2015 officers and men. The Loyal Lusitanian Legion casualties were 171 all ranks killed and wounded.

By this time Soult had discovered that he was fighting a combined force of 35,000 British, Portuguese and Spaniards, not the 20,000 he had expected to face. So, behind the screen of his largely intact cavalry and covered by his artillery Soult drew off his spent infantry units and ended the battle. On the following day both armies faced each other across the Albuera stream while they gathered up their casualties. Early on the 18th Soult started to move back to Seville leaving the field to Beresford.

Apart from its place in the history of the Peninsular War and in British regimental history, the battle of Albuera is of particular interest to Australian military historians. Of the regiments at Albuera, no less than six served on garrison duty in Australia within the next twenty-five years and many of the

EXCHANGE OFFER

The following are offered in exchange for Australian Scottish items on the basis of one for one in rarity value and condition:

Buttons, brass, 3rd Bn Adelaide Rifles 1889/95; Officers cap badge gold plate/green enamel 12th A.I.R. 1903/12; Brass cap/collar 8th A.I.R. 1903/12; 37th Henty-Regt gilt/3 colour enamel 1930 cap; 3rd LH cap 2/m/enamel 1930/40; 18th Adelaide Lancers/LH brass cap; 1903/12 Victorian Scottish feather bonnet in original condition in issue box.

All items in excellent condition.

D. W. PEDLAR
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veterans of the battle have played their part in the early history of this country.

The 48th were here from 1817 to 1824; the 3rd, the Buffs, from 1823 to

1827; the 40th which had party of 40 rank and file attached to the 4th Division (they lost 3 killed and several wounded) (6), served in Australia from 1824 to 1829; the 57th, the 'Diehards', from 1825 to 1832; the 39th from 1827 to 1832.

The 28th, the Gloucestershire Regiment, (the 2/28th were in Abercrombie's Brigade) were in Australia from 1835 to 1842, and there were still veterans of Albuera in the

regiment then. (The 40th served again from 1852 to 1860 and are remembered for their part at Eureka Stockade).

Because we are still dealing with vignettes, it is proposed to cover only briefly some aspects of the service of the regiments in Australia with emphasis, of course, on the Buffs and the 57th. However it is not possible to ignore the other regiments, the 48th, 40th, 39th, or 28th. Their service in Australia, as at Albuera is overlapped and intermingled with the 3rd and the 57th and their activities are inevitably related.

To be continued — The Albuera Regiments in Australia.

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RAE Corps history

NOTE: Volume II of the RAE Corps History has now been published. This volume, "Making and Breaking" covers the period 1902 to 1919 with particular emphasis on WWI. Copies are available, at a cost of \$11.00, from:

The Secretary
The RAE Corps Committee
C/O Directorate of Engineers
Department of Defence (Army Office)
Campbell Park Offices
CANBERRA 2600

This is only a limited printing. Members ordering through the Corps Committee will make a significant saving on the cost of the book through normal retail outlets. Cheques should be made payable to: "The RAE Corps Committee".

BOOK REVIEWS

UNIFORMS OF THE IMPERIAL RUSSIAN ARMY. By Boris Mollo. Blandford Colour Series. 160pp. Hard Cover. Australian retail price \$17.95. Distributed by ANZ Book Co P/L, Sydney.

Written by Boris Mollo, Deputy Director and Keeper of Records at the National Army Museum, London, authenticated by one of the leading students of the Imperial Russian Army, his father Eugene, and illustrated by his capable brother John, this book is a family affair, bringing together three experts in their respective fields.

Covering the period 1686 to 1917 Mollo has been significantly assisted by the bureaucracy of Imperial Russia. Incensed with detail, somewhat reminiscent of latter day Public Services, each minor change to uniforms and accoutrements was comprehensively described and sketched. Accordingly it is difficult to fault the accuracy and detail which fills this small volume.

With such master references available, Mollo has been able to intertwine graphic detail with a concise history of Imperial Russia, providing a most acceptable evening's reading and a lasting reference of value. Not only do we become aware of the many changes in style and function, we are given insight into the reasons for such change.

Most European armies of the period responded more to their rulers' sense of style rather than function and no army suffered more than that of Imperial Russia. With such a varied heritage there were many differing national vogues. Surprisingly these were unpopular with the rulers of the day, who resorted to such functional designs only in times of economic necessity. They much preferred to imitate other European armies.

In the 1780s Tsar Paul modelled his armies on Prussia, swayed by their martial demeanor both on and off the parade ground. In 1801 when Alexander the first held the throne, there were more changes, he created his own more comfortable style incorporating the best of contemporary French and British features — so it went on.

As an interesting side light Mollo explains that the Prussian pickelhaube was in fact designed by Nicholas I from Slavonic helmets popular in architecture of the time. The design was subsequently "borrowed" by Frederick William IV of Prussia whilst on a State visit. With typical Prussian efficiency, their version was issued in 1843, a year before that of the Russians.

The student of military history will enjoy the comfortable feeling of referring to an authentic and comprehensive reference. Whereas, those of us who have a more casual approach to the subject, will enjoy the intertwining of detail and background history.

I found the book perfectly readable, full of detail and superbly illustrated. I recommend it to those with a developing interest in the Imperial Russian Army and to those who enjoy a good book on a cold winter's night.

— BRIAN ROGERS

WELLINGTON'S ARMY, Colonel H.C.B. Rogers, OBE, Ian Allan, London, 1979, 240 mm x 160 mm, 137 pages, maps, illustrations, index, references, hard cover, price A\$27.50, distribution Cambridge University Press (Aust) Pty Ltd.

No introduction is needed for the well-known British military writer, Colonel H.C.B. Rogers. His books must appear on the shelves of every military library. This volume is a companion to his earlier 'Napoleon's Army'.

The book treats each of the Arms and Services in a separate chapter and concludes with a chapter on the Light Division and the action on the Coa at the end of July 1810. It is an approach which makes the work a valuable ready reference on the outline of operations in Wellington's Army. However Colonel Rogers has mounted too many hobby horses. In his chapter on cavalry we get a dissertation on the internal organisation of the Life Guards, in Command and Staff Lieutenant Colonel D'Urban receives rather more than his share of attention and, while one understands perhaps why the Light Division should have been singled out for a chapter of its own, why most of that chapter should be taken up in a discussion of the action on the Coa is beyond me.

