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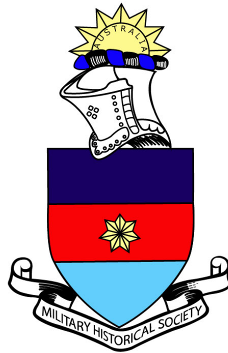

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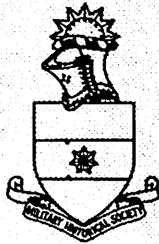

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Contributions, in the form of articles, book reviews, notes, queries or letters are always welcome. Authors of major articles should also submit a biography of about 50 words and a photograph for publication with their article.

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SABRETACHE

Editorial Sub-committee The Military Historical Society of Australia has established an Editorial Sub-committee. It will be responsible to Federal Council to produce and distribute on behalf of the Federal Council of the Military Historical Society of Australia (MHSA) *Sabretache*, the Journal of the Military Historical Society of Australia and such special publications of the Society which may be authorised by Federal Council from time to time.

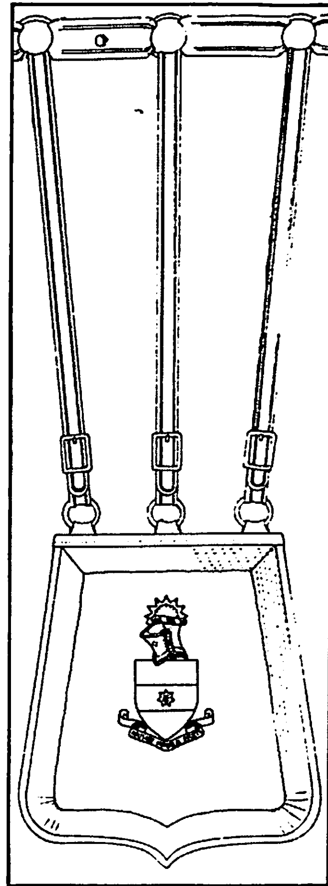
Third New South Wales Imperial Bushmen The Third New South Wales Imperial Bushmen was a regiment formed at Klerksdorp, Transvaal, on 4 May, 1901, from drafts consisting of 230 officers, NCOs and men intended for the New South Wales Imperial Bushmen and the Citizen's Bushmen; but owing to these two regiments being under orders for home, the men were formed into a separate regiment under the command of Major Hon. Rupert Carington.

This regiment was attached to Lieut.-Colonel E. C. Williams DSO's Column, and took part in all the engagements of that Column (with the exception of Karanafontein), and during the year marched over 4,000 miles.

During the months of May, June, July, August, September and part of October, they operated in the Western Transvaal, where numerous captures of prisoners, wagons and stock were made. On 24 October, the Column left Klerksdorp and went to Eastern Transvaal, where they took part in General Bruce Hamilton's operations, resulting in heavy loss to the enemy.

In January 1902, another squadron was formed from Australians, recruited in Capetown, and in February another was formed, bringing the strength of the regiment up to over 500 men.

On 4 May 1902, some of the time-expired men of the regiment proceeded home in the transport *Ansonia*; but many of the men and neary all the officers volunteered for further service.



Armoured Corps Thanks to Malcolm Grant we can correct some misleading information supplied by Department of Defence on the history of the corps. In *Sabretache* April-June 1983 Vol. XXIV No. 2. there is a small par on the "Armoured Corps" wherein it states that the "First Australian Light Car Patrol was formed to see service in the Western Desert and Palestine during World War I (1914–18)...", etc.

That statement is WRONG. The unit was formed under the leadership of Lt E. H. James (later Captain). It was formed in Melbourne as the "First Australian Armoured Car Corps". Designation of names seem to be something of a 'change' as for some time it was also referred to as the "Australian Motor Machine Gun Corps" and even "Australian Motor Machine Gun Section".

Service in the Libya Desert, Palestine, etc. is correct, as is the fact that they were the Australian Light Car Patrol, using Ford cars. However the Australians actually took over the Light Car Patrol (Imperial) and thus your published information is incorrect.

Information came from *The Melbourne Age* personal notes of Lt E. H. James, plus the 'Official War Diary' of the Unit.

As I am currently researching all aspects I can of this Unit I wish, needless to say, to make sure it is correctly recorded. There were only fourteen members initially and only one death, Sgt Langley, who died of disease (after the Armistice).

Battalion's guns restored One of Australia's oldest military units had part of its firepower restored on the occasion of its 125th anniversary.

The Australian Government formally re-presented to the 2nd Battalion Royal Victoria Regiment two 137-year-old 32lb guns originally from HMVS Nelson, a former Royal Navy ship of the line laid down in 1814.

The two old guns stand outside the 2nd Battalion's CMF drill hall in Ballarat, but after many years in the open had become rather tarnished. Apprentices of the Government Ordinance Factory completely restored and refurbished them so that they could more presentably continue their historic links with the regiment.

HMVS Nelson carried, as well as a score of 32lb guns, another score of 68lb rifled guns and two enormous 7½-ton weapons capable of discharging a 150lb projectile.

When she came out to Australia in 1860 the Nelson had been converted to a screw steamer, though still carrying a handy top hamper of canvas. She was one of the most powerful naval units in the southern hemisphere when she joined the Victorian Navy.

After active service patrolling against the possible incursion into Australia of the Russians, who never came, she spent time as a training ship for delinquent youths who were then expected to pass into the naval service.

Historical Garrison Major L. Scheuch-Evans (RL) reports that members of the MHSA contributed to celebrations at For Queenscliffe as published in *Sabretache* Volume XXIV No. 2.

Member Ian Barnes with a gun crew formed from members of the RAA Association (Geelong and Colac) attired in fatigue dress (white duck) of the early part of this century fired the 8 inch disappearing gun.

"A" Bty Victorian Volunteer Artillery (a part of the Historical Re-enactment Society) fired a replica 6 pdr SBML field gun. This detachment had as its 2ic, another member Lewis Scheuch-Evans.

Both these activities which received wide coverage in the local press and on Melbourne T.V. added to the historical flavour of the occasion along with the guard provided by 10 Mclm Regt RAA (ARes). A band concert by the 3MD Band under Major Barry Bignell and a fire works display completed the events of this memorable weekend, witnessed by over 1000 visitors.

La Difference In November 1939, shortly after the commencement of the Second World War, the Australian Government established the Board of Business Administration, responsible to the Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Coordination, to advise on the whole field of defence expenditure including the progress of the material side of defence preparations and the efficiency of the machinery for its execution. The Board included prominent members of the business community and, from 1940, was chaired by Sir George Pearce, former Senator and Minister for Defence.

The Board had wide powers of inquiry and accepted a very heavy workload, meeting almost every working day. It was serviced by a secretariat organised on a shift basis, by Business Committees in the States and by an inspectorate, all initially under the Department of Defence Coordination and later the Treasury. The story that follows was told to the writer by Mr J. H. (Jack) Keeping, one of the Board's Joint Secretaries.

Like many other commodities, paper and paper products were subjected to strict controls on price and procurement and their allocation was given close consideration, including scrutiny by the Business Board. A major use was for toilet purposes and the Board had for consideration an assessment of the requirements over a long period of members of the Armed Forces, both male and female. This had been carefully calculated having regard to the number of personnel and usage rates.

A point brought out in the submission was that females needed more toilet paper than males. This puzzled the Chairman. "Why would a woman use more paper than I do?" he asked. There was an embarrassed silence in the boardroom until the duty Joint Secretary leaned forward and said, quietly but distinctly, "You can shake yours, Sir George". *Sabretache* is indebted to Alan Fraser in keeping it in touch with defence administration during those perilous years.

Historic Military Sites Brigadier "Bunny" Austin, DSO, OBE (Ret.), formerly Army Historian and Chief Executive Officer, Historical Studies, in the Department of Defence, has recently completed, as a consultant to the Australian Heritage Commission, the first stage of a project designed to identify military sites of historical significance in Australia.

Stage 1 of the project involved a thorough investigation of the Register of the National Estate to identify sites, already registered, which had military as well as general historical significance.

Brigadier Austin has listed 99 military sites in the Register, including 47 in New South Wales and 18 in Tasmania. These range from the obvious, in the form of fortifications such as Fort Denison and Bradleys Head, and barracks such as Victorian Barracks and Anglesea Barracks, to the obscure, such as Sydney Cricket Ground (originally the site of the Sydney Garrison's rifle and field firing range) and the Shearers Strike Campsite, Barcaldine (significant as a precedent in the use of troops in "aid to the civil power").

The majority of the sites already registered belong, as might be expected, to the early colonial period. Brigadier Austin's expertise has been invaluable in this context, as he is a specialist in the forces of the colonial period and has published *The Army in Australia, 1840–1850*, as well as articles for the Dictionary of Biography and military history journals.

To take account of the many sites associated with Australia's later military history, as well as identifying lesser-known early sites, the next stage of the project will be the compilation of a comprehensive list with the assistance of historical societies, academic institutions and interested individuals from all over Australia. Once this list is completed, it will be evaluated to enable the selection of nationally significant sites for nomination to the Register of the National Estate.

The Heritage Commission will be writing to appropriate bodies and individuals, asking for assistance with this project. Should any reader of *Sabretache* with knowledge of historic military sites wish to contribute to the project, you are invited to write to:

Military Sites Project Officer,
Australian Heritage Commission,
P.O. Box 1567,
CANBERRA CITY, A.C.T. 2601

Medal Identity A reader has asked *Sabretache* to identify the medals awarded to her grandfather. She believes one of the medals is the Maori War Medal. Information to editor.

Aeroplane versus ship: In April 1918, J. C. Legge, Chief of the General Staff, in a memo proposing the setting up of a permanent military air force for Australia stated: *'A sufficient air service can go far toward breaking the strength of an attack, or increasing the value of an inferior defending force if it can master the air service of an enemy'.* He declared that 1000 aeroplanes would cost less than one battle cruiser.

Peter Stanley

REFLECTIONS ON BEAN'S LAST PARAGRAPH

C.E.W. Bean, the official historian of Australia in the war of 1914-18, ended the final volume of the series, The Australian Imperial force in France during the Allied offensive, 1918, with the following words: 'What these men did nothing can alter now. The good and the bad, the greatness and smallness of their story will stand. Whatever of glory it contains nothing now can lessen. It rises, as it will always rise, above the mists of ages, a monument to great-hearted men: and, for their nation, a possession for ever.'[1]

Bean's final paragraph, concise testimony of the regard in which he held the AIF, is supported by the six volumes which he wrote of the monumental twelve-volume series of the *Official History of Australia in the war of 1914-1918.*

Bean conceived the history not simply as a record of the AIF, but as a monument to it. He was appointed the official correspondent with the force in September 1914, sailed with it to Egypt and lived alongside its members at Anzac and on the Western Front until the armistice. The more Bean knew of the men of the AIF—and he knew more than any individual—the more he became convinced that 'the only memorial worthy of them was the bare and uncoloured story of their part in the war'.[2] He saw as his duty to record 'the plain and absolute truth' of their experience of the Great War.[3]

With the establishment of the Australian War Memorial—which was opened in Canberra in November 1941—and the publication of the sixth volume of the official history, in 1942, Bean's task was substantially complete. While the story which he told was by no means uncoloured and nowhere near the absolute truth, its completion, which occupied twenty-two years of writing, was a magnificent achievement. His final paragraph reflected the considered view of a man who had not only observed the AIF from formation to repatriation and who had shared the danger of battle with it, but had obtained an unsurpassed knowledge of it from the written and oral records he assembled in the course of writing its history. I have taken his final paragraph as my text in order to discuss the nature and forms of what has become known as the 'Anzac legend'.

Bean felt that, partly as a result of his history, the AIFs story would endure for ever; 'what these men did nothing can alter now'. In this he was both right and wrong, for in seeking to enshrine the story he bequeathed to Australia a conception which has so far refused to fade, but neither has it remained static. At the end of *The Story of Anzac* he wrote that 'Anzac now belonged to the past'; in fact, it belonged to the future. This paper will attempt to determine what the future did to it.

'The greatness and smallness of their story'

The historiography of the Anzac legend may be said to begin with the official history written and

*Peter Stanley is a senior research officer in the Historical Research Section of the Australian War Memorial. He was the editor of Sabretache in 1981 and a book **What did you do in the war, Daddy?**, a visual history of propaganda posters, to which he wrote the introduction, appeared in June 1983.*

edited by C.E.W. Bean. It is certainly dominated by it. In a sense, the scale, thoroughness and grandeur of the work has tended to stunt the writing of operational, and, until recently, social, military history in Australia. Several times colleagues of mine, when confronted with a suggestion for a study on an aspect of the Great War, have shrugged, pointed to the twelve red volumes of Bean and said 'its all there'.

It is not, of course, 'all there'. But there is an awful lot which is; strategic analysis, biographical sketches, administrative detail, operational narrative and a humanity which is largely lacking in other nations' official histories. There is also, as I have suggested, a unifying conception of the significance of the sacrifice which lifts the work above the level of mere narrative. For Bean's first question was 'how did the Australian people . come through the universally recognized test of this, their first great war?'[4]

The campaign on Gallipoli, the subject of the first and most detailed volumes, provided the answer to that question, one which was confirmed by subsequent campaigns in France, Flanders, Sinai and Palestine. Bean wrote that 'it was on the 25th of April that the consciousness of Australian nationhood was born.[5] This view, probably Bean's greatest historiographical legacy, has been repeated many times in the sixty years since it was first proposed. But the idea did not spring fully formed from Ashmead Bartlett's despatches or Bean's reports. As Richard White put it, 'with the landing at Gallipoli. . .the ready-made myth was given a name, a time and a place': the understanding of the significance of the Anzacs' landing was the fulfilment of an expectation of prowess which had existed for some thirty years before it occurred.[6] But with the publication of the first volumes of the official history in 1922 and 1924 the view that a nation was born on the cliffs at Anzac became endorsed as an article of faith.

The 'greatness' of the story was thus well catered for in the official history. So too was the 'smallness'. Unlike, for example, the British official historians (who in any case had to document the doings of an army fifteen times larger than Australia's) Bean set out to commemorate as well as record the AIF's war effort, and to include as many individuals, of whatever rank, in the process. This concern, along with Bean's candid approach and measured, dignified prose, distinguishes the Australian official history from its stilted and opaque British equivalent.

But from 1942 to the 1970s, with the exception of the even larger, though less unified and inspiring, official history Australia in the War of 1939–45, Australian military historical writing became a barren plain dotted only with perennial but rarely succulent unit histories. Operational studies of the first war were largely precluded by the comprehensiveness of the official history—those of the second by the lack of access to documentary records and the abiding apathy of a community of interested persons whe were content to rely on the coverage given by Long's volumes. Even works of reminiscence were few; in contrast to the British tradition of literate professional soldiers, Australia possessed few soldiers of either persuasion. War fiction, to stretch the definition of history to its limits, was represented by a handful of novels, and one of the few forms to thrive was that of light reminiscence, which commanded a small readership through unit magazines and returned service's journals.

Academic historians, following the narrower historiographic concerns of the times and the liberal inclinations which rendered military history suspect, eschewed the study of Australia's experience of war and diminished its place in general histories. By 1965 Ken Inglis was to lament that Bean's work had not been so much superseded through criticism as abandoned from ignorance.

Writing on Australian military history remained moribund into the 1960s, when, stimulated perhaps by a growing sense of national consciousness, the study of the impact of war on Australia slowly revived. Lloyd Robson of Melbourne University was among the first to begin to redress the deficiency, publishing *Australia and the Great War* in 1969 and *The First AIF, a study of its recruitment* in 1971. Australian universities began to initiate serious studies of the war, the most notable being Bill Gammage's doctoral thesis, which was published in 1974 as *The Broken Years*. This revival prospered because its protagonists were concerned with both the 'greatness' and 'smallness' of the story. Unlike the Anzac orationists who propounded only 'greatness' and military antiquarians, a small community of whom had been burrowing away for years into details of uniforms and decorations, with the 'smallness', Gammage, for example, aimed to explore both the attitudes which the members of AIF revealed through their diaries and letters, and with the insights such evidence allowed into what it meant to be an Australian at that time. He concluded that 'what began to happen on Gallipoli. . .is with us yet?'[7]

'Whatever of glory it contains'

Australia's military historiography is thus, rather patchy, and it amounts to much less than the whole of the Anzac legend. While Bean and his successors have had a hand in launching and directing the legend, they have by no means been the only hands on the wheel. Indeed, there is not simply one Anzac legend but a spectrum of variations upon a series of common themes. Even before the landing on Gallipoli expectations of the prowess or shortcomings of colonial soldiers had inclined those who were to read Ashmead Bartlett's first

C. E. W. Bean. Photograph (AWM A5379)

despatch to interpret differently the Anzac's performance. Thus there were those who hailed the troops as valiant, if undisciplined, sons of empire, and those who praised them as *Australia's* fighting men.

