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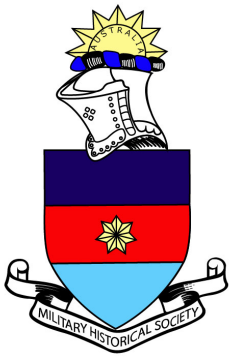

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SABRETACHE

The Journal and Proceedings of
The Military Historical Society of Australia
(founded 1957)

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.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1983
VOLUME XXIV—NUMBER 4

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SABRETACHE

Sabretache in 1984

Another year and another *Sabretache* into history. On reflection I believe it has been a good year for our magazine, due mainly to a growing group of writers with a common interest in the pursuit of study and research in military history.

We acknowledge that there are deficiencies and during 1984 we'll be trying to cover a much wider field.

The Boxer Rebellion, and Australia's involvement, is one campaign not generally understood and Malcolm Savaders incisive assessment of Australia's participation in this issue is a welcome sign that next year augurs well for the direction we wish to take. Australia's involvement in Korea and Malaya are obvious campaigns requiring attention and we are already discussing articles with interested writers.

Might I conclude by saying that *Sabretache* is your publication and its success or otherwise depends to a large extent on the support you are willing to give it. If you think you have something to contribute in 1984, do it. My new address is 1 Nardoo Crescent, O'Connor, ACT, 2601.

Gurkha VC

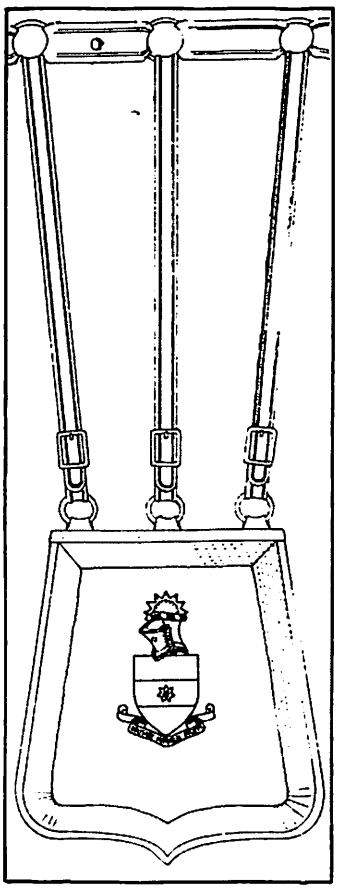
Captain (Queen's Gurkha Officer) Rambahadur Limbu VC, the only holder of the Victoria Cross, still serving in the British Army, and Captain (Queen's Gurkha Officer) Dipakbahadur Gurung have 'presented their swords' to the Queen in a traditional ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

They will now be employed as orderly officers to Her Majesty for one year.

Kapyong Memorial

A simple memorial stone marking 3RAR's role in the Battle of Kapyong is to be part of a new memorial park being developed near the Korean battle site.

The park will cater for the large number of visitors to the memorial, as part of a large project aimed at allowing Koreans to learn more about the role of the forces of many countries in the Korean war.



Chairman of the United Nations Korean War Allies Association, Mr Kap-Chong Chi, during a recent visit to Holsworthy, said the stone stood beside a rough country road in the Kapyong Valley, near the site of 3RAR's delaying action on Anzac eve, 1951.

The present memorial, erected in 1967, will be moved about 12m to allow the road to be upgraded, and the construction of a major memorial bearing an account of the action in English and Korean.

Mr Kap-Chong Chi, who was a war correspondent during the Korean conflict, said the project included memorials at significant sites throughout the country to explain the parts played by combat troops from 16 nations.

Near the town of Kapyong, the Commonwealth Memorial commemorates the actions of all British Commonwealth troops in Korea.

Horse-drawn ambulance

The Australian War Memorial has purchased a first world war horse-drawn wooden ambulance from the former Cooma Travellers Rest Pioneer Museum.

Mr and Mrs Neville Locker, who operated the Cooma museum before it closed, restored the ambulance to its operational appearance. The wooden vehicle is painted green and bears the Red Cross symbol. The ambulance was probably used in Australia for training purposes and may be the only one of its type left in the country. The Lockers purchased it from a drover, who had used it as a mobile home.

This type of ambulance, a Mark 6, was used by Australian field ambulance units to carry wounded in the European theatre. It would have been drawn by four or six horses.