There are a few proof reading blemishes. One wonders on page 90 why Wellington should have sent for the Deputy Postmaster General (Deputy Paymaster General?) and on page 74 '... after 1820 Portugese field batteries constituted a large part of Wellington's divisional artillery ...' perhaps too little but certainly too late. These are lapses which should not occur in a historical reference work. There is no bibliography but a series of references at the end of each chapter. However the book is lavishly illustrated with prints from the National Army Museum collection.

An interesting book, not inexpensive at \$27.50 but not in the class as Oman's work by the same title or Brett-James 'Life in Wellington's Army'.

— CLEM SARGENT

AUGUSTE DE COLBERT — ARISTOCRATIC SURVIVAL IN AN ERA OF UPHEAVAL 1793-1809, Jeanne A. Ojala, University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, USA, 1979, 240 mm x 160 mm, 187 pages, maps, illustrations, bibliography, index, hard cover, price \$15.00 from University of Utah Press.

Jeanne Ojala, Associate Professor of History at the University of Utah has re-examined the life and service of Auguste-Francois-Marie Colbert Chabanais, having been given access to the family collection of letters by this lesser known of Napoleon's cavalry leaders. An earlier work had been published in 1863 by Colbert's son based on the same correspondence. This suffered from the son's desire to cover the whole history in great detail and best possible light. Professor Ojala has used this correspondence, some additional letters not previously available and has researched contemporary accounts to present a rather more balanced biography of this interesting soldier. As a result of his research the bibliography, for those who read French and have access to a French military library, provides reference to interesting secondary source material.

Colbert, like his contemporaries, Lasalle, Grouchy, Nan Souty and Milhaud, was of aristocratic birth, and sought, with success to escape the threat of imprisonment or death by joining, in 1793, the Eighth Battalion of the Seine as a private soldier. He rose

rapidly, until at the time of his death in 1809 he was commanding the cavalry of Ney's Sixth Corps in Spain.

Ojala puts across a convincing picture of a young ambitious soldier, serving through the early days of the Revolutionary Wars, in the Army of Italy with Napoleon, in Egypt and Syria and in the campaigns against Austria and Prussia, becoming increasingly cynical and disillusioned and ultimately meeting his death in one of the earliest engagements against the British Army in Spain at the age of thirty one.

Apart from the story of Colbert the author presents an absorbing account of the role of a light cavalry commander in Napoleon's Army. This book is recommended reading for every Napoleonic enthusiast, and will provide the general military historical reader with an appreciation of the use of light cavalry in the period.

— CLEM SARGENT.

THE BATTLEFIELDS OF BRITAIN, John Kinross. 250 mm x 190 mm. 128 pages, maps, illustrations, hard cover, recommended Australian retail price \$19.50 published by Hippocrene Books Inc., New York and David & Charles, Newton Abbot, Devon. Distributed by Australia & New Zealand Book Co. Pty. Ltd., Brookvale, New South Wales.

How many of us, if involved in a Mastermind quiz, could name more than four battles fought within the geographic confines of the British Isles? Hastings, yes! Bannockburn, Naseby, Culloden, maybe! If we answered six we could consider ourselves fairly good. Yet, in this book, the author has given well-illustrated accounts of fifty-four actions. Many made all the more tragic because they were fought by members of the same families, on opposing sides.

Commencing at Ethandun, fought in Wiltshire, when Alfred the Great's army defeated the Danes in 878AD, we are taken on a sanguinary journey which ends at Fishguard, not technically a battle, when, in late February 1797, a demoralised French force was deceived by thinking that traditionally dressed Welshwomen, on a cliff top, were troop formations.

Mr. Kinross has done an admirable job. Not only has he told of the events leading up to the battle, but of the fight itself and its outcome. Also to anyone wishing to see the present-day site, how to find it. One small criticism, however. It would have helped if an overall map had been included, locating the actual sites. But the sketch-maps, photographs, glossary, and bibliography, all make up for this deficiency. A worthwhile addition to one's bookshelf.

— JOHN E. PRICE.

JAPANESE ARMY HANDBOOK 1939-45. A.J. Barker, published by Ian Allan Ltd and distributed by Cambridge University Press, Melbourne, 128 pages, illustrated — Aust price \$17.50.

The author, Lt.-Col. A.J. Barker, a well-known British military historian, has filled a long standing gap in the numerous publications which have appeared over the past 30 years dealing with the armies of the protagonists of World War II. The most

minute details of uniforms, equipment, organisations etc. have been produced on British, US, German and Russian Armies but little has appeared on the Japanese, and in many cases the available sources deal with only limited aspects of the subject.

The book, by means of 4 pages of colour prints and some 160 black and white prints and photographs, coupled with a well set out text, provides a concise reference book covering tactics, organisations, equipment, morale and not least, the Japanese soldier himself. The major source of the information has been Japanese manuals and textbooks ensuring the accuracy of the detail presented.

This publication is recommended to all students of the war in the far East and will be of special value to modellers, weapon and vehicle collectors, and not least museum curators who are responsible for WWII collections including Japanese Army relics.

— K.R. WHITE

SIEGE WARFARE, C. Duffy, Routledge and Kegan Paul Ltd, 1979. Indicated price \$32.50.

The book has the sub-title of *The Fortress in the Early Modern World 1494-1660* and as such covers the era in which improved mobile siege artillery began to render fortifications obsolete. Fortresses at that time were not maintained so much for defensive purpose but rather as a firm base for offensive warfare.

The Swedes in particular had developed this strategy in the 17th century. For instance, Swedish occupation of Stettin and of other fortified places around the Baltic made it impossible for the Catholic powers (Austrians and Spaniards) to establish dominance in that part of the world. Secondly, it enabled the Swedes to mount their offensive against central Germany which they accomplished in anti-clockwise movement from the Oder to the Elbe, thence into the Rhineland and so on.

The author has brought together in 264 pages, what he claims to be "a concise and readable commentary ..." on the far-reaching ways in which fortress warfare has influenced statecraft, strategy, architecture and ordinary human affairs." If this was indeed his aim he would have been better advised to restrict his treatise to one or two areas. rather than present a potpourri of Renaissance Italy, the later Italian wars (1530-1600), two chapters on France, the eighty years of warfare in the Netherlands, the English Civil War and subjugation of Ireland, a somewhat skimpy account of the Baltic empires, and finally a selection of siege warfare incidents from the Turkish Empire and from the Far East.

As a result he has produced a somewhat cursory account of a very big subject and has not convinced the reviewer that he has achieved his aim. The treatise has little technical detail compared with, say, Eichberg's account of the 17th century Swedish fortresses in certain parts of North Germany. Nevertheless the book is extremely readable, well produced with 82 illustrations, twenty maps, a very extensive bibliography and two indexes.