A distinction can be seen between the attitudes of those who remained at home and those who served overseas during the war. Those who stayed tended to emphasise the diggers' valour whether in Australia's or the empire's cause; those who returned the cameraderie and mateship of digger life. Few emphasised the horror or futility of the war, though reverence for the fallen was sincere and universal, if expressed in a stereotyped or conventional manner.

These attitudes co-existed during the twenties and thirties, recurring with some force, though with less clarity, during the 1939–45 war. The second war renewed the legend with the appearance of the 'sons of the Anzacs' and accumulated fresh evidence for the text-books, returned soldiers' magazines and Anzac Day orations. There was, however, no great opening drama comparable to the ordeal of Gallipoli, except perhaps the eight-month siege of Tobruk, which resembled life on the peninsula more than any other event in the second war. Instead, the names of many less graphic—and alas, less remembered, though equally moving-episodes; Greece, Crete, Alamein, Shaggy Ridge, the Burma-Siam railway, and, above all, the Kokoda trail, which supported the legend of Anzac. The 'mainstream' legend—of brave, resourceful Australian mates who stood up to and even prospered in the face of hardship, and, it must be faced, even defeat—had solidified within a mould of historical, if not literally truthful, evidence. The 'Digger' emerged as the archetypal Australian at war. In George Johnston's *My Brother Jack* an officer remarks of Jack Meredith; 'he's got the real good solid Digger look about him. . . I mean, I like the way he meets your eyes, square on. . .'.[8]

By 1946, with another war over, a second AIF raised and demobilised and six years of digger exploits being retailed, the legend was developing further variations. In 1946 Bean published *Anzac to Amiens*, a condensation of the 1914–18 official history. In it can be seen evidence that the legend, which his own work had done so much to foster, was becoming too diverse to be coralled within his own conception. He complained that:

> great damage was. . . done to the Anzac tradition by caricatures, that became popular in Australia, of the indiscipline of her troops;. . . portraying the life of the 'dinkum Aussie' as one of drunkenness, thieving and hooliganism.[9]

Yet, despite the introduction of the 'larrikin' element into the legend, the 1950s saw the legend at the height of its orthodoxy. The image of the heroes of Gallipoli was entrenched, it had been strengthened by the sons of Anzac of 1939–45 and the nephews of 1950–53. The orthodoxy is well portrayed in Dale Collins' book of 1959, *Anzac Adventure*, 'The Story of Gallipoli told for Young Readers', which was dedicated 'in reverence and gratitude' to those who fell on the peninsula. Collins' book described how the digger participated in 'a great noble and worthy adventure that he had to be in'. The diggers, wrote Collins 'turned Australia from a colony into a real nation'.[10]

The process of turning into 'a real nation' was by no means over in 1959, and during the 1960s the expression and validity of the Anzac legend was questioned with more vigour than at any time in the preceding fifty years. Indeed, Bean had written that with their lives the AIF had 'purchased a tradition beyond all human power to appraise'.[11] More replicated than investigated before this time, it was no longer held to be as immune as before, and the consequent inquisition was at times bitter.

In 1960 Ric Throssell's play *For Valour* questioned whether the nation which hailed the returning digger had given him a chance in civilian life, suggesting that the adulation of Anzac Day was hollow.[12] In 1962 the institution of Anzac Day itself came under savage attack in Alan Seymour's play *The One Day of the Year*. Hughie, the working-class scholarship boy, son of a disabled ex-serviceman, exclaims that he

> can't stand waste. Waste of lives, waste of men. The whole thing—Anzac—Gallipoli—was a waste.

> Certainly nothing to glorify... But they go on and on about this one day year after year, as though it really was something.

Hughie's condemnation, set in the context of class and generational conflict, that the 'great Australian national day of honour' is just 'one long grog-up', is questioned by the play's end. But even while working on a photographic feature in a student newspaper attacking 'digger day' he found that

> another part of me was fighting...saying to me: That isn't all the story, there is something more in Anzac still, even now, even if I can't see it.[13]

During the mid 1960s the Anzac legend became, for the first time, the subject of serious historical study and criticism. Beginning with an article in *Meanjin* by Ken Inglis in 1965, the debate centred on the relationship of the legend to Australian nationalism. Referring to Bean's contention that the nation was born on 25 April 1915 Inglis commented that

> because such words have become part of the liturgy of Anzac Day, it is hard now to hear them fresh, to consider them as a proposition to be *discussed.*

He suggested that 'a national history which does not explore the meaning of (Anzac Day) is too thin'.[14] This explains to some extent the resurgence in scholarly attention given to the Anzac legend in Australian historical writing. This revival came none too soon. Among many Australians the legend had become largely detached from the historical facts which had sustained it during the lifetime of the original diggers. In 1980, while assisting in the filming of Peter Weir's *Gallipoli*, Bill Gammage discovered that many of the 'extras' hired for the film showed a 'massive ignorance' about the reality which gave rise to the legend.

> One was surprised to learn that we were filming the First World War not the second, another that Anzac was in Turkey and that Australians fought Turks there, a third that Anzac Day was based on real events.[15]

The question of what Anzac Day represented, for long a matter of agreement, was, along with much of what had been accepted as historical 'fact' about the Great War, in dispute. In 1946 Bean wrote that

> Anzac stood, and still stands, for reckless valour in a good cause, for enterprise, resourcefulness, fidelity, comradeship, and endurance that will never own defeat.[16]

But for what 'good cause' did the 7500 Australians who were killed on the peninsula die? Gallipoli came to be seen as a futile sideshow in a war of waste. The debunking trend of historical writing on the Great War in the 1960s, at the end of which the war and its makers were the new contemptibles, joined with the awakening nationalism which had fuelled the *Meanjin* debate to require fresh interpretations of the legend.

Recent interpretations have tended to fall between denigration and adulation. A concern to explore, and even to commemorate and celebrate, the humanity of those who went to war has been a relatively recent phenomenon. It has become a common, if not always clearly acknowledged, response for those who have not found it easy to agree that all Anzacs were heroes, but who are unable to condemn them as thugs or dupes. In this view the Australian War Memorial becomes, in the words of C.M.H. Clark at the recent peace rally before the building 'a memorial...to human behaviour'.

The 'glory' of Anzac has waxed and waned over many years and many tellings. Among many, such as Albert Facey, the original Anzac who has never marched on digger day, it contains little glory. Among others, an equally diverse range of people, its glory has been deeply and sincerely appreciated, whether or not the protagonists understood the historical reality upon which it is based. In order to fathom this paradox of veneration without understanding it may be appropriate to examine one aspect of the legend.

'a monument to great-hearted men'

The concept of 'manhood' is often central to discussions of the legend of Anzac. Whether the digger is seen as a hero or a larrikin elements of masculinity, and what it implies are important in explaining the conduct of the protagonists.

Bean and his colleagues saw the AIF as, above all things, a 'throng of great-hearted countrymen...the flower of their race', as Gullett put it in his volume on the light horse in Sinai and Palestine.[18] The official historians developed a view of the Australian soldier in the Great War which differs in both tone and detail from that of later writers. Gullett praised the 'shyness and reserve' of the archetypical light horseman, who was

> a temperate man, his one excess is a harmless celebration at the annual races...or an occasional visit to the capital...even then the impelling force is the bursting strength of his youth rather than any disposition for strong drink or unwholesome excitement.[19]

Bean ascribed the AIFs capacity to continue to endure not to its members' love of a fight or desire for fame but because

> life was not worth living unless they could be true to their idea of Australian manhood.[20]

In May 1918 he spent some days among the men of 'A' Company, 22nd Battalion, billeted in a brewery near Querrieu on the Somme. Bean found the brewery to be 'a world of strong, independent, determined individuals in which anyone who was not downright and decided would always be left

and go short of anything that he wanted'. This masculine world excited Bean's deep respect.[21]

He approved of these 'strong men who give orders...with a downright voice which admits no hesitancy'. But the account of his stay at Querrieu (which appeared in volume VI of the official history but which was taken, almost word-for-word, from the diary entry he made at the time) suggests another reaction. to a time less inclined to praise 'manly' virtues—indeed, to one inclined to doubt them altogether, Bean's account contains hints of an attitude towards masculinity which suggests a more coercive element in the diggers' matey world.

The men of 'A' Company apparently expected a certain standard of conduct from each other. At Querrieu, for example, the battalion transport horses were watered at the bottom of a steep slope which was hazardous to descend. But if any driver did not want to take his horse down the slope (there was presumably a less steep but longer route to the water) 'the chaff would drive him into doing so'. The AIF was harsh on those unwilling or unable to fall in with what would today be described as its 'macho' attitude. Officers, for example, often promoted from the ranks of promising non-commissioned officers, were expected to prove themselves as leaders in action before gaining the acceptance and respect of their platoons. Conduct in battle therefore became the criterion for promotion. Bean found that one result of this system was a 'particularly impelling desire on the part of officer and man each to justify himself in the others' eyes'.[22] The AIF's casualty rate was appallingly high—much higher than that of Britain and appreciably higher than that of the other dominion forces. It is usually ascribed to the British army providing a greater proportion of non-combatant 'base' troops, or, rather less charitably, to the allegation that the British command repeatedly smashed up dominion divisions as 'shock' troops. The latter explanation ignores the fact that the Canadians, from 1916 including conscripts, were in France for a year longer than the AIF but suffered proportionally fewer casualties. How many Australian lives were lost from the desire to prove themselves as 'men'; 'reckless valour', in Bean's terms?

Gullett's shy and reserved light horsemen also had a darker side to their 'manly' image. It was lighthorsemen who broke up the Wazza brothel district on two occasions in 1915. These 'temperate' men, supposedly without any disposition for unwholesome excitement rampaged through the Wazza exacting revenge on the Egyptian prostitutes who were supposedly to blame for infecting them with venereal disease and selling them adulterated grog. A small proportion of the force participated in the riots, which in any case they blamed to a man on the New Zealanders, but it casts doubt upon the picture presented by Gullett.[23]

Attitudes of aggressive or coercive masculinity are commonly found in many armies and among groups of men living or working together. They are, and are becoming recognised, as much a part of the Anzac tradition as the more commonly praised mateship, courage and resourcefulness. That the Anzac legend persists although in changed forms can be seen by examining the ways in which one part of the experience of battle—the treatment of prisoners—has been dealt with.

In 1931 Harley Matthews' narrative poem 'Two Brothers' described in part the capture of a Turk on Gallipoli:

> We lay against our packs.
> Each watching what he saw. 'A prisoner, Look!'...
> A man stood up. He screamed 'Kill him! Kill. Kill'.
> There bayonet him. Shoot him. Our orders
> were Not to take one of them.'
> Not an arm lifted. No one took up that
> shout...He seemed glad
> To have been taken, someone's voice broke in
> 'Who could have shot a man like that? Not
> me.'[24]

This view of the gentlemanly digger was qualified by the appearance of Bean's volume *The Australian Imperial Force in France in 1917*, published in 1933 in which he described an incident during the capture of a pillbox in the Ypres offensive. Although describing the incident in detail in a footnote, the text conveys the gist:

> Captain Moore, a beloved officer, now ran towards the pillbox, but was immediately shot by a German, who, according to reports afterwards made, had already surrendered. The Victorians at once killed this man and others, and only interposition by their officers stopped them from exterminating the whole garrison.[25]

Compared to other official histories, Bean's is, as John Keegan recognised in *The Face of Battle*, 'remarkably frank'.[26] Yet even his account which dealt with only one instance of a practice which must have occurred many times on the western front, pulled punches in explaining it. He sententiously commented that 'such incidents are inevitable in the heat of battle, and any blame for them lies with those who make wars, not with those who fight them'.

Martin Boyd's autobiography appeared in 1939. He too described the killing of prisoners, but in terms which differed from the explicable anger-of-the-moment of Bean's account:

> Sergeant-Major X had started out with seven prisoners and arrived with none. Apparently he had put mills-bombs down their trousers. Wells thought this very funny and everyone was inclined to be amused...Of course, it was against regulations to kill prisoners, but, dammit, what did half a dozen Huns matter?[27]

Australian troops on the edge of the Wazza after the riots of 1915. Photograph (AWM C183)

By 1974, when Bill Gammage's *The Broken Years* appeared, there was even less compunction over relating similar incidents:

> In a shell hole further on I saw a (German) wounded man and another. An officer walked up and the German asked him to give his comrade a drink. 'Yes', our officer said 'I'll give the *** a drink', 'take this', and he emptied his revolver on the two of them. This is the only way to treat a Hun. What we enlisted for was to kill Huns, those baby-killing ***.[28]

We can probably anticipate that similar revelations about the men of 1939-45; less startling, perhaps, since they have not been promoted as nature's gentlemen, though the jungle of New Guinea probably conceals equally grisly stories. The foregoing examples, however, serve as a reminder that while 'what these men did nothing can alter' much has changed in what it has been acceptable to reveal of them. That this process continues is the subject of the next and last section of this

'a possession forever'

As the foregoing discussion of but one part of the treatment of the legend suggests, Anzac is not only an element in the national consciousness which has changed, it is one which has so far periodically renewed its relevance. The most significant manifestation of this can be seen in the reception accorded to Peter Weir's film *Gallipoli*. The film deserves a place in an historical study such as this not only because of the response, but also because of the careful fidelity to the reality and spirit of Anzac which the film-makers attempted and achieved and which gave it the authentic texture to which audiences responded. The film did not, however, present a view of Anzac which it would have had had it been filmed in 1959 (the year in which *Anzac Adventure* appeared) rather than in 1979.

To complete the discussion of the portrayal of ideas of manhood undertaken in the previous section, it is appropriate to quote from the screenplay to the film. The extract does not deal with the treatment of prisoners, but with the reactions of an Australian soldier under fire:

> A soldier at the side of the trench is obviously terrified. There is a momentary silence. Archy looks to the terrified soldier, who is Les McGann, the stockman from Archy's home. Archy moves toward Les...He turns and looks to Archy in recognition. Archy doesn't know what to say, and backs away, unable to help him.[29]

Thus the Anzacs, more than ever before, are coming to be seen, in several ways as 'real men', not simply as cardboard heroes of old.

That the Anzac legend retains its attraction can be seen by observing at a variety of developments in Australian life; the popularity of Anzac trivia, such as button badges, the increased attendances at Anzac Day services or the growth in interest in military history such as Patsy Adam-Smith's *The Anzacs*. The reasons can be most clearly seen by referring once again to an incident which occurred on the set of *Gallipoli*. Bill Gammage recorded that the extras, who had at first been unbelievably ignorant of the story of Anzac, gradually imbibed the spirit of Gallipoli. One day:

> they were being given a pep talk before a scene was filmed. 'Now, men, we are going to put some life in this charge, because we want to get it right first take. Remember, we are Anzacs. What are we?' 'Bloody thirsty', a voice floated lazily back. That was pure Gallipoli.[30]

Gammage wrote that all those involved on the film - and his words stand for many who saw it -'felt those terrible contradictions between youth and death, expectation and reality, courage and waste, which characterised that cruel crucible of Australian nationhood'. It is contradictions such as these which remain the most powerful legacies of the Anzac experience. It is important that they are universal, rather than simply national contradictions, and will be long after the superseded notions of imperial loyalty, outmoded ideas of masculine prowess and irrelevant panegyric of heroism in what was never a good cause.