Royal Army

During a recent excursion to the Austalian War Memorial I was handed an official leaflet.

After the leaflet was passed around, it led to a deep discussion which in my mind was both fruitless and futile.

The subject of the discussion was why the Army is not prefixed by "Royal", as in the case of the Royal Australian Navy and the Royal Australian Air Force.

Without identifying the other "Royal" organisations, we agreed that we have the RAR, RAInf, RACT, RAAOC, and so on.

But what about the AACC, Int, Psych, and the others.

The discussion came to conclusion that the British Army, from which we gain most of our traditions, also is not known as the Royal Army.

My question is: "Why not?"

WO1 C. Millen
Material Branch
Russell Offices.

Naval Memorial

A national naval memorial to commemorate the service of the many thousands of men and women who have served their country in times of war and peace in the Royal Australian Navy is to be erected in Anzac Parade, Canberra.

Queen's Medal

The Australian Government has reversed a decision which had prevented the issue of a 59 year old shooting award in the armed forces.

The Queen's Medal, which was ordered to be abandoned in November 1983 by the Department of the Special Minister of State, because it was an imperial award was ordered reinstated.

There had been considerable offence taken in the Defence Forces that the Queen's Medal, which was first shot for 59 years ago, would no longer be awarded. The original decision had not been referred to the Minister for Defence.

It was expected that the winner of this year's shooting competition will be retrospectively presented with the medal. Its withdrawal had been announced the night before competition began.

East Indies

For those with a special interest in the British and Indian Armies in the East Indies between 1685-1935 a recent book by Major Alan Harfield will be of importance. His book covers an area of military history that has not previously been covered by a general work on the subject. It starts with the setting up of the defences for the trading posts in Sumatra, (by the Honourable East India Company's armies) and then follows the progress in the East Indies as Penang, Malacca and Singapore became stations for HEIC units. It covers the problems of the early military garrison on the West Coast of Sumatra with its high sickness and death rate, the constant antagonism of the Senior Civil Servants on that station, and the development of Fort Marlborough.

The Java campaign of 1811 is covered and the involvement of the Honourable East India Company's armies in that short expedition. The development of the garrison on Prince of Wales Island (Penang Island) is recorded, as is the development of the old Portuguese and Dutch settlement of Malacca on the west coast of Malaya.

For information write to Picton Publishing, Citadel Works, Bath Road, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN152AB.

Medal Identity

Thanks to Christopher Fagg our mysterious medals published in the last issue may be identified. Without being given any other information, I believe that you may receive quite a variance in what the printed medals may be. However, be that as it may, here are my thoughts on the subject.

I believe the medals to be
1. Afghanistan Medal 1878-80
2. Roberts Star

The Maori War Medal (N.Z. Medal 1846-65) when photographed in black and white, the two dark blue outer colours show up black, whilst the central red stripe shows a much lighter colour. The medal in the Sabretache photo shows exactly the opposite configuration. Therefore, based purely upon the photograph, I would rule against it being the N.Z. medal 1846-65.

The Afghanistan 1878-80 medal seems most appropriate. It is circular, has the similar suspender attachment, and the ribbon configuration of red and green, when photographed in black and white, comes out as per the photograph supplied. The second medal could be the Roberts Star, awarded during the same campaign, and would logically support the Afghanistan Medal. The order of wearing agrees with the order of precedence. The ribbon shown appears to be a watered ribbon, ending in a dark colour, probably blue which appears dark black as previously stated. The suspender is per ring. The medal is a star and appears to show five points on its left side (the only side wholly visible). The Roberts Star, has a total of five points and 4 rounders. Together in an indistinct photo these may appear as five points on one side.

The only other possibility is the China 1900, and a 1914 or 1914-15 Star. However, from the gentleman's clothing style and apparent age, I would hesitate to suggest that he was probably too old to participate in WWI, so that would rule out that award.

Well there you have it.

Regards
Chris Fagg

Lieutenant W. H. Frame, DSC, MM and Bar

A unique combination of medals, won for repeated acts of bravery by an Australian who served with both the Australian Imperial Force and the Royal Naval Reserve, has been presented to the Australian War Memorial.

The decorations and medals of Lieutenant W.H. Frame, DSC, MM and Bar, were given to the Memorial by his daughter, Mrs A. Leister of Newport, Victoria.

