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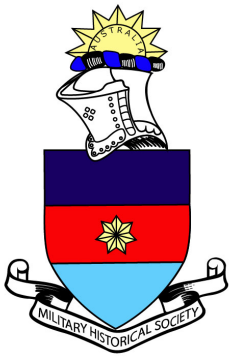

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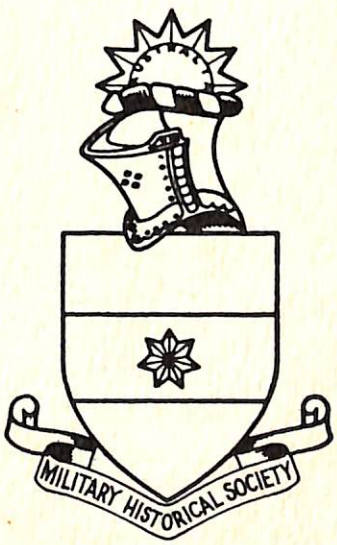
Journal and Proceedings of the
Military Historical Society of Australia

SABRETACHE



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SABRETACHE

Journal and Proceedings of the
MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
(founded 1957)

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CONTENTS

Published by authority of the Federal Council of the Military Historical Society of Australia. The views expressed in the articles in this Journal are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Society.

Editorial

This is the first issue of a new year of *Sabretache.* As will be immediately apparent, more has changed than simply the volume number. The size and the appearance have altered, and I have been appointed Editor. *Sabretache's* purpose remains, however, unchanged. Through the Journal and Proceedings the widely scattered members of our Society (whose interests cover every facet of military history from buttons to grand strategy) are given the opportunity to share and seek information and contact fellow members.

It is up to you, the member, to take advantage of this opportunity. Literally every member of the Military Historical Society of Australia is an expert in some aspect of collecting or studying military history. With this in mind I would life to invite everyone to write an item for our Journal. Any contribution is welcome; even a piece of half a dozen lines can go into the Notes and Queries section. Interesting photographs are required as well. The great advantage of short pieces is, of course, that it allows a greater coverage of more of the many different areas of interest within the Society.

Contributions should *ideally* be typed, double spaced on one side of the paper, but a hand written item can easily be typed by the Editor.

South Australia's Army Part One

Hans Zwillenberg

This is the ninth 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.

The true military strength of a nation consists not in actual amount of arms and ammunition and in heavy fortifications ... but in the numbers, courage ... and patriotism of its inhabitants. Especially is this the case with the Colony of South Australia depending entirely on its own strength ...

Register, *1855 (1)*

Patriotism is [so] latent that it requires a near approach to danger to make it show itself and then as is always the case, there would be a vast amount of spirit coupled with a great want of skill.

Letter to the **Observer,** *1863 (2)*

Power should be obtained for retaining men for a fixed period of service for continuous training in daylight during a number of days during the year, besides a certain number of drills at detached periods, for permanent embodiment during war, for the strict enforcement of discipline, for the appointment of officers only after passing proper examinations.

Observer, *1878 (3)*

When war is near and danger high
God and Volunteers is the cry,
When war is over and things are righted,
God's forgot and the volunteer is slighted.

Lieutenant Clement
at the Gawler Arms Hotel, 1865 (4)

One pound the Government will pay
to every volunteer,
That he may have a winding sheet
when he should so appear.
And every man will have each month
of round of cartridge ten,
So little practice it is thought
will make good riflemen,
No funds, no cloth are there to give
the men who serve three years,
They will be known as 'Nature's Own',
the naked volunteers.

Satirist in **Observer,** *1859 (5)*

Universal Training, 1859-1901

The implementation of defence policies and recommendations into a military organisation suitable to the Colony of South Australia is a story of confusion which took forty years to crystallise into a coherent picture. It is a tale of continuous legislative wranglings, lapsed acts, amended bills, and debates about comparatively unimportant privileges and status. The history of the South Australian army abounds with changing nomenclature, a phenomenon inherent in the different permutations of the citizen soldier concept.

From the outset, then, a few simple distinctions must be made. The difference between the permanent military forces established in 1882 and the non-permanent forces raised from 1854 onwards, is, essentially, the difference between a citizen soldiery and a regular army. Everybody in South Australia clearly understood what a regular army was and what it was called upon to do, but difficulties arose when it came to appreciate the nature and functions of citizen soldiers.

Anyone acquainted with Australian history will readily appreciate controversies concerning volunteer units based on ethnic groups, or cadet

units raised in schools, or rifle clubs with varying degrees of affiliation with the military structure. Less easy to follow were the distinctions in different periods within the volunteer movement between those units which received pay and those which did not, between those that wished to elect their officers and those that did not, between those whose discipline could become subject to the British Army Acts and those that tried to avoid it, between those that were justly proud of their military discipline and those that objected to it.

It is exceedingly difficult to understand the development of the South Australian army when the distinction between the militia and volunteer features becomes blurred. However, irrespective of the form the citizen soldiery took, there lay behind it the recourse to compulsory enrolment, recruiting and training which the Adelphi planners had contemplated and which emerged in full legislative form at the end of the nineteenth century. This trend is clearly noticeable with the passing of the Militia Act of 1854, an act which was designed to put the concept of universal training on a firm legal basis.

The Militia ACt of 1854 or to give it its full title, An Act to Organise and Establish a Militia Force in South Australia (6) was based on the recommendations of the First Finniss Commission of 1854. The preamble to the Act explained its purpose: it was to serve as a backdrop in case insufficient volunteers came forward to enroll in the volunteer force, authorised under a separate act (7).

The Militia Act provided for the compulsory enrolment of all able-bodied men between the ages of 18 and 46 years, except members of the legislature, the judiciary, the clergy, the police force, the merchant navy and certain other people such as half-pay officers, aborigines and those members of the public who already served a term of military duty, either personally or by substitute. Militia liability was three years. The total number to be drafted was not to exceed 2,000, including those who may have enrolled under the Volunteer Act.(8) The country was to be divided into militia districts. The police had the task of preparing returns of eligible persons in the district, and balloting was to be carried out by the justices of the peace who were also empowered to hear appeals. Each district was to be allocated a quota. Where the quota was surpassed the excess was to be balloted out. Where the reverse was the case, or where normal wastage had reduced the quota, additional person were to be balloted in. Officers were to rank within the general service in order of date of commission. Rates of pay varied from £2 for a full colonel, to 5/- per day for a drummer, and every officer of field rank had to be horsed. Courts-martial were to consist of militia officers only, and the whole force, or any part, could not be called out for more than 28 days in every year, unless there was an actual invasion or threat of invasion. The force was allowed to serve in South Australia only. This very comprehensive act – it had no less than 103 clauses – served as a model for all succeeding militia acts.

From the outset the response of many colonists was at variance with the officially stated objectives of the legislation. Some belived that a militia might establish political autonomy, and lead to the severance of the ties with England. Certain sections of the community objected on purely personal grounds. For instance, churchgoers feared that ministers of religion might be conscripted, although Clause 7 of the Act made it quite clear that this would not be the case. Others objected to the possibility of publicans becoming officers. The pastoralists were afraid that they might lose their shepherds. (9) Furthermore, the whole idea of substitution was anathema to many South Australians. A letter to the *Oberver* claimed that if the militia was embodied, it would consist mainly of working class people, because a high number of substitutes had to be expected. Yet these were the people who had least to fight for. The writer demanded that the whole population should be compelled to bear an equal share of the buren, and besides, 'an armed population nenver has been and never will be conquered'(10). There were further objections to substitution. Although some members of the government regarded 'a volunteer force ... [as] nothing more than playing at soldiers ...' (11), Captain C.H. Bagot made an impassioned speech in the Legislative Council, extolling military service as the primary duty of every citizen who, unless he had undergone his service, should have no right to vote (12). A letter to the *Observer* was quoted during the debate. 'Mark ye, Sir, no exemption – let wealth and poverty join shoulder to shoulder ...' (13). However the government did not remove the 'substitute' clauses. In all, the arguments were no less heated for the fact that the external danger, the Crimean War, which prompted the passing of the militia legislation had practically disappeared by the time the Act was assented to (14), and the militia was not actually embodied. Only one of the

provisions of the militia legislation, the furnishing of returns from proclaimed districts, was in fact enforced for several years, not as much with any actual intention of calling out the forces, but rather to estimate the military potential in the Colony, and at the same time to encourage volunteering by threat of compulsion. As a result numerous volunteer companies were formed because, once a volunteer, a man ceased to be liable for compulsory service. The militia proclamation was published in January, 1860, and a month later some 650 volunteers had enrolled in 14 different rifle corps (15).

Despite the encouragement given to the volunteer movement in the early sixties, mainly in in order to avoid the implementation of the Militia Act, by 1863 or 1864 people in South Australia felt that all was not well with their state of defence. Imperial troops had not been seen in the Colony for some time. The volunteer service had been tried twice between 1854 and 1864 and had been found wanting. Was it perhaps necessary, after all, to implement universal service?

In 1866 public opinion on the question of militia service was tested at meetings in Adelaide and in Port Adelaide. Both meetings resolved upon the removal of the substitute clause and both meetings petitioned the government to implement the Militia Act. The resolutions of the Adelaide Town Hall meeting actually resembled a system then practised in Canada: the Canadian militia was called out once a year, for one day, and from this muster 2,000 volunteers were drawn to undergo two months training at military establishments at Toronto, Kingston, Montreal and Quebec (16).

Thereafter, the question of implementing the Militia Act was raised whenever there was a general outcry against the lack of interest and support shown by the wealthier colonists (17). The argument against the implementation of the Act centred on the fact that the Colony would lose the services of volunteers because they were exempt from militia obligations. Nobody seriously quarrelled with the militia principle, but there was a reluctance to take such a drastic step, mainly because it would have meant the failure of the voluntary principle, itself an article of faith in South Australia. That the volunteer army's efficiency would not have borne examination, and that 'possibly a number of old ladies dressed up in sea jackets would be of quite a smuch service as a volunteer force' (18) was not regarded as being relevant. In a sense the threat of compulsion was thought to stimulate volunteer movements.

So, the militia legislation remained on the statutes as a *vis in terrorem*, awaiting yet another revision. In 1886, following a report by the commandant, Brigadier General J.F. Owen (19), the Government of South Australia introduced the Military Forces Amendment Act (20) which retained the Reserve Militia as the compulsory component of the South Australian army. The provisions were very much the same as those of the 1854 and 1859 acts, and retained the substitute clause (21). The Act did little to encourage enrolment in the Active Militia (non-compulsory) force. A year or two later there were renewed demands to invoke the compulsory clauses of the Act. The proponents of compulsory service based their argument on a report submitted to Parliament in 1888 by General Downes, who claimed that the volunteer force was very costly, inefficient, and unreliable, with a very high wastage rate. Downes recommended three years' compulsory service, on a ballot basis, for all men between the ages of 20 and 24, residing in the Adelaide district. In this way, assuming an annual intake of 1,000 men, theColony would, after three years, have a force of 3,000 men under arms, with a reliable reserve of 5,000 men.

The idea of compulsory service was supported by the radicals in the Colony right from the beginning of the Colony as a self-governing society. It was a credo of faith inherited from the Adelphi planners, as evidenced by the opening quotation to this work.

As the colonial society prospered, the radicals clamoured for the implementation of compulsory service, because the propertied classes should not expect the existing force, composed mainly of working men, to protect the interests of people who had more to lose than the defenders (22). However, the only concession the government made to the radicals was to pass a new act, entitled the Defence Forces Act Amendment Act. 1890 (23) which repealed the substitute provisions of the principal act (24). Of this the press approved, but it considered the provision which required Quakers to pay a cash equivalent, as tyranny, and an example pf religious persecution (25).

The depression of the early nineties had heightened class feelings. There was some fear that the military might be used against the working class, as had happened in Victoria. The unpaid volunteer force, the citadel of the propertied classes, could conceivably have come into conflict with the paid militia, with both forces shooting at the population at large. Fortunately, the fear proved

groundless. The question of compulsory service was last raised in South Australia in 1895, when the Premier, C.C. Kingston, introduced a most comprehensive Defence Bill, prepared by the commandant of the day, Colonel Joseph Maria Gordon. The bill was probably the most prolonged defence legislation ever debated in South Australia. It was introduced early in Jul, 1895, and not assented to till just before Christmas that year. The Premier called it a consolidation bill, it repealed six existing acts (26), and when it did become The Defences Act. 1895 (27), it established the principle that the citizen soldiery was to be complementary to the permanent army, a principle that all military service was to be compulsory, and only one clause, Clause 17, provided for voluntary enrolment. Kingston did not hide the essentially compulsory nature of the Act. It gave the government the power to ensure that the defence burden was equally shared, for instance, servants could not be dismissed for joining the force.

Although the legislature sought to deprive the bill of some of its sting, by inserting into Clause 11 the provision that compulsory enrolment could only be enforced in case of actual or imminent invasion, to be proclaimed as such, the bill remained essentially as Colonel Gordon had prepared it. The force was to be composed, not of unpaid volunteers, or paid militia men, or a combination of both, but of paid citizen soldiers, enrolled for two years in the active force and then transferred for a further five years to a reserve force. The previous unpaid, purely voluntary elements in the force were relegated to Defence Rifle Clubs and the South Australian National Rifle Association.

The Act had certain territorial limitations. The force could only be employed in Australia or Tasmania. Under the provisions of earlier legislations, the paid militia men could be forced to serve in New Zealand, while unpaid volunteers could not be compelled to serve beyond the boundaries of the Colony. Under the 1895 Act such division of the forces was no longer possible.

The reaction, from the legislature, was one of approval (28), although there were dissenting voices. Some members saw the bill as a political move to curb the power of the moneyed classes, and others saw in the servant provision a threat to employment: an employer might not engage a man if he knew that the prospective servant was likely to be called up. Two labour members, Moule and Batchelor, wanted the compulsory clauses to apply to the electors of the legislative Council only, while others lamented that the compulsory element of the Act was un-English and smacked of Continental militarism: after all, the purely voluntary system had not yet been *proved* inadequate. Kingston dismissed the latter argument by quoting the experience of the Battle at Bull Run, where volunteers were severely defeated by well-trained and disciplined troops (28). As for the press, the only objections concerned application rather than principle. For instance, there seemed to be too great a discrepancy between the horse allowance for officers in the Mounted Rifles and for their troopers. But apart from such minor factors, it was felt that the Colony, for the first time, had a defence machinery which promised to create an efficient force.