Yet it is clear, too, that the legend is losing its relevance and power, particularly since the demographic changes which have occurred in Australian society since 1945. Large sections of the community have few human or historical links with the legend. Others, for whom the political uses or proprietorial treatment has been distasteful have not been inclined to value it.

But even among those who are unmoved by the traditional reverence for Anzac, there is an appreciation of the value of remembrance in other ways and for other reasons. The performance of *The Broken Years*, based on extracts from Gammage, Adam-Smith and Michael McKernan's *The Australian People and the Great War*, and given by Theatre ACT at the Australian War Memorial in April 1982, was an attempt to give 'a strong and truthful idea of what ordinary men, women and children experienced'. But it was not merely a performance, but was designed to be 'a ceremony', albeit 'an unusual kind of commemoration'.[31]

There is much in the story of Australians at war to merit the respect, if not always the admiration, of those unsympathetic to the more patriotic manifestations of the legend. Bean himself wrote of the work of unarmed stretcher-bearers on the peninsula who sought the wounded disregarding enemy fire. He saw in these men 'qualities always vital to the human race'[32]. Reminders of these standards of courage, endurance, compassion, and even humour can be of value to those who reject the need for their application in the 1914-18 or any other war.

Peter Weir's film *Gallipoli* has been used to illustrate several points in this paper, particularly in this, the last section. As one of the most powerful and widely influential statements of the Anzac legend in recent years it symbolises much of the significance which the legend retains. Part of its success is due to the way in which many facets of the conceptions which Australians have about the legend were able to be inferred by viewers. The person who sees the campaign as a noble sacrifice is satisfied; so too is the anti-imperalist, the person who sees the diggers as 'lads', and those who are saddened by the waste of young lives.

Weir's success in drawing such a response from so wide a range of Australians communicates something about the legend's 'ownership'. For the first fifty years of its existence it was claimed by the RSL. The first challenge to this assumption of the title came with the 1960s with the denial of sanctity by Alan Seymour, followed by the more gentle questioning of the *Meanjin* debate. But if the questioning was followed by a discernable rejection of the legend, it was accompanied by a renewed appreciation of it. Around the time that *The One Day of the Year* appeared, for instance, Sidney Nolan had begun his Gallipoli series, now in the care of the Australian War Memorial. George Johnston, whose *My Brother Jack* opened with his remembrance of the Great War on himself and his family, recalled the series' genesis:

> Alan Moorhead (an expatriate Australian whose book Gallipoli appeared in 1956) had been living on the neighbouring (Greek) island of Spetsae...and a very deeply felt memoir of his, dealing with the Anzacs, had already appeared in the New Yorker. It affected me and I gave it to Nolan to read. It was like unlocking a door.[33]

The result, Nolan's *Gallipoli* series remains the largest artistic interpretation of the Anzac legend. Its existence, and its acceptance by the Memorial, signifies that re-interpretation of the legend are still possible, and unavoidable. The legend does not remain static, but neither does it simply generate new images. The artist Ray Beattie, for example, has echoed earlier manifestations of the Anzac experience in his painting *Image for a dead man*.

The painting, which features the uniform, medals, slouch hat and identity discs of a dead Australian soldier, is a full length painting but contains no figure. It recalls the emptiness which many returned men felt after their return to civilian world which did not understand either their experiences or their loss. This feeling of loss, which

partly helped to create both the RSL and the institution of Anzac Day, is recaptured and re-stated through Beattie's painting.

Anzac has stimulated the consciousnes of what it means to be Australian more than once since 1915. The Anzac legend, it seems, is not simply a fable invented to be told at school assemblies as an excuse for a holiday. It represents historical reality which continues to be of relevance to Australians today. Significantly, the 'hype' for the film restates Bean's final words. 'From a legend we'll always remember comes a story you'll never forget': 'a possession forever'?

Notes

1. C.E.W. Bean, *The Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918*, vol. VI, *The Australian Imperial Force in France during the Allied Offensive*, 1918, Sydney, 1942, p. 1096.
2. Bean, vol. I, *The Story of Anzac*, Sydney, 1922, p. XXX.
3. Bean, vol. II, *The Story of Anzac*, Sydney, 1924, p. 910.
4. C.E.W. Bean, 'The writing of the Australian history of the War of 1914-1918: sources, methods, and some conclusions', in Robert Higham, *Offical Histories. Essays and bibliographies from around the world*, Kansas, 1970, p.71
5. Bean, vol. II, p. 910.
6. Richard White, *Inventing Australia, Images and Identity, 1688-1980*, Sydney, 1981, p. 128.
7. Bill Gammage, *The Broken Years: Australian Soldiers in the Great War*, Penguin, 1980, p. 279.
8. George Johnston, *My Brother Jack*, Glasgow, 1964, p. 279.
9. C.E.W. Bean, *Anzac to Amiens*, Canberra, 1946, p. 538.
10. Dale Collins, *Anzac Adventure, The Story of Gallipoli told for Young Readers*, Sydney, 1959, pp. 166 & 168.
11. Bean, vol. I, p. 605.
12. Ric Throssell, *For Valour*, Sydney, 1974.
13. Alan Seymour, *The One Day of the Year*, in *Three Australian Plays*, Penguin, 1963, pp. 36, 74 & 89.
14. K.S. Inglis, 'The Anzac Tradition', *Meanjin Quarterly*, vol. 24, No. 1, March 1965, p. 29.
15. Bill Gammage, '*Gallipoli—The Making*', in Bill Gammage, David Williamson and Peter Weir, *The Story of Gallipoli*, Penguin, 1981, p. 10.
16. Bean, *Anzac to Amiens*, p. 181.
17. C.M.H. Clark, speaking at the rally for peace at the Australian War Memorial, 27 March 1983.
18. H.S. Gullett, vol. VII, *The Australian Imperial Force in Sinai and Palestine, 1914-1918*, 11th Edition, Sydney, 1941, p. 30.
19. *Ibid*, p. 35.
20. Bean, vol. I, p. 608.
21. Bean, vol. VI, pp. 6-12.
22. *Ibid*, p. 22.
23. See Jeff Williams, 'The first AIF overseas 1914-16', a paper presented at the Australian War Memorial History Conference, 8-12 February 1983, pp. 6-7.
24. J.T. Laird, *Other Banners*, pp. 25-26.
25. Bean, vol. IV, p. 782.
26. John Keegan, *The Face of Battle*, Penguin, p. 36.
27. Laird, p. 167.
28. Gammage, p. 278.
29. *The Story of Gallipoli*, p. 141.
30. *Ibid*, p. 10.
31. Programme *The Broken Years*, np.
32. Bean, vol. VI, p. 1095.
33. Gavin Fry and Anne Gray, *Masterpieces of the Australian War Memorial*, Adelaide, 1982, p. 113.

Lady Southern Cross: The Australian Government recently approved a special RAAF flight to take the Lady Southern Cross search expedition to Rangoon. The expedition is searching for the wreckage of Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith's aircraft which is believed to be lying in waters surrounding Kokunye Kyun Aye Island off the Burmese coast.

End of an era: At a Colonial Conference in London in 1887, the Australian States agreed for the first time to make a financial contribution toward the cost of maintaining Royal Navy ships in Australian waters. This resulted in the Australasian Naval Defence Act (1887) which provided for the Australian Squadron (Royal Navy) to be augmented by an auxiliary squadron of five 3rd class cruisers and two torpedo gunboats. For this additional naval protection, the States agreed to pay five per cent of the initial cost and an annual payment of £91,000. The federation of Australian States in 1901 gave the Commonwealth Government responsiblity for defence, bringing to a close the era of State navies. On 1 March 1901, the ships and personnel of the State navies transferred to Commonwealth control but continued to be administered under the provisions of existing State Acts and Regulations until the Commonwealth Defence Act was proclaimed on 1 March 1904.

Malcolm Saunders

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST EXPEDITIONARY FORCE: THE NEW SOUTH WALES CONTINGENT TO THE SUDAN

Most readers of this journal will be aware that in February 1885 the New South Wales government offered Britain a contingent of about 750 colonial troops to assist British forces in their struggle against the Mahdi and his followers in the Sudan. The New South Wales contingent to the Sudan is often simply described as Australia's first expeditionary force.[1] While essentially correct this description is far too brief to be adequate. Certainly it does not do full justice to the contingent—either those within it or those who sent it—in pointing out the precedents it created. Even less can be said about most other references to the special character of the contingent. Indeed many descriptions of the force are not merely misleading but downright wrong. This article is an attempt to clarify the "firsts" achieved by the contingent firstly by clearing up some misconceptions about its status and secondly by pinpointing exactly in what ways it was unique. It is not meant to be the last word on the subject and if it manages to stimulate interested others to proffer relevant information and further qualifications it will have achieved its purpose.

Historians have made some absurdly sweeping statements about the Sudan contingent. Two very early historians have referred to it as "the first military support ever given by these colonies to the Mother Country".[2] Military historians especially, have been very careless with their descriptions. One, who served in the contingent as a private, described it as "the first of all Contingents for service in the cause of Empire",[3] another that it was "the first occasion that Australia spontaneously offered instant and practical assistance to the Empire in Imperial interests",[4] and a third tells us it was "the first time that a colony had offered organised military assistance to the mother country".[5] Professional historians have not always been more circumspect. Thus Blackton obscures his meaning by stating that it was "the first formal Australian venture into military operations";[6] Pike claims that the men of the contingent were the first Australian colonists to serve Britain at war;[7] and Tanner asserts that it was "the first of Australia's overseas military adventures".[8]

None of these statements, as it stands, is correct. On several occasions during the second half of the nineteenth century one or more of the Australian colonies had given military aid to Britain when the latter was engaged in war. During the Crimean War of 1854–56 and the Indian Mutiny of 1857–59 the British Army had received small amounts of military equipment from Australia.[9] In 1860 the Victorian government sent what almost amounted to its entire navy—the steam corvette *Victoria*—across the Tasman to assist the British put down the Maoris in New Zealand.[10] And in February 1884 the Victorian government, through its agent-general in London, Mr Murray Smith, offered two new gunboats and a torpedo vessel to Britain for use in the Red Sea against rebels in the eastern Sudan.[11] The Admiralty was dubious about the legal status of the vessels, didn't really need them anyway, and therefore declined the offer.[12] However, probably unwilling to ruffle colonial pride, it suggested that the vessels report to Admiral Hewett who was in command of British naval forces in the Red Sea. The three ships served for a few days off Suakin as bombardment vessels in late March after which they resumed their delivery voyage to Melbourne.[13 14] It is hardly correct, then, to claim that the New South Wales contingent to the Sudan was the first occasion on which the government of an Australian colony either offered military aid to Britain and/or had it accepted.

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The statement is often made that the men of the contingent were the first Australian troops to be despatched overseas to fight alongside British soldiers in an imperial war. Thus Abbott, the son of a minister in the government which despatched the contingent, described the men as "the first Australian troops to go to the assistance of the British Empire overseas"[15] and, even more rashly, referred to 3 March 1885 as "the first time Sydney had seen soldiers off to the wars".[16] Three military historians have stated that the force was "the first ever raised by a British colony and sent overseas to fight in a war"; that it was "the first colonial volunteer force raised for service overseas"; that it was "the first organised military force to leave Australia for battle service overseas".[17] A much-cited doctoral thesis tells us it was "the first occasion in which organised colonial troops were sent overseas to cooperate with the British Army".[18] A volume in a series of booklets on military campaigns states that the campaign around Suakin in 1885 was "notable for the first use of Colonial troops outside their own country".[19] Even more recently it has been referred to as "the first armed force to be dispatched overseas by a British colony".[20]

Again, fault may be found with each of these claims. They are true mainly insofar as the men of the contingent were the first Australians to participate in an imperial war *as Australian soldiers wearing Australian uniforms*. But literally thousands of Australians had served as soldiers in imperial wars during the half century or so prior to 1885. Volunteers from the Australian colonies had enlisted in the British Army and served overseas during the Maori troubles in New Zealand in the 1840s, the Crimean War, the Indian Mutiny, and the first Boer War of 1881—to name only the most important. Many perhaps most of the volunters had travelled to London to enlist. And, of course, attracted by offers of land for their services, about 2500 Australians had crossed the Tasman to fight alongside the British Army and the New Zealand militia against the Maoris in 1863-64.[22] These men were recruited by the New Zealand government, despatched overseas, and organised into four regiments called the Waikato Regiments.[23] Thus although they did not wear Australian uniforms they were organised into distinctly Australian units and were always identifiable as Australian troops. It is ironic but nevertheless true that the first military force of Australians to leave the continent for battle service overseas was recruited and despatched not by an Australian colonial government but by the New Zealand government.

It is all too often implied that the New South Wales government's offer of 12 February 1885 was the first offer from within the Australian colonies of a contingent of troops for service in an imperial war. Thus the veteran mentioned earlier described the offer as "a new factor in the world's affairs—the practicability, not before considered, of the outside and widely scattered possessions of the Homeland being a source of assistance and strength at all times and in all circumstances".[24] Sometimes the claim is quite explicit. For instance, a recent history of Australian foreign policy described the event as "the first offer of locally-raised forces for purposes of Imperial defence".[25] Both claims are untrue. Several such offers were made after 1872, that is, after Britain and the Australian colonies had been linked by telegraph cable. "Among other great changes", Inglis has pointed out, "the cable (made) it far more practicable for Australian colonists, if they wished, to go and serve the empire at war".[26]

In 1879, for instance, the commander of the military forces of South Australia, Colonel Downes, offered to raise a contingent of troops to serve alongside British forces fighting Zulus in South Africa.[27] The governor, Sir William Jervois, with the approval of the premier, Sir William Morgan, passed on the offer to the British government but it was "declined with thanks". The offer was given little if any publicity. News of the defeat of British troops by Boers at Majuba Hill in South Africa on 27 February 1881 aroused greater numbers of Australian colonists to offer themselves for overseas military service under the British flag. Offers to raise contingents for service in South Africa came from soldiers in New South Wales and South Australia, but the Parkes government repudiated the offer of the one and Britain refused that of the other. True, these offers were made by individuals within these colonies, not by the governments of the colonies. But many claims simply don't draw this distinction.

Another common misconception surrounding the New South Wales government's offer was that it followed hard upon a similar offer by the Canadian government. In a letter published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on the morning of 12 February—a letter often considered to have inspired the acting premier of New South Wales, William Bede Dalley, to make his historic offer—a retired British Army officer living in Sydney, Sir Edward Strickland, urged Australia to follow "the example of a sister colony, Canada, and (tender)...to our mother country substantial aid in the time of need".[29 30] Since then it has become almost commonplace to state that Canada's "offer" was rejected and New South Wales' "later" offer was accepted because the Australian troops were believed to be ready to go while the Canadian troops were not. Indeed the most well-known reference work on the Sudan contingent, the small book by Stanley Brogden, claimed that the Canadian government had later offered Britain 3000 men for service in the Sudan.[31 32]

General Graham and the staff of the Suakin Field Force. Photograph courtesy Australian War Memorial.

Both statements are demonstrably false. In late 1884 and early 1885, while many groups and individuals in Canada offered themselves for service in the Sudan,[33] at no stage did the Canadian government, led by John Macdonald, offer a Canadian contingent for Britain's use in the conflict. Macdonald was willing to allow Britain to recruit men in Canada and claimed he would have placed no obstacle in her path.[34] But he was dubious about the constitutional propriety of despatching an official Canadian contingent[35] and in any case was averse to doing so.[36] Throughout the British Empire newspaper reports created the false impression that one of its largest dominions had offered substantial aid.[37] But these offers came from within Canada not from Canada itself, a fact which gives them far less significance.

But it should not be thought that New South Wales was the first corner of the British Empire to furnish troops to Britain for use in an overseas war. India had sent troops overseas to assist Britain on numerous occasions between the late 1830s and the early 1880s. Two eminent British scholars have pointed out that Indian regiments had been moved to China in 1839, 1856, and 1859, to Persia in 1856, to Ethiopia and Singapore in 1867, to Hong Kong in 1868, to Afghanistan in 1878, to Egypt in 1882, and to Burma in 1885.[38] "These examples", they declare, "are only the most conspicuous cases" of the use of the army of India in imperial wars during this period.[39] But of course in 1885 New South Wales and India were not comparable constituents of the British Empire. Once a British settlement, New South Wales had, since the late 1850s, been a self-governing colony. The status of India was complex but it was neither a British settlement nor a self-governing colony. It was a British possession. The New South Wales government's offer of 12 February 1885 was a free-will offering; the viceroy of India, on the other hand, was ordered by the British government to despatch Indian troops whenever and wherever in the empire they might be needed.