Walter Frame was awarded the Military medal and Bar while serving with the AIF in 1916. The citation for the medal reads: 'During a heavy shelling of the battery [23rd battery, 21st Field Artillery Brigade] on 31st May, 1916 [Bombardier Frame] was in charge of the lines of communication of the battery. The lines were continually cut and Bdr Frame always quickly restored communication, working continually in the shelled area. He acted similarly on other occasions'.

The bar was added for action at Pozieres on 22/23 July when Bombardier Frame was stationed at 1st Infantry Brigade headquarters: Our communication lines were completely severed by enemy fire and [Bombardier Frame] was continually endeavouring to repair same under very heavy shell fire. As soon as the line was mended in one place it went in another. Lamp signalling was then resorted to but our marked station was demolished. Bombardier Frame tried again and again with the lamp and all the time under heavy fire. This NCO has continually shown great courage and devotion to duty since 23rd July running out lines and maintaining his communications'.

Frame, then a corporal, subsequently transferred to the Royal Naval Reserve and was commissioned. As an acting lieutenant he was commended for magnificent discipline and gallantry displayed on 8 August 1917 in an action with an enemy submarine, and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. At the time of the award, King George V stated that greater bravery than was shown by all officers and men on this occasion could hardly be conceived. This naval action is referred to in Rear Admiral Campbell's book. *My Mystery Ships.*

Malcolm Saunders

THE BOXER REBELLION: 1900-1901

In 1903, in ceremonies in Sydney and Melbourne, Australians were presented with China Medals. Their participation in the Boxer Rebellion was more political than military however it was Australia's first military involvement in any part of Asia.

The Boxer rebellion was the first large-scale popular uprising in China against the presence and influence of foreigners—mainly Europeans—in the country. Since the early 1840s several rival European powers had forced Chinese governments, whose military forces were very weak, to sign treaties which opened up more and more Chinese ports to foreign trade and gave foreigners living in China special privileges (such as immunity from Chinese jurisdiction). By the end of the nineteenth century China, although nominally ruled by the Manchu dynasty, was almost completely controlled by foreign nations, particularly Britain, Germany, France, Russia, Japan, and the United States of America. These and other powers now controlled all of China's coastal and inland trade and had marked out almost two thirds of the country into "spheres of influence". The Chinese, particularly the more conservative, felt humiliated, and deeply resented the foreigners whom they considered barbarians and whose civilisation they considered inferior. Much of their hatred was directed toward Christian missionaries who were converting an increasing number of Chinese to an alien religion and thereby undermining the traditions on which Chinese society was based.

"Feeling against the foreigners was especially strong within a group called the Society of Righteous and Harmonious Fists (or Boxers), a Chinese secret society which had existed since the early eighteenth century. The extraction of further concessions by the foreign powers following the defeat of China by Japan in a war of 1894-1895 coupled with attempts by the Emperor Kuang-Hsu to "Westernise" China by implementing reforms long advocated by the foreign powers, intensified anti-foreign sentiment and swelled the ranks of the Boxers. So, too, did a series of natural disasters—a serious drought and floods—which occurred in the last years of the nineteenth century and caused widespread poverty and starvation. The foreigners were blamed for all of China's many problems. In early 1900 Boxer gangs surged through several northern provinces sacking and burning Christian missions and killing missionaries and Chinese converts. In June, with the tacit consent of the conservative Dowager Empress Tzu-Hsi, who had replaced her nephew as head of state in 1898, they besieged the foreign legations in two of China's largest cities, Peking and Tientsin. The foreign powers, especially Britain, which had more to lose in China than any other power, made ready to protect their interests, put down the

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rebellion, restore law and order, and punish both the rebels and the Chinese government. But above all each was concerned to prevent any of the other powers taking advantage of the situation by increasing its economic and political power in China.

In late June 1900 the British government asked the Australian colonial governments if they would allow Britain to send three ships from the Australasian auxiliary squadron to go to China to help put down the rebellion. These ships—the *Wallaroo*, the *Lizard*, and the *Mohawk*—were of light draught and were hence capable of navigating the Yangtse and other Chinese rivers. Equally important, they could reach China much more quickly than any other similar ships Britain could despatch.