Gordon, the architect of The Defences Act. 1895, saw it as a fore-runner or even as a blue-print of future Australian defence legislation (29). In his view the main objective of the present legislation was to overcome the fragmentation of defence effort and to provide for a system, not only compatible within Australia, but also within the framework of British defence relations. Gordon implied that Australian defence should not be passive, that is, should not be waiting for an aggressor, but rather should play an Imperial role. As a matter of fact, and this point will be discussed in detail later on, in passing the act, South Australia was influenced by the 1894 conference of the Australian military commandants. Although Queensland had pioneered the idea of compulsory military service in its 1884 act, the 1895 South Australian act was the first successful attempt in Australia to establish the concept of the citizen soldier, that is, a citizen who could be compulsorily enlisted in times of danger, even if he declined to serve as a paid volunteer in times of peace (30).

Notes

1. R. 1.2.1855
2. O. 20.6.1863
3. O. 16.2.1878
4. O. 10.6.1865
5. O. 6.8.1859
6. S.A. Statute 9/1854
7. S.A. Statute 2/1854
8. *Ibid.*
9. L.C. 24.8.; 31.8.; 6.9.; 17.10.1854
10. O. 30.7.1859L

11. 11.A. 4.8.1859
12. L.C. 16.8.1859
13. O. 23.7.1859L
14. GD/O/13/1854; GD/I/351/1855
15. O. 28.1.1860
16. R. 16.7.; 19.7.1866
17. CSC/I/201/1886
18. O. 12.5.1877
19. PP 45/1886
20. S.A. Statute 30/1886
21. *Ibid.*- Regulation Pt. IV
22. H.A. 23.10.1888
23. S.A. Statutes 500/1890
24. S.A. Statutes 390/1886 – Clauses 61, 62
25. O. 15.11.1890
26. S.A. Statutes 125/1878; 169/1880; 261/1882; 390/1886; 483/1890; 500/1890
27. S.A. Statutes 643/1895
28. H.A. 27.11.; 4.12.; 11.12.1895; L.C. 20.12.1895
29. J. M. Gordon, *The Federal Defence of Australia.* Address to Royal United Service Institute (London). 13.1.1898.

The Second part of Mr Zwillenberg's article will appear in the April-June edition of **Sabretache.**

'Bluey the Sig': The Memoirs of Sapper Dadswell

Edited by Peter Stanley

I. A Boy from the Bush

'Bluey' Dadswell enlisted in the first A.I.F. at Ararat in Victoria in September 1915, just as the casualty lists for the futile August offensive on Gallipoli appeared. He has recorded his recollections of his service in the Great War in a typescript of ten chapters and 139 pages entitled *Diary of a Sapper.* It is not an outstanding literary work, nor does it describe epic historical happenings or famous persons, but it deserves to be known as the story of an ordinary Australian who lived through the slaughter of the Western Front. Through Sapper Dadswell's reminiscences the Australian military historian is able to glimpse something of the experiences of the men of the first A.I.F., and perhaps understand those men and their distant age a little better.

"Ah", exclaimed the army doctor at Melbourne, examining recruits, "A boy from the Bush, fit and hard . . . you'll do". Along with "a splendid lot of men" – his first tent-mates included a South Australian businessman, an English footman, a Presbyterian minister, a university student, a commercial traveller and a couple of bushmen – Private Dadswell learned "to march, form fours . . . to salute, say sir to officers, stand to attention and treat N.C.O.'s with some respect". Despite their enthusiasm, the recruits at Royal Park Camp had little idea of military discipline. One morning Dadswell, while on sentry at the cook-house, was helping two novices chop wood, unaware that his duties included lighting the fires and rousing the cooks. The orderly serageant arrived and roared at Dadswell's negligence. Dadswell answered back,

> *"and things got a bit hectic. Finally the sergeant said, "A man ought to pole axe you". I lifted the axe and said "just try and I'll split you with this axe." He glared at me and went off."*
>
> *The recruits drilled. Then "came our first instruction in bayonet fighting. I never forgot it. It brought home to us we weren't playing".*

The instructor demonstrated the bayonet thrust, then, seeing his pupil's reactions, stopped and said,

> *Take that shocked look off your faces. . . and get this into your heads once and for all. This is war and the only thing that counts is,*

you win and live. . . If you die. . . there is no one to protest, no one to say it wasn't fair, so see the enemy dies, not you."

Late in 1915 the recruits left Royal Park for Castlemaine, where they began tactical training and route marching, and where Private Dadswell became Sapper Dadswell, becoming a signaller as a favour to a man who wanted to stay in the infantry. "Thanks, Blue", the man said, "you will do me". Dadswell quickly became proficient at semaphore and morse communication by heliograph and telegraphy, but a bout of diptheria back-squadded him until after Christmas. On 1 March 1916, after seeeing his mother for what would be the last time he embarked from Melbourne on the transport *Ulysses*, bound for Egypt.

11. Winds and Dust

The *Ulysses* sailed up the Suez Canal, passing thousands of Australians bathing and lounging on the banks. One called out the archetypal Great War catch-phrase, "Are you down hearted?" "No!", the eager reinforcements thundered back. "Well you jolly soon will be", the veteran replied. Landing at Alexandria on the first anniversary of the landing at Anzac Cove, Dadswell and his mates were troubled to see Egyptians overseers beating their labourers on the dock-side. "It was the first time we had seen a whip used on human beings", he recalled, "and it left a nasty taste". The detachment travelled to Tel-el-Kebir camp, unimpressed with the smell and squalor of the country. The day after their arrival they witnessed a riot between Diggers and mounted Military Police over the reluctance or inability of the authorities to prosecute Egyptians accused of robbing Australians in the bazaars. The troops flung bottles at the M.P.'s, who called an infantry company with fixed bayonets in for support. The infantry connived at the looting with a good natured "run for it, Dig".

Relations between the Australians and the Egyptians were sour, an antogonism aggravated by the rapacity of the 'Gippo' hawkers and the racism of the Australian soldiers, Dadswell noticed that their animosity was tempered by decency. An Australian angrily kicked an annoying urchin in the stomach. A group of watching Australians,

"all jerked around with a roar of indignation, but Percy Waldron went off his seat as though someone had stuck a pin in him, and in a couple of bounds was in front of the fellow, calling him all the curs out; but the chap wouldn't fight and backed away... We didn't love Gippos but wouldn't stand for boys to be treated like that."

Harry Dadswell in 1917.
Photograph courtesy of Harley Dadswell.

While at Tel-el- Kebir the signallers clashed with their commanding officer, the fussy, classics-quoting Major 'Freddie' Rossiter. They apparently regarded officers as 'them' and other-rankers as 'us', laughingly defying him when he ordered the section to solomnly file past a piece of bacon tossed unhygenically to the ground in camp. After the Major ordered a route-march to stifle insubordination, Dadswell's friend Claude Smith composed a satirical ditty which he flagged to the section at semaphore practice in the dessert.

In May the Egyptian heat, accompanied by "winds and dust" became more intense, fraying tempers and friendships, and the signallers were glad to escape, boarding the transport *Ionian* for France early in June. Just as he arrived at the 'bull ring' or training depot at Etaples, Sapper Dadswell contracted a dangerous lung complaint and was sent to a Canadian hospital in Kent to make room for the wounded from the futile Fromelles attack the Australians had made on the Somme.

Linesmen of Divisional Signals laying a line on Westhoek Ridge Ypres, September 1917. AWM Negative E 3318.

III. Most pleasant times

Dadswell spent eight months in Britain, training on Salisbury Plain, and on leave. He enjoyed his reprieve from the Front, becoming familiar with the villagers of Wiltshire and Hertfordshire, and with some tenacious old gentlewomen in London who refused to acknowledge the raiding Zeppelins. He witnessed an intriguing instance of clairvoyance from an Anzac who knew a Herts village without ever having been there, was victimised by an officer for no apparent reason and survived some hair-raising escapades on horseback. Australians were popular in Britain, though a Mrs Olney, on whom Dadswell was compulsorily billeted, was at first cold towards him, having been told by some drunken and abusive Tommies that the best Australian was worse than the worst British soldier. Dadswell was a sober, courteous guest, well liked by the Britons with whom he became asquainted, and who became very fond of Britain in return.

Late in March 1917 he was drafted to France, and on 2 May 1917 marched past the famous hanging Virgin of Albert Cathedral to join the 5th Australian Division on the Somme.

IV. Grim and deadly serious

Dadswell's introduction to the "grim and deadly serious" business of trench warfare came with the infantry of the 14th Brigade in the battle for Bullecourt. The 14th Brigade, comprising the 53rd, 54th, 55th and 56th Battalions, contained many men from Southern New South Wales, including the men recruited on the Snowy River recruiting March of December 1916. Dadswell found it all "exciting", as he told a sergeant.

> *"Exciting", the sergeant replied, "you will get all the excitement you want". "Well", I said, "I've got to get used to it". He said "You never get used to this... all you do is get your nerves gradually worn down". I found he was right".*

As a signaller, Dadswell's job was vital to the survival of the infantry, who depended on the linemen to maintain the telephone lines from the front line back to the artillery and headquarters.

His comrades impressed on him that he must "never let the infantry down", and he became dedicated to this responsible and continually dangerous task over the next eighteen months at the Front. A very close relationship grew between the infantry and the signallers, and the 14th Brigade as a whole appeared to be a happy formation. Its Brigadier, C.J. Hobkirk, a British Regular, was well known and liked. Dadswell recalled how Hobkirk tripped over the legs of a man sleeping under a waterproof sheet in a muddy trench. "Can't you be more careful?", the man shouted. Hobkirk lifted up the waterproof and apologised. "Oh, its you, Brig", the man grinned, as the Brigadier asked if he could do anything to help.

Dadswell found the veteran sergeant's observations to be correct sooner than he imagined. One night while testing a 'phone line he felt a German shell burst over the parapetof his trench. A second shell bracketed it behind, and he waited for the third which must land on him, agonising over whether to run or warn his sleeping mates. He heard the shell falling, and it buried itself in the mud by his dug-out; and failed to explode. He was close to tears for days after.

V. In Reserve

After the ordeal of Bullecourt the Brigade moved into Reserve behind the line, in July, 1917. With little to do but lay lines between units billeted in villagers around Albert, the men became "just a group of overgrown boys". They slept, bathed, played practical jokes on the sergeants, (for which they were given pack-drill) and attempted to impress the Brigadier by their turnout at inspections. At a Divisional sports meeting the King visited them, to be greeted by mute ranks of protesting Diggers, who

> *"said afterwards they would have cheered if they hadn't been treated like half-wits and ordered to".*

Before returning to the line the 5th Division's commander, Major General J.J. Talbot Hobbs addressed them, telling them that they would "soon be able to avenge your comrades". One soldier shouted "A fat lot of avenging you will do bakc there at division". Hobbs replied that they did not hate the Bosche enough. His men called him 'Old Bloodlust'. Dadswell was sent to a 'power buzzer' course, learning how to operate communications sets which sent signals by the conduction of the earth, but, feeling the weight of the accumulators he had to carry and calculating how they would impede his running, he 'failed' the course. In September the Brigade moved north to the Ypes salient.

VI. One job after another

Sapper Dadswell served through the costly attacks on Polygon Wood, a small part of the disastrous Passchendaele offensive of the autumn of 1917. He and his mates were constantly running and repairing lines from the infantry through shellfire to the gunners in the rear. The signal section lost half its strength at Polygon Wood. Dadswell, who went for eight days at a stretch without shaving or undressing, remembered the battle

> *"more as one long nightmare than a clear cut memory. Those barrages were the heaviest I've ever encountered... One was almost afraid to go among the battalions asking for mates as so many had died or been wounded".*

VII. A few lively trips on the line

On 17 October 1917, Dadswell recorded,

> *"we moved up the long duck board track going past Hooge, Westhock and Anzac Ridges to Retaliation farm... we were out on the lines soon after and the shelling was lively".*

The 14th Brigade bogged down in the slush of the wet Flanders autumn amid the smashed drainage pattern of the muddy Ypres salient.

Each morning Dadswell and his mates went over the telephone lines repairing breakages. By the time he, like many trench soldiers, had developed a 'sixth sense' which seemed to guide them through danger. At Retaliation Farm one night he was "in the highest spirits... quite confident I wouldn't get hit". This feeling wore off as he and his mate Weir made their way through a machine-gun barrage, but Weir's confidence increased. "Come on", he said, "Nothing is going to touch us". Three times Weir led him off the track, each time avoiding shells that killed men still on the duck-boards, while a few yards further on, when Dadswell advised avoiding a corner which he felt certain to be shelled, Weir pushed past, saying "Nothing can hit us tonight", and they traversed the spot seconds before shelling resumed. On the other side of the coin, fatalism was often equally certain. Dadswell tells of Snowy Leonard, who claimed one day that it would be his last, and when two miles from the line on the way out his

Signaller of 54th Battalion leading a mule near Cartigny, France, September 1918.

AWM Negative E 809.

comrades taxed him on his survival, replied, "You probably will make camp, but I won't be with you". A long range shell killed him shortly after.

Late in October the Brigade was once more withdrawn. "Next morning", wrote Dadswell, "we awoke to hear children playing. What a change". After a rest they moved south to a quiet sector near Mount Kemmel.

VIII. A bad time

Dadswell was granted 'Blitey' leave. While he was enjoying a welcome respite among friends in London, Brighton and Hertfordshire the Germans launched the great March offensive, their last attempt to break the Allied line. His Brigade was hurriedly shifted south once more to the Somme to halt the German advance. The signallers were dispersed, depressing the close-knit unit. The 14th Brigade was gassed at Villers Bretonneaux in April, suffering 800 casualties. "It was awful to see the poor beggars", Dadswell recalled,

> *"The gas had affected their eyes and a dozen or twenty would link arms and only two or three could see ... It had been an awful day".*

At Villers Bretonneaux a number of stray Tommies were drafted into the 53rd and 55th Battalions. "Our chaps said they were splendid soldiers, (they) only needed leading", he wrote. The Australians' opinions of the British soldiers altered through the test of battle. *"One chap, typical of the Aussies said, 'I never had any time for the Tommies, reckoned they were hardly worth their tucker, but I'll take my hat off to them these days. They were better soldiers than I am' ".*

Late in April personal tragedy came to Dadswell amid the carnage of the faltering offensive. Darkie, his mate, and Charlie Payne, who joined at Royal Park on the same day in 1915, were killed while unloading a ration limber. Only a fortnight before Charlie had told him that he and Dadswell were the only two of his draft still alive and unwounded.