Finally it should be noted that months before the New South Wales government made its offer British forces in the Sudan had been joined by a contingent of about 400 rivermen—often called *voyageurs*[40]—from Canada. Their purpose was to assist Wolseley's expedition up the River Nile which had set out in November 1884 to relieve General Gordon, then besieged in Khartoum. The Sudan campaign of 1884-85, wrote one Canadian historian, "was the first occasion when the self-governing colonies gave assistance to the mother country in an overseas campaign. Canada was one of the colonies".[41] And a British historian noted that "the campaign (to assist in the Sudan) which the Canadian *voyageurs* had begun was to see Australians in action before all was over".[42]

But Canada had not pipped New South Wales at the post. Firstly, the recruitment of the *voyageurs* was undertaken by the British government acting through its agents in Canada.[43] The Canadian government approved of an cooperated with the

The camp site of the Suakin Field Force at Tanbuk. Photograph courtesy Australian War Memorial.

recruitment but was not officially involved. Secondly, the *voyageurs* were civilian not military personnel. They were neither part of the military forces of Canada nor regarded as combatants in the Sudan.[44] Their status was that of civilians working under a special contract. Most of them had returned to Canada by the time the Australians arrived in the Sudan at the end of March 1885.

What, then, are we left with? Certainly the New South Wales contingent was special and some positive claims can be made on its behalf. Phrasing the claims carefully, it can be said that the contingent established two major precedents. It was the first force of infantry sent by the government of an Australian colony to assist Britain in an overseas war. And it was also the first body of troops that any self-governing colony in the British Empire had raised, maintained, and despatched from its shores to reinforce the British Army. Any other claims, however, should be treated with scepticism. At best they are dubious, at worst simply untrue.

NOTES

1. See, for instance, Grolier Society of Australia, *The Australian encyclopaedia Vol. VIII*, Sydney, 1958. p.343; C.F. Coady, "The first campaign", *Army Journal*, March 1971. p. 38; W.A. Wood, "The Sudan contingent of 1885 and the anti-war movement", *Labour History*, November 1962, p.52.
2. T.A. Coghlan and T.T. Ewing, *The progress of Australasia in the nineteenth century*, Toronto, 1903. p.99.
3. A.J. Bennett, "The first contingent", *Australian National Review*, March 1937. p.32.
4. C.P. Dolan, "Soudan contingent: Jubilee of departure", *Navy, Army and Air Force Journal*, 1 April 1935. p.6.
5. P.V. Vernon, *The Royal New South Wales Lancers 1885–1960*, Sydney, 1961. p.6.
6. C.S. Blackton, "Australian nationality and nationalism: 1850–1900", *Historical Studies*, May 1961. p.360.
7. D. Pike, *Australia: The quiet continent*, Cambridge, 1970. p.20.
8. T.W. Tanner, *Compulsory citizen soldiers*, Sydney, 1980. p.18.
9. D.J. Deasey, *Australian involvement in the Sudan campaign 1885*, unpublished BA thesis, University of New South Wales, 1971. p.1.
10. G.A. King, "Soudan contingent memorial unveiled", *Royal Australian Historical Society Journal*, 1952. p.285; G. Serle, "The Victorian government's campaign for federation, 1883–1889", A. W. Martin (ed.), *Essays in Australian federation*, Melbourne, 1969. p.22; G. Serle, *The rush to be rich: A history of the colony of Victoria*, 1883–1889, Melbourne, 1971. pp.199–200.
11. *Argus*, 15 February, 1884. p.5. The gunboats were the *Victoria* and the *Albert*; the torpedo boat was the *Childers*.
12. *Argus*, 21 February 1884. p.5; Serle, *The rush to be rich*, p.199.
13. *Argus*, 24 March 1884. p.5.
14. For a brief account of the episode see G. H. Gill, "When H.M. colonial ships went to war", Australian War Memorial, *As you were! A cavalcade of events with the Australian services from 1788 to 1946*, Canberra, 1946. pp.132–6.
15. J.H.M. Abbott, "Off to the Sudan", Australian War Memorial, *As you were with the Australian services at home and overseas from 1788 to 1948*, Canberra, 1954. p.70.
16. *Ibid*. p.72.
17. R. Clark, *New South Wales Soudan contingent 1885*, Canberra, 1972. p.2; A.W. Horner, "The first diggers", Australian War Memorial, *As you were! A cavalcade of events with the Australian services from 1788 to 1946*, Canberra, 1946. p.78; N. Bartlett (ed.), *Australia at arms*, Canberra, 1955. p.3. Bartlett, at least, is aware of the inadequacy of this description of the contingent.
18. L.D. Atkinson, *Australian defence policy: A study of empire and nation (1897–1910)*, unpublished PhD thesis, Australian National University, 1964.
19. R. Wilkinson-Latham, *The Sudan campaigns 1881–1898*, London, 1976. pp.29–30.
20. C. Halls *et alia*, *1000 famous Australians*, Adelaide, 1978. p.86.
21. As far as I can ascertain these events have seldom if ever been documented by historians. Nevertheless they are occasionally mentioned. See, for instance, Blackton, p.360; R. Kruger, *Good-bye Dolly Gray: The story of the Boer War*, London, 1959. p.8.
22. N. Bartlett, *Australia at arms*, p.3.
23. Different figures have been given for the number of Australians recruited for the Waikato War of 1863–64. Bartlett has claimed they numbered about 2500 (*Ibid*. p.3.). He later gave the precise figure of 2368 (N. Bartlett, "Australia and the Maori Wars", *Canberra Historical Journal*, March 1980. p.5). A second put it at 2600 (J. Laffin, *Anzacs at war: The story of Austral-*

ian and New Zealand battles, London, 1965. p.22). A third has said 1475 were enrolled in 1863 and a further 1200 in 1864—a total of nearly 2700 (P. Firkins, *The Australians in nine wars: Waikato to Long Tan*, London, 1971. p.3).

24. Bennett, p.32.
25. A.W. Stargardt, *Australia's Asian policies: The history of a debate: 1839-1972*, Hamburg, 1977. p.90.
26. K.S. Inglis, *The Australian colonists: An exploration of social history 1788-1870*, Melbourne, 1974. p.236.
27. There are very few secondary sources which make even brief mention of these events. I am indebted to Major Hans Zwillenberg for most of the information in this paragraph (H. Zwillenberg to M. Saunders, 21 March 1983).
28. Deasey, p.1; R.M. Younger, *Australia and the Australians: A new concise history*, Adelaide, 1970. pp.421–422.
29. *SMH*, 12 February 1885. p.5.
30. The source of Strickland's error—for that is what it was—was an inaccurate report in the *Sydney Morning Herald* that Canada had offered 600 men to take over garrison duties in Britain to allow more regular troops to help in the rescue of Gordon (*SMH*, 11 February 1885. p.9).
31. S. Brogden, *The Sudan contingent*, Melbourne, 1943. pp.39–40.
32. Brogden, like many other writers, appears to have been misled by another inaccurate report in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, this later one stating that the Canadian government would probably send 3000 troops to the Sudan, presumably after the northern summer (*SMH*, 9 March 1885. p.7).
33. C.P. Stacey, "Canada and the Nile expedition of 1884–85", *Canadian Historical Review*, December 1952. pp. 325–26.
34. See also, C.P. Stacey, "John A. Macdonald on raising troops in Canada for imperial service, 1885", *Canadian Historical Review*, March 1957. p.38.
35. D.C. Gordon, *The dominion partnership in imperial defense, 1870-1914*, Baltimore, 1965. p.124.
36. R. MacLaren, *Canadians on the Nile, 1882-1898*, Vancouver, 1978. p.127.
37. R.A. Preston, *Canada and 'imperial defense': A study of the origins of the British Commonwealth's defense organization, 1867-1919*, Durham, North Carolina, 1967. p.163.
38. R. Robinson and J. Gallagher, *Africa and the Victorians: The official mind of imperialism*, London, 1961. p.12.
39. See also, P. Knaplund, *The British Empire: 1815-1939*, New York, 1969. p.495.
40. One writer has claimed that *voyageurs* were an extinct breed in Canada and that the rivermen recruited were backwoodsmen and Indians (Preston, p.160).
41. Stacey, Canada and the Nile expedition, p.319.
42. C.E. Carrington, *The British overseas: Exploits of a nation of shopkeepers*, Cambridge, 1950. p.739.
43. Preston, p.160.
44. Gordon, p.89.

Dear Sir,

Whilst checking the medal rolls of the N.S.W. Contingents to the Boer War I came across an interesting note relating to one of the members of the Nursing Contingent from Sydney.

There are 14 names on the roll of Nurses. The first 10 received both Queen's and King's medals (with no bars on either medal). They are:

Lady Supt. E. Gould, Supt. J. Johnstone, Sister A. Austin, N. Newton, E. Hoadley, E. Lister, M. Steel, A. Matchett, A. Garden, P. Frater, M. Martin, E. Nixon, A. Pocock, and J. Woodward.

Against Sister Newton's name is the ominous notation "On Black List—no medal". I have only seen this in a few other instances on the Australian Medal rolls e.g. Harry Morant and Peter Hancock!

To increase the mystery a collector in Sydney has the Q.S.A. to Newton in his collection and the K.S.A. medal roll does not carry a similar notation against her name.

Perhaps it is a clerical error?

I'm not game enough to make any further comments!

Michael Downey

The Australian War Memorial

HISTORY CONFERENCE

&

MHSA WORKSHOP

February 7-11, 1984

The Fourth Annual Australian War Memorial Conference will be held in Canberra from Thursday 7th to Friday 10th February 1984 and, as in 1983, will be followed on the morning of Saturday 11th by a workshop in conjunction with MHSA.

This year it is hoped that the workshop can be split into two streams, one catering for researchers — devoted to sources of material; the other stream will be for collectors and will cover conservation of materials, possibly to be conducted at the Mitchell Annex of the AWM.

Members who expect to attend are urged to contact the AWM as soon as possible. Those who were not on the AWM mailing list and did not receive the preliminary papers should write to:

Dr Michael McKernan
Assistant Director (Research and Publications)
Australian War Memorial
GPO Box 345,
CANBERRA, ACT 2601

indicating that they are interested in attending the Conference and/or the workshop.

Eoin Delaney

PRIVATE GANSON REMEMBERS

Horace Ganson was born on the 16th July 1895, in Ashton-under-Lyne, near Manchester, England. He immigrated to Western Australia, arriving in November 1939 then joined the A.I.F. in 1916 and as a member of the 21st reinforcements sailed for France to meet up with the 16th Battalion. Horrie took part in the First Battle for Bullecourt on the 11th April, 1917, and was in the thick of the fighting until his capture by the Germans that same day. The 16th Battalion (Western Australia) went into action with a fighting strength of 17 officers and 700 other ranks. Only 3 officers and 87 other ranks regained their lines. The following is a transcript of a conversation with Private Ganson.

In 1913, I was 18, and I arrived here in November and went to the country working at a place called Totodgin when they changed the name to Belka, it's on the Merredin—Bruce Rock line. I was working on the farm, clearing, burning off, then ploughing. Of course 1914 was a drought year, no crops to take on. In 1915 the people didn't have enough seed to put in, but there was a lot of self-sown wheats grew up, and when the harvest came around I was on the harvester, a 6' harvester, and I went chasing around these heads of wheat to get enough seed for the next year, and I think I worked a full day with a 6' harvester to get 6 bags of wheat, which of course, was a good let off to put in next year.

The year 1915 carried on just the same, and then at the end of that we didn't have much crop, and of course, at the time wheat was 1/5d a bushel. Then at the end of that I did a bit of burning off, and then the end of January we had the doctors come up from Perth to the Merredin district, and all the boys in the district who wanted to join up went into Merredin. That was in January/February and, of course, those boys who didn't pass the medical went back to the farms.

Then we were called up in March '16 we went into Blackboy and, of course we went through the usual form 4's, etc., and that sort of stuff. We didn't have rifles then, just broom-handles which took the place of rifles. Of course, the other time there was no call for reinforcements, and so anyhow we eventually applied to get overseas, and we were knocked back, but in October the 21st reinforcements for the 16 Battalion were sent away on the troop ship called the Port MacQuarie (A13) code name. A jolly little thing. I think about 300 of us went on board, there was the 20th and 21st reinforcements on the way to England.

After we left Capetown we had been out about 2 days when all at once we turned round and galloped back again to where I don't know—to Freetown. There must have been submarines somewhere. So we sailed back to Freetown and stayed there about 8 or 9 days. While we were there, warships and troopships, all kinds of things came into Freetown, till the seas were clear of submarines.

Off the coast of Spain we came upon a shipwreck, we got an S.O.S. from a Spanish ship, she was foundering, and of course a troopship is not supposed to go to the aid of another ship, whether it is

Eoin Delaney is an officer of the WA Fire Brigade. He served 6 years in the RAAF, including a year in Vietnam as an Airfield Defense Guard and Helicopter gunner with 9 Sqn. His military interests are Australians at War, British Battles and Medals, and Medal Collecting.

THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

President's Report of the year ending 30 June 1983

The Society has just completed a most successful year and some of the more outstanding features of past year's activities are reported.

The West Australian branch marked the 25th anniversary of the society by arranging a well-attended exhibition and several lectures on various aspects of military history.

The Geelong branch participated in no small measure in the 100th anniversary of Fort Queenscliff, Victoria.

Due to the drive and enthusiasm of its Secretary, Mr John Price, the Victorian branch also had a very successful year with a substantial increase in membership.

The South Australian branch participated in a very fine exhibition on South Australia's colonial defence 1836–1901. Your President represented the Society at the opening of the exhibition by His Excellency, Lieutenant-General Sir Donald B. Dunstan, CB, CBE, DSO, MBE, Governor of South Australia.

On behest of the South Australian branch, and with the greatest pleasure and satisfaction, your Federal Council had the honour of requesting one of Australia's oldest and best known soldiers, Major-General Ronald Nicholas Lamond Hopkins, CBE to fill one of the positions of Vice Patron. General Hopkins gratiously acceded to our request. Your President met with General Hopkins and briefed him in some detail about the activities of the Society.

The Society was associated in no small measure with the Australian War Memorial conference on military history, which took place in February 1983. On the last day of that conference the Society ran a military history workshop under the chairmanship of your Vice President, Brigadier A. R. Roberts. The Society expects to be involved in a similar activity next year.

During the conference week the Federal Council met with the Patron of the Society, Admiral Sir Anthony Synnot, KBE, AO in the Council room of the Australian War Memorial, mainly for the purpose of acquainting the Patron with past, present and planned future activities of the Society. Your President, on behalf of Federal Council expresses his thanks to the Director-General of the Australian War Memorial for making this venue available.

Most of the difficulties the Society had faced over the last few years in respect to certain exhibition and display items have now been almost completely overcome, due mainly to the unceasing efforts of the Federal Secretary.

The financial position of the Society is sound as will be seen from the Treasurer's report. Federal Council is, therefore, of the opinion that the subscription does not have to be increased.

During the year 1982–83 the Society gained sixty new members and lost 50—mainly as result of non-renewal of the subscription—making a net gain of ten members.

In conclusion your President would like to thank the outgoing Federal Council on your as well as his behalf on their untiring efforts for and on behalf of the Military Historical Society of Australia.

H. Zwillenberg,
Federal President

THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Notes which form part of financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 1983

1. Sundry Income includes an amount of $20.95 received on behalf of ACT Branch—MHSA Books.
2. Federal Council Sundry Expenses include
   —payment to ACT Branch—MHSA Books of the amount mentioned in Note 1.
   —expenditure of $101.25 for the establishment of the membership list on word processor and production of the first set of address labels for despatch of *Sabretache*.
3. Operating Surplus 1982–83

Balance of Operating Account 30 June 1983	4432.87
Less Balance carried forward 1 July 1982	3082.88
	1349.99
Plus Subscriptions in Advance during 1981–82	156.08
	1506.07
Less Subscriptions in Advance during 1982–83	464.64
	1041.43

As there are no outstanding accounts for payment this is considered to be a satisfactory result.