As a first primer of an unusual and to say the least an esoteric subject the book is excellent although without some background a newcomer to the subject could find it hard but nevertheless enjoyable going. At \$32.00 it is probably reasonably well priced.

— H.J. ZWILLENBERG.

MINIATURE SCENIC MODELLING, Jade Kine, Argus Books, soft cover, illustrations, recommended price A\$10.75.

Most of us collectors fall into the modest income group with limited space in the home for landscape layout. Among the refreshing snippets in this book are a few practical hints on how one might cajole a wife into accepting a model, say 3 metres long, into the decor of a lounge room of average dimensions! This assumes, I feel, a higher degree of professionalism than I, for one, possess.

Author Jack Kine's ideas and techniques described in "Miniature Scenic Modelling" have all been used in television by the BBC, where he has been model and scene maker for over 40 years, responsible for such things as the weird and wonderful effects in 'Dr Who'. His book does concentrate on a fairly grand scale but the principles and techniques involved clearly apply to the smaller works.

The emphasis is on model railway settings with no specific guide in the text to military scenery. However, there is a scattering of photographs on World War II themes, featuring the ubiquitous battered buildings plus drab AFVs and their paraphernalia.

The book proceeds logically through baseboard construction; (a vital prerequisite) building, detailing and painting of landscape followed by treatment of natural features from fishponds to cliffs to vegetation; then the man-made additions of buildings, walls and fences. It is comprehensive and gets down to such detail as dyeing of sawdust. It is easy to read, but despite its awareness suffers in my opinion from the lack of an index. The profuse line drawings are clear and instructive, but the all black-and-white scenic photographs, disappointing and fuzzy.

Certain old favourites such as papier-mache are discarded in favour of more sophisticated aids. However, the equipment and materials used are not complex and apparently inexpensive. The Australian reader will find the usual references to various exotic proprietary products irksome — what is an equivalent of "ARTEX modelling powder" — but this can hardly be blamed on an author writing for primarily British readers.

At first glance, this cardboard back edition, with no internal coloured illustrations, seems expensive at \$10.75. For the expert, the professional, or the amateur, intending to devote a lot of time and space to the subject, the book would be excellent value. The home kitchen-table model-man, who aims for the occasional backdrop or diorama to offset his collection, could best rate it for drawing from the library when required.

— D. GOLDSMITH.

THE FORGOTTEN WAR, L.M. Field, published by Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 236 pages, plus illustrations — Rec. price \$18.60.

This is a comprehensive history of Australia's involvement in the South African War 1899-1902, dealing as much with the political aspects of the affect of the war in Australia, as with the actual service of the troops in the field.

The title comes from the gradual change in attitude of the population as the might of the British Empire slowly grinds down the resistance of the Boers, for whom there

was a gradually developing feeling in Australia, leading to a general feeling after 1902 that the whole adventure should be forgotten, followed by the outbreak of World War I.

Mr L.M. Field is an M.A. from Australian National University, a lecturer in History, a former High School principal and, not least, a former Flight Lieutenant in Bomber Command. With this wide background it is not hard to understand why this book will become a standard reference on Australia's involvement in South Africa.

Much of the book is devoted to a study of the political aspects of Britain's request for assistance to the then Australian Colonies and the playing off of one Colony against the others by the British Government. The politicians of the day are subject to critical appraisal and one senses that the author had a poor opinion of the bulk of the members of the Colonial governments.

The book does not provide a shot by shot, or person by person, account of the actions in which the Australians took part, preferring to place Australia's effort into the perspective of the total forces involved. This may be frustrating to some readers, but this reviewer found it hard to put the book down, as the author has provided a complete rendering of the Australian effort. One very frustrating feature of the book, no doubt due to the academic background of the author is the copious use of footnotes, eg. 248 notes on one chapter of 43 pages. Against this the author has provided a number of appendices giving all the vital statistics of the various contingents etc.

This book is highly recommended to all members as a "must" for their library, regardless of particular interests.

— K.R. WHITE.

GARIBALDI: THE REVOLUTIONARY AND HIS MEN. Viotty, Andrea. Poole (U.K.), Blandford Press 1979. Our copy from Australia and New Zealand Book Co. Pty. Ltd. Recommended retail price \$29.50.

This profusely illustrated book is yet another in the biographical and historical saga of this unique 19th century European. Garibaldi, an Italian merchant seaman, part-pirate, freedom fighter rather than nationalist, amateur soldier, was he product of the 19th century liberalism that grew out of the reaction imposed by Metternich's Congress of Vienna European settlements.

In particular, he and his followers were the incarnation of the *Risorgimento* (Italy's 19th century national revival with a faintly socialist tinge) kindled by Mazzini and buried by Cavour. Garibaldi's very simple philosophy was to fight against tyranny wherever it reared its head. Thus we see him fighting, or his volunteer Garibaldinis, in South America, Italy, Greece and in Poland.

This book is more of interest to the student of military history and by virtue of the illustrations to the student of militia than to a historian per se. In fact, some of the historical backgrounds are inadequate and over-simplified, as for instance the historical lead-in to the Franco-Prussian War or to World War I, or even to the early rebellions in Italy, for that matter.

The author has succeeded, admirably, to portray the essence of the volunteer by quoting one of the Garibaldinis "The volunteer is by nature, extremely intelligent...he

wants to know everything, to agree about everything...He will march incredible distances, but beware of making him take the same road twice" and again: "The general (Garibaldi) demands discipline on the battle field not in the barracks." From this attitude evolved the tactics of the volunteers which were more effective than those of the mainly conscripted regulars of the time.

The campaigns of the Garibaldis who only became active "for the duration" with no training in between, are described by the author quite lucidly and in sufficient detail without being boring, even to the non-military reader. There is something lacking in the characterisation of Garibaldi as a person, and other recent authors, such as Parris (1) or de Polnay (2) have been more successful in this respect.

The author has amassed a most impressive bibliography (about 290 references), but strangely enough the two foregoing authors are not included, nor have the contemporary contributions by Victor Hugo and Georges Sand been given any prominence.

In general, the author succeeded, in part, to achieve his aim which was to write about "protagonists of revolutions, wars of liberation and other political and social movements." As an account of the Garibaldinis in wars of liberation and in revolutions, the book is superb, it fails in the politico-social aspects associated with the former. The book is a "must" for the student of volunteers and their campaigns in the 19th century, particularly in view of the recommended retail price of \$29.50 which is not unreasonable in the light of the large number of illustrations.