IX. One missed the old boys

By the time the German offensive was blunted the 14th Brigade's signals was "almost like a new unit", and Dadswell an old hand, by now wearing the white, blue and maroon striped ribbon of the Military Medal. The last Allied offensive had begun, and the Australians were, for the first time, making substantial advances without massive losses; "instead of the 1000 yard stunts of Doug Haig". Many men were excited, often in spite of themselves, that the war was close to ending, but Dadswell was unhappy. His new officer was incompetent and capricious, he received news that his mother had died, and for the first time he openly considered the possibility of welcoming a wound as a release.

> *"I'd have taken a smashed foot to get away from it", he remembered, "for my nerves were getting pretty bad"* after seventeen

months on the Western Front. Once again a presentiment of immenent death saved him and the reckless Weir from being killed, Dadswell's "raving" persuading Weir to move from a bank under fire. When they looked back the spot they had occupied was a shell-hole.

Dadswell was listening in on the field telephone when General Hobbs received word of the fall of Peronne. "Impossible", said the General. Dadswell did one more trip on the lines and collapsed.

X. The end of Bluey the Sig

> *"I had lasted till our part in the stunt was about finished, then I started to shake ... and had no control over my limbs".*

Dadswell slept in an abandoned dug-out, oblivious to the bombardment which destroyed his refuge. The A.I.F. itself was feeling the strain of four

years of war. Over the spring and summer of 1918 there had been,

> *"so many casualties ... that there simply weren't enough men to keep four battalions to a brigade ... The officers tried to break up the 54th Battalion ... The men of the 54th objected and the rest backed them up".*

Other battalions in the Brigade halved their rations and shared them with the mutinous 54th, whose rolling cookers had been confiscated. Their officers were withdrawn, but the men elected their own and maintained strict discipline. The battalion was warned on parade that troops and guns would be used to coerce them; the rest of the Brigade declared their intention to stand by the 54th. Eventually, after provocative threats from other Brigadiers, the 14th's new commander, Brigadier J.C. Stewart, stepped in and ordered men individually to report to other battalions. This prompted an epidemic of men walking away from the parade, and the officers were forced to compromise on amalgamating the 54th and 56th, allowing each to retain their own colour patches. On 29 September, three days after the 54th's officers returned, the Brigade was once more in action, in support of American troops attacking Bellecourt.

On 11 November, Dadswell, "still feeling jolly depressed and dreading another trip in", met an officer who told him to "take it easy". At 11 a.m. the officer emerged from a dug-out saying, "Boys, you've lost your jobs, the wars over ..."

> Dadswell recalled that *"the men just stood quiet and looked at one another, as though they couldn't take it in. One felt like crawling away on his own, the relief was so great. Some of the boys got drunk, but the majority just seemed stunned, as though they were afraid it might not be true."*

He spent Christmas and New Year in Britain, where an alarmed Scottish family mistook his occupation, (bushman), for 'bushranger'. In April 1919, after another spell in hospital, he embarked for home, arriving in Ararat in May. Many mates were absent; *"forty five of us enlisted from home, all the unmarried men of the district. Of these fifteen had died overseas and of the rest, only three of us had not been wounded".*

The returned men "thought there would never be another war while the men who had been through it lived. How wrong we were".

Early in July he received his discharge, "and that was the end of Bluey the Sig. I became a civilian again". Adjusting to civilian life after four years in the army was difficult. Dadswell resented the assumption that returned men were hard-drinking, smoking larrikins, becoming irritated by the exclaimation "what, and you a soldier" when he refused a drink. *"We were back in the community", he wrote, "a part of it and yet apart. There was a gap we couldn't forget and that the others couldn't bridge.*

And so we remained – returned soldiers".

Harry Dadswell 1894-1978
A short Biography.

Harley Dadswell

This short biography of Sapper Dadswell has been provided by his son, Mr Harley Dadswell, by whose generous permission the forgoing article appeared.

Henry William Dadswell was born at Warrak near Ararat, Victoria, on 20 July 1894. After schooling at Mt Cole until age 15, he joined his father who was a carpenter, farmer and engine driver. Together they farmed and constructed – from solid bush timbers – buildings in the Ararat district.

After his discharge in 1919, he spent a year around the Ararat district before going to Mildura. He saw the grape growing of that district, and in 1922 was successful in obtaining land at Red Cliffs as a soldier settler. His first home was a tent, followed by a bag humpy, and later with his father he built a timber home which the family occupied for the following 50 years.

At the outbreak of World War Two, Dadswell joined the Voluntary Defence Corps of the A.I.F., and spent a short time at the Portsea garrison before returning to the Sunraysia district. About this time he became interested in the scouting movement, and he held a variety of leadership positions unitl 1963 when the then Victorian Lieutenant Governor, Sir Edmund Herring, presented him with the Scout Medal of Merit – his second "MM".

Apart from successfully developing a grape vineyard along with citrus fruits, Henry Dadswell also developed the district's first successful commercial avocado plantation.

Harry Dadswell and his wife Jessie had five children. He finally retired to a house in the township of Red Cliffs in 1977, and died at the age of 84 on 7 August 1978. His grave is close to his birthplace, at Mount Cole.

Victoria Barracks, Paddington, Part One

Maurice Austin

In 1836 the Board of Ordnance set about tidying up its land and property holdings in the various colonies, and to vest ownership in the local Respective Officers under similar conditions to those obtaining in England.(1)

Towards the end of 1838 Governor Gipps introduced a Bill into the Legislative Council of New South Wales to achieve this result, although he was forced to withdraw it in the face of determined opposition. The *Sydney Herald* saw the proposals as a new whiggish trick, amounting to a system of hidden taxation to plunder the public through the setting up of a powerful military corporation which would get possession of a great portion of the lands of the Colony, and by means of its wealth and power obtain an unconstitutional influence. Petitions to the Legislative Council were organized. It was feared that the Bill might stop the ferry from Dawe's Point to the north shore of Port Jackson; these lands, particularly the site of the George Street Barracks, which it was proposed to move, might be disposed of without advantage to the town. It was claimed that the land should revert to the Colony, as it was no longer needed for military purposes, and the proceeds paid into the Land Fund used for immigration.

Gipps was somewhat embarrassed, as the Legislative Council had only recently agreed to pay from the Land Fund the purchase price for the land on which the Newcastle barracks were then building. The Colony could logically expect that if such land was no longer needed for military purposes it should be disposed of for the benefit of the Land Fund. He suggested to the Secretary for War and the Colonies, Lord Glenelg, that the agreement be cancelled, and the Newcastle barracks funded from the Military Chest. If this occured in the case of Sydney, the Board of Ordnance could take the difference in value between the old and new sites, providing sufficient money to build the new barracks on a far more eligible military site. Gipps anticipated little trouble in having the Bill passed by the Legislative Council.

Ordnance and Treasury agreed, and Gipps again introduced the Bill in late May 1840. The old arguments were immediately rehashed and ventilated, the *Sydney Herald* urging resistence to "its insidious proposal to build barrakcs fir for ten times the number of soldiers that a free population would require", and somewhat prophetically 'which will soon be followed by payment for the military also'.

Nevertheless, in spite of the clamour, the Bill was passed and assented on 2 July. Gipps informed the new Secretary for War and the Colonies, Lord John Russell, that it had been passed without opposition since it was now better understood, slthough a clause had been added requiring the Respective Officers to submit annually to the Governor, for the information of the Legislative Council, a return of all lands held under the Act, and all rents and profits derived from them. He informed Russell that the main, and in fact the only cause of discontent was that long standing grievance of the "question of the payment by the Colony of the whole of the expenses of its Police and Goals; it is the never ceasing cause of nearly all the abuse which is heaped upon Her Majecty's Government and myself; indeed I scarcely have had any difficulty to contend with that may not be traced to this source". Gipps reassured the Legislative Council that as they had passed the Bill on his word 'he would be more than cautious in carrying it into effect, and he would take care that not one foot of land [would] be conveyed to the Board that is not actually required for military purposes'. Gipps was true to his word – the first title deeds were not vested until July 1843, and the last, Victoria Barracks, on 31 July 1850.(2)

While the frenentic editor of the *Sydney Herald*

fought a losing battle against the passing of the Ordnance Vesting Bill, preparations had been quietly going forward for the accouchement of Victoria Barracks, Paddington. (3)

As early as 1836 "because of the defective conditions" of the George Street Barracks, the Commanding Royal Engineer (CRE), Major George Barney, had "considered it necessary to submit to the Home Governemt, Plans and Estimates of New Barracks'. It was not until May 1839, however, that the project really got started when the Board of Ordnance agreed with Gipps' proposals that the George Street Barracks be exchanged for a new site and a sum of money for the erection of new barracks. The expense of building Victoria Barracks" ... and placing them in a complete state to receive therein the troops to be stationed [there] is to be defrayed out of the proceeds of the sale, if sold, of the George Street Barracks". (4)

The George Street (or "Old") Barracks were not as bad perhaps as described. Giving evidence on their disposal to a committee of the Legislative Council in September 1847, Lieutenant Colonel James Gordon RE stated that with very few exceptions the men's quarters were habitable; the walls were plumb; the main timber good, and could be let at considerable rent either as shops or wharehouses. The officers' quarters, however, were in poor condition and would require considerable repair.(5)

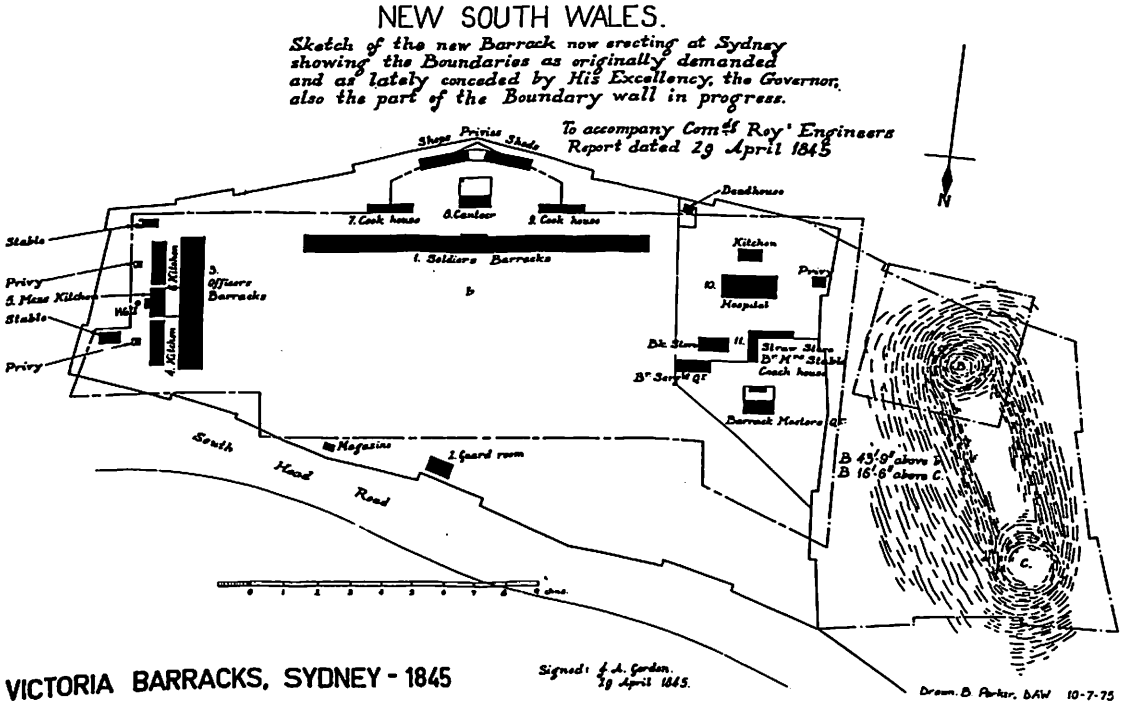
The Committee which had examined the Ordnance Vesting Bill had recommended that the proposals be approved provided the whole cost did not exceed £60 000. The Bill was assented on 2 July 1840, and on 3 August Gipps authorised Lieutenant Colonel George Barney to proceed with the work. He expected that the cost would not be exceeded, provided convict labour was used. Once this dried up costs would probably rise. The Committee also suggested that other sited be considered, although for reasons not now evident, but possibly connected with the defence of Sydney from the direction of Botany Bay the site was finally settled on the Old South Head Road (now Oxford Street). The availability of sandstone on site may also have been an important consideration.

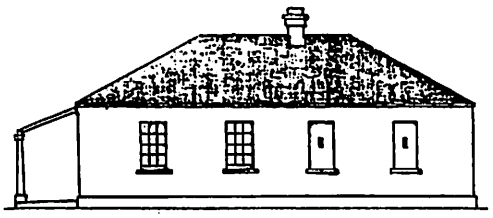
By late 1840 working parties from the 50th Regiment were busy clearing the ground for the commencement of work on 8 February the following year. There were some like 'Disciplinarian' who welcomed the move of troops from the centre of Sydney, although for reasons which could give little comfort to their commander. "Every person must be aware to what an extent the drunkenness, disorderly conduct, robberies and open violence of the military have lately been carried to; therefore, their removal has been sincerely looked for, and now will be hailed with joy".(6)

There could have been little comfort for that matter to Mr Owen M' Hugh who had the unenviable task of directing the work 'of the whole of the convicts lately arrived on the *Kelso'*, and others who were also employed. Soon after work was commenced five from the *Eden* went for a spree in the bush one Sunday, followed the next day by another nine; A few weeks later two runaways from the Barracks Stockade were committed for trial for robbery. It is sad to record, but perhaps with little wonder that the new barrakcs claimed its first victim with the death of M'Hugh in August 1841. (7)

In spite of these *contretemps*, however, the work proceeded apace. By August 1841 the *Sydney Herald* reported that 150/200 tons of rough stone had been stockpiled for the hewers. Moreover the convicts working on the project appeared clean and healthy and good man-management seemed to prevail. As an instance of the efficiency of the task system which had been adopted the *Herald* stated that between Monday morning and noon on the following Saturday twenty-eight men had removed 850 cubic yards to provide foundations for the officers' barracks, which was 400 cubic yards in excess of the alloted man/task of 3 cubic yards per day. The only encouragement for the extra work was truck in the form of tea, sugar and tobacco to the extent of about a third to a half that paid for free labour, then priced at twelve to eighteen pence. per 1.6 cubic yards.(8)

By 1843 economic conditions in New South Wales began to cause problems. Property values had fallen and it was questionable whether the George Street Barracks would realize as much as had been anticipated. The Respective Officers were also creating difficulties, claiming that New South Wales was bound to defray the whole cost of Victoria Barracks, no matter what the expense might be, while at the same time proposing alterations such as the substitution of slates for shingles, which would increase the cost. There was also a tentative demand for a hospital to be built on the same site although no hospital exited within the George Street Barracks. Since the Respective Officers had complete control over the project Gipps asked Stanley to ensure that no higher charges than those which he had originally



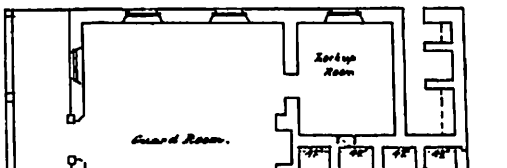

Elevation of Guard House

No 1

New South Wales
Victoria Barracks
Sydney

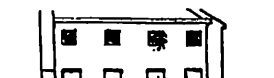
Plan, Elevation, and Section of Guard House, shewing proposed conversion of Engine House into four Cells.