(N. S. FOLDI)
Federal Treasurer
8.7.83

I have examined the books of account and records of the Federal Council of the Military Historical Society of Australia and in my opinion the attached Statements are a true and fair view of the affairs of the Society.

(D. B. DAWES)
Honorary Auditor
15.7.83

THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Federal Council Income and Expenditure Statements
for the year ended 30 June 1983

INCOME $

OPERATING ACCOUNT		
Balance brought forward		3082.88
Subscriptions received		7387.17
1982/83	7097.53	
In Advance	464.64	
	7562.17	
Less Branch Capitation	175.00	
Advertising		289.00
Sales of Publications		309.01
Donations		38.00
Bank Interest		154.69
Sundry Income		21.47
		11282.22
INVESTMENT ACCOUNT		
Balance brought forward		2353.75
Interest		253.71
		2607.46

EXPENDITURE $

Publication of *Sabretache*		5693.80
Postage		530.09
Federal Council Expenses		590.21
Stationery	409.00	
Rental P.O. Box	18.00	
Sundries	163.21	
Albury/Wodonga Exhibition		35.25
Balance carried forward		4432.87
		11282.22
Balance carried forward		2607.46
		2607.46

TREASURER'S REPORT

An analysis of subscriptions received indicated that by September 30, 1982 approximately 50% of the annual subscriptions had been received, while some 80% had been received by December 31.

September 30 is significant in that members not renewing by that date are unfinancial.

If 90% of subscriptions were received by that date not only would Federal Council be better able to plan ahead but more money could be placed on deposit at higher interest rates. I estimate that such deposit could return additional interest of up to $400—equal to 20 memberships without associated costs.

I urge all members to forward their subscriptions as early as possible.

Honorary Treasurer
18.7.83

Election of 1983–84 Office Bearers

FEDERAL COUNCIL

The following were elected unopposed at the Society Annual General Meeting on July 18, 1983:
President: Major H. J. Zwillenberg, ED (RL).
Vice President: Brigadier A. R. Roberts
Secretary: Lieutenant-Colonel T. C. Sargent (RL)
Treasurer: Mr N. Foldi

ACT BRANCH COMMITTEE:

The following were elected unopposed at the Branch Annual General Meeting on 18 July 1983:
President: Mr R. Towns
Secretary and Branch Councillor: Mr R. Courtney

VICTORIAN BRANCH COMMITTEE:

The following officers were elected at the Victorian Branch Annual General Meeting, 22 June, 1983:
President: Mr G. F. Ward
Treasurer: Mr P. J. Wilmot
Secretary and Federal Councillor: Mr J. E. Price
Editor 'Despatches': Mr R. Kenner
Committee: Mr R. M. Dalton; Mr D. Trinick; Mr L. Dredge.

GEELONG BRANCH COMMITTEE:

The following officers were elected at the recent Annual General Meeting:
President: Mr P. O'Rourke
Immediate Past President: Mr J. Gardner
Secretary: Major I. Barnes
Treasurer: Captain J. Titchmarsh
Vice President: Mr B. Fenner
Committee: Mr J. Maljers; Mr R. Agombar

QUEENSLAND BRANCH COMMITTEE:

The following were elected at the July Annual General Meeting:
President: Mr Don Wright
Vice President: Gary Cole
Secretary: Mr Syd Wigzell
Treasurer: Mr I. H. Irwin
Committee Members: Mr John Duncan; Mr Paul Newton; Mr Bob Henderson
Mr Don Wright was also elected Federal Councillor.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH COMMITTEE:

The following officers for 1983-84 were elected at the Annual General Meeting of the South Australian Branch, 8 July 1983.
President: Mr E .Beckett
Secretary: Mr A. Prince
Treasurer: Mr R. Spry

a warship or anything, on account of being in fighting waters. Anyway the old skipper on our ship sailed round here to get into the lee of the ship. It took us 2 hours to go round her and the ship was lying on its side in the water and I think there was abut 19 or 20 seamen all at the end of the ship. The tide was coming towards us and we sent a life raft over and about 8 men jumped over and they got swamped, and we never saw them anymore. We threw another one over, and 11 men got into it and it drifted across to us, and we got the 11 passengers.

The ship then started to send morse code that night, there was someone left on board and the skipper said that if they didn't stop sending morse at night he'd put a shot into her and sink her, and anyway we left her in the middle of the night because we got word that a Spanish ship was going to her rescue. Anyway we got to Plymouth in December. I don't know how long it took us, but it took a while to get to England and we saw later in the paper where the Rio 9 had foundered and there was 11 men missing, and that was the ship we got 8 off.

We left Folkstone and went to Bolougne in France. We disembarked there and from there we went up to a place called Etaples and supplied with gas masks, helmets, rifles, ammunition and everything we wanted, rugs, tinned fruit. From there we went up to the line to Albert, before we got there you could see the flash of the guns, and that was our break into the war. 1916–17 was the coldest year for about 70 years and it was freezing. I think I spent the coldest night of my life there. Eventually we went up to a place called Rivermont, we joined up with the battalion there. We were only there for about 3 or 4 days, as the battalion had come out of the line for a rest and we went from there working up the line towards Fleurs. We camped for a few days, our hut was called Albury. We did a bit of marching around and drilling, and then we went up to a place called Warlancourt. It was a big hill centred in a valley and they used to call that the "Butts of Warlancourt". The Germans had her with outposts tunnelled in there and we used to snipe at it. We were driven out of there and went up the line in reserve to the 28 Battalion, to a place called Bullecourt. At the time the Germans were retreating from there and we went up to the reserve lines behind the front line, but I can't think of the place, it could have been Freecourt or Delville Wood, all on the way to Bullecourt. The Germans were retreating and we followed them and camped out about 3 miles out at Bapaume.

At the time the Germans had left the town hall and all the public buildings. They were mined with time bombs. We had camped at Biefvillers about 3 miles out of Bapaume. The town hall exploded and we went up and we followed in and went into Bapaume, and were digging through the ruins of the town hall. My officer, Jack Courtney, had us digging in the cellars. Eventually Jack came upon some French maps and souvenirs that had not been destroyed by the explosion. He brought them back with him, he kept them and after the war they were put in the museum with Jack's medals and citation at Battalion H.Q.'s, Victoria Park.

Eventually we went to Bullecourt, this was at Easter time. It was called a new stunt. We weren't to have an artillery barrage which you usually did, to smash to wire. Instead they were going to use tanks. On the night of the 10th we went up to the sunken road and waited for the tanks. The tanks never came. Of course we all had to nick off back to the reserve line and the following day we could see the Germans coming in reinforcing the Hindenberg line, in train loads.

We got orders to move on the 11th which, of course, seemed to me to be rather foolish because the Germans knew that we were going to attack and reinforce the line. Anyway you could see the tanks coming up about 3 a.m. in the morning. You could hear them miles away. They were great big cumbersome things and they used to spit fire out the top, and about 3.45 a.m. we were told to stand-to.

We were supposed to follow the tanks and the tanks were supposed to go in front of us. Tapes had been laid for them to follow and, of course, the tanks were supposed to roll all the wire down. When we went over the tanks had been smashed or broken down and only one tank got through and made an opening in the wire, everybody surged to go through this opening, this is where the Germans had the machine guns and why a lot of our boys got killed.

Anyway I went over with the crowd that was going to Reincourt, that was on the right of Bullecourt. Eventually, I got to the wire and I don't know how, to this day, I got through the wire because we had 1,100 yds to cross open country and then there was this chain of wire about 4' tall, it was all intact, anyway I managed to go through it, how I don't know. I suppose I smashed it down with wire cutters and rifle. Anyway I eventually fell into the German trench which was about 10' deep. I came across my officer, Jack Courtney,[1] he said, "Come on Horrie". I followed him and we came across a dugout which was about 40 steps down below and very deep. He said, "Put a bomb down there", so I threw a bomb down and stood aside. He said, "Stay there and when the Jerries come up you take charge of them". He went around to bomb other dugouts. Anyhow these Jerries started to come up and I took everything off them what I could, rifles, things like that, and lined them up. There was about 30 of them, one of my cobbers named Tommy Gower, I said to him, "There are about 30 prisoners here Tom, you better take them to our

lines". I think in "Beans History" there is mention of 30 prisoners taken and I have an idea they were the 30 I sent over, it doesn't say so but it seems such a coincidence.[2] Tommy got back alright.

Things got busy of course, we kept going forward and forward, till we got to the end of the Hindenberg line, and still no barrage had come over and eventually we ran out of ammunition, no bombs or anything. We fought with what little we had and the Germans kept pushing us back, and one of our officers, Dan Aarons,[3] he went over the top and eventually got back to our lines. Scores of people tried to do it, but he had a charmed life and he got through and he ordered the artillery to put a barrage up, which came too late. If the barrage had come with us we would have been right. Dan Aarons, he was a captain, he is now Sir Daniel Aarons—he's 96 now and he was in charge of Australian Legacy after the war. I think that is where he got his knighthood from.

We got captured, and before we did we just pulled all bolts out of our rifles and slung them away, and threw our rifles on top of the trench and the last bomb we had, we threw onto the rifles to blow them up. The Germans were pretty good with us when they captured us. They rushed us through the lines, through the trenches as our barrage was coming in, and it was dropping the shells right into the trenches. It got pretty hot for us, the Germans shoved us down the dugouts, out of the way, till it had lifted. Eventually we came to the end of the trenches out on to the top into "no-man's land". The Germans gathered all the prisoners and marched us away. They marched us about 2 miles back and they put us in a church.

After the Bullecourt stunt the roll-call, I think of the 16 Battalion we went over with 1,100. On the return, after the attack, the roll-call was about 160. That was all that was left, the remainder killed or taken prisoner. There were a lot taken prisoner because we were eventually surrounded.

The next day the Germans thought it was a great victory to capture Australians. The German "Uhlans", a crack German unit (they rode horses) came to the church. We were marched out and I don't know where we went to but it was about 8 miles away. I think it was St Quentin, we got on a train and the train took us to Lille. When we got there they marched us through Lille, showing everyone how the Australians had been captured, boasting their own army up. They put us in a fort at Lille, and kept us there for a week. They never gave us anything. We may have had a slice of bread a day, nothing else. There was no toilet or anything, just a big drum in the corner for about 200 of us. They marched us out in the morning for about 10 minutes. They took us out of there, they had knocked it out of us really. They had almost starved us to death. There was no life in us. When we were captured they took our razors off us, and knives. We never shaved. They put us on a train at Lille, from there we were split up in parties. They said if anyone wanted to go to Germany to step out. There were a lot that stepped out. I didn't step out. I wasn't going to Germany. What was left of us were put to work behind the lines, we were building dugouts, huts, carrying and loading shells. It got that way we were so weak you couldn't do anything really. We camped at night in an old farmhouse or barn, we had no blankets. We had one slice of bread in the morning and at lunchtime a pot of soup, which was more or less like water. There was no meat in it. Sometimes they would give us a cup of coffee around about 6 o'clock, it was made out of burnt barley. The Germans at the time didn't have coffee, or tea or sugar, the Germans at the time were feeling the pinch, in fact the German officers had brown bread. They didn't let us stay in one place too long. You would be there about 3 or 4 weeks. Then they would march us somewhere else. They wouldn't let us get used to a place. We finished up near Loos. We were in a double storey place there. We didn't have blankets. At night we could see the British barrage. We went forwards and backwards like that in December.

There was a place in France called Valenciennes. All the prisoners that were working behind the lines all centred there and we all got on the train, a real rag-time army. From the 11th April to December, anyone whose clothes or shoes wore out wouldn't be replaced. The Germans would give us wooden clogs with two bars on them. The French people used to give us old pants, or an old coat. The Germans used to put a great red cross on it to show that you were a prisoner of war. From Monday (it took us 4 days) we went through Brussels to a place called Fredericksville on the Rhur. There was a big military camp there full of allied prisoners (British, Canadian, New Zealand, Aussie). It was a home from home really, because there were football grounds, musical items and things like that.

When we were marched into camp we were filthy, you had a beard and long hair, we had never used soap. Once we were in there the first thing we had to do was strip off, take everything off. It was thrown in a heap and burned. We were crawling with lice. They marched us into hot showers, and as we went through the doors into the showers there was a German there with a big brush, and he had some stuff on it which looked like lime, and as you went through he dobbed this all over you. You got under the shower and when you did all your hair came off your body. It was to get rid of the lice. There wasn't a hair left on your body. It was a good thing really for us. We dried off then, they gave us Red Cross clothes, new singlet, shirt, a pair of pants with a chocolate strip cut into the pants down the side. They gave us a type of big cap, a coat with a

Private Ganson (third from left) marching to the front.

chocolate band down the arm, new shoes and everything. So then after we got dressed we went out into a big shed. The Germans gave us a Red Cross parcel (one each). There was everything in it, milk, chocolate, tea, coffee, cigarettes, corned beef, tinned milk. That was the first real food we had since capture. A lot of the boys hopped into the hard stuff and that was the end of them. Their bodies couldn't stand hard meat and some eventually died through that, as you were only a skeleton to start with. I eventually started to drink the condensed milk, and I think that got me on my feet.

From there we were marched about 200 of us and put on the train, and went to Hamburg. They cut the train in two. You lost your cobbers, in fact my cobber was on the other part of the train. Then we went from there (about 100 of us) to a place called Getdorf, a naval base. We were working on the railway line there from the naval barracks to the coast. It was mid-winter. This railway was built across a paddock in a hollow, the ground had been built up to about 20' high. The ground was frozen solid. We carried and layed the sleepers, and the Germans laid the line. The line was finished but when the thaw set in, and the train came along the line sank about 6' into the ground. From there we went back to camp. When we got back to camp they asked if there were any farmers amongst us. Me and my cobber stepped out. There were four Tommies and three French. We were put on a train and went through the Flensburg. When you got to Flensburg there was a bridge over the river, a place called Alston. It belonged to Denmark in 1864 and was taken off them by the Germans. We were separated there and went to a farm. The old Jerry (he was in charge) picked us out for separate farms, and take us there in the morning, and bring us back at night. The farm where we were, there was a Belgian and myself. I was the best boy on the farm. I used to help them with the cows. The daughters used to do all the milking. I never used to go out in the paddocks working. I used to hang about the farm and if anybody wanted something done around the house it would fall to me. The married daughter, her husband had been called up because it really was under German rule. He was on the Russian front, and of course, this married daughter used to find me all the cushy jobs. In fact, I didn't do much work at all really.

By that time the Red Cross had been sending us parcels every fortnight and we had tons of groceries, and in the house where we lived we had a big pantry. We used to put all the parcels in there. We had hundreds and hundreds of tins of meat and milk, sugar, tea and soap. We were getting well fed there. We were living with the farmers. The first day they sat us at a table away from the kitchen and the maid brought our dinner to us. The daughters used to live in the kitchen with their parents. They had their meals in a different part of the house. They kept looking at us. Whether they thought we were heathens or not, or if we didn't know how to eat or not, but they kept watching us. We only had one meal there. The daughter said, "You come and eat with us now". So after that we used to have our meals with the two daughters and the maid. It worked out alright.