(1) Parris, John. *The Lion of Caprera*, London, Barker, 1962

(2) de Polnay, Peter, Garibaldi — the legend and the man London, Hollis and Carter, 1960.

— H.J. ZWILLENBERG

AMERICA'S BLOODIEST DAY. The Battle of Antietam 1862, by William A. Frassanito, Mills and Boon 298 pp \$24.50.

On 17 September 1862, the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia and the Union Army of the Potomac fought a major battle in the vicinity of the little town of Sharpsburg in Pennsylvania. At the close of the day the total casualties suffered by both Armies was in excess of 26,000. This is the greatest number of American casualties ever sustained on any one day.

War photography in the eighteen sixties was still very much in its pioneering days. It was a cumbersome task using heavy awkward equipment. Two photographers were with the Union Army and set to work immediately after the battle. This resulted in a series of photographs of the battlefield before it had been cleared and the dead buried.

William Frassanito has taken this milestone in war photography and used it as the basis for his book. It is not a technical photographic book, nor strictly speaking is it an historical account of the battle, though it describes the conduct of it, and gives the reader a good insight to the terrain. It is a book about the Antietam battlefield photographs. The most detailed research is evident throughout, and the author has pinpointed the exact camera locations for each of the original photographs. In many instances he has been able to add to the identity of the subject material, be it a house, a posed group of soldiers, or the dead. By magnification he has discovered detail not

previously visible. For example, a name on a grave marker. This leads him to the introduction of photographs and short biographical details of some of the soldiers and junior officers who fought, and in many cases died on that battlefield.

He has included several pages of notes on his research and there is a good index. It is a well printed and produced book though I would venture to suggest a little expensive.

— MIKE CASEY

FALLING IN: AUSTRALIANS AND 'BOY CONSCRIPTION' 1911-1915

By J. Barrett. Pub. by Hale and Iremonger Pty Ltd, PO Box VV64, Neutral Bay, NSW, 2089. 319 pps, illus. \$9.95 (soft), \$19.95 (hard).

This book comes at a time of defence buildup in Australia, and although it considers a situation some 70 years ago, the message which comes through is very much relevant to today's problems. The book should be read by all politicians and those entrusted with our defence planning as, although it deals with the original conscription scheme introduced in 1911, the needs of today are similar to those present in the early post-Federation era.

Falling In is based on a vast amount of research, coupled with the results of a survey of some 267 survivors of the scheme. The author's submission is that a large majority of Australia's population supported the scheme and this is borne out by most of the survivors of the scheme.

The pros and cons are considered in great detail, the opposition being, in many respects, as strong as that seen during the Vietnam conflict, and the reader is presented with a well written study of a complex subject. The value of the scheme, if not of the actual training, became evident in 1914 with the outbreak of World War I when Australia found itself with a well established training scheme, from which many members of the AIF were received.

The author, Dr John Barrett, the son of a trainee under the scheme, is a teacher of History at La Trobe University, and his academic background is well evident in the bibliography, copious endnotes and a well indexed book. The illustrations are worthy of note as they include many previously unpublished photographs, plus a wide range of cartoons from the papers and journals of the time.

— K.R. WHITE

CADET CORPS IN INDIA: ITS EVOLUTION AND IMPACT: by S.C. Maikap. publ. Dhiren Roy..Available from MHSA Books, PO Box 67, Lyneham. ACT.2602. 238 pp, illustrated.

Dr S.C. Maikap, MA, PhD, is a headmaster in Calcutta and a retired Officer of the National Cadet Corps, Naval Wing, with some 24 years service and it is from this experience, coupled with his academic background, that the author has produced a very readable history of the Corps and its place in the training of the youth in India.

In tracing the history of the Corps from its inception, under British rule, as a University Training Corps in 1917, the author presents the names of many well known national leaders who received their initial leadership training in the Corps, which establishes the value of youth training to an emerging nation.

The value of youth training, in a military context, to a newly independent nation is explored in detail, as well as the multitude of problems associated with the implementation of such a scheme. The author with his long experience as a leader in the Corps is able to analyse the effectiveness of the scheme and to offer suggestions to enable the Corps to more effectively achieve its objectives.

In preparation for the book, the author studied similar schemes in other countries, including Britain, USA, Russia, China and Australia to obtain the widest possible knowledge of his subject and he has drawn on these schemes in arriving at his suggestions for further development of the Corps.

This book is well worth reading for its story of the NCC alone, but its value lies much beyond this limited field in that it provides a well researched study of youth training which is relevant to both developed and developing nations alike.

— K.R. WHITE

HEAD-DRESS BADGES OF THE BRITISH ARMY VOLUME I (UP TO 1918), VOLUME II (1918-1979) Arthur L. Kipling & Hugh L. King — Published Fredrick Muller Ltd. Available in Australia from ANZ Book Co Pty Ltd Brookvale NSW. Price Vol I - \$81.50 Vol II \$72.95.

It is hard to know where to start in presenting these magnificent publications, however it is with great pleasure that these two volumes are reviewed and it is without doubt that they will be considered the "Bible" of all collectors of British Army badges. Volume I originally appeared in 1973, however a second and revised edition was produced in 1978, followed by Volume II in 1979.

The authors A.L. Kipling and H.L. King are both specialists in British Military history, the former being Editor of the Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research and the latter being a specialist collector of over 25 years experience. The two volumes are the result of collaboration of over 6 years, with King providing the information and badges and Kipling collating the information into book form.

Volume I has over 1900 illustrations and Volume II some 1200 illustrations, both accompanied by a detailed text giving details of dates and description of the badge. In addition the text describes the various changes in overall patterns over the years.

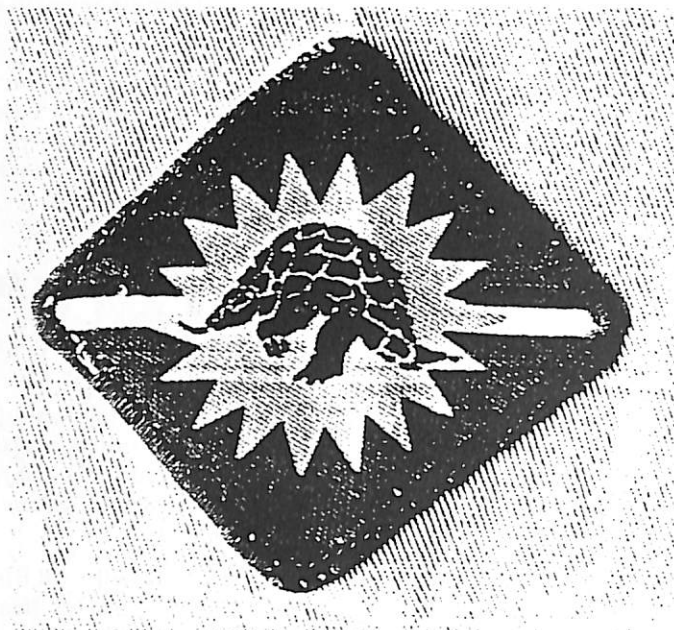
Of interest to all collectors will be the sections dealing with acquisition, cleaning, mounting and most important the appearance of restrikes and other reproductions.