To accompany Special Estimate Dated 24 March 1849



Plan of Guard House.

Scale 10 feet to 1 Inch.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authorised be brought against the Colony. Stanley "supposed" the final decision would rest with Treasury. (9)

The situation was somewhat more complicated than Gipps knew. Transportation had ceased and as a result troops were to be redistributed between New South Wales and Tasmania. Moreover, the proposed appropriation of the south wing of the Sydney General Hospital envisaged some expenditure to provide new accommodation for medical stores, and no new expenditure had been approved for this purpose by Treasury. From an Ordnance point of view all building on Victoria Barracks should cease while the situation was clarified. Treasury agreed; Gipps was advised, and in addition asked to give his views on the disposal of ordnance land and buildings which were no longer required.(10)

A fortnight later Stanley forwarded the Ordnance rebuttal, stating that it was less necessary that he should express his opinion since the change in troop distribution would probably supercede the necessity to complete the agreement for building Vicotria Barracks. Ordnance believed that the agreement was such that the colony was not relieved from paying for the construction 'upon a scale of accommodation equivalent to the George St Barracks, no matter what sum should be required to achieve that result. Apart from this, slates had been included in the original estimate, and Ordnance would not know of any other change to which Gipps referred until a report was received from the CRE. The original estimate did not include a new hospital, it being presumed that there was sufficient accommodation in the 'Military general hospital' which formed no part of the George St Barracks. The colonial government had made numerous groundless claims to this hospital although Ordnance had gone to lengths to "accommodate the colony as much as possible without detriment to the military service". If the colony wanted the whole of the hospital it would have to provide funds for another. The CRE had been told to put a stop to all expenditure on the south wing of the general hospital as a public dispensary. (11)

Meanwhile the buildings progressed. In March 1843 the Commissariat called for tenders for specialised trades – carpenters, glaziers, plasterers, plumbers, slaters and smiths. The results seem to have been satisfactory since by the following August the whole of the 'eastern side' (i.e. the officers' quarters), together with subsidiary buildings such as stables, kitchens and out-houses, had been almost completed, and it was hoped would be roofed by the end of that month. Rooms on the north eastern corner had been plastered, and "it was generally believed", quite erroneously as it happened, that this section would be occupied by the end of September. "The central or south side of the quadrangle [i.e. the main barrack blocks] has so far progressed that its formation has throughout nearly its whole extent been built up level with the surface; it consists of two layers of five feet, two layers of four feet and two layers of three feet thick; the thickness of the walls throughout is two feet". Site preparation was obviously time consuming since for some months previously not less than 260 men had been clearing the foundation and quarrying the stone, while another 100 were hewing and building under the contractors Messrs Brodie and Craig. The planned capacity of the Barracks was officially stated to be three field officers, thirty two officers, 800 men, ten horses and a hospital for fifty patients, although by 1851 this had been changed to four field officers, thirty six officers, 646 men, ten horses and a hospital for eighty four patients. (12)

Discussion on the 1844 Estimates showed there was some confusion. Introducing the Victoria Barracks expenditure the Colonial Secretary said that the question had been raised whether more than £56 000 would be required, it having been calculated that the George Street Barracks would fetch more than that sum. To date £13 750 had been advanced and he was now asking for another £12 000. Exactly what Ordnance wanted was not clear, although it was evident that they were endeavouring to extend the area of the Barracks, and ensure that whatever happened to the price of either land or labour they would not be the losers. The item was passed.

By the end of 1843 "a numerous population, chiefly of the labouring class" had begun to settle in Chippendale, Paddington and around Victoria Barracks. The *Sydney Morning Herald* urged the District Council to bestir itself and establish regulations for cleanliness and order. The city Surveyor should ensure that the street lines should be stricltly observed; good wells should be sunk; stations for a superior class constable or headborough established; and above all, schools were required, since they would also answer for worship on Sundays. It was clearly evident that " the present filthy and crowded state of some of the bark and slab huts in the narrow lanes and yards of these places will render them a complete hot-bed

for the spread of any disease which may come among us". (13)

Transportation may have ceased but the Victoria Stockade still continued to have its problems. During the evening of 20 December 1843 a number of men who were being worked in irons showed symptoms of insubordination. The Superintendent of Police, Major Innes, repaired to the Stockade having mustered all the police on duty in Sydney and alerted the Army, Innes with the assistance of the peaceable men in the Stockade secured the ringleaders and the incipient revolt collapsed. Joseph Shields, who had struck an overseer two severe blows on the head with a heavy piece of sharp iron was committed for trial for attempted murder, one Sullivan was to spend the next twelve months in the iron gang for throwing stones, while another went to Cockatoo Island for "inciting the others". (14)

By mid-1844 Gipps was in a position to reply to Stanley's direction to cease works on Victoria Barracks. After outlining his views on the distribution of troops between New South Wales and Tasmania, he stated that he, the Commander of the Australian Command Major General Sir Maurice O'Connell, and the Respective Officers were agreed that the work on the Barracks should continue. Accommodation was planned for 800 men – he had recommended that 720 be stationed in Sydney; £22 000 had been expended already; and the CRE, Gordon, did not consider that the orders from Ordnance, or the views contained in the exchange of letters between the Colonial office and Treasury prevented their completion. (15)

The following month Gipps pointed out that the agreement to build the Barracks was a three-party affair between Ordnance, Legislative Council and Secretary of State (or more properly the Treasury as expenditure was involved). All three parties were agreed, although the Legislative Council had assented only on the condition that £60 000 would not be increased. The Respective Officers were informed on 3 August 1840 of this condition, and it was up to them whether the work was commenced. They did so, and to date £25 750 had been advanced by the Council, and expended entirely under the control of the Respective Officers. Ordnance appeared to be under the impression that the Sydney General Hospital was a military establishment. This was not correct – the military hospital was a different building in a different part of the town, and was inconveniently placed, as was the General Hospital, to Victoria Barracks. A new hospital would doubtless be necessary, although he submitted that the colony could hardly be expected to foot the bill – or if it was forced to do so, it should be entitled to the land and buildings of the existing military hospital. Finally, work was still proceeding on Victoria Barracks at an average rate of £1000 a month. (16)

By September 1844 the work had progressed to the stage that "The officers quarters and detached out-buildings completed, except for staircases, trimmings to doors and windows, and plastering to walls and ceilings of those houses; also the whole of the masons work of soldier's quarters and canteen, and foundation of cooking house, west wing completed."(17)

Problems, meanwhile, had arisen regarding the Barracks land. In 1842 it had been found that part of the proposed site belonged to there presentatives of the late Barnell Levey, and it was thought that the Council would have to pass a Bill authorising a jury to assess compensation. Two years later it was found that the site of the Barracks, selected in 1836, had been changed, although nobody had taken the trouble to inform Ordnance, and it was now necessary that the site of the barrack square, orginally granted to Mr Daniel Cooper in 1838, be acquired. The site could be purchased, although Barney (now in London) suggested, in effect, that it be bartered for another piece of equivalent land elsewhere. Under the Australian Waste Lands Acts, however, this course was not feasible, and since no special Act was passed by the Council it can only be assumed that the land was pruchased.(18)

As already mentioned, there were those who were looking forward to the completion of the barracks and the removal of the soldiers from the city, although most of those who had to, or wanted to use the Old South Head Road skirting the northern wall of Victoria Barracks were probably anything but amused at the state of the road. In March 1843, the Sydney City Council, whose jurisdiction stopped at the city boundary, short of the Barracks, discussed the dilapidated state of the Road and agreed that every effort should be made to get highways within its jurisdiction. Nothing was done and the Road beyond the City boundary remained a plague for pedestrians, who were liable "to have their heads torn off" for many years. The road broke up under the combined efforts of water running off the Barrack grounds, and the collapse of drains under what could only be euphemistically called

the carriage way. Serious accidents occurred both day and night; carriages were torn off their wheels, and the 'establishment' of Sydney prevented from taking the benefit of the invigorating sea breezes, or enjoying the magnificent views of the harbour, both of which were needed to escape the bullock-team panorama and dust polluted Sydney street, particularly in the summer.

Considerable rhetoric was expended with little result. Temporary repairs were effected, even by private subscription, but no full scale rehabilitation was even contemplated – free men, after all, cost money, and the *corvee* had diminished with the availability of convicts. Nobody was anxious to claim responsibility, or to take any practical measures to overcome the hazards. Sections of the Road under the control of the City Council were just as bad, including a six-feet escarpment near the Sportsman public house, and a large hole "into which two gentlemen fell, and but for timely assistance their lives would have been sacrificed". However, the section most complained of was completely outside City jurisdiction; the District Council was anxious to adopt it "but could not' for reasons best known to themselves", while the CRE "turned his nose up at it", although at the same time he built "a famous road ... running parallel at *a few yards distance*, ... merely for communication with the officers' quarters". The city Council aggravated matters by removing materials from the vicinity for the repair of city roads.

Without doubt the Road was "the greatest disgrace to the first city of the Southern Hemisphere – what [was] to be done?" One suggestion to create a Paddington Ward was not enthusiastically received, and the unsatisfactory arrangement continued. After many years agitation conditions steadily grew worse. Just before the Barracks were occupied in 1848 it was stated that the sand blown from the nearby hills covered the Road in some places to a depth of three feet: A petition to the Governor late in 1847 resulted in £320 being appropriated for repairs. The Deputy Surveyor General was authorised to let a contract, but it was reported that his amount was too small, and would merely build a wall to keep sand off the Road; the amount should be doubled by "ordnance on behalf of the military". The Deputy Surveyor General does not seem to have relished his task, and a temporary Trust was created, consisting of Messrs Wallis and Smith, the owners of Waverley, a scattered hamlet four and a half miles from Sydney, and Alderman Broughton of Glenmore Road. There was immediate complaints that of the £320 available £200 had been allocated to the Waverley end of the Road, and of the remainder only £40 for that part near Victoria Barracks. Nevertheless sonething seems to have been done, since five months later the complaints were not directed so much to the Road as to the lack of a footpath which would protect pedestrians from speeding cabmen, carters and horsemen. (19)

No real improvement could be expected, however, until responsibility was clarified and finance provided for repairs. This occurred in the middle of 1848 when an Act was passed appointing Commissioners of Trust for both the Old and New South Head Roads, with authority to levy tolls. By March the following year the new commander, Major General E.B. Wynyard was complaining of the inconvenient location of the turnpike, which had been erected just outside the City boundary at the junction of Dowling Street, Victoria Street and the Old South Head Road. Officers and soldiers were exempt from paying toll when "in proper staff or regimental or military uniform dress or undress", although this did not apply when they were wearing civilian dress. If the turnpike had been moved to the City side of Glenmore Road, which Wynyard requested, but which the Commissioners claimed they had no power to alter, it would have been simple for the occupants to avoid the toll. (20)

There was a much sharper reaction to toll-gates in Tasmania, where Lieutenant Colonel Despard, commanding the 99th, in October 1848 summoned the toll-keeper at New Town for not letting him proceed free of charge. The case was dismissed on the grounds that Despard was not wearing his sword at the time.(21) By January 1850 the road was reported to be in excellent repair. "A more pleasant morning's drive than a trip to South Head, going by the old road, and returning by the new one, it would be difficult to find in any part of the world". Tolls were to be halved on 1 February.(22)

A contemporary summed up the views of the inmates –

> *The facilities for reaching town by public conveyances are very limited. No cab stand is within two miles, but a solitary omnibus passes at rare intervals, at a pace which worthily rivals the 'creeping' of its prototypes in Cheapside and the Strand. Lastly, by way of climax to the disgust of the military exiles, after banishing*

them from town, and removing them from the scene of their duties, to locate them among sandhills, the municipal authorties erected a toll bar between the barracks and Sydney; thus not only mulcting the fortunate possessor of horses and carriages, but laying a tax on every thing consumed by both high and low, since butchers, bakers, and grocers did not entertain the idea of paying an addition toll out of their former profits. So much for the selection of a site for this new and happy creation of the Ordnance Department.

The same contemporary was not impressed with the state of the Road – "The journey into Sydney is to be performed through a six inch layer of dust or mud, according as the season may favour the production of those accessories to the comfort of equestrians and pedestrians." (23)

However, in spite of the then condition of the Old South Head Road, development continued. In March 1845 Mr Stubbs was busy auctioning property, and twelve houses, in an

improving situation, being close to the New Military Barracks, in a populous neighbourhood, and just outside the city boundary, consequently exempt from the Corporation rates. It also has a frontage to the South Head Road, calculated for the erection of a first-rate public-house, with garden ground in the rear two well calculated for TEA OR PLEASURE GARDENS, renders it remarkably well adapted for, and which would beyond doubt, prove a very advantageous speculation. (24)

The occasional heavy rains not only damaged the Road, but also the Barrack wall. In April part of the wall collapsed proving that the foundations were insufficient. "In one spot a stick may be stuck up to two feet in the wet sand, and a fall of some four inches or more is distinctly visible between the ends of the stones still standing". Three years later the Colonial Secretary was cautioning the CRE on water wastage. (25)

By August the *Herald* was investigating why the Barracks were still only half-completed. The officers' quarters, stables and kitchens were finished, although half of them were lacking fittings. As to the remainder,

The soldiers' quarters, originally intended for eight hundred men, although hardly sufficiently capacious have yet to be more contracted in order to make room for the soldiers' library. The quarters, however, together with cook-houses and cleaning houses are almost completed. There is a guard house in the course of erection near the main gate in the front wall, also a magazine for the ordinary ammunition. The wall itself may be said to have reached halfway; the other walls, however, have not been commenced. There are yet to be commenced and built, the hospital, the barrack-master's quarters and stores, and sundry adjuncts, besides the walls before mentioned. We understand that at present there are about a hundred and fifty convicts employed by the Ordnance department, a few in levelling the interior of the area occupied by the barracks, the remainder in quarrying, and about fifty stonemasons and builders, and some five carpenters, under the contractors. One great difficulty in finishing is the impossibility of procuring slates in the colony, and in consequence in order to prevent deterioration, the out buildings in many parts have to be covered with shingles ... In addition to the building, there is a labour of great magnitude yet to be performed, namely, the removal of the vast body of sand from the laying down of the ground within the walls. It is said that the convicts now employed in the quarry are forthwith to be set to this work, and that a system of small payments is to be adopted, to induce them to get on with it.