Eventually in April, the boss, he was a Danish man, he was the kingpin of the place, in charge of the farmers. The military put him in charge. Previous to this now, (I go back again) when we got on the farm the seven of us were sent to the end of the island to work for a German Baron. He was a wealthy farmer but he was a difficult Fritz—a proper Prussian. We decided that we wouldn't work for him. This German there, he used to take us out in the morning with the horses and we'd hook the horses to the wagon with superphosphate and things like that. We would drop it in the middle of the paddock, then he'd leave us there. We were supposed to broadcast, we had an apron on, we used to go broadcasting this superphosphate. When Jerry had gone we'd dig a big hole and bury it in the hole. In every paddock they had what you might term a dam. They called them ponds or whatever. Everything we could get hold of (spare parts) we used to sink them in the ponds. (Trowells, ploughs and things like that) I was the only one who could drive a plough. I had a couple of horses. I used to have a big millboard and drive along you know. We used to go down to the water's edge. The ocean used to come to the river, there all the submarines used to come up there to refuel and things like that. I used to go around the paddock and go down a bit of a hill to the water's edge, and set the plough out and sit down and wouldn't do any more ploughing. I used to stop there until dinner time. I got snapped. He came down one day. He told us what he would do if he caught us. This Yorkshire chap, he went out with us one day. I said, "I'll show you how to plough". I put him on this. Every now and then he would strike a stump or something and this would throw him over the top of the plough. He didn't last long. I took it off him. One dinner time he came out. We used to unharness. These horses were on their own, you used to have to drive them. You'd sing our left or right. They'd step one way or the other, because we knew German. When we were going off duty we'd take them home to lunch into the stables. There was only room for one horse. I said to Jimmy, the Yorkshireman, "Hop on the big horse, he'll take you back to the stables". When he got to the stables he didn't know how to stop them, he was jammed up in there but I eventually got him out of it. Things like that used to break the monotony.

Summertime came (harvest time) and haycutting. We used to go down to the paddocks. He had frames in the paddocks, and we would put the hay around them to let it dry. The middle of summer came, it was about 8 o'clock one night. We were knocking off. The old German he said to us, "You'll have to finish this paddock there is not much to do." We said, "We are not going to finish it, we are going back to camp". He marched us back to camp and we left that. The next day when we were having lunch, and who should come in but a great big Sgt Major, and he had his sword out, flashing it around. He called us all out, the British and the Aussies and he marched us out into the middle of the paddock. He put us out in a particular German formation, and the little German with him was frightened of anything, you know. The German said, "Hold your hands up!" He said to the little German, "Load your rifle". These Froggies that were with us were frightened to death, they thought he was going to shoot us. The Sgt Major said, "Can any of you speak German?" and we said, "Nix". He picked a Newcastle lad out, a Tommie. He said, "He can speak German?" and of course the German came over and started to bash him about with the sword. He didn't cut him or anything but knocked him about. He had us up there till we couldn't stay up any longer. If you dropped your hand he would come around and smack them again, and you had to put them up. Then he had us do physical jerks "Christ" we could hardly walk! Anyhow the next day, we were all lined up. This German Baron got rid of us. We were all marched into Sondenberg, into the town. When we got there, all the farmers from the district came around. The German Baron took all the Russians and the Poles to work on his farm. Of course mind you, while we were there we taught the Russians the things that we used to do. They were following our example. They split us up and we came to this sound where we all used to camp. Then, of course, the German used to march them around. By this time we had Danish girls working on the farms, and we all had girlfriends. They used to come from miles away to where we were camped of the night time. The old German wasn't bad with us, he was a grand old man. He used to let us walk out at night, as long as you came back at a certain time. I used to walk the married daughter out. Well, I had to be very careful. I came in one night about 12 o'clock and the Jerry was waiting for us, and he started waving his finger at me. He said, "You've been out

Private Ganson (first right back row) and fellow prisoners shortly before their release in 1918.

with Dora!". I said, "Nix". He said, "Ya, ya, you be careful". It didn't make much difference. Her father didn't worry nor her mother. I used to give the mother coffee, tea and soap, milk and things like that. Which, of course, she hadn't seen for months and months. She couldn't speak English but by the time we got there we could speak German, more or less. The Burgermaster, I told him, "We'll work for you, but be fair with us". He said, "You'll be alright, I won't worry", and he really was a fine fellow.

When the Armistice came the Burgermaster, my boss, he told us the day before that the war would be finished on the 11th. We were all on the border of Denmark. We were all gathered together, got on the train at Flensberg. We went through to a place called Gustrow, it was more or less a central camp, and all the prisoners from hundreds of miles out came in. We were there a few days and eventually put on another train to Stetton. We got on a Danish boat there—a beautiful steamer. When we got on board everything was laid out for us all the food, there was everything—whiskey, brandy, beer, tucker and everything. Everybody got diarrhoea, whether the food was doped to clear us out I don't know. We went across from there to Copenhagen where we docked was in the middle of a town. On this ship there were only 8 or 9 toilets, there were 2 or 3 hundred of us on board, of course it was a case of if you didn't find a place somewhere you'd dirty yourself. All along the side of the ship was all our boys with their pants down. It didn't worry us because we were going home. Anyhow we eventually got on another ship, then another, then went into camp. We were only there a couple of days. We then got on a Scottish ship. Going across from Copenhagen to Leith in Scotland I got a sore throat. The old doctor on board said to me, "I've got plenty of cabins down there. You come down and I'll put you in a bed". I didn't like that. He said, "You'll be alright". This was Christmas Eve. He kept coming down and every time he came down he brought a nip of whiskey. I didn't drink, so he was "stoney" by the time he got to Leith. The boat got in and all the boys were getting off and I told the doctor I was getting off with the boys. He said, "Oh no you can't do that. I've wired across to hospital for two patients, there's yourself and a New Zealander. You'll have to go there to be signed off". Anyway there was ambulances on the dock. They marched the two of us down and shoved us in the ambulance. While

we were waiting we opened the back doors and sat on the step. We were talking to all the boys. Eventually they shoved us in and took us from Leith to Edinburgh. We stayed in a school. I can't think of the place now. It was a four storey place, they put us in bed there in the hospital. There was only two of us in the hospital, the other 20 were Englishmen. We were alright and were expecting getting signed off. We were there a month, they wouldn't kick us out. I saw the lady doctor, I said, "I want to go home. I want to see my home—they're expecting me home". She said, "You're doing alright here aren't you?" I said, "Yes it's alright here." but they wouldn't kick us out. We all had lockers used to be chock-o-block with chocolates, cigarettes, money and God knows what. I used to keep the 20 Tommies in chocolate and cigarettes. (They weren't getting any you know.) Then we'd go out, come back at night time, the locker would be chock-o-block again, whether it was Red Cross or Aussies coming around having a look at us, they'd put a few bob in the locker for us.

From there we hopped on a train to Horsferry, Australian H.Q. I got a month's leave there. All prisoners of war had to make a statement of where we got captured and why. That sort of thing. I came back from London with a cobber of mine in my battalion from the next town. When we got back to Horsferry Road, (one of our Aussies had died) they wanted a shooting party to go to a funeral. So the two of us stepped out and they gave us a rifle and we hopped on a train. The train used to run from London right into St John's Wood into the cemetery, a beautiful place. We saw the funeral and fired a couple of shots—went back to London and they gave us another seven days leave. So back again up to Manchester. We overstayed our leave but eventually got back to London. We hopped on a train to Codford when we got there, we said if we get out of the other side of the train we'll miss the M.P.'s. Of course we hopped out of the wrong side, and the M.P.'s were waiting for us. We got picked up and marched into the lock-up. The next day they sent a guard out from Codford and marched us back to camp. We got seven days confined to barracks. From there we went to Weymouth, waiting for a troopship. In the meantime I put in for a Y.M.C.A. job in London for six months. The Y.M.C.A. wanted an Australian walking around London picking out the Australians and taking them home to camp. In the meantime the troopship had been loaded and they were two men short, so I cancelled my job and hopped on the boat and came back to Australia in the Leicestershire.

EPILOGUE

Horace Ganson, now in his 88th year, resides at home in Fremantle, Western Australia. He is currently Secretary to the "Old Sixteenth" a position he has held for some time, and Editor of the "Old Sixteenth News", a quarterly newsletter.

1. *Official History of Australia in the War of 1914–18*, Vol. IV, p. 229n.
2. *Official History of Australia in the War of 1914–18*, Vol. IV, p. 325.
3. *Official History of Australian in the War of 1914–18*, p. 331-2, 335n and 338.

Dear Sir,

With reference to the article 'Ensign Hamilton's letter', which appeared in the April-June 1983 issue of *Sabretache*, Brigadier 'Bunny' Austin has provided further information on Ensign William Hamilton. He writes thus:

"Hamilton was commissioned an Ensign in the 73rd Foot (not 'probably of the 12th Regiment') on 8 October 1858. I have been unable to clarify some of the story. The WO17 Records (Monthly Strength States) clearly shows, arrived 26 January 1859 from New South Wales to join 73rd in India. These returns were made up at the Headquarters of the Australian Command in Melbourne, and the statement above implies that he arrived in Melbourne for on-passage to India. However, he embarked in the *Glen Isla* in Sydney with 23 troops from the 77th together with six wives and children. The *Glen Isla* did not touch Melbourne.

I have examined the shipping lists in the *Sydney Morning Herald* but have been unable to find out how and when he arrived in Sydney. He may in fact have come up from Hobart with 'The Surgeon, a Dr Lynch' who in fact was Assistant Surgeon Lynch of the Army Medical Department. The January 1859 WO17 Return shows him attached to the 1/12th—that particular regiment having two battalions at that time."

Brigadier Austin has once again come to the aid of a less diligent student of the British Army in Australia, and I thank him for his kind assistance.

Peter Stanley

John E. Price

BRITISH CAMPAIGN MEDALS

***Sabretache* is indebted to John Price for compiling the following brief resume of British Campaign Medals issued between the years 1914 and 1920.**

The 1914 Star:
Sometimes erroneously called 'The Mons Star'. This bronze star was authorised in April 1917 to be awarded to all those who had served in France and Belgium—on the strength of a unit, or service, between the 5th August and midnight on the 22nd-23rd November 1914. Certain Australian personnel gained this award. In October 1919, King George the Fifth sanctioned the award of a bar to this star for all those who had been *under fire*, in France or Belgium, during, or between those two dates. Everyone entitled to the bar wore a small silver rosette in the centre of the red, white, blue shaded and watered ribbon, when the medal was not worn. The designer of the medal is unknown. 365,622 stars were issued—145,000 without bars. Officers of the Royal Navy, Royal Naval Reserve, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, Royal Marine Artillery, and The Royal Marine Light Infantry who served on a shore establishment, during the specified period gained the medal with, or without, the bar. Those who served afloat did not.

The 1914-15 Star:
This star, and its ribbon, is identical to the 1914 Star, except that the central scroll bears the dates: 1914–15. Also the scrolls bearing 'AUG' and 'NOV' are omitted. The qualifying period was service in any theatre of war, against the Central Powers, between 5th August 1914 and 31st December 1915. Passing through, or visiting, a theatre of war did not qualify. 2,078,183 stars were issued.

The Gallipoli Star:
As a result of reoresentations made on behalf of the Australian and New Zealand Governments, it was originally intended to issue a special star and ribbon to members of the Australian Imperial Force, and the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, who had fought on the Gallipoli Peninsula and had embarked from either Australia and New Zealand on, or before, 31st December 1914. The award was never issued for it was felt to be somewhat unfair to the other British Empire forces, which had also served in the Dardenelles campaign, and the 1914–15 Star was awarded. The Gallipoli Star was to have been an eight-pointed bronze star, with a circular centre, inscribed 'GALLIPOLI', surmounted by a crown. The ribbon was rather striking with yellow stripe representing the wattle of Australia, a grey stripe the fern of New Zealand, whilst the red and blue stripes symbolised the military and naval forces.

John Price is a regular contributor to Sabretache and is the author of a number of books on military history.

The British War Medal 1914-20:
Often referred to, by the 'old sweats' of the First World War, as the 'General Service Medal.' Obverse: The coinage head of King George the Fifth with the legend: 'GEORGIVS V BRITT: OMN: REX ET IND: IMP. Reverse: Designed by W. McMillan-St George on horseback. The horse is trampling on the shield of the Central Powers. At the foot is a skull and crossbones, at the top is a rising sun. Around the edge are the date '1914' and '1918'. The ribbon is a broad orange watered stripe down the centre, bordered with white, black, and blue stripes. Apart from commemorating all of the land, sea and air battles of the First World War this medal was awarded for services after 1918. It was given to those who served in Russia in 1919-20, and for mine-clearance in the North Sea between 11th November 1918 until 20 November 1920. A bronze medal was issued to native Labour Corps and other native personnel who were mobilized for war service, and received pay at military rates. The medal was issued singly, without the Allied Victory Medal, to certain Regular and Mobilized personnel who did not see any fighting. 5,670,174 silver medals were issued, 110,000 bronze medals were issued. The question of giving clasps for certain battles and theatres of war was raised. About fifteen were suggested for naval recipients, no figures were agreed to for Army and Air Force personnel. The idea was dropped as an economic measure, for the cost proved to be prohibitive.

The Allied Victory Medal 1914-19:
Obverse: The winged, full-length figure of Victory, with her left arm extended and holding a palm branch in her right hand. Reverse: The inscription 'THE GREAT WAR FOR CIVILIZATION 1914-1919' surrounded by a wreath. The issue to the troops of the Union of South Africa are bi-lingual—English/Afrikaans. The medal was designed by W. McMillan, and was never issued singly. Those who were Mentioned in Despatches were allowed to wear an oak-leaf on rainbow patterned ribbon. A slightly smaller oak-leaf was worn on the tunic ribbon, when the medal was not worn.

Mercantile Marine War Medal 1914-18
Obverse: As that of the British War Medal 1914-20. Reverse: The bows of a steamship with a sailing ship in the right background. In the right foreground there is a sinking submarine, which is difficult to distinguish as such. It is between the right-hand wave and the sailing ship. In the exergue is the wording 'FOR WAR SERVICE MERCANTILE MARINE 1914-1918' in three lines. The bronze medal, issued by the Board of Trade, was designed by Harold Stabler. The ribbon is a watered green and red, divided by a thin white stripe. The green should be to the left facing the wearer. Awarded to personnel who had served at sea for six months between the 4th August 1914 and 11th November 1918, as part of the British, Dominion, Colonial, and Indian, Mercantile Marine, and who had qualified for the British War Medal, and could provide evidence that they had undertaken at least one voyage through a danger area. It was also awarded to certain personnel of the Army, Air Forces, Royal Navy, and auxiliary forces, providing that they had the necessary qualifications.

The Territorial Force War Medal
Obverse: As that of the British War Medal: 1914-20. Reverse: The legend 'TERRITORIAL WAR MEDAL' around the top. Inside a wreath with the inscription 'FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE OVERSEAS 1914-19.' There was no designer employed for this medal. The ribbon was watered yellow, with two green stripes. The medal was instituted in April 1920 as an award to members of the Territorial Force and Territorial Force Nursing Service who: (a) were serving with the aforementioned services on the 4th August 1914; or (b) had completed a period of not less than four years service with the aforesaid services before 4th August 1914, and rejoined on, or before, the 30th September 1914, provided that they (i) undertook either verbally, or by written agreement, on, or before, the 30th September 1914, to serve outside the United Kingdom, such an agreement being operative after 4th August 1914, and (ii) served outside the United Kingdom, between the 5th August 1914, and the 11th November 1918 (both dates inclusive); and (c) did not qualify for the award of the 1914, or 1914-15, Star.

Author's Note:
To me this medal is a rather 'rare bird' for, during my interest in medals and matters military—which goes back to 1935—I have never seen anyone wearing this bronze medal, or the ribbon.

The Special Constabulary Long Service Medal:
This bronze medal was instituted by King George the Fifth in August 1918, 'In consideration of the faithful and devoted service of the Special Constabulary during the Great War of 1914-1918, and also of providing a means of recognition for continuing and efficient service in the future.' Obverse: For First World War Service—as that of the British War Medal. Reverse: 'FOR FAITHFUL SERVICE IN THE SPECIAL CONSTABULARY' half surrounded from bottom to right by a semicircular spray of laurel. The ribbon has a central scarlet stripe, edged, on either side by three narrow stripes of white, black, and white. The qualifying period for service in the First World War was: 'That a constable must have served without pay for not less than three years and, during that time, have performed at least fifty police duties a year, also be recommended by a chief constable of Police as willing and competent to discharge the duties of special constable as required.' A clasp—

sewn on to the ribbon—'THE GREAT WAR 1914–18' was awarded with the medal to those who qualified.