Britain needed Australian consent, however, because, under a naval agreement of 1887, the Australian colonies contributed toward the cost of maintaining the squadron and could veto any decision of the British government to remove it from the waters around Australia. But the colonial governments readily agreed to release the ships. The *Wallaroo* left Port Jackson for China on 2 July.

At least two colonial governments eagerly offered additional help. In 1885, when Britain had accepted an offer of troops from New South Wales for use in the Sudan but had rejected later offers from several of the other colonies, Victoria had been irritated and not a little jealous. Keen this time to be first off the mark the Victorian government offered Britain 200 naval officers and men for use in China. Not to be outdone South Australia a few days later offered its gunboat, the *Protector*, with its crew of about a hundred. Both offers were accepted. Not wanting to appear less loyal than the other colonies NSW offered a naval force of up to 300 men and Queensland offered two of its gunboats, the *Gayundah* and the *Paluma*.

Perhaps to the embarrassment of the NSW government, Britain accepted its naval force. But, as it had probably expected, the Queensland government's offer was rejected because its ships were too old, slow, and could not carry much fuel.

Colonial rivalry, then, prompted all four offers from Australia to help Britain and the other foreign powers quell the rebellion.

In all colonies the naval forces were much more eager to go to China than their governments were to send them. In NSW, Victoria, and South Australia there was great excitement within the naval brigades and in the largest colonies there were many more volunteers for China than vacancies available. Only recently Britain had refused offers of naval contingents for service in South Africa from both NSW and Victoria and the hopes of these men, then dashed, were now revived. They were far less motivated, however, by loyalty to Britain than by the desire to see active service and to receive practical training and experience. Self-interest was a large part of their willingness to go to China. Indeed NSW found it very difficult to scrape together more than 260 men after it was revealed that the men would do more service in China on land than on sea, that they would be paid at a considerably lower rate than the Victorians, and that volunteers from the permanent naval force, the Naval Brigade, would be integrated with those from the part-time voluntary naval force, the Naval Artillery Volunteers.

On 19 July the British government announced that it had requisitioned a liner, the *Salamis*, to carry both Australian contingents to China. The Victorian contingent was ready to leave immediately but the difficulties experienced by the NSW government in raising the force it had promised delayed their departure. The *Salamis* finally left Sydney on 8 August carrying 200 men from Victoria under Captain Tickell and 260 men from NSW under Captain Hixson. On 26 August it reached Hong Kong where Captain Hixson handed over command to Captain Gillespie of the Royal Navy.

The contingents reached Taku, on the mouth of the Pei Ho River, on 9 September and Tientsin itself on 16 September. Meanwhile the *Protector* had left Port Adelaide on 6 August with 96 officers and men under the command of Captain Creswell, reaching Hong Kong on 11 September where the ship was transferred to the Royal Navy and its officers given temporary commissions in it.

While the naval forces were being made ready the colonial parliaments debated the desirability of sending them. In Victoria and South Australia the colonial governments' actions aroused very little opposition. However neither did they arouse much enthusiasm. In NSW though, the government's offer elicited widespread although hardly fierce opposition. It must be remembered that in every respect Australian participation in the Boer War overshadowed colonial involvement in China. The war in South Africa began sooner and continued long after the Boxer rebellion was over.

By contrast with the less than 500 naval men who served in China more than 16,000 volunteers served in South Africa. Throughout the Boxer rebellion the attention of parliaments, the press, and the public was focused on the latter. The Boxer

rebellion was seen as a relatively insignificant event, the despatch of the naval contingents as comparatively unimportant. This attitude was reflected outside the houses of parliament. One scholar of the episode has commented that "the general response of the press and the public throughout the colonies lacked the enthusiasm displayed during the Boer War".

Nevertheless each colonial government was forced to defend its offer. Supporters of the offers argued that Britain was eager to receive assistance although they had to admit that while the British government had asked for ships from the Australasian auxiliary squadron it had not asked for colonial contingents of naval men. As in the debates over the Sudan campaign and the Boer War they stressed the need for the colonies to demonstrate their loyalty to Britain and in so doing the unity and strength of the empire to Britain's European rivals. Pride in the emerging nation played a role. Supporters claimed that by helping Britain in China they would win recognition from the world at large that Australia had come of age and was willing to accept the responsibilities of nationhood. Many depicted the conflict as one between civilization and barbarism, between Christians and heathens. At the same time their pride in their race compelled them to add that white Australian soldiers rather than brown Indian troops ought to vindicate the honor of the white race in China.