Altogether during 1845 the project had been underspent by £3 000, and the main reason for this appears to have been the shortage of convict labour. (26)

It was in the same year that the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that the Horse Guards had ordered a cricket ground be attached to every barrack and military station in England. However, as far as Victoria Barracks was concerned the item 'Construction of Military Gardens and Cricket Ground £150' did not appear until the Revised Estimates for 1853.

Some slight difficulty arose over the provision of a Military Hospital. Since the colony provided the money to build Victoria Barracks, Governor Fitzroy asked the Respective Officers in late 1847 to report how the money had been spent. Somewhat dessembling, he informed Grey, that on receiveing their report he had 'perceived' that a hospital had been built, a fact of which he must well have been aware since the foundation stone, with due ceremony, had been laid two years previously, by the CRE assisted by the contractors.

The stone weighed about 15 cwt underneath which was placed the current coins of the realm

of Old England, the Sydney Morning Herald, a bottle of wine etc etc. The affair passed off much to the satisfaction of all the attendant parties. (27)

Gordon, the CRE, informed the Colonial Secretary of New South Wales that Barney had included the eighty-four bed hospital in the original plans, under the conviction that relinguishing the South Wing of the General Hospital made it incumbent on the Colony to provide a military general hospital – the building in Macquarie Street being destined for a military and general hospital conjointly. It is difficult to see how this confusion could have arisen, since the regimental hospital in theGeorge Street Barracks had been removed and replaced by the Fort Street Military Hospital some thirth-five years before. Gipps had objected to the hospital being included in the cost of Victoria Barracks, and the question had been left in abeyance while the colonial liability for not more than £60 000 had been finally settled. Once this had been decided, as far as the Respective Officers were concerned, it set at rest any interference by New South Wales in matters of detail. The Barracks would not be fit for troop occupation unless a hospital was provided, and on this basis the work proceeded. In Gordon's view it was not possible to segregate specific costing to the hospital, although as an estimate he believed it would be about £3 700 leaving a deficiency of about £3 440 over the £60 000 provided by the Colony. The Respective Officers belived that Ordnance had made a major concession when a limit was agreed to the amount to be paid, and the most on which New South Wales could insist would be the surrender of the Fort Street Hospital when Ordnance had taken possession of Victoria Barracks. Fitzroy had little difficulty inducing the Legislative Council to accept such a bargain, and in the course of time the Fort Street Hospital was appropraited into the colonial educational system.

Early in 1849 Fitzroy advised Grey, that with Wynyard's concurrence, the convict hospital in Sydney had been handed over to the Committee of the Sydney Infiemary in exchange for the south wing of the hospital, which was to be converted into offices for Wynyard and his staff, as well as an army medical store. (28)

The second part of Brigadier Austin's article will appear in the April-June edition of Sabretache

Notes

1. The Respective Officers were virtually a local Board of Ordnance and consisted of the local Commander Royal Engineers (CRE), and senior Stockkeeper, and Commissariat Officers.
2. 29-9-38 Gipps/Stanley Historical Records of Australia, Series 1, Volume 19, pp 592, 594 (Henceforth cited as HRA 19-592, 594); The site of the proposed 'new' barracks was then south of the Carter's Barracks near Cleveland House - War Office (WO) 44/182, Australian Joint Copying Project micro film reel (R) 929, Folio (F) 158, (WO 44/182 R929 F158), not as stated in HRA near the present site. 21-8-39 Normanby/Gipps HRA 20-288; 29-5-40, 1, 12, 15, 17, 19-6-40, 6, 8-7-40 *Sydney Herald* (SH); 4 Vic 2 Public General Statutes of NSW, 1861, p 1015; 28-6-50 NSW *Gazette.*
3. Originally known as the 'New' Barracks. The first mention of 'Victoria' seems to be an advertisement in the *Sydney Morning Herald* (SMH) on 7-3-45, while the first official recognition of that name appears to be in the Colonial Secretary's (Col Sec) correspondence on 25-9-46 (letters 46/95, 46/6510 NSW Archives (NSWA) 4/3802).
4. 27-8-31 Normanby/Gipps HRA 20-288
5. Votes and Proceedings Legislative Council N.S.W. (VPLCNSW) 1847 Vol 2.
6. 5-12-40 SH
7. 2, 24-2-40, 12-8-42 SH.
8. 9-8-41, 5-7-42 SH; *History of Victoria Barracks* (draft 1970) P.J. Greville, p 23; 5, 7-11-46 Col Sec/CRE NSWA 4/3803; 20-2-47 Col Sec/CRE 47/32, 47/39, 47/1661 NSWA 4/3803.
9. 8-5-43 Gipps/Stanley HRA 22-714; WO 1/431 R894 F34 (minute by Stanley).
10. 29-9-43 Ordnance (Ord)/Colonial Office (CO) WO 1/431 R894 F829; 23-10-43 CO/Ord *Ibid.*, F833; 20-11-43 Treasury (Tsy)/Ord *Ibid.*, F933; 7-12-43 Stanley/Gipps HRA 23-240.
11. Greville *op. cit.* p8; 21-12-43 Stanley/Gipps HRA 23-264.
12. 8-8-43 SMH; CO 206/85 R1174 (Blue Book to 30-9-43); CO 206/93 R1177 (Blue Book 1851)
13. 26-10-43 SMH.
14. 21, 25-12-43 SMH.
15. 10-6-44 Gipps/Stanley HRA 23-637.
16. 21-7-44 Gipps/Stanley HRA 26-688.
17. CO 206/86 R1184 (Blue Book to 30-9-44).

18. 18-6-42 SH; Greville *op. cit.* p17; 29-6-44 Inspector General of Fortifications (IGF) /CO WO 1/432 R895 F465; 5-7-44 CO/Ord *ibid.*, – the great pity is that the sixteen enclosures were not retained by the CO.
19. 4, 30-3-43, 20-11-44, 16-12-44, 10, 18-1-45, 5-3-46, 17-7-46, 29-9-46, 3-10-46, 22-1-47, 17-11-47, 25-1-48, 7, 8-3-48, 29-5-48 SMH.
20. 15-6-48 11 Vic 49; 9-3-32 2 Gul IV 12; 3-3-49 Col Sec/Wynyard 49/2206 and subsequent correspondence NSWA 4/3803.
21. 11-10-48 SMH.
22. Although Colburn's *United Service Magazine and Naval and Military Journal* 1851, Volume 1, p 518 did not agree on the condition of the road. (Colburn 51-1-518).
23. Colburn 51.1.511.
24. 7-3-45 SMH.
25. 12-4-45 SMH; 28-1-48 Col Sec/CRE NSWA 4/3803.
26. 15-8-45 SMH; 25-9-46 Col Sec/CRE 46/95, 46/6510 NSWA 4/3802.
27. Parts of Fort Phillip are still extant and form part of the Bureau of Meteorology at the southern end of the Harbour Bridge; 18-10-45 SMH; 10-5-48 Fitzroy/Grey WO 1/520 R898 F15 (Fitzroy succeede Gipps on 2-8-46).
28. 2-1-48 CRE/Col Sec WO 1/520 R898 F28; 8-5-43 Gipps/Stanley HRA 22-719; the deficiency was finally reported to be only £741, 13-4-49 Ord/CO WO 1/521 R899 F301 *et seq;* 18-4-48 Fitzroy/LCNSW Message 14; 27-4-48 SMH; 16-2-49 Fitzroy/ Grey CO 201/411 R401 F409.

The Exchange of the Albert Medal for the George Cross.

Jeff Williams

The Albert Medal, awarded for acts of gallantry on land or sea, was founded by Queen Victoria in memory of her late husband. Medals awarded in gold were known as the Albert Medal First Class; those in bronze, the Albert Medal Second Class. Until 1940, when the George Cross was instituted, the Albert Medal was the highest award for civilian bravery. In November 1949 King George VI, largely because of the foundation of the George Cross and the George Medal, gave approval that the award of gold medals should cease and those in bronze should only be awarded posthumously.

In 1971 the British Government accepted the claim that surviving holders of the Albert and Edward Medals did not receive the recognition which was their undoubted due because of the decline in the significance and status of these awards. As a result all lining holders of these medals were asked to exchange their awards for the George Cross. The Albert and Edward Medals, intituted in 1866 and 1907 respectively, ceased to be awarded from that time and their holders were henceforth entitled to use the post-nominals "G.C." and were invited to attend an investiture ceremony at Buckingham Palace to receive their George Crosses.

At that time there were six Australian holders of the Albert Medal still living and five of these accepted the investiture invitation. The six were Arthur Gerald Bogot D.S.C., Jack Chalmers, Stanley Gibbs, Robert Murray Kavanaugh, William Simpson McAloney O.B.E., and Richard Walter Richards.

Arthur Bagot in August 1918 assisted another naval officer to remove a depth charge from a burning motor launch thereby preventing possible loss of life in the crowd which thronged the nearby quay. William McAloney attempted to rescue an officer from the burning wreckage of an aircraft at Hamilton, Victoria in 1937. Of great

interest was the award to Richard Richards, who as a member of the Ross Sea Party of the 1914-17 Shackleton Trans Antarctic Expedition, displayed heroism in saving and endeavouring to save the lives of other members of the Expedition. The remaining three exchanged medals were awarded for attempted rescues from shark attacks, all on Sydney beaches. This is hardly surprising as eight of the total of 26 Albert Medal awards to Australians were made for this reason.

The first award to an Australian was made in 1887 to William Yaldwyn who rescued six persons from a flood at Charleville, Queensland in July 1886. The last awards were made posthumously om 1965 to Electrical Mechanic 1st Class William Condon and Midshipman Kerry Marien for gallantry at the sinking of HMAS Voyager on 10 February 1964. Of the 26 awards surely the most interesting is that awarded in February 1911 to 'Neighbour", an aboriginal native of the Roper River area. "Neighbour" saved the life of the trooper who was bringing him into custody when the trooper was being carried off by the current of the flooded Wilton River. Eight Australians had received the Edward Medal* but none of the recipients were still living when the awards were exchanged.

* The Edward Medal was awarded for acts of gallantry in mines and quarries. Of the Australian awards, the first were made in 1909 and the last in 1925.

Slouch Hats turned up to the right

Max Chamberlain

Recently there has been discussion in the press (for example the Melbourne *Sun*, Wednesday 2 July 1980) that the producers of the film Breaker Morant had erred because he was depicted with his slouch hat turned up to the left instead of the right.

Monuments in Victoria, for example at Ballarat and Brunswick, clearly show Boer War soldiers with their hats turned up to the right. However, although most units that went from Australia to the South African War appear to have worn the hat turned up to the left, Victorian and Tasmanian Colonial units seem to have all adopted the right. As Mounted Rifles did not shoulder arms it did not matter which side the hat turned up, and on service it was probably often worn with the brim down.

So Victoria was an exception. The South Australian units chose the left and contemporary illustrations of Morant show his hat turned up to the left, although whether the Bushveldt Carbiners (not an Australian unit) generally wore it this way is not clear. In G.R. Witton's *Scapegoats of the Empire*, photographs opposite page 39 and 47 show a variety of caps, lemonsqueezers and slouch hats worn by the B.V.C.

The Victorian preference seems to have extended into the units contributed by that State to the Australian Commonwealth Horse, raised in 1902, as contemporary photographs attest: for example, E. Old (4A.C.H.), *By Bread Alone*, facing page 32, while photographs in J. Bufton, *Tasmanian in the Transvaal* clearly show that Tasmania had changed to the left-hand turn-up for its Commonwealth troops. The A.C.H. uniforms seem, therefore, not to have been identical for all States.

Some observations on the .303" Cartridge.

Syd Wigzell

In 1889 the first .303" cartridge was adopted by Great Britain as the "Cartridge, Small Arms Ball, Magazine Rifle, (Mark I)". This cartridge, the parent of all subsequent .303" small arms ammunition, incorporated a 215 grain roundnose bullet with a lead core and cupro-nickel jacket. The charge was a compressed black powder pellet – a temorary expedient anticipating the production of a suitable smokeless propellant. A cordite version, 'Cartridge, S.A., Ball, .303" Cordite (Mark I)", was introduced in 1892 while retaining essentially the same bullet as before. The later marks II and VI also used this type of bullet. The marks III, IV and V, which are hollow points, appear at first glance to be radically different, but a closer examination reveals the basic roundnose bullets with .1" holes punched into their noses.

It was not until 1910 that an updated cartridge was introduced – the .303" S.A.Ball Cartridge Mark VII. This Mark VII cartridge was supposed to be only a temporary expedient until the introduction of a new 7mm rimless cartridge, but the intervention of World War One assured the Mark VII of an enduring record of efficiency through two world wars and numerous lesser conflicts.

The new Mark VII bullet evolved from extensive tests to find a bullet that, compared with the older 215 grain type, would have a flatter trajectory, greater accuracy at long range, and greater wounding power. Experience has repeatedly proved the effectiveness of the design. The new bullet was pointed, flat based, and weighed 174 grains. A cupro-nickel envelope enclosed a lead core and an aluminium filler pellet. The aluminium pellet accupied the front of the jacket and the lead core the rear portion. This positioning of parts was to provide accuracy and stability. Muzzle velocity was 2440 ft/s compared with approximately 2000 ft/s for the older roundnose bullet.

Experimental firings have provided the following data. Maximum horizontal range is obtained at approximately 31^{o} elevation. The extreme horizontal range is around 3500 yards at which the terminal velocity is 315 ft/s, and this yields 40 foot pounds of energy – the equivalent of a nasty clout if not a theoretically lethal strike. In attaining this maximum range, the zenith of the trajectory is approximately 3000 feet and the time of flight about 27 seconds. In firing vertically, the maximum height reached is about 9000 feet and the time of flight (up and back to earth) a little more than 50 seconds. In one second, the Mark VII bullet travels 600 yards, in just over two seconds 1000 yards, and in 4 seconds 1500 yards. Up to 2000 yards, the bullet will ricochet off sand and earth and it seems that any richochet will not travel more than 2000 yards from the firer.