The India General Service Medal 1908–1935:
Second issue. The crowned bust of King George the Fifth robed, with the legend: GEORGIVS V KAISAR-I-HIND—this issue lasted from the clasp 'ABOR 1911–12' until the clasp 'WAZIRISTAN 1925'. Reverse: A picture of Jamrud fort, which commanded the Khyber Pass, eleven miles from Peshawar, between a 'V' formed by a branch of oak and another of laurel is a tablet on which is the word 'INDIA'. Designer: Richard Garbe. These medals were issued in silver only. Ribbon: Green with a wide blue stripe down the centre. Clasps for the period: 'AFGHANISTAN-N.W.F. 1919'. This was issued for the Third Afghan War—the qualifying dates were 6th May until 8th August 1919. 'WAZIRISTAN 1919–21' qualifying period, 6th May 1919 until January 1921. 'MAHSUD 1919–20'. Qualifying period, 27th November 1919 until 7th May 1920.

Author's Note:
The last-named two bars are nearly always found on the same medal, for Mahsud tribal territory is enclosed by northern and southern Waziristan.

The Africa General Service Medal 1902–1955.
Obverse: King George the Fifth wearing Field Marshal's uniform with the inscription around the edge similar to the British War Medal 1914–20. This design was instituted under Army Order No. 89 of 1916. Reverse: The standing figure of Britannia holding a palm branch and a scroll in her extended left hand and a trident, in her right. Behind her is a figure of a British Lion, in the right background is the rising sun. In the exergue is the word 'AFRICA'. Designer of the second issue was Mrs Mary Gillick, C.B.E. It is a silver medal with a yellow ribbon, edged with black and with two green stripes towards the centre.

Clasps		Qualifying dates
EAST AFRICA	1914	2nd April-7th July 1914
EAST AFRICA	1913–14	15th Dec. 1913-31st May 1914
EAST AFRICA	1915	4th Feb.-28th May 1915
JUBALAND		23rd July 1917-24th Mar. 1918
EAST AFRICA	1918	20th April-19th June 1918
NIGERIA	1918	11th June-31st July 1918
SOMALILAND	1920	21st Jan.-12th Feb. 1920

Author's Note:
The 1914–15 Star was not awarded to personnel who gained this medal and clasps.

The Naval General Service Medal 1915–62
Obverse: King George the Fifth in Admiral's uniform. For inscription see the British War Medal 1914–20. Reverse: Britannia on two sea horses, with her left hand resting on the Union shield. Designer: Miss Margaret Winser. This is a silver medal, with a crimson ribbon having three central white stripes.

Clasps		Qualifying dates
PERSIAN GULF	1909–1914	19th Oct. 1909-1st Aug. 1914
IRAQ	1919–20	1st July-17th Nov. 1920
N.W. PERSIA	1920	10th Aug.-31st Dec. 1920

The General Service Medal (Army & Royal Air Force) 1918–62
This medal was instituted in 1918 to be a contemporary to the aforementioned Naval General Service Medal. First Issue. Obverse: The coinage head of King George the Fifth with the same inscription as the British War Medal 1914–20. Reverse: The standing and winged figure of Victory, who is placing a wreath on the emblems of the two services. In her left hand she is holding a trident. Designer: E. Carter Preston. A silver medal with a purple ribbon with a green stripe down the centre.

Clasps	Qualifying dates
S. PERSIA	12th Nov. 1918—22nd June 1919
KURDISTAN *	23rd Mar.-6th Dec. 1919
N.W. PERSIA	10th Aug.-30th Dec. 1920
IRAQ	10th Dec. 1919-17th Nov. 1920

* This clasp also had the qualifying dates: 19th March-18th June 1923.

The Polar Medal 1904:
Obverse: King George the Fifth in Admiral's uniform surrounded by the legend 'GEORGIVS V. BRITT: OMN: REX ET IND: IMP' Reverse: The 'Discovery' with a sledging party of six in the foreground, and a heavily laden sledge with a square sail. Designers: E.G. Gillick and Mrs Mary Gillick. The medal is octagonal. 1.3 inches in diameter.

ANTARCTIC 1912–14: This clasp was awarded to Sir Douglas Mawson's Expedition in the 'Aurora' both silver and bronze medals were awarded.

ANTARCTIC 1914–1916: This award was made for Sir Ernest Shackleton's Trans-Antarctic Expedition, in 'Aurora' and 'Endurance'. Both silver and bronze medals were issued.

ANTARCTIC 1917: This award, which was not gazetted, was given for the 'Aurora' Relief Expedition, which left New Zealand in December 1916 and returned on 9th February 1917. Bronze medals without clasps were awarded to those who had not previously received a medal. Ten silver clasps, no silver medals, twenty-one bronze medals, and three bronze clasps were awarded.

The Khedive's Sudan Medal 1910–21:
On the 12th June 1911, H.H. The Khedive authorised the issue of a medal to replace that which was issued in 1897. It bore the Arabic inscription, on the obverse, which read 'ABBAS HILMI THE SECOND' together with the Islamic year, A.H. 1328. In 1918 there was a second issue of this medal which bore the cypher of a new Khedive and, naturally, a new date. On the reverse is a picture of a lion standing on a plinth, which is inscribed with the word 'SUDAN'—in English. Behind the lion is the River Nile, on the further bank of which are two clumps of palm trees. In the background is the rising sun with spreading rays. It is a silver medal

with a black ribbon, said to represent the Sudan, edged with two stripes of green and red, said to be the guarding presence of Egypt—green—and Great Britain—red. Richard Garbe designed the medal.

Clasps		Qualifying dates
ZERAF	1913-14	Dec. 1913-June 1914
MANDAL		March 1914
MIRI		April 1915
MONGALLA	1915-16	Dec. 1915-14th Mar. 1916
DARFUR	1916	March-23rd May 1916
FASHER		1st Sept.-23rd Nov. 1916
LAU NUER		March-May 1917
NYIMA	1917-1918	2nd Nov. 1917-Feb. 1918
ATWOT	1918	1st Jan.-26th May 1918
GARJAK NUER		Dec. 1919-April 1920
ALIAB DIKNA		8th Nov. 1919-May 1920

The 1914-15 Star was not awarded to personnel who gained this medal and clasps.

The British North Borneo Company's Medal 1897-1916.

This medal was awarded by the Company to all those who took part in expeditions within their territory between 1897-1916. Obverse: The Company's shield supported, on either side, by a native. Above the shield are two arms—presumably those of a European and a Native—supporting the Company's flag. Below the shield is a motto 'PERGO ET PERAGO'. Reverse: The British lion facing left, standing in front of a bush. In between is a flagstaff, from which the Company flag is flown. Around the top of the medal is the inscription 'BRITISH NORTH BORNEO'. In the centre of an unusually large exergue, is a wreath. At the top left is 'SPINK AND SON', and at the top right 'LONDON'. The original ribbon was a watered golden colour, but in 1917 it was changed to one with maroon edges, two yellow stripes, with a broad blue stripe down the centre. Clasp: RUNDUM 1915-1916. This clasp was awarded to a small force under a Mr Bunbury, consisting of three white men, fifteen Sikhs, ten native policemen, and eighty five Dyaks, which relieved the village of Rundum that had been besieged by natives.

Sources:

The Observer's Book of British Awards & Medals. Edward C. Joslin; *The Standard Catalogue of British Orders Decorations & Medals*, E.C. Joslin; *Collecting Medals and Decorations*, Alec A. Purves; *British Battles and Medals*, Major Lawrence L. Gordon; *Ribbons and Medals*, Taprell Dorling, edited by Francis K. Mason; George Philip, London.

Taken from two lectures given by John E. Price, to Historical Societies, during 1976-77.

Sir,

ORIGIN OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMOURED CORPS

Your note on the above subject in the April-June 1983 issue of *Sabretache* recalled to mind a few other related features which may be of interest to readers.

The four Vickers Medium Tanks purchased by the Australian Government in 1928 were parked, I can recall, in a corner of what was then the parade ground of the 9th Brigade, A.F.A., Victoria Barracks, Paddington. They possibly went there, after having been landed from the ship, for maintenance and then from there moved to the Small Arms School area at the Old Randwick Range. There the 1st Tank Section established its training depot.

Before September 1939 this unit used to hold a ceremonial parade, annually, through the City of Sydney on the anniversary of the Battle of Cambrai, 20 November.

Captain (later Colonel) Edwin Penfold was the original O.C. of this unit and did good work in establishing it and training it. He was a dynamic personality and was a widely known and popular officer of that time. He was often a welcome guest in the Officer's Mess, 1st Medium Brigade, R.A.A., one of his neighbouring units in Randwick. He had a forceful but attractive personality; he was a good conversationalist; and he was good company in the mess.

Major Warren Perry, MBE, ED, MA, BEc, RL.

David Cranage

SURVIVOR FROM FORGOTTEN WAR

In the month of May this year my wife Dorothy and myself had the pleasure of meeting, and speaking to, a very interesting Anzac Mr Bert Perry, and his wife Vera from Horsham in Victoria.

My interest stemmed from a story Peter Burness wrote in the *Sabretache* Journal of August 1976. "The Australians in North Russia 1919".

The story tells of Australians who volunteered in the United Kingdom for a secret overseas mission. Of the Australians who came forward about thirty were chosen to go to London.

From these three officers and six Sergeants were finally selected. On page 267 of the August 1976 Journal there is a photo of volunteers from "Elope Force". Four of the nine Australian volunteers are present but no names are given. Standing in the back row extreme left is Sgt Bert Perry MM who is still alive today. The other three Australians are Sgt A. Van-Duve MM. Seated on the extreme left middle row Sgt Kelly extreme right middle row. Sgt Hickey front row left hand side. Sgt Hickey was a good friend of Sgt Perry.

Mr Perry who is now 88 years old was born in Bromsgrove Village in Worchester, England in 1895. He migrated to Australia and settled in Horsham (Victoria).

At age 19 Mr Perry was the first man to enlist in the A.I.F. in Horsham (Enlistment No. 487). He did his Military training at a camp in Broadmeadows in Victoria, and joined the famous 14th Battalion "Jacka's Mob". He sailed from Australia in December 1914.

They trained in Egypt in 1915 before sailing with the Anzac Force to land at Gallipoli. Although the 14th Battalion did not land on Gallipoli until April 26th, 1915, Mr Perry was chosen to land on the morning of the 25th as part of a special reconnaissance group. They were one of the first groups to land in the early dawn. As Mr Perry said the tide was so strong that it carried their boat away from where they were to land, which as he said most likely saved their lives, as the original landing point was heavily defended by the Turks and heavy implacements of barb wire. We would have been slaughtered Mr Perry said.

Even so where they did land they were given a hot reception as the tail of Mr Perry's overcoat was shredded by machine gun bullets as he ran up the beach. Mr Perry saw action at Steele's Post and Pope's Hill he knew Albert Jacka well and was present with him when he won his V.C. on May 19th, 1915.

As Mr Perry said I helped drag the seven turks Jacka had killed up onto the parapet. He said the bravest man he has seen was John Simpson Kirpatrick (Simpson & his donkey). Mr Perry said Simpson took a calculated risk all day as he brought the wounded down Shrapnel Gully. Turk snipers were in the hills and ridges around Shrapnel Gully and they could have shot Simpson whenever they wanted to, and he knew this but it did not deter him from his work, and as you know he was finally shot through the heart. Mr Perry was later wounded on Gallipoli when a shell burst near him in a trench. He was sent to Malta to be treated for his wounds.

As Mr Perry said they wanted to send me back to Australia, but I prevailed on them to send me to France, where he fought with distinction, and won the Military Medal at the battle of "Bullecourt" and was twice mentioned in despatches.

His wounds were playing up as he said so they sent me to England to train recruits on Salisbury Plain.

When the recruits started telling myself and Sgt Kelly what the war was all about we decided to answer the call for a special mission abroad, this story is well told by Peter Burness in the *Sabretache* Journal. In 1978 then aged 84 Mr Perry received a Certificate of Commendation from Lt-General Sir Edmund Herring for his prize winning short story "The Spirit of Anzac" in a Repatriation Department writing competition.

Mr Perry is a true Anzac, and his feelings for his mates that never came home is shown in a poem he wrote in his story "The Spirit of Anzac".

War deeds forgotten
And valour passed by
In gallipoli hills
Their bones do lie.
But a spirit was born
To assurance give
These do not die
Dear God—they live.

Christopher M. Fagg

THE BRADFORD BROTHERS

In Vol XXII. No. 4, 1981, of *Sabretache*, I reported on the 'Raikes Brothers', and the collective gallantry decorations won by them, stating that there cannot be many families who could possibly equal them.

My research has now turned up another group of four brothers who served their king and country with great distinction and gallantry, during W.W.I., collectively winning 2 V.C.'s, 1 D.S.O., 2 M.C.'s and 5 M.I.D.'s. Those brothers were the 'Bradford Brothers'.

The sequence of gaining their awards was as follows:

18 Feburary 1915	M.C.	R.B. Bradford
14 January 1916	D.S.O.	T.A. Bradford
25 November 1916	V.C.	R.B. Bradford
17 April 1917	M.C.	J.B. Bradford
17 March 1919	V.C.	G.N. Bradford

Roland Boys Bradford, born 22 February 1892, entered the regular British Army and was gazetted a 2Lt on 22/5/1912. By 25/9/1914 he was gazetted Lt, and from then on rose quickly to reach the rank of Brigadier-General, and become at the age of 25, the youngest brigade commander in the British army. He was a Temp. Lt Col. when he won his V.C. His service was with the Durham Light Infantry. He was killed in action in November 1917. His V.C. citation reads:—

> "For most conspicuous bravery and good leadership in attack, whereby he saved the situation. On the right flank of his Brigade, and of the Division, Lt Col. Bradford's Battalion was in support. A leading battalion having suffered very severe casualties, and the commander wounded, its flank became dangerously exposed at close quarters to the enemy. Raked by M.G. fire, the situation of the battalion was critical. At the request of the wounded commander, Lt Col. Bradford asked permission of his commander to command the exposed battalion in addition to his own. Permission was granted, and he at once proceeded to the foremost lines. By his fearless energy under fire of all description, and his skillful leadership of the two battalions, regardless of all danger, he succeeded in rallying the attack, captured and defended the objective, and so secured the flank."

Thomas Andrews Bradford, joined the regular army, the Durham Light Infantry, as a Lt in October 1906. Prior to this he served in the Territorial Army. He was promoted Captain 8/2/1910. He then transferred to the Yorks and Lancs. Regt. He gained his D.S.O. on 14/1/1916. He was twice mentioned in despatches, and survived the war.

James Barker Bradford, born 11 December 1889, also commenced his regular army service with the Durham Light Infantry, which he joined as a Temp 2Lt. His M.C. was gazetted 17/4/1917, and it reads:-

> "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He gallantly led his men into the enemy's trench, capturing many prisoners and two machine guns. He himself killed three of the enemy. Later he succeeded in repelling a determined enemy counter attack."

He was killed in action later in 1917.

George Nicholson Bradford, born 23 April 1887, departed from his brothers' tradition of army service, and joined the Royal Navy instead. He was gazetted midshipman February 1904, Sub Lt April 1907, Lt July 1909, rising to Lt Cdr at the time of his death on 23/4/1918. He was awarded the V.C. on 17/3/1919. His citation reads:—

> "For most conspicuous gallantry at Zeebrugge on the night of 22/23 April 1918. This officer was in command of the Naval storming party embarked on *Iris II*. When *Iris II* proceeded alongside the mole, great difficulty was experienced in placing the parapet anchors owing to the motion of the ship. Lt Cdr Bradford climbed up the derrick which carried a large parapet anchor, and was rigged out over the port side. During his climb the ship was surging up and down and the derrick crashed on the mole. Waiting his opportunity he jumped with the parapet anchor onto the mole and placed it in position. Immediately after hooking on the parapet anchor, Lt Cdr Bradford was riddled with bullets from M.G.'s, and fell into the sea between the mole and the ship. Attempts to recover his body failed. Lt Cdr Bradford's action was one of absolute self sacrifice, without a moments hesitation, he went to certain death realising that in such action lay the only possible chance of securing *Iris II*, and enabling the storming party to land."