While the price of the volumes may initially frighten the collector it is considered that these books offer real value for money and even for the collector of non-British badges offer a great deal, particularly as many Commonwealth badges are based on the original British badge. I suggest that these volumes offer the perfect gift for any badge collector.

— K.R. WHITE.

Insignia Worn by Australian Members of the Commonwealth Cease Fire Force in Rhodesia, December 1979 to March, 1980.

by K.R. WHITE



The Australian component of the Commonwealth supervision forces in Rhodesia wore the following insignia:—

Head dress: Rising Sun badge.

Rank: Normal

Sleeve: Cloth Rising Sun

Left Arm: White cotton brassard, bearing special badge. See picture attached.

Significance of brassard and special badge

Brassard in white material to signify the neutrality of the wearer

Special Badge 2" square, with printed colours and woven border of dark khaki-green colour.

Background Red (upper), thin white strip, Blue (lower). These colours signify the Red, White and Blue of the British Commonwealth.

Centre A rising sun, with 18 rays, in Yellow, to signify the birth of a new nation, ZIMBABWE. The sun is a full circle, as opposed to the Australian type Rising Sun.

Pangolin Imposed on the sun is a representation of the Pangolin, a scaly anteater, in Black. The Pangolin is a rare Zimbabwen animal and it is considered very lucky to sight one. Local custom is that the animal ensures long life and peace, coupled with good luck to any person who sees one. A more general idea would be the thought of long peace following the years of warfare that had been experienced in Rhodesia-Zimbabwe.

The Commonwealth Forces numbered 1300, of whom 152 were Australians and each member was issued with one brassard. The brassard illustrated was worn by Colonel F. K. Cole, who was Commander of the Australian Contingent South Rhodesia, this being the official title of the Australian Force.

Secretary's Notes

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

The annual membership subscription of \$15 (Aust) is now due.

Branch members should pay to Branch Secretaries.

Corresponding members are requested to forward their subscriptions directly to the Federal Secretary.

Overseas members not paying in Australian currency are requested to add an amount of \$A1.00 to their remittances to cover bank handling charges.

Overseas members wishing to have the journal delivered by airmail should add an additional \$A10.00 to their subscription fee.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members are reminded that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at RSL National Headquarters, Constitution Avenue, Campbell, ACT, on Monday, July 21, 1980 at 8pm.

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

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S DEFENCE POLICY — ITS FORMULATION 1854-1887

by H.J. ZWILLENBERG

The attack then, most to be apprehended by this Colony, is from an expedition consisting of a fleet or squadron superior to the united ships of war on the station and with a sufficient military force to enable the enemy to seize and retain some port affording both secure anchorage and ready means of refitting their vessels.

I am of the opinion that in addition to the kind of attack mentioned in the report, the Colony is at the present time open to an attack from any single ship which could, with ease, be off the Semaphore and shell the Port and thereby compel the payment of a large sum of money to prevent the destruction of property.

Colonel J. H. Biggs' evidence before the Hart Committee, 1865 (1)

I should, however, prefer that any immediate expenditure which may be contemplated should be devoted to the development of your military forces, because it is on these that you will have ultimately to rely for the preservation of your independence.

Major-General J.B. Edwards, 1890 (2)

Citizen soldiers should be felt and not seen. They should be dispersed like mosquitoes in every bush. That would be the best defence.

Observer, 1865 (3)

South Australia's defence policy was influenced by four factors, namely, strategic considerations of fixed and/or mobile defences required to meet an attack on the Colony, the influence of overseas military thought and assistance, changes in tactical doctrine and, finally, the question of the type of military force best suited to protect the Colony.

Large scale attacks were considered unlikely after the fifties; it was felt that the Royal Navy would detect and destroy any large force before it could reach South Australian waters. On the other hand, there had always been the possibility of one ship, or even of a small task force, eluding the vigilance of the Royal Navy and suddenly appearing off Glenelg and demanding ransom. In assessing the feasibility of either a full-scale landing operation or of a hit-and-run raid, it must be borne in mind

that, whatever defence measures the colonies, singly or jointly, might have been able to muster, a large scale landing operation, aimed at even a temporary occupancy of the coastal districts, would have required a superiority in numbers of at least five to one.

Hindsight suggests that a hit-and-run raid was the more feasible. In fact, during the Crimean War, the Colonial Secretary, B.T. Finnis, made the possibility of a raid on Port Adelaide the key point of his defence memorandum to Sir Henry Young (4). The First Hart Commission of 1858 dismissed the possibility of a large scale naval attack, or of a raid by a number of privateers, since both required extensive coaling facilities; since a lone warship could land 50-100 men at most, an attack of that nature was not considered a serious threat.

It appears that no full official appreciation existed of the kind of force required to secure and hold a part of the Adelaide coast line. However, private individuals did publish, in the daily press, a number of articles which could be termed appreciations, and are worthy of comment. One of these, by Lieutenant-Colonel R.R. Torrens, was in the form of a letter (6), in which he discounted the possibility of a force large enough to effect a permanent occupation, but stressed the likelihood of sneak raids. He pointed out that small steam sloops could easily hide around the various islands in Bass Strait, or even around Kangaroo Island and then move quietly up the Port River, which should therefore be rendered unnavigable by booms and other obstacles, covered by a battery on Torrens Island. Since plunder of Adelaide or of the port would be the only likely motive for such an attack, the enemy would not land more than 5,000 men. (Apparently, the colonel was not aware of the number of ships required to transport such a force, otherwise he would not have classified the proposed raid as a sneak attack.)