Pride in the British Empire and race formed one set of motives behind the offers; self-interest inspired another. Supporters pointed out that it was important to win Britain's gratitude. On one hand they reiterated the old argument that if the colonies assisted Britain when she was at war she in turn would assist Australia should it be threatened in the future. On the other they claimed that British appreciation of colonial assistance would benefit the colonies economically. In any case Australia had missionaries and growing commercial interests in China and a responsibility to help protect them. A more practical argument was that by being able to observe the armed forces of a variety of European powers in action the Australian naval contingents would gain valuable experience and return better able to defend Australia. Overall their case was not a strong one.

Their principal argument, and the one that enabled them to carry the day in NSW, was simply that the prestige of the colony was at stake. The NSW premier argued that it could not stand back and allow other colonies to take the lead, nor, once having made an offer, could it refuse to honor it.

In the NSW Legislative Assembly opponents of the government's offer outnumbered supporters. True, a motion to accept the government's action was passed by 56 votes to 7 but most members voted in favour of it mainly because the government had virtually pledged the colony to the despatch of a naval contingent and the parliament was presented with a *fait accompli*. In the Legislative Council the vote was tied at 15 each and the deputy president was forced to use his casting vote to have the motion passed. In both houses many more arguments were voiced against than in favour of the motion. Many of those who had been completely in favour of sending troops to assist Britain in South Africa strongly disapproved of sending a naval contingent to help her in China. Like supporters' arguments, those of opponents were a mixture of the selfish and the unselfish.

Opponents argued forcefully that Britain neither needed nor wanted men from the Australian colonies in China. They claimed that Britain had accepted the contingents offered out of mere politeness. Why, they asked, would Britain want Australian colonial soldiers, who were expensive, when she could send to China many more Indian troops, who were by comparison quite cheap?

They argued that the Boxers, unlike the Boers, did not represent a danger to the safety and prestige of the empire. The Boers were "a real threat to the empire", the Boxers required only "a small police action". In South Africa Britain was fighting the Boers alone and with the expressed disapproval of her most powerful European rivals. In China Britain was acting in concert with these powers. The forces the Australian colonies were sending to China were insignificant on the one hand because they were so small, on the other because the whole of the civilised world was up in arms against China, which was militarily very weak. By early 1901 Britain alone had almost 17,000 men—most of them Indian troops—in China. A few speakers even dared to argue that the Chinese had a right to resent and lash out against the flood of missionaries who had entered their country to try to change their way of life.

Opponents, too, claimed that it was not in the Australian colonies' interests to become militarily involved in China. Britain's gratitude had already been won. The Australian colonies had amply demonstrated their loyalty to Britain and the solidarity of the empire by despatching troops to South Africa—where they were needed. They

pointed out that the sailors Australia was sending would be used on land rather than on sea and would therefore gain little training and experience aboard ship where they really needed it. Far from showing the world that Australia had "grown up" the despatch of the contingents to China would help foster an unhealthy spirit of militarism in the Australian people. The argument was also put that by sending the contingents—about a third of the entire naval forces of each of NSW and Victoria—the colonies were denuding themselves of their own defences—this at a time when thousands of their young men were in South Africa fighting the Boers. The naval men would be far more useful both to Australia and to the empire itself helping to defend the colonies than assisting Britain in China. By sending them overseas the colonies were almost inviting attack; by participating in so many quarrels Australia was provoking retaliation from every side. If the great powers went to war over how to carve up China—which often seemed likely—then the naval men should be in Australia ready to defend its shores.

But, above all, what worried opponents was that the Australian colonies appeared to be setting a dangerous precedent for involving themselves indiscriminately in imperial wars. Many drew a distinction between imperial wars which involved a colonial obligation to participate and those which did not. The Sudan campaign and the Boer War were seen as conflicts demanding imperial cooperation but the Boxer rebellion was not.

Opponents saw the first two as crises with which Britain was faced and for which it needed military help from the colonies. They did not see the Boxer rebellion as a real war let alone a crisis. They did not believe that the Australian colonies, being part of the British Empire, really had no choice but to assist Britain at all times. They believed that it was Australia's duty to help defend the empire when it was in serious danger but not whenever and wherever British troops were sent to fight overseas. Opponents also feared that the establishment of this precedent would unintentionally encourage the imperial federationists, a school of thought in both Britain and the Australian colonies which advocated that all parts of the British Empire should share the costs of defending it. This would involve the colonies contributing men and money toward an imperial war without having a voice in determining the policy which led to the conflict.