These brothers are only the fourth instance of brothers winning the V.C. Other cases being:-

1. Maj C.T.S. Gough, 5th Bengal European Cavalry Indian Mutiny 1857/58.
2. Lt H.H. Gough, 1st Bengal European Light Cavalry, Indian Mutiny 1857/58.
3. Maj. R.W. Sartorius, 6th Bengal Cavalry, Ashanti 1874.
4. Capt. E.H. Sartorius, 59th Foot, Afghanistan 1874.
5. 2Lt A.B. Turner, Berkshire Regt, France 1915.
6. Maj. V.B. Turner, Rifle Brigade, Western Desert 1942.

References

1. British Army Lists.
2. London Gazettes.
3. Ribbons & Medals by Tapprail.
4. The V.C. & D.S.O. by Creagh & Humphries.
5. O.M.R.S. Journals.

BOOK REVIEW

Weeks, John: *The Airborne Soldier.* Blandford Press, 1983. Recommended Price: $17.95

Airborne warfare has one of the shortest histories of any kind of warfare, emerging only after the beginning of World War II. The origins of parachuting date from a much earlier period, however. It is said that over 2,500 years ago, the Assyrians may have thought that a large "parasol" could slow down a long fall, but little was done by them about it. Leonardo da Vinci also sketched out a similar idea, but again the idea was never pursued beyond the drawing. This really did not occur until the 18th Century. In 1779, Joseph Montgolfier, one of the French ballooning brothers, parachuted a live sheep safely from a tower in Avignon. From this point on, parachutes and balloons became interdependent as Napoleon considered using balloons in his planning for the invasion of England. The first recorded human parachute jump is attritubted to yet another Frenchman, one J. Garnerin, who on 22 October 1797 jumped from a balloon at 3000 feet and landed safely in front of a large crowd in the Parc de Monceau, Paris.

The first two chapters of this most interesting book trace the history in some detail of both the airborne warfare concept and the development of parachutes and parachuting. Further chapters analyse the development of the weapons, parachute equipment, aircraft and heavy drop items associated with airborne operations. It covers in some detail the use of airborne forces by various nations throughout the world from their inception to the present day. It identifies the changing characteristics of airborne warfare from the massive parachute operations of World War II to the helicopter-borne air-mobile operations of Vietnam.

The book includes an interesting chapter on the mounting of an airborne assault. This gives a good but concise insight for those readers who are unfamiliar with such operations. It covers the planning, training, briefing and preparation which is required to launch a parachute assault. It discusses the importance of DZ marking and selection by Pathfinders, difficulties of night dropping, DZ and RV procedures, the heavy dropping of vital equipment such as vehicle-borne C^3 items which are so vital to airborne forces, and the essential re-supply dropping of fuel, ammunition and other combat supplies. This chapter alone would make essential reading for any serious student of military history.

There is an appendix which gives a summary of airborne forces and their capabilities for over sixty-five nations and included in this is a series of Airborne Forces (1944) organisational charts of the World War II adversaries. For those not familiar with airborne warfare terminology, there is a short but useful glossary. The book, like most of Colonel John Week's products, is well illustrated with many interesting photographs and has first class colour artwork by Joh Batchelor. The index is comprehensive and accurate.

The Airborne Soldier was the last book of the late Colonel John Weeks. He died on New Year's Day 1983 and the book was published shortly before his death. The author was commissioned into the Staffordshire Regiment in 1948, served in various places throughout the world, and transferred to the Parachute Regiment in 1958. He had a distinguished airborne career, being one of the pioneers of free fall parachuting for the British Army, and he was a member of the Army Parachute Team for some time. His technical staff appointments were many and varied and when he retired in 1978, he made a new career for himself as a military writer and journalist. Apart from being co-author of the standard work *Small Arms of the 20th Century*, he was Editor of *Jane's Infantry Weapons* and the Military Editor of *Janes Defence Review*. He was the author of several books on infantry weapons and airborne forces.

John Weeks will be sadly missed by his many friends and readers, and this book, which is an excellent buy for anyone interested in the history of airborne warfare, parachuting and airborne forces generally, serves as a fitting epitaph for a remarkable "Airborne Soldier".

W. P. Conn
Major, The Parachute Regiment, 20 June, 1983

Society Notes

1983-84 SUBSCRIPTIONS

1983-84 Subscriptions were due on 1 July 1983. Members who have not yet paid their subscriptions are requested to forward them to their Branch Secretaries or to the Federal Secretary as quickly as possible.

Because of increasing costs it will not be possible to send copies of ***Sabretache*** to those who have not paid their subscription by 20 December. Members renewing after that date run the risk of stocks of the journal being exhausted before their subs are received or, at the best, having to wait until the end of March. Bulk postage of the journal is 20¢, shortly 23¢ per copy. Individual copies cost 70¢ to post. Therefore no single late issues will be sent out; they will be held over to March when the next issue is posted.

WANTED

WANTED: British 'Stay-brite' badges by GAUNT—current Queen's Crown—Queen Alexander's Royal Army Nursing Corps. 7th Gurkha Rifles. Also any British Pattern 58 Webbing.
B.J. Wallis, 47 Market Street, Warialda N.S.W. 2402

WANTED TO BUY: W.W.I. pair Sister S.E. Pines, A.I.F. W.W.I. trio 3152 Private A. Kemp 57 Btn A.I.F. (star to different unit). or parts thereof.
Miss J. Richards, 48 Elphin Road, Launceston TAS 7250

WANTED: Any colour patches, knives, knuckle knives or any weapons, uniforms, medals, photos, maps souvenirs or information on Australian and British commandoes.
T.W. Ball, 14 Meadow Drive, South Lismore N.S.W. 2480 (066) 21 6907

WANTED: Australian Special Air Service, Parachute and Commando insignia wanted. Also photos, information and recruiting literature. Can exchange for other elite forces insignia or willing to buy.
D.M. Lovell, 48 Musbury Street, Stepney London E.I. OPJ England

WANTED: A copy of the Australian "Civil Defence Handbook" No. 1, which was probably published in 'mid-1942' and was, I believe, entitled, "The Detection and Reporting of Unexploded Bombs, Shells, and Parachute Mines". I would be willing to purchase, or even swap with a spare copy of Handbook No. 2 ("Rescue and Demolition Manual", Nov. 1942).
Ronald Kirk, 18 Osborne Court, Hawthorn 3122, Melbourne Victoria

MISSING MEDALS: Assistance is sought in locating a group of medals believed stolen in Canada. The group belonged to the grandfather of Major D.P. Gayton who was stationed in AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND 1903-8. The medals stolen are as follows:—

a. QSA C.C, OFS, TRANS, O1, O2 (lt J.F. KEEN)
b. BWM (Col J.F. KEEN)
c. Vict. (Col J.F. KEEN)
d. 1937 Coronation
e. Terr. War medal (Col J.F. KEEN)
f. E.D. and BAR GEO V.

Additionally Ex-WO1 John FUGE AATTV had his medals stolen from his home in Brisbane recently they were as follows:—

a. Vietnam pair (27483 J.R. FUGE)
b. LSGCM (27483 J.R. FUGE)

Enquiries to Queensland Museum of Medals and Militaria. P.O. Box 269, Chermside, Queensland.

In John Price's *'A Catalina Crash on Lord Howe Island'*, ***Sabretache*** Volume XXIV April/June 1983, the longitude mentioned in Page 13 should be 154th degree, not 145th.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,
I have read with great interest Mr Coulthard-Clark's article in your issue of April-June, 1983, entitled ***First British Shot of 1914***.

Within one month of my 90th birthday, and on the 69th anniversary of the event, I am laboriously—and with acute arthritic fingers—typing this letter to you.

Mr Coulthard-Clark's article is the first and only Army version I have seen in relation to the historic incident. It is based on the private papers of my old friend, the late Brigadier Eric Harrison, who was a Major and Senior General Staff Officer at 3rd Military District Headquarters at Victoria Barracks in August 1914.

From June 1945 to 1947 Brigadier Harrison and I were members of the Commonwealth Government's "Re-employment and Re-establishment Committee" of the Department of Post-War Reconstruction; he represented the Employers' Federation, and I represented the Royal Australian navy. Regrettably, neither he nor I ever realised that we both had been vitally involved in the firing of the first shot of the 1914–18 war.

Prior to leading the march to The Shrine on Anzac Day, 1976 (aged 82), I was asked to describe "How Australia's First Shot of World War One" was fired.

I wrote: To the best of my recollection, after a lapse of 61 years, the shot was fired from the Examination Service Supporting Battery, at Fort Nepean, between 11.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. (Melbourne time) on Wednesday, 5th August 1914. At the time, I was in charge of the Naval Signal Party in the "pilot vessel cum No. 1 Examination Service Vessel"—*ALVINA*—anchored off Observatory Point.

Towards 11.00 a.m. we saw the "Black German" Steamer *Pflaz* coming down the South Channel on her way to sea. We had received orders from the District Naval Officer, Victoria, in his Staff Office at Port Melbourne—by direct telephone land line to the Naval Port War Signal Station on Cheviot Hill, and then to *Alvina* by semaphore signal—to delay *Pflaz's* departure from Port Phillip Bay as long as possible; as Great Britain's ultimatum to Germany had been due to expire at 9.00 a.m. Melbourne time, on 5 August.

In compliance with an order from *Alvina*, *Pflaz* anchored near us sometime after 11 a.m.; and we still had not received news of the declaration of war. (Although Vol. IX of *Australian Official History of 1914–18 War*, page 6, records that at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, 5 August (Melbourne time) Defence Headquarters received a message: "War has broken out between Great Britain and Germany".)

However, having exhausted all means of further delaying *Pflaz's* departure we gave her the "Special Signal of the Day", and my recollection, at this late date is, that *Pfalz* resumed her voyage to sea "about 11.15 a.m."

I vividly remember that "about 20 minutes later", I, and Chief Yeoman of Signals John Dorgan RAN, observed a "flashing" signal—probably by heliograph—being frantically made *to us* by Fort Queenscliff, the Hdqrs of the O.C. Defended Port, evidently to accelerate passing on to Fort Nepean some important information he had received from Melbourne. Luckily, Dorgan and I took in the letters "...clared." After overcoming some reluctance by the Chief Examining Officer to accept the flashed signal as sufficient for *us* to act on, I hoisted International Code flag "H", which indicated to Fort Nepean that *Pfalz* was to be "brought to" by a warning shot. My flag "H" was acknowledged by the naval signal party in Fort Nepean, and the shot was fired about (as I remember) three minutes later.

Pfalz could not risk stopping in the hazardous waters of the "Rip", so Pilot Robinson—after vigourous protests by the German master and his officers—turned her about, when prudent to do so, and returned her to the anchorage near Observatory Point; where a Naval Armed Guard was placed aboard her and she returned to Hobson's Bay.

Unfortunately, for many years, I have not been able to trace any other person who was involved in the firing. But the Navy has always claimed it was the signal I hoisted in *Alvina* which caused the shot to be fired.

In 1969 I learned that there had never been a record of the firing in Fort Nepean's Gun Log; and that *Alvina's* Signal Log no longer existed.

Notwithstanding Brigadier Harrison's unquestionable information, featured in Mr Coulthard-Clark's article, and the indisputable fact that *the shot was fired three minutes after my flag signal was hoisted in* Alvina *and was acknowledged by Fort Nepean*, the following factors still remain in doubt:

(a) The precise time the shot was fired;
(b) whether it was fired in response to my signal; or,
(c) whether it was fired when the Battery Commander ultimately received Major Harrison's relayed (and much delayed) telephone message.

It would have been an extraordinary coincidence if the Battery Commander had received (b) and (c) simultaneously; but such a situation might have occurred.

Pflaz eventually sailed with the Second Convoy of A.I.F. troops in October, 1914, as Troopship A42 *Boorara*.
Yours faithfully,
Commander R.S. Veale, CMG, VRD, RANR (Retired)

Dear Sir,
After reading Jennifer Amess' feature, 'A Day of Remembrance: 11 November', which appeared on page 25 of the April/June 1983 copy of the journal, I was struck by the resemblance to an article, written by J.K. Lyons—the, then, Federal Secretary—for the October 1969 issue of *Sabretache*: entitled 'Two Minutes Silence on Remembrance Day'. John wrote:

'The suggestion of a period of silence on Remembrance Day (formerly Armistice Day) was made by Edward George Honey, a Melbourne journalist.

'Honey served for a time in the Middlesex Regiment, when war broke out, but poor health led to his discharge. He was still recuperating on November 11, 1918, when Armistice was being celebrated.

'For the world, weary with war and slaughter, it was a joyous occasion. But Honey could not still take his mind off the millions of war dead who had made peace possible, and fromthe maimed, the widows and the fatherless, who were still making the sacrifice. So it was in May, 1919, he wrote to the London *Evening News*. His letter read in part:

"The crusade is over—the falsity is swept away—but in France and in the deserts of the East stand crosses unnumbered to mark the splendour of their sacrifice. Can we not spare some fragment of these hours of peace rejoicing for a silent tribute to these might dead? I would ask for five minutes, only five silent minutes of national remembrance. A very sacred intercession."

'The suggestion fell on fertile ground and was relayed, via a South African Member of Parliament, to King George V. The King issued a proclamation on November 7 of that year, calling on his people to commemorate the Armistice—four days later—by two minutes silence in honour of the war dead.

'The five minutes, suggested by Honey, had proved too long, even for the Grenadier Guards who had rehearsed it, and was therefore trimmed to two.

'Otherwise the principle of Honey's idea remained, and still remains to this day: throughout the British Commonwealth.'

In no way do I seek to denigrate Ms Amess' story—which has the backing of Australian Archives source—but merely wish to put the record straight. For one is left to assume, after reading the current *Sabretache* article, that it was solely, King George the Fifth's idea. However credit ought to be given where it is due.
Yours sincerely,
John E. Price.

VICMILEX '84

200 YEARS OF AUSTRALIAN MILITARY HISTORY

Date: 22nd-24th June, 1984.

Venue: B. Squadron Depot, 4/19 Prince of Wales's Light Horse. (Army Reserve) Bougainville Barracks, Park Street, North Carlton, Vic. 3054. Melway Map of Greater Melbourne 29 J10.

Location: Bougainville Barracks is just 4 kilometres North North East of the Melbourne G.P.O. (Elizabeth Street). It can be reached by Tram—Nos. 1, 15, 21, 22; a few minutes walk from Tram Stop 19 on Lygon Street. It is less than kilometre from Royal Parade (which is on the Melbourne section of Sydney Road)

Accommodation: There is ample tourist accommodation within minutes of the venue. Ranging from first class Motels, on to Hotels and Guest Houses. Right through to sleeping bags and stretcher beds in the Drill Hall. Further details may be obtained from the Vicmilex Accommodation Officer, Mr Herb Brown, 3 John Street, Beaumaris, Vic. 3193.

Date: The 22nd-24th June 1984 is two weeks after the Queen's Birthday Weekend Public Holiday, but will coincide with the Melbourne Gun Show which is located at the Coburg Town Hall—on the same tram routes—and some four kilometres away from Bougainville Barracks.

Activities: Four short seminars are being planned, during the weekend, dealing with topics pertinent to Military History and Collecting. There will be a Social function on the Saturday evening. A stamped commemorative cover has been designed, which, hopefully, will be post-marked 22nd June 1984—the first day of Vicmilex '84.

A number of kindred Societies are being invited to participate.

We welcome any Member from other Branches to furnish a Display, within the framework of the theme.

As the date approaches further information will be made available through the medium of *Sabretache*.

For details of the event, please write to:
The Chairman, Vicmilex '84
Mr John E. Price, Villa 7, 16 Barrett Street,
Cheltenham, Vic. 3192

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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:

Jan.-Mar. edition mailed last week of March
Apr.-Jun. edition mailed last week of June
Jul.-Sept. edition mailed last week of Sept.
Oct.-Dec. edition mailed 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 each financial year.

Commercial advertising rate is $120 per full page; $60 per half page; and $25 per quarter page. Contract rates applicable at reduced rates. Apply Editor.

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 P. Lucas, G.P.O. Box 1052, Canberra City, A.C.T. 2601
Orders and remittances should be forwarded to this address.

THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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

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