As Mark VII ammunition was manufactured over a long period, in many factories, and in quite a few countries, minor variations, as may well be expected, exist. Due to the exigencies of war or economic considerations, the aluminium filler in the bullet has at times been replaced by paper, jute fibres, wood and plastic. Some cases were filled with nitrocellulose powders rather than cordite and these cases are headstamped an addition "Z". The earlier produced bullets had silvery-looking cupro-nickel jackets while those of later production have gilding metal jackets which look brassy or golden.

Production figures for any one country, let alone world figures, seem to be classified information and the writer would appreciate any correspondence on this arcane subject. As an intriguing concluding comment in this vein, I would like to quote from a South African publication in my possession: " ... about 45% of the toal Allied output of 0.303 rifle ammunition was produced in the small-arms factory at Kimberley."

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Could this happen to you?

Arthur McGrath

Just recently a dealer offered to sell to me an Australian Meritorious Service Medal, George V, named to Warrant Officer F.C. King, Australian Instructional Corps, 5th Military District, dated 1921.

Warrant Officer Frederick Charles King had a varied and interesting military career. He was born in Britain in 1874 and at the age of 18 enlisted in the Royal Sussex Regiment. He saw service with the 2nd Battalion on the North-West Frontier of India in 1897 and 1898;

In 1900 he took part in the campaigns in Cape Colony and the Transvaal and later fought at Wittenberg and various engagements in South Africa in 1901 and 1902. In more peaceful times, as a Sergeant he won the Musketry Challenge Cup whilst stationed at Ballykinlar in 1907.

After completing twenty years' service with his Regiment he took his discharge and came to Western Australia in 1912, where he joined the Australian Instructional Corps as Warrant Officer.

On the outbreak of the Great War he offered his services to the AIF, but was required as an instructor in Western Australia. In 1918 his chance came, and he was appointed Lieutenant with the 28th Battalion AIF, and arrived in France for the big Allied push against the Germans, being wounded in November.

Back in Australia he reverted to Warrant Officer in the AIC from which he retired in 1926 after thirty four years' service. In civilian life he was involved in theatrical work for a number of years until his death in Perth in May 1936. The South African and Imperial Veterans Association provided an Honour Guard and a bugler to sound the Last Post at his funeral.

Warrant Officer King was awarded:

1. India Medal 1895. Bars 'Tirah 1897-98' and 'Punjab Frontier'.
2. Queen's South Africa Medal. Bars 'Cape Colony', 'Johannesburg', 'Diamond Hill', 'Wittenberg'.
3. King's South Africa Medal. Bars 'South Africa 1901' and '1902'.
4. War Medal 1914-18.
5. Victory Medal 1914-19.
6. Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, George V. Permanent Forces of the Empire Beyond the Seas. Reverse.
7. Australian Meritorious Service Medal, George V.

The often-asked question now arises. Where is the rest of the group? The answer;in my collection! I obtained it from the King family some years ago along with some documents, clippings, etc.

You may wonder whether i snapped up the MSM as offered by the dealer. As Eliza Doolittle was wont to say; "Not Bloody Likely". The group in my possession already contains the original MSM as issued to Warrant Officer King.

I can only assume that the 'spare' MSM is a product of the 1970's and is very nicely named, good enough perhaps to confuse any but the holder of the original medal. I wonder how many 'spares' of this kind will turn up in years to come? Collectors wanting an original will have to be cautious. I for one will certainly need evidence before I outlay some $300 for such an item.

Who Killed Cock Robin?

Maurice Austin

The Sydney Herald of Tuesday 7 September 1830 informed the relieved Colonists of the Colony of New South Wales of the death of the notorious bushranger Bold Jack Donohue. The leader article went on to give the particulars of his demise.

Lieutenant MacAlister (Half-Pay 48th) resident Magistrate of Argyle convinced that chasing bushrangers from place to place was futile, decided to keep a close watch on Donohue's haunts in a closely defined area and take advantage of surprise when any opportunity offered.

On 1 September, 1830 Sergeant Hodson (57th Regiment) and five mounted policemen and a constable were preparing to camp for the night in the Bringelly area, when they saw a suspicious group coming down a hill about a mile away.

> *The Sergeant then, in a hurry his party to divide. Placed one to fire in front of him, and then another on each side;*
> *The Sergeant and the Corporal, they both fired too,*
> *Till the fatal ball had pierced the heart of bold Jack Donohue.*

With due poetic license so says one version of the bush ballad. The facts are somewhat different. Two policemen were left at the camp. Not waiting to saddle up the sergeant and one other commenced an outflanking move to prevent escape, while the remaining three of the police party made a frontal attack.

In the words of the *Gazette*

> *After marching in double quick-time for about a mile, they came within a hundred yards of the men, when the latter for the first time observed their pursuers, and at once convinced them that their suspicions were correct. The bushrangers took to the trees for shelter, and showed a most determined resistance. DONOHUE called out to the Police to "come on", using the most insulting and indecent epithets; he fired; another of his party did the same, but both shots missed. DONOHUE then cheered his companions on, waving his hat, swearing he would beat the whole Colony, and shouting with all his might "charge, my boys!" The Police seeing the advantage the bushrangers had under cover of the trees, remained cool and observant, watching for a fair opportunity of firing with effect. Muggleston, who is rechoned one of the best shots, kept his eye steadily fixed on DONOHUE, and when the latter peeped from behind his tree, showing only his head and part of his breast, the wary soldier took aim, fired, and though a hundred yards distant, in less than a minute the vaunting bravo was in eternity.*

At the inquest on 6 September, Michael Gorman said

> *I am constable to Major Antill, of Stonequarry Creek and hold a Ticket-of-Leave ... I now levelled my piece, which went off at the same moment with those discharged by two of the robbers; In about another minute one of the soldiers named (Muggleston) fired, and I instantly saw the man now stated to be Donohue fall ... I account for the two wounds upon the deceased, from the circumstance that (Muggleston's) carbine was loaded with a carbine ball, and a pistol ball; and have no doubt whatever that he met his death with a shot from the latter.*

Muggleston informed the jury that

> *When Donohue saw us he took his hat off,*

threw it in the air, and bid us defiance ... I measured the ground next morning and ascertained the distance ... to be about one hundred yards.

The jury, after consulting about five minutes, returned a verdict of Justified Homicide.

Bold Jack, having 'at length ... received a mortal wound and in his glory died', asking 'Good people all, prey for the soul of poor Jack Donohue', lives on in folklore – but what of Muggleston?

John Muggleston, a groom, was born at Nelston (sic-Neilston?), and was enlisted in the 39th Regiment by Lieutenant Dowling at Coventry on 19 December, 1826, joining his unit on the following 8 January. He appears to have arrived in Sydney as part of a convict guard in the *Champion* on 17 October, 1827, disembarking two days later. He was not allowed to enjoy the sights of Sydney for long, and by Christmas was serving on Norfolk Island, where he remained until January, 1828 when he returned to Sydney. In March the following year he was seconded to the Mounted Police. In July, 1832 he was transferred to the 4th Regiment when the 39th moved to India, and in August, 1837 to the 80th when the 4th also departed Australia.

From 1 September, 1840 members of the Mounted Police were no longer bourne on regimental strength but were attached to units (in this case still the 80th) as supernumaries. Not that this affected the fame or fortune of John Muggleston, since he died at Newcastle four months later on 13 January, 1841.

Note The ballads quoted above are from *Old Bush Songs*, Stewart and Keesing, Sydney 1957.

The Bluebirds

Peter Burness

Australian women contributed to the war effort in a variety of ways between 1914-18. The most direct contribution probably came from members of the nursing profession. Trained Australian nurses served overseas with the Australian Army Nursing Service and in the British Q.A.I.M.N.S. Reserve. A few also served with small units, usually under the auspices of the Red Cross Society.

In early 1916 a move was made in Sydney to provide a further 20 nurses to be sent directly to military hospitals in France. The idea came from some members of the New South Wales Branch of the Red Cross who had noted the shortage of nurses in the French hospitals during a visit to the war front. The Australian Jockey Club came forward with an offer to provide financial support for the nurses for six months.

Within a fortnight of the announcement of vacancies 80 applications were received, although very few of these were from nurses who could speak French. Those selected had mostly trained in Sydney hospitals, and a French teacher was enlisted to provide an intense course in the language.

Some of the nurses had had experience in Military Hosipitals and a few had already served overseas. Sister Crommelin had nursed wounded in England and Sister Elsie Cook had served in a military hospital in Egypt since early in the war.

Sister H.M. Loxton wearing the distinctive uniform of the Australian "Bluebirds".

Sister Elfrieda Warner had served with the American Hospital which had been raised in September 1914, staffed by volunteers, and financed by some wealthy Americans.

The other selected nurses were:–

Norman O.H.	Sister	Sydney Hospital
Wallace H.S.	Nurse	Sydney Hospital
Crozier L.E.	Nurse	Sydney Hospital
Moreton I.J.	Nurse	trained Sydney Hospital
Hughes S.	Sister	No 4 Base Hosp Randwick.
Sheridan G.	Sister	No 4 Base Hosp Randwick.
Frazer-Thompson L.	Sister	No 4 Base Hosp Randwick.
McKillop J.	Sister	No 4 Base Hosp Randwick.
Harris F.M.	Sister	No 4 Base Hosp Randwick.
Hough W.	Sister	Sydney Children's Hosp.
Loxton H.M.	Sister	Sydney Children's Hosp.
Hutchison J.I.	Nurse	trained Syd. Child. Hosp.
Jamieson A.	Nurse	R.M.C. Hospital, Duntroon
Gray A.F.	Nurse	Lismore Private Hospital.
Robinson A.E.	Nurse	North Sydney Baby Clinic.
Hungerford R.	Nurse	Glebe Baby Clinic.
Duffy D.E.	Sister	trained Sydney Hospital.

A special outdoor uniform was designed and ordered from David Jones Ltd. It consisted of a dark blue shirt and Norfolk Jacket with pale blue piping on the collar and coat sleeves, and a dark blue hat. An embroided badge consisting of a red cross and the legend "Australia: New South Wales" was worn on the left sleeve and a metal replica was worn as a brooch on the collar. The group was quickly named "The Bluebirds".

The small group of Australian nurses left Sydney on 4 July 1916 on the Hospital Ship *"Kanowna"* bound for England. Three weeks later Sister Loxton wrote home: "We have had a very enjoyable trip ... We expect to reach Southampton shortly, and hope there to learn our destination. We are all wondering to what part of France we shall be sent. We have all worked hard at our French, having three lessons a day, and I am sure it will be a great help to us."

On arrival in England the "Bluebirds" reported to the headquarters of the Anglo-French Red Cross at Knightsbridge, where arrangements were made to send them, usually in pairs, to military hospitals in France. By the end of September they were nursing the French Army's sick and wounded. Nurse Robinson was sent to a hospital established in a former schoolhouse at Les Angelys in the north of France. Sister Norman and Nurse Hungerford went to a 200-bed hospital at Limoges and Sisters Sheridan and Hutchison went to the larger No 222 Auxiliary Hospital. Most of the nurses lost contact with each other although some wrote home to the Australian Trained Nurses' Association and reports of the activities were published in the Association's Journal.

Since 1916 the A.I.F. had been serving in France and the nurses watched their activities with interest and sometimes were able to meet with some of their countrymen. Nurse Robinson wrote: "Everyone here is greatly interested in Australia, and we feel very proud of the reputation our men have made as fighters, especially among the French soldiers". Nurse Hungerford was able to go to an A.I.F. camp at Christmas 1916. "As I was the only Sister, and an Australian, they cheered and cheered me. I cannot tell you how I felt when I thought of all they have to face, and what they are enduring with the terrible cold and rain. I felt proud of them all."

The nurses also met other A.I.F. nurses in France. Sister Sheridan reported: "We have met so many Australian nurses here, and I am proud to say that all the doctors are asking for Australian trained nurses now." Nurse Robinson also indicated that the local standard of nursing was not high. "The French soldiers seem very grateful for all we do for them. I am afraid they suffer much at the hands of would-be-nurses (French)".

Their work was not without risk. Sister Loxton was working with the French Red Cross at the hospital at Cotshoek and Rousbrugge in Belguim. At 1 am on 4 June 1917 a German aircraft flew over and dropped bombs which exploded in the hospital grounds. She kept a fragment from one of the bombs as a memento of her brush with danger.

Because the nurses worked independantly it is impossible to follow all their movements. Evidently they had originally volunteered for 12 months overseas service, but most served on until the conclusion of the war. They performed valuable service in handling the enormous numbers of French soldiers sick, injured, or maimed in the holocaust of the First World War. Most of the nurses appear to have returned to Australia between February and June 1919.

In 1939 the Australian War Memorial contacted many of the former "Bluebirds." Some were still nursing, while others had left nursing when they married.

From them were donated some photographs and badges. Miss Loxton also donated her war medals, including the Medaille de Reconnaissance awarded by the French Government. Her British Medals were named simply: "H.M.Loxton" revealing very little of the nature of the work performed or the involvement in a unique Australian unit which today has been virtually forgotten.

Military History Seminar

Clem Sargent

I believe that all members of the Society received in November 1980 an invitation to attend the Bicentenary History Seminar at the Australian War Memorial on 12 - 14 February 1981, and no doubt many of those who were unable to attend would be interested to have further information and some comments on the seminar.

It was opened by Lieutenant General Sir Thomas Daly, KBE, CB, DSO, Chairman of Council, Australian War Memorial. The following papers were presented:

Peter Stanley, 'While acting Under Orders: The Slaughter-house Creek Massacre of 1838'.

Anthony Ellis, 'The Impact of War and Peace on Australian Soldiers 1914 - 1920'.

Dr Kevin Fewster, 'Military Censhorship and the Australian war effort 1914 - 1918'.

Mr Ross Lamont, 'Some strategic birth-defects of the Royal Australian Navy 1905 - 1909'.

Mr Ross McMullin, 'Australian Perceptions of the Great War: The Soldiers' Vote in the Conscription Referenda 1916 and 1917'.

Mr Gavin Fry, 'Australian Official War Art and Artists'.

Dr Carolyn O'Brien, 'Australian Defence and Foreign Policy 1919 - 1944'.

Major David Horner, 'Australian and Allied Strategy in the Pacific 1941 - 1945'.

Assoc. Professor J.T. Laird, 'Literature and War – Two Australian Writers' Approaches to the Great War'.