These critics, like most Australians by this time, wanted the colonies to be free to decide when Britain was faced with a serious crisis and therefore when they were obliged to go to her aid.

In China, as in the Sudan 15 years earlier, the Australians did little fighting. By the time they arrived most of the military work had been done. The sieges of Peking and Tientsin had been lifted—the first on 15 August—and the Boxers had already been decisively defeated and part of a police force formed from soldiers of the various allied forces.

From mid September until early October they played the role of military policemen, patrolling streets, guarding buildings, and generally maintaining order among the Chinese population. However both contingents took part briefly in military operations. Only three days after their arrival 300 men—150 from each contingent—took part in a two-day expedition to capture the Peitang forts, only a few miles east of Tientsin, which Boxers were thought to be holding. For the Australians it was a disappointing march. At least 20 per cent of them suffered so much from sunstroke, exhaustion, and sore feet that they had to be sent back to camp. When the force reached its destination it found that the Russians, Germans, and Austrians had arrived earlier, assaulted the forts, and were now in possession.

In addition the Victorian contingent took part in a much larger and more important allied expedition to Pao-ting-fu, a provincial capital about 80 miles south west of Tientsin and the scene of some of the most atrocious and extensive massacres of missionaries during the early months of the rebellion. Forces of allied troops set out simultaneously for Pao-ting-fu from both Tientsin and Peking. The Tientsin force, which included the Victorians, was split into three, each column taking a different route to the fort. Again the Australians were disappointed because they encountered no resistance and therefore saw no fighting. The Boxers either retreated or changed themselves into peaceful peasants. Again, too, they were pipped at the post. During the march they learned that an independent French force, which had left Tientsin a few days earlier than the main force, had reached Pao-ting-fu, met with no opposition, and occupied it. The only military action in which the Australians participated was in the punishment of several Boxer villages during the return march to Tientsin.

After these abortive missions the Australians settled down to what was to be their main role in China, that of policemen. Even before Pao-ting-fu the NSW contingent had been despatched to Peking where about half were deployed as guards at either the British legation or the famous Llama Temple while the other half was stationed in the Chang Wang Fu Palace in the Tartar City. After

returning from Pao-ting-fu the Victorians were put to work as military policemen both in the city and on the river. The Australians were frequently used as "handymen". From time to time men from both contingents were temporarily employed as fire brigadesmen, sanitary inspectors, and clerks in various military offices. Some, too, served as guards on mail trains travelling between Peking and Tientsin. It was unspectacular and monotonous but at the same time very useful work.

Meanwhile the *Protector*, which reached Taku in early October, was almost solely employed in the Gulf of Pechili, carrying despatches, transporting military officers, loading stores, and doing survey work. So the ship's crew, like the contingents, was chiefly engaged in routine and unexciting duties. The *Protector's* stay in Chinese waters was brief. In early November, apparently no longer needed, it was ordered home. It left Hong Kong on 24 November and reached Adelaide on 8 January where the crew was paid off.

The NSW and Victorian contingents, however, remained in China throughout the long northern winter, doing much work but little fighting. But insofar as they were noticed by the Chinese and by the troops of the foreign powers they won an admirable reputation. Firstly, their conduct and discipline were almost exemplary. Of course they arrived too late to participate in the retaking of Peking and Tientsin and took part thereafter in only a few punitive expeditions against the Boxers. Thus they were denied many of the opportunities which some troops, such as the Russians, Germans, and French took to loot, rape, and kill. The Russians and Germans in particular were renowned for their brutality and callousness and for pillaging both public buildings and private homes.

But the Australians, like the British and Japanese, appeared to have treated the Chinese fairly and good relations between their troops and the Chinese were often reported. Secondly, the men of both contingents were several times praised for their keenness and efficiency both as soldiers in the field and as "policemen" in the cities. In appreciation of the work done by the Victorians in Tientsin the mayor and the city council granted them 1500 dollars to be divided among those who served in the city as police or in the fire brigades.