A more realistic appreciation was published in 1864 (7). The writer envisaged two 50-gun frigates landing 500 to 600 men before daylight. Colonel J.H. Biggs, in the same year, suggested that an enemy could land troops anywhere between Marino and Port Adelaide, from ships lying in 9 feet of water some 600 yards off shore, close enough to be able to cover the landing with naval guns. Alternatively, enemy ships could lie 3,000 yards off and silence the fixed gun emplacement on the shore. Therefore he advocated no fixed defences, but stressed the need for communications, via a road behind the sandhills to permit rapid troop movements, and port protection by mines actuated by the newly invented magneto-electrical devices (8).

In 1865 opinions were sought from two visiting naval officers, Commander G.H. Parkin of *H.M.S. Falcon* and Commodore Sir W.F. Wiseman, commanding the Australia Station.* Parkin's appreciation was very much what could have been expected from a brief visit. He thought there were three means of attack, firstly by a composite force, secondly, a predatory raid by one or two cruisers, and thirdly, by fireships being sent into the Port River (10). Commodore Wiseman, in 1866, was more specific. Ships drawing 15'-16' could easily disembark a composite force anywhere along the coast, from a distance of one mile off shore. Such a force could then advance on Adelaide and easily outflank any defensive works. In order to maintain mobility and flexibility, the South Australian forces would, therefore, have to be concentrated near the city.

* The Australia Station had become a Commodore's Station in 1853. It was now completely separate from the China and India Stations (9).

Wiseman considered a predatory raid the more likely form of attack, including shelling the principal coastal installations and harbour facilities, and perhaps landing not more than, say, 450 men, although it would have been very foolish of the enemy, to embark a force it was not able to support (11). Wiseman's views were shared by Feeling and Scratchley in the same year (12).

Perhaps the only comprehensive appreciation, for a possible enemy attack, was made in 1877 by the Governor of South Australia, Sir William Drummond Jervis, R.E. (13). He envisaged an enemy, either capturing commercial vessels at the entrance of the two gulfs, or raiding Wallaroo for coal supplies and then proceeding to Adelaide, with the intention of destroying the port and extracting ransom.

He pointed out that, compared with the other capital cities, with their land-locked harbours, Adelaide was far more vulnerable because its long coast-line offered numerous accessible landing places. Jervis had apparently considered the various factors which might determine an enemy's plan of attack quite thoroughly, but he failed to draw any valid conclusion regarding the means of repelling a landing, once it had taken place. Instead, he asserted that the best means of defending the Colony was by ships at sea.

A novel idea was expressed by an amateur during the crisis of 1885 (14). Cruisers and not iron-clads would be the means of landing troops, because the iron-clads with their greater coal requirements, would not have the range to reach South Australia. Three cruisers would menace Glenelg, staying out of gun range. Two other cruisers, under cover of darkness, would go to Port Gawler and land troops which would then advance swiftly on Gawler township, seize the railway, and come to Adelaide by train, while the local forces remained deployed in the sandhills near the coast, watching the movements of the diversionary force. If carried out in sufficient force, such an attack might well have succeeded.

Major-General J. Bevan Edwards' report, in 1886, 'relating to the inspection of the military forces of the Australian Colonies' (15), was criticised by the Colonial Defence Committee (C.D.C.) on strategic grounds. The Committee had expressed its own views on attacks on Australia in a Colonial Office Circular dispatch of 14.1.1890, making it quite clear that it considered Australia the safest of all British possessions, by virtue of its distance from hostile bases. The concentration of large enemy forces to effect even a temporary occupation would have been impossible, while raids for the purpose of refuelling were difficult to envisage: even if there was coal on the ground near the water's edge, many men and the appropriate facilities would be required to get it aboard. As for extracting ransom, the C.D.C. thought it 'inconceivable that any Australasian town would consent to pay blackmail, which the British race have not done for upwards of a thousand years' (16). Finally, General Edwards had counselled against fortifying Glenelg, on the grounds that an enemy cruiser could not approach closer than 11,500 yards, that the small amount of ammunition which a cruiser could afford to expend on such a bombardment would not be effective, and that, as long as there were no guns at Glenelg, it would be internationally illegal to bombard the town. The C.D.C. considered the latter idea somewhat naive (17).

In 1892 Captain John Walcott, R.N., the naval commandant of South Australia, firmly stated that

the idea of a military force being landed in Australia is a new bogie. As long as the British Navy is maintained in its present relative condition, it is not practicable to convey them (the hostile force) by sea and will not be attempted (18).

Walcott considered the landing of a sufficiently strong force from cruisers impossible. Cruisers could not carry large military landing parties, while to use crew members to effect landings would have left the ship defenceless before an intercepting vessel. Without facilities to effect repairs a cruiser would avoid fighting. She would rendezvous with her own coalship, which probably sailed under a neutral flag, at unfrequented anchorages, and then dash at a lone merchant ship of the nearest centre of commerce to do as much damage as possible. (This was written twenty-two years before the *Emden* was to operate in Australian waters.) It was believed that the best means of defence against such an attack would be provided firstly by ships and, secondly by fixed installations, despite the fact that the latter were practically inoperative at night.

Two elements are missing from all the foregoing appreciations. For instance, there is no evidence that the effort required for a large scale attack on Australian soil was ever considered from a strategical point of view. Everyone dismissed the idea as impracticable, without proving the fact. On the tactical side, given that an enemy had been able to concentrate a strong enough force and to establish a beach head on South Australian soil, how would this have affected the South Australian defence effort and military counter measures?

The militia field force in Adelaide in 1890 consisted of a half squadron of cavalry (about 50 all ranks), one battery of field artillery (four 16-pdr. rifled muzzle loading guns), and three infantry battalions of about three hundred men each. In addition, there were 450 or so mounted rifles in the country districts, and 620 volunteer infantry. Not counting garrison artillery, the total South Australian strength consisted of 500 mounted troops in five squadrons, one obsolete field battery, including two Nordenfelt machine guns, and ten rifle companies of 100 men each.

During the Franco-Prussian war a superiority of 2:1 appeared to be the rule wherever victory was achieved. For an amphibious operation, a superiority of 3:1 infantry and 2:1 cavalry might well have been necessary. In other words, an attacking force would have had to muster about 3,000 infantry, 1,000 cavalry, including at least 1,000 horses, and probably three or four field batteries (16 guns) which, in turn, would have required at least 100 horses and about 200 personnel.

Including staff and administrative personnel, the force necessary to effect even a temporary occupation of the South Australian metropolitan coastal district would have had to consist of some 5,000 men and 1,000 horses. Such a force would have required 41,000 gross tons of shipping transport, to which another 10 per cent would have had to be added for contingencies. The estimate of the total size of such an expeditionary force is based on data available for the British trooper H.M.S. *Himalaya*, which took a complete cavalry regiment to the Crimea, and for the Indian

trooper H.M.S. *Malabar*. These ships had a displacement of 3,500 and 6,500 tons respectively, and a radius of 4,500 miles at their respective speeds of 10 and 15 knots.