Dr Joan Beaumont, "Privilege in the Prisoner-of-War Camp: Some reflections on the position of officers of the 2nd A.I.F. during captivity in the Far East.'

Mr Darryl McIntyre, 'American Armed Forces in Australia, 1942: Australian Responses and Reactions.'

Mr Brett Lodge, 'The Second World War and the Australian Militia'.

Ms Judy Mackinolty, 'Wake Up, Australia!': Australia's Home Front Propaganda during World War II'.

Mc Gillian Gould, 'In Defence of Darwin'.

Major Ian McNeill, 'Five operations in Vietnam'.

The closing address was given by Dr Robert O'Neill, Head, Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, Research School of Pacific Studies, A.N.U.

There was a fair sprinkling of M.H.S.A. members present, Ian Crawford and John Lennox from Tasmania, Major John Frewen, Hank Vazenry, Allan Box and Anthony Staunton from the Victorian Branch, Brigadier Austin, Major Hans Zwillenberg, Chris Coulthard-Clark, myself and members of the Memorial staff from the A.C.T. branch, Peter Welch from Wollongong, Monty and Dorothy Wedd, John Haken from Sydney, Col. Ralph Sutton (who is also Editor of the N.S.W. M.H.S. Journal 'Despatch') and members of the N.S.W.M.H.S. – Len Barton, Ray Cooper, Colonel Skinner and Mr Wallace. Because the A.C.T. members were on the spot they generally attended those sessions which interested tham and could be fitted into their work commitment. I heard most of the papers but did forgo 'Australia's Defence and Foreign Policy 1914 - 1919' and 'Australia and Allied Strategy in the Pacific 1941 - 1945' in order to visit the Mitchell annex of the A.W.M.

It was disappointing that more members of the M.H.S.A. did not attend, possibly because they felt diffident about applying for the financial assistance offered. No doubt future seminars will be held and if the offer of assistance is repeated members who are able to devote the time should make the effort to attend. But more on this later.

At the conclusion of the Seminar participants were invited to comment on the Seminar itself, a suggestion that it be repeated annually and whether the A.W.M. should produce a journal. My understanding here was that the journal would be devoted to the type of paper presented at this and future seminars.

Comments were that the Seminar had been well conducted and had stimulated interest, that regular seminars should be held and that a journal should be published. I had an opportunity to comment, indicating that I was Federal Secretary of an organisation with over 300 members interested in military history, and that while my comments were not an official view on the Seminar, I believed

they would generally reflect the views of the Society membership. My comments were:

> The Seminar had been a success. It had generated interest and research on Australian military history and annual seminars would be worthwhile.
>
> Coverage – there was only one paper dealing with military history before 1905 and fourteen after that date. Obviously the period 1788 to 1905 presented a challenge for future seminars, with some special consideration being given to the British regiments in Australia and the Volunteer periods. Both of these have been badly neglected.
>
> Contents – the preliminary brochure stated that the Seminar aimed 'to bring together people interested in military history, biography of military personnel and the impact of war on Australian society'. There appeared to have been a heavy emphasis in the Seminar on the politico-social aspects and strategy, with very limited attention to military history and Biography.

So much for comments made at the Seminar. In retrospect there are others, some particular to our Society. One additional comment must be on the heavy bias towards presentation of papers by academics. Of the fifteen papers, three were given by members of the Memorial staff, two by serving officers, the remainder by academics. That this should have occurred is understandable. It is obvious that the Council of the A.W.M. is encouraging the use of the Memorial's resources for academic research. This is justifiable. The A.W.M. has a rich resource of unique material: it is the major source for research into specialised aspects of Australia's history – those based on this country's war experience. It is fitting that this resource should be studied by our professional historians and that they should be encouraged by activities such as the Seminar to do so.

However, if the purpose of the journal being considered for production by the A.W.M. is to be the medium for publication of the papers presented of seminars then I believe there will be a need for the Councillors of the A.W.M. to give some thought to the papers submitted for presentation. Candidly, I would not purchase a journal containing the papers at this seminar and I believe that few members of the M.H.S.A. would do so either.

So what should the M.H.S.A. attitude be towards future seminars? I believe that the interest that was generated amongst those members who participated in this occasion indicated that we should endeavour to encourage greater participation in subsequent seminars. Now, after the first, we understand how it was organised and what form later seminars may take. It should not be difficult for Federal Council to keep members informed of A.W.M. planning so that our members can themselves plan their attendance well in advance.

We should be looking at the presentation of papers by M.H.S.A. members in the future. We should not be deterred by the academic qualifications of the speakers at this Seminar. It is obvious that there are many periods and subjects of Australian military history open to those who have specialised knowledge and members of the M.H.S.A. could have many contributions to make in the way of papers which are too long for presentation in our own journal. In this regard it would be useful for Federal Council to know what research projects are being undertaken by Society members and researchers should be encouraged to seek from the A.W.M. grants which are available to assist in research.

Information sheets and application forms for the Australian War Memorial Research Grants Scheme can be obtained by writing to: The Director, Australian War Memorial, P.O. Box 345, Canberra City, A.C.T. 2601. Applications close around the end of June for grants tenable in 1982.

The Australian War Memorial is to be both congratulated and thanked for taking this initiative to arouse further interest in Australian military history. The Council of the A.W.M. and our Society share the aim of developing a wider interest in Australian military history. The Society should do everything possible to support these seminars by attendance and, more significantly, by the presentation of suitable papers by our members. From future seminars the individual has the opportunity to share the interest aroused by taking part in the discussions on papers presented. For the society as a whole, participation can only help raise the standing of the Military Historical Society of Australia in Australian historical circles.

Lieutenant General Sir Napier Crookenden, a regular soldier for 37 years and a military historian has compiled and written a good comprehensive summary of the campaign. *Battle of the Bulge* covers numerous actions large and small fought during the brief campaign. General Crookenden covers these in varing degrees of detail, and the reader is assisted in following the course of the campaign by a series of descriptive sketch maps and over 200 contemporary photographs and drawings. In fact at first glance it could almost be assumed that it was a book of photographs supported by a text, rather that what it is; a good account of the Ardennes Offensive amply illustrated by photographs. There is a good index and the book is very attractively presented.

At $30 *Battle of the Bulge* compares favourably with similar works of this standard.

M.P. Casey

Weapons and Equipment of the Marlborough Wars, Anthony Kemp, Blandford Press, Poole, 1980, 195mm, hard cover, 172 pages, bibliography, glossary and index. Review copy supplied by ANZ Book Co. Pty. Ltd. Recommended price $30.95.

The opening section of the book gives a broad outline of life in a European army of the eighteenth century.

Chapters on the Infantry and Cavalry follow detailing the weapons used, the personal equipment worn and the ways in which Horse and Foot were deployed on the battlefield. The comprehensive chapter on Artillery covers the types of guns, the bore sizes, transportation, ammunition and how the guns were fired and cleaned.

The work concludes with sections on aspects not generally dealt with in military histories. They include the logistics of supply, the issue of replacement equipment, clothing and how soldiers were expected to retain their parade-ground appearance and music and the instruments on which it was played.

The text is profusely illustrated with excellent line drawings by John Mollo and black and white prints taken from contemporary paintings, engravings and tapestries, many of which have not been seen before.

A companion to *Weapons and Equipment of the Victorian Soldier* and *Weapons and Equipment of the Napoleonic Wars*, this book is a useful source of information and is recommended to both the period enthusiast and the wargamer alike.

RCH Courtney.

Michael Barthorp, *The Zulu War, A Pictorial History*, Blandford Press, U.K., Copy supplied by ANZ Book Co. Pty. Ltd., 181 pages, $27.95.

The Zulu War of 1879 is representative of all the "savage wars of peace" during the reign of Queen Victoria: distant from England, a non-European enemy, an initial deestating defeat and ultimate triumph for Tommy Atkins. Few, if any, of those campaigns of empire have captured and retained more interest.

This book, compiled during the centenary of the campaign, is styled a pictorial history although pictorial record might be a more accurate description. About half of the available space is given over to illustrations and the remainder to text. While the text gives a brief but adequate description of the highlights of the war I found the brief captions to the illustrations to be a disappointment. A number of the photographs have been published elsewhere with more detailed captions. The illustrations, fully described, could have been allowed to tell more of the story.

There are a number of very clear maps which illustrate the movement of both the British and Zulu forces bit it is irritating to find them several pages from the description in the text.

This is an interesting book for those generally interested in British colonial campaigns, but serious students of the Zulu War might question its usefulness, particularly at the price.

Neville Foldi.

A.Stuart Dolden, *Cannon Fodder,* Blandford Press, Poole, 185 pages, 145mm x 220mm, hard cover, eight pages of photographs, index. Recommended price, $15.50. Review Copy supplied by ANZ Book Co. Pty. Ltd.

A. Stuart Dolden has called this memoir of his service on the Western Front 'Cannon Fodder' because of the way in which the infantry were handled in the four years effort to break the trench-bound stalemate in France and Flanders. Dolden is in a good position to recall the way battalions were smashed up and re-formed time after time, for he spent three and a half years a cook in D Company of the 1st London Scottish Regiment.

The book has been rewritten from an illicit diary he kept, written-up in muddy dugouts and lousy billets after a hard night carrying dixies of tepid tea to the front line or tending field kitchens stewing the inevitable machonochie or bully.The continual action that he and the battalion saw (Dolden received less than a month's leave from 1915 to 1918) appears as a macarbe backdrop to the dail battle to keep the cookers alight and get the ration parties through. His life, a seemingly ordinary round of humorous incidents, grim sights, sounds and smells and ever-present fatigue, is well worth reading as a reminiscence of how the Great War was for a private in a Territorial battalion. It is vastly different from the memoirs of the soldier-poets, but is perhaps closer to the thousands of British (and Australian) soldiers actually endured from 1914 to 1918. While the cooks were comparatively safe, their lives were ruled by the obligation they felt to provide the men of their Company with the best possible meals the primitive and dangerous conditions would allow. This meant that their job was far from 'cushy'. In September 1916, for example, on the Somme near Maricourt, Dolden recorded how ...

> *The Battalion went into action at 5.30 pm and sustained 271 casualties, seventy of which were in 'D' company...*
>
> *The next day ... we made tea for them, and then they carried on, and when the last party had gone we packed up and followed. We lost our way, but at last found the Battalion at about 5.30 am sleeping in a field. We simply crept under the cooker, therefore, with our overcoats over us, and snatched a few hours sleep.*

The book has a few minor faults. The chapters are simply titled 'Rest at Lilliers' or 'The Somme', for example, following in strict chronological order and turning the actual diary entries into a page of text in the past-tense with very little alteration from the original diary. This lack of editorial organisation makes it difficult to distinguish one chapter's setting, action and character from another's. Perhaps a better scheme would have been to organise the book around incidents, such as battles, or themes, such as the cooks or the company. This would have necessitated more explanatory notes and would also have provided a better opportunity for Dolden to comment on themes, such as the waste of the war, the spirit of his comrades, the individuality of his unit, the character of the men with whom he lived and his attitude toward the war. As it stands, the book suffers from a lack of a synthesis of his experience.

Maps and explanatory notes would have helped non London Scottish veterans to ascertain where the incidents mentioned occurred and in what context, and an editor with some knowledge of the Regiment's historywould have made the memoir a more valuable contribution to the interested reader's knowledge of the Western Front. These comparatively minor quibbles aside, the book is well worth reading for the picture it presents of the war from the point of view of a ranker.

PS

Otto Von Pivka, *Navies of the Napoleonic Era,* David and Charles, London, 1980. 250mm x 180mm, hard cover, b & w illustralions, line drawings, maps, appendices, select bibliography. Recommended price$29.50. Review copy supplied by ANZ Book Co. Pty. Ltd.

A companion volume to *Armies of the Napoleonic Era* by the same author (reviewed Sabretache Vol XXI No. 3). This is a better book because it does not have to cover as much ground as the earlier volume. The book opens with an introduction on 'The Ships and The Men', follows with an account of naval engagements of the period and ends with sections on the navies of each of the countries involved in the Napoleonic conflicts.

'Ships and Men' is very brief, although the section on hull construction goes into some detail. However the author did not feel it necessary to discuss rigging, sails or ship types with any more than one

page of line sketches. Similarly 'Life at Sea' is covered in three pages. Nevertheless, the chronological treatment of naval activity is effective. There is sufficient detail and the accounts of these are adequately illustrzted by line drawings.

The 'National Navies' are reasonably covered and include comprehensive lists of ships of the national fleets. Two appendices list all ships lost during the era and Appendix 3 is a glossary of British naval terminology – essential if you are a Hornblower or Ramage fan.

The reader with an interest essentially in the military history of this period will find this book most useful background reading and it could form the basis for further reading. It is a pity that it does not have an index; no doubt cost precluded it.

TCS

Medical Stores is the first book on the Army and Navy's med stories, the author is Rob Nash, an A.R.A. pharmaceutical Lieutenant Colonel.

Medical Stores tells how the med stores system developed from 1900 with chapters on the first AIF, the 17 base and advanced medical stores of World War Two and the depot in Vietnam. Cyclone Tracy gets a major mention. It also tells of nightmare stores accounting and the resultant investigations of both wars. It tells of the run-down defence policy between the wars and how it was overcome during crisis. Many personal accounts by a variety of people make the book readable and interesting. It is a quality production with 300 pages, 50 photos and many maps and flowcharts. No official funds could be obtained for its production. Recommended retail price is $30 but copies are available for $15.50 plus $3.00 p & p from Lieutenant Colonel R.W. Nash, Dept of Defence (Army office) K-1-19, Russell Offices. Canberra, A.C.T. 2600.

MEMBERS' SALES AND WANTS.

Wanted

1930-42 Hat Badeges Inf 8, 13, 14, 18, 25, 37, 39, 44, 35, 45 LH 1LH NSWL, 5LH.
In exchange I offer 6LH, 17LH, 56 Yarra Borderers, 9BN Morton 48-53
J. E. Pryor, 21 Crawford Street, Tamworth, 2340

Wanted – Banners, Badges, Medals, Headress, etc re: Foreign Legion; Shanghai, Tientsin, etc Volunteer Corps, Police; U.S., French, etc Forces (China); Yangtse Gunboats; Chinese Forces (pre 1949); Camel Corps. Also seeking Military kukris with marked blades; British Colonial Shooting medals, etc; US Marines (Soochow Creek medal.)
G. Christian, 3849 Bailey Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463, USA.

For Sale

Complete set Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918 Price $150. The books are in good condition.
Allan Jackson, Lot 4 Corndale, Via Lismore, 2480. Telephone (066) 88 2145.