Thus a hostile fleet would have required eight to ten transports, three colliers and three to five escort vessels: a minimum of, say, 15 ships, and even an unopposed landing would have taken about 10-12 hours. This last estimate is based on a report of putting 9,000 men ashore at Quinteros Bay in 1891, where the transports had been provided with two flat bottomed boats each capable of carrying 150 men (19). It would have been a formidable effort to mount, even against untrained opposition. But the South Australian defence forces had had a certain amount of training. They were good shots, and within a few hours could have mustered enough men to oppose the initial landing. The transports would either have had to stop 5-6 miles short of Fort Glanville and Fort Largs, or the escort vessels would have had to silence the forts to allow the transports to come close in shore. In either case the element of surprise would have been lost.

Thus the previously mentioned story, *How we captured Adelaide, South Australia, by Ivan Korfuloff, I.R.M.* (20), which described how 1,000 men, seven machine guns and two rocket tubes had been landed within 40 minutes, defeated the local troops, and reached the city, all within a few hours, was tactically unsound. In fact, considering the distance on shore to be covered by a landing party, the nature of the terrain west of Adelaide, and the relative strength of the opposing forces, a successful advance seems to have been most unlikely. Then, as now, there was little natural cover. Enemy forces would have been exposed almost from the moment they cleared the littoral sand dunes. Progress from, say, the Semaphore or Fort Largs area would have been impeded by swamps. Hence the approach to contact would have had to follow the easily defensible road system. An approach from the southern beaches would have been time consuming and open to flank attacks by mobile forces. Such an approach would have required a much larger force, with considerable field artillery support because the advancing troops would soon have been out of range of supporting naval guns.

The obvious counter to an enemy landing anywhere along the Adelaide Littoral area should have been a heavy concentration of mounted troops, say 10 squadrons, deployed south of Adelaide, and supported by at least 4 to 6 batteries of field artillery, attacking the enemy flanks from high ground to the south east, while west of the city

Hurley Exhibition

Following display in Sydney, Brisbane and Sale, Victoria, during 1979, the Hurley photographic exhibition commenced its 1980 tour at the C.B.C. Bank (Headquarters) in Sydney in February. The exhibition was on display for six weeks.

'Lone Pine'

The 'Lone Pine', which stands in isolation in the War Memorial's grounds, declines in vigour as it gets older. City Parks Administration has planted two seedlings adjacent to the mother tree with the view of selecting one to remain as a replacement upon the decline of the mature tree.

two infantry battalions in a defensive position could have protected the approaches from the two western and Fort Largs beaches. However, the South Australian military effort was not based on tactical considerations but on the findings of commissions, on the recommendations of various experts and on political factors. It was not till the arrival of Sir William Drummond Jervis in 1877 that the defence policy of South Australia assumed something of professional significance.

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QUERY: Can anyone identify the unit to which the soldiers, pictured above, belong? The original photo came from the Kyneton-Castlemaine area and is believed to be of the Kyneton District Mounted Rifles.

National Militaria Exposition 1980 — Geelong Branch

The Geelong Exposition got away with a swing on Easter Friday April 4, with one of the best displays of militaria seen in Australia.

The Exposition was held in Osborne House, first home of the Australian Naval College, now the offices of the Shire of Corio. This fine and well maintained building, built in 1858, complemented the tone of the displays.

The aims of the Exposition were to conduct a seminar for members of the Society, to further contact between them and to stage a public display of militaria organised in a chronological sequence, together with a display of restored military vehicles presented by the Victorian Military Vehicle Corps.

Without doubt the aims were achieved. The displays, from the Napoleonic period through India, China, Africa, the Boer War, WW1 and WW2, Korea, Malaya and Vietnam, presented a lavish and eye-catching exhibition of items relating to each period.

It was all there — arms, uniforms, accoutrements, badges, and one of the finest collections of medals seen in this country. It was a magnificent spectacle mounted by the Geelong Branch, assisted by Melbourne members of the Society and the Victorian Military Vehicle Corps.

The Exposition was attended by Victorian and inter-State society members, some of whom had travelled great distances to take part in the discussions on the programme.

Don Wright, George Snelgrove and Sam Trill flew down from Brisbane; Monty Wedd and his wife Dorothy were there from Sydney; Federal Councillors Martin Kennedy and Clem Sargent motored from Canberra — they now know 45 ways to get from Osborne House to North Valley Road in Geelong. Andrew Prince, SA Branch Treasurer, and Ron Spry came across from Adelaide and Athol Chaffey escaped from Tasmania for the occasion. An old friend of many members, Ray Tancred from Ye Olde Curiosity Shoppe was also there.

Major-General J. M. McNeill officially opened the Exposition on Saturday afternoon, inspecting a Guard of Honour of Sea Cadets from TS Barwon and Air Training Corps Cadets of 27 Flight ATC. He later took the salute at a march past.

There were formal discussions on Society business and medal collecting, a talk was given by Mr Peter Burness, Curator of Heraldry at the Australian War Memorial, and at short notice, Monty Wedd delivered an account of the way he had become involved in military history.

It is not easy to pick out the most significant aspects of the Expo. Certainly amongst the displays, that of the Military History of Geelong warrants mention.

It consisted of a fine collection of old photographs, some most interesting volunteer items — Monty Wedd was seen busily sketching details of headdress and accoutrements — and some later items. It



ABOVE: Ron Spry's quarter-scale 32-pounder naval cannon attracted the interest of from left, Andrew Prince, Treasurer of the SA Branch; Ron Spry and Federal Secretary Clem Sargent.



ABOVE: Ian Barnes, the President of the Geelong Branch, and Maj.-Gen. J.M. McNeill, study some of the exhibits.

will provide the basis of a significant local collection and should encourage the Geelong Branch to research further into the long neglected field of the volunteer units.

Another item worthy of mention, because its significance was possibly overlooked by many of those at the display, was the magnificent quarter-scale 32-pounder naval cannon, modelled on those used at Trafalgar.

This was constructed by Ron Spry of the SA Branch. It was complete even to the cypher on the barrel, which had itself been cast to details from the original plans. Ron says that he has further models in production. Members will be watching his activities in this field with great interest.

However the outstanding success of the Exposition was the way members responded to the opportunity to meet and to discuss their interests.