I am interested in the purchase and or trade of miniature military medals of Britain and Commonwealth countries of any period. Please let me know what you have. All correspondence will be answered.
Denis Laforest, 616 Charon Street, Montreal PQ, Canada.

Wanted

South Australian Helmet Plate: QVC over background star overlaid with laurel wreath. Centre of Southern Cross (voided) with motto in circle "Aut Pace Aut Bello" above "South Australia". Will swap other pre-Federation helmet plate or badges etc. for this one. Fair variety to choose from, all Colonies.
A. F. Harris, 29 Jervois Avenue, Magill, S.A. 5072.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

In reply to C.D. Coulthard-Clark's request for evidence that black-trackers were used in the South African War, *Army Magazine* Vol. 3, No. 4, Feb. 1944, pp 54-56, in an article entitled "Australia's First Battle Honours", quotes from Kennedy, *The Black Police of Queensland* that the ability of Billy, a tracker, was proven in detailing the movements of five officers on different journeys. The article states that "the creator of Sherlock Holmes [A. Conan Doyle, a Medical Officer and author of *The Great Boer War*] had not far from him on the field of battle, primitive black men who were every bit as good as the master-mind of Baker Street". However, when the 3rd Victorian Bushmen was being raised from men able to scout and play the Boer at his own game an aboriginal applicant was told he had no chance, presumably this was a white man's war.

W.M. Chamberlain,
471 Highbury Road,
Mt Waverley, Victoria, 3149.

Sir,

I refer to my article in the October/December *Sabretache.*

Perhaps I should have made it quite clear that the whole thrust of the article was towards Geneology and the tracing of one's military forbears rather than Army Records in general as the title implies. For this, if for no other reason, it would be appropriate if Appendices A, B and C would be included in a subsequent issue of *Sabretache.*

I do not know what I have done to annoy the Printer's Gremlins, but a large portion of the article has been transposed. To tidy up the article it is necessary to transfer from "The Treasury" in the left hand column of page 43 to the end of the paragraph commencing "WO 97" and ending "the Royal Engineers theyinclude service (not 'serve' as shown) in India" at the bottom of the left hand column on page 45, to a position immediately prior to the major heading "Records available in Australia."

Yours faithfully,

M. Austin,
17 Farrer Street
Braddon, A.C.T. 2601.

On behalf of the previous editor of **Sabretache,** *I apoligise for any inconvenience caused by this error. The article should have borne the explanation*

'Reproduced by permission of the South Australian Genealogy and Heraldry Society Inc. This article first appeared in 'Papers. 1980 Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry', Comp. B.Bull, Adelaide, 3 April 1980.' Peter Stanley.

Sir,

The January 1978 issue of *Sabretache* featured an interesting article by Peter Burness on the Long and Meritorious Service medals awarded to the Australian Colonial and early Commonwealth Forces. In the article Peter mentioned a variation in the ribbon used for the LSGC and the MSM. The correct ribbon was maroon with a thin dark blue stripe down the centre. The variation was a maroon ribbon with a *thick* dark blue stripe.

I have now seen three examples of the 'wrong' ribbon and consider them worth recording for the interest of fellow medal collectors.

1 In the excellent museum at Victoria Barracks there is a uniform on display that was formerly the property of Warrant Officer J. Griffith of the New South Wales Permanent Artillery. The two medals on the uniform are the New South Wales Meritorious Service Medal (veiled head of Queen Victoria on the obverse) and the LSGC (Edward VIII version). The MSM hangs from the 'wrong' ribbon. They are worn in that order - MSM followed by LSGC. The LSGC had the correct maroon ribbon with the thin dark blue stripe. Griffith received his MSM in 1898 and his long service medal in 1903.

2 I recently obtained a group of three medals awarded to Hon. Lieutenant H. H. Mowbray. The medals, in the order they are mounted on the old ribbon bar, are –

a Queen's South Africa. Clasps Cape Colony, Orange Free State and Johannesburg awarded to No. 2 Sergeant H. H. Mowbray, New South Wales Mounted Rifles.

b MSM. Commonwealth of Australia version on the 'wrong' ribbon, awarded on 29 March 1904 to Warrant Officer H. H. Mowbray, New South Wales Mounted Rifles.

c LSGC. Commonwealth of Australia version, maroon ribbon, thin red strip, awarded 29 May 1903 to Warrant Officer H. H. Mowbray, Instructional Staff.

Mowbray had served with the 8th Foot, later The King's Regiment (Liverpool), before transferring to the New South Wales Forces.. He retired with the rank of Honarary Lieutenant in 1906.

3 A further medal in my collection obtained from a family source and still on the original ribbon is a New South Wales Long Service Medal awarded in 1898 to Corporal John James Purcell, 'Staff'. This medal has the maroon ribbon with a thick blue stripe.

It should be noted that the blue used in the ribbon variation tends more towards a torquoise blue rather than the dark blue used for the DCM.

In summary it would appear that the ribbon variation with *thick* blue stripe was used by members of the New South Wales forces on both the LSGC and MSM around 1898-1904. I suspect that both Griffith and Mowbray retired around 1906 and thus never had cause to change their medals to the later ribbons – thin green stripe on maroon background (LSGC), two thin green stripes on maroon background (MSM).

Michael Downey,
5 Boambillee Avenue,
Vaucluse, N.S.W. 2030.

Notes and Queries

Mr Stan Flack is currently researching the history of members of his family who served in the British Army in Australia. He is interested in any information regarding the service of the 63rd Regiment in Van Dieman's Land. An ancester, William Flack, served in the 63rd in Australia. Please address any details to him at 17 Audley Street, Petersham, N.S.W. 2049.

Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society

A Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society has been formed with the aim of fostering the study of the history of the Royal Australian Artillery. Membership is open to gunners, past and present, and interested civilians. Membership costs $5.00 for one year or $50.00 for life, and application forms and further details can be obtained from:

Captain S.W. Nicholls,
Honorary Treasurer,
RAA Historical Society,
Directorate of Artillery,
Campbell Park Offices 2-3-12,
Canberra, A.C.T. 2600.

The Military Cross in World War II.

I was recently asked if the Military Cross had been awarded to any Australian Warrant Officer during World War II. I immediately said that I did not think so. Since then I have researched the subject and found that Two Warrant Officers were, in fact, awarded the Military Cross:

VX27602	WO2	F.M. CAMERON	2/24 Inf Bn in Middle East	GO 139/43
VX2406	WO1	M.G. O'DONNELL	2/31 Inf Bn in SWPA	GO 25/43

There were, respectively, the 152md and 163rd Military Cross awarded during this war. In total, there were 500 Military Crosses awarded to Australians, as follows:

Middle East	158	Greece and Crete	6
Malaya	15	SW Pacific	319 (including 6 to CMF officers)
Italy	2		

G. R. Vazenry

Supplement to They Dared Mightily

A supplement to *They Dared Mightily* has recently been published by the Australian War Memorial. It details the Victoria Crosses awarded to Warrant Officers Wheatley, Simpson, Badcoe and Payne for their actions in Vietnam and the George Crosses awarded to Commissioner Jack Emanuel, Chief Petty Officer Rogers and Constable Michael Pratt. The Supplement, written by Jeffrey Williams of the Memorial's History and Publications Section, can be obtained free of charge from the Australian War Memorial, P.O. Box 345, Canberra City, A.C.T. 2601.

ANNUAL ELECTIONS FOR FEDERAL COUNCIL

Elections for officers of Federal Council are to be held by 1 July, 1981.

Nominations are sought for the following positions:

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

Only financial members may be nominated. Their consent, in writing, must accompany nominations which are to reach the Secretary by 30 April 1981.

The results of the elections will be declared at the 1981 Annual General Meeting to be held at RSL Headquarters, Campbell, A.C.T. on Monday 20 July 1981.

T. C. SARGENT
Honorary Secretary MHSA

Advertising rate in *Sabretache*

Advertisements can be placed in Sabretache according to the following rate:

$4.70 per column inch. A column is seven centrimetres wide. The cost of placing an advert three inches by the column wisth therefore becomes 4 x $4.70, or $14.10.

Please forward all advertising copy to the Advertisements member of the Editorial Sub-Committee, Adam de Totth, 41 McIntrye Street, Narrabundah, A.C.T. 2604.

Australian Honours and Awards

Following a request from a member regarding Australian Honours and Awards we have included in this issue the brochure *Australian Honours and Awards*, supplied by the Honours Secretariat of the Governor General's Office.

MHSA BOOKS

Ken White
P.O. Box 67, Lyneham, A.C.T. 2602

All profits from the sale of these items are used to further the efforts of the Society in providing additional publications at a minimum price for members, so buy and help the society to help you.

Publications Available

	Price
1911 Coronation Contingents	$5.00
Medals of Australians, M. Downey	$2.50
1976 Price Supplement	$2.00
Parachute Badges and Insignia of the World. Bragg & Turner	$13.50
Australian Awards of the Kings South Africa Medal, R. Clark	$2.50
Gallant and Distinguished Service Vietnam, I.L. Barnes	$5.00
That Mob, The story of 55/53 Bn (AIF)	$13.00
Australian Service Long Arms, I.D. Skennerton	$12.50
Australian Service Bayonets, I.D. Skennerton	$11.50
List of Changes in British War Material, Vol II (1886 - 1900) I.D. Skennerton	$12.50
Victorian Volunteer Long and Efficient Service Medal 1881-1901	$10.00
Morsehead. J. Moore	$6.00
Saga of a Sig. Ken Clift	$5.50
Citizen General Staff C.D. Coulthard-Clark	(soft) $5.50 (hard) $10.00
Military Origins, Gordon	$3.50
War Dance, The Story of 2/3 Aust Inf Bn, K. Clift	$13.00
Kapyong Battalion, J.J. Atkinson	$7.50
41 Infantry Battalion, S.E. Benson	$5.00
Sir John Monash, A.J. Smithers	$7.95
The Desert Hath Pearls, R. Hall	$9.95
As It Was. C. Dieppe	$3.50
For Queen and Empire	$4.50
Kimberley Flying Column. Tpr. Frank Perhan	$2.00
Full Circle, The Autobiography of General Rowell	$8.00
Australias First Naval Fight (HMAS Sydney Vs SMS EMDEN	$5.00

Allow $1.50 Postage for first book, plus 50c for each additional item. Any surplus will be refunded

Official History – Australia in the War of 1939-1945 (22 volumes)
The following 16 volumes are still available.
There are no plans at this stage to reprint out of stock volumes.

Series 1	To Benghazi, Gavin Long	$2.50
	The Japanese Thrust, Lionel Wigmore	$4.00
	The New Guinea Offensive, David Dexter	$4.00
	The Final Campaigns, Gavin Long	$3.50
Series 2 (Navy)	Royal Australian Navy, 1942-1945, Hermon Gill	$4.00
Series 3 (Air)	Royal Australian Air Force, 1939-1942, Douglas Gillison	$3.50
	Air War against Germany and Italy, 1939-1943, John Herington	$3.00
Series 4 (Civil)	The Government and the People, 1939-1941, Paul Hasluck	$3.00
	War Economy, 1939-1942, S.J. Butlin	$2.50
	War Economy, 1942-1945 S.J. Butlin and C.B. Schedvin	$13.00
Series 5 (Medical)	Clinical Problems of War,	$3.50
	Middle East and Far East	$3.50
	The Island Campaigns, Allan S. Walker	$3.50
	Medical services of the R.A.N. and the R.A.A.F.	$3.50

Official History – Australia in the War of 1914-1918 (12 volumes)
The following colume is still available:

Vol VI– The A.I.F. in France, 1918, C.E.W. Bean	$2.10
The Australians at the Boer War, R.L. Wallace	$11.95
Anzac to Amiens, C.E.W. Bean	$3.00
The Six Years War, Gavin Long	$7.50
Pictorial History of Australia at War, 1939 – 1945	$23.00
These are Facts, the autobiography of Air Marshal Sir Richard Williams, KBE,CB,DSO	$13.50
Australian Armour, R.N.L. Hopkins . (Hard cover)	$13.50
History of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps 1927-1972 .(soft cover)	$12.00
Blamey: Controversial Soldier, John Hetherington	$7.50
They Dared Mightily, Ed. Lionel Wigmore in collaboration with Bruce Harding. The story of Australian V.C. and G.C. awards	$4.20
With the Australians in Korea, Ed, Norman Bartlett	$2.50
Other Banners, Ed J.T. Laird. An anthology of Australian prose and verse of the 1914-18 War	$3.90
Military Aircraft of Australia, 1909-1918, Keith Isaacs. The first of four volumes of a history of Australian military avaiation since 1909..	$6.50
Aircraft mural charts –Chart 1 (1909-1918) Chart 2 (1919-1939) Chart 3 (1940-1942), Chart 4 (1942-1944), Chart 5 (1945-1953), and Chart 6 (1954-1971), Six Charts of the Australian War Memorial aircraft mural by Harold Freedman. (Packaging and postage on one chart is 80cents extra; two charts and up to six, posted together, would cost an extra $1.00).	0.40each

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Colour Photographic postcards – War Memorial
scenes. . . . . (postage 20 cents) each 0.15
Soldiers of the Queen – 12-inch long-playing
record Music of the Boer War era,
. . . . . .(postage $1.00) $3.99
Art reproductions (Packing and postage $1.30
for up to six reproductions)
Tom Roberts – 'A' Battery Field Artillery,N.S.W.
1896 (57 x 33cm). $3.00
William Dobell – The Billy Boy, 1943
(69 x 52 cm). $3.00
George Lambert – The Half Limber, 1919
(57 x 32 cm). $3.00
Arthur Streeton – The Old S.13 Taken off
Strength, 1918 (57 x 38 cm) $3.00
Sidney Nolan – Kenneth Soldier, 1958
(71 x 52 cm). $3.00
Will Longstaff – The Menin Gate at Midnight
24 July 1927 (73 x 37 cm) $3.00

Society members are entitled to 20% discount on A.W.M. Publications

MHSA Books also offer all Blandford series books David & Charles books & Muller publications.

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 Society 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 malied in the last week of December.

ADVERTISING

Society members may place, at no cost, one advertisement of approximately 40 words in the "Members Sales and Wants" section once each financial year.
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 HISTORIACAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Please Address all Correspondence to:

The Federal Secretary,
P.O. Box 30,
Garran, A.C.T. 2605. Australia.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I / We .....of .....
(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 the Society and wish to be admitted as a Branch member of the.....
Branch/Corresponding Member/
Subscriber to Sabretache.

(Strike out non applicable alternative.)

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

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