Of course QSA's and KSA's dominated the conversation but a few members did manage to get in the occasional word on other subjects.

Undoubtedly this was the occasion to meet old friends and to make new ones, to realise that Queenslanders are quite human and that members of Federal Council are interested in military history as well as squeezing the last dollar out of branches.

The social function on Saturday night gave the organisers the opportunity to acknowledge the assistance they had received from the Shire of Corio and both the Sea and Air Cadets and it also gave Society members the chance to meet in a very relaxed atmosphere.

The Exposition was unquestionably a great success. Ian Barnes, President of the Geelong Branch and his team of active Branch members are to be congratulated on their effort in mounting the Exposition and making it possible for so many Society members to meet on common ground. Our thanks also go to the members of the Victorian Branch for its assistance and to the members of the Victorian Military Vehicle Corps for helping to widen the display with their exhibition of carefully restored military vehicles.

THIS is the seventh in a series of articles on tanks and armoured fighting vehicles which helped shape our military history.

Each of the vehicles featured is now located at the Royal Australian Armoured Corps Tank Museum, Puckapunyal Army Camp, Victoria.

Vehicle details and photographs are from the Tank Museum's magazine.

TANKS OF THE PAST

MAIN BATTLE TANK CENTURION MK V/I (Australian)

In 1944 work began on a project called A-41 and by early 1945 the first batch of an entirely new type of medium tank was rushed into service before the war ended. This was Centurion I whose successors, to this day, bestride the battlefield. Five were sent to Germany to try and catch the last whiffs of the Second World War but were just too late.

Centurion I mounted the 76.2mm gun plus a 20mm machine gun and weighed 47 tons. The double skinned hull that once housed the suspension in the old cruisers was superseded by a single plate and an external suspension system.

Post war development programme adopted in Britain in 1946 centred on a "universal" tank, which was based on the A45 specification for a more heavily armoured version of the A41 Centurion. However, the development of the Centurion was also continued and its Mark III version was armed with the same 83.4mm 20 pounder gun as that intended for the "Universal" tank.

The 83.4mm gun in Centurion provided one big advantage in that it was provided with a much improved type of

armour piercing discarding sabot, or APDS, ammunition. This was fired at a muzzle velocity of 4800 ft/sec and could penetrate armour almost twice as thick as the 88mm gun that was fitted to Tiger II. As a result, Centurion 3 provided the British Army with something it never had before, namely a standard tank better armed than any other.

In its up-gunned form the Centurion was also adopted by several other armies. These included not only the armies of Australia, Canada, India and South Africa, which were then still strongly influenced by the British Army, but also those of Sweden and Switzerland, which ordered their first Centurions in 1953 and 1954, respectively. Egypt and Iraq also acquired some Centurions, as, much later, did Israel, and the United States purchased a number during the mid-fifties for delivery, under its Military Aid Programmes, to the Netherlands and Denmark.

Altogether more than 2500 Centurions were sold by Britain to other countries, at about \$80,000 per vehicle.

The first batch of Centurions were ordered in 1950 for the Australian Army, but the first shipment was re-directed to Korea to re-equip British units in that country in operation as part of the United Nations force combatting the Red Chinese and North Korean invasion. The First Armoured Regiment was equipped with Centurions in 1954.

The Australian Centurions were Mark III's equipped with a 20 pounder gun, 7.92mm Besa machine gun and fitted with armoured skirting plates to protect the hull and suspension from attacks by anti-tank rounds.

Australian Centurions were eventually modified to Mark 5/1 (Australian) which included:

- a. .30 calibre Browning machine guns;
- b. Applique armour fitted to the glacis plate;
- c. 100 gallon armoured fuel tank mounted on the rear of the hull;
- d. .50 calibre ranging machine gun;

- e. Ballistic gunners sight; and
- f. Infra-red night fighting capability for the Commander, Gunner and Driver.

In early 1968 C Squadron of the First Armoured Regiment, equipped with Centurion tanks was committed to the Vietnam war. There were many people at the time who were sceptical of the success Centurion would achieve in a tropical war. Events proved that the commitment of Centurions was indeed worthwhile. Centurions were involved in numerous battles, but to mention a few, "Coral", "Balmoral" and "Binh Ba". By the end of the Vietnam War all three squadrons of the First Armoured Regiment had served in Vietnam.

The Centurion tank was phased out of service with the Australian Army in 1977. Centurion, in modified forms is still inservice with a number of armies in the world today. It has proved to be a most successful vehicle.

Specifications

Power Plant:	Rover Meteor MK IV B, V12 Water cooled petrol engine developing 650 bhp at 2550 rpm. Charging Set Morris 8 HP, MK2 or MK2/1 developing 13.5 bhp at 2000 rpm.
Speed:	coupled to dynamotor with output 3 kw, 100 A, 27V at 1650 rpm. 21.5 mph.
Armament:	20 pr. (83.4 mm) Quick Firing Gun. .50 inch cal. Ranging Machine Gun. .30 inch. cal. Co-axially mounted Machine Gun. .30 inch. cal. flexible cupola mounted Machine Gun.
Crew:	4. Commander, Gunner, Loader/Operator and Driver.
Weight:	53.2 Tons.
Armour:	Maximum 152mm.
Designed:	United Kingdom, 1944, deliveries 1945.

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.

Commercial rates of advertising are available on request from the Honorary Secretary.

Advertising material must reach the Secretary by the following dates:

1 January for January—March edition.

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.

However, queries received by the Secretary will be published in the "Queries and Notes" section of the Journal.

SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Society publications advertised in "Sabretache" are available from:

*Mr K. White,
P.O. Box 67,
Lyneham, A.C.T. 2602.*

Orders and remittances should be forwarded to this address.

THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE

THE FEDERAL SECRETARY

P.O. Box 30

GARRAN

A.C.T. 2605 AUSTRALIA

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I/Weof
(Name, Rank, etc.) (Address)

hereby apply for membership of the MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY of AUSTRALIA. I/We agree to abide by the Rules, etc., of Society and wish to be admitted as a Branch member of the
Branch, Corresponding Member,
Subscriber to Sabretache.

(Strike out non applicable alternatives.)

My main interests are
.....

I/We enclose My/Our remittance for \$15.00 (Aust), being annual subscription, due 1st July each year.

.....
Applicant's Signature

N.B. (1) Regular Branch meetings are held in Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, Geelong, Adelaide and Perth.

(2) Overseas Applicants are advised that subscription is \$15.00 Australian. Airmail delivery of Sabretache available for additional sum of \$10.00 Australian.