Thirdly, and as might be expected given their many roles, they earned a reputation for versatility. Probably no other nation's troops served so successfully in so many diverse capacities. But some qualifications need to be made. One Australian military historian noted that the Victorians amassed a considerable number of rare Oriental works of art and examples of Chinese culture and brought them back to Melbourne. And it must be remembered that the Chinese resented the presence of *any* foreign troops on their soil. Yet it can at least be said that the Australians were less unwelcome than the troops of any of the foreign powers, except possibly the Japanese.

The contingents finally left Taku for Australia on the *SS Chingtu* on 29 March. The ship arrived at Sydney on 25 April—the day of the year which, as Anzac Day, was to become the most revered in the Australian calendar. It was suspected that there was smallpox on the ship and so it was placed in quarantine for eight days. Most men disembarked on 3 May, and the Victorians left Sydney for Melbourne by special train the same day.

Casualties had been few. Only seven men had died during the whole period. All who served were presented with China Medals, the New South Welshmen at a ceremony at Government House, Sydney, on 25 April 1903, the Victorians at one in the Melbourne Town Hall in May 1903. The story is full of coincidence. The last survivor of the contingents died in 1972, the year in which the last remaining Australian troops on Asian soil were withdrawn.

As in the Sudan campaign Australian colonial participation in the Boxer rebellion had much more *political* than it did *military* significance. Yet it should still be of interest to studen's of early Australian military history. It was Australia's first military involvement in any part of Asia. It was almost 50 years before Australian soldiers were again to tread on Asian soil but after the Second World War their presence in one or more of the countries of East and South East Asia was almost constant—in Japan, Korea, Malaya, and Vietnam, to name only the most important. It also enabled the naval forces of three of the Australian colonies to undergo the most intensive and valuable practical training they had to that date received. The crew of the *Protector* took pride in knowing that their ship was the first ever to leave Australian waters for war manned by an all-Australian crew and the first Australian-owned ship actually commissioned and used for foreign service by the Royal Navy. More important, the excellent service which the contingents rendered and the praise which they received seemed to vindicate the system of naval reserves then operating in the colonies and led many Australians to believe that they could be the basis for an independent Australian navy. In fact legislation for the establishment of an Australian navy was passed by federal parliament in 1909.

Australia's role in China was too small, its men there too few, to permit the experience to contribute much toward Australia's knowledge of China in particular or Asian countries in general. To a small degree only it hardened Australians' existing unfavourable attitudes toward the Chinese and contributed toward their then rising fears of the military and economic power of the Japanese.

But much more significantly Australian involvement in China in 1900-1901 illustrated that the colonies did not indiscriminately support "the empire, right or wrong". Theirs was not "a simple, unthinking loyalty" to Britain. Their involvement in China made Australians more aware both that they were not prepared to take part in all imperial wars and that it was unnecessary that they should.

Many Australians who saw the troubles in the Sudan and South Africa as crises facing the empire did not view the Boxer rebellion in the same light. Only two colonial governments—Victoria and South Australia—were eager to participate in the police action against the Boxers while two others—NSW and Queensland—were far less enthusiastic.

Colonial publics did not demand that colonial governments contribute to the quelling of the rebellion nor did the decision to become involved excite much enthusiasm anywhere in Australia. To top it all, it eventually became evident that Britain had not been anxious to accept help from the colonies other than that for which she had asked.

If wholehearted colonial enthusiasm for involvement in the Sudan campaign and the Boer War had misled the British and some colonial governments the Boxer rebellion made it clear that the Australian colonies as a whole were unwilling to involve themselves automatically in all of Britain's troubles. At the colonial conference in London in 1902 the first prime minister of Australia, Sir Edmund Barton, refused to define the circumstances in which Australia would or would not go to the aid of Britain in the future. Australians were willing and eager to assist Britain when she really needed help -but they wanted the freedom to decide when she did.

FURTHER READING

The few published sources of information concerning Australia and the Boxer rebellion contain many inaccuracies and should therefore be read with caution.

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Paul Rosenzweig

LIEUTENANT COLONEL C. G. W. ANDERSON, VC, MC: AUSTRALIA'S ONLY SOUTH AFRICAN-BORN VICTORIA CROSS WINNER

It is now 84 years since the first Victoria Cross was earned by an Australian, ironically in South Africa, and 15 years since the most recent award. Of the 96 Australians awarded the VC during this 69 year period, only ten recipients are still alive today, so it is perhaps timely to consider the lives of some of these gallant survivors.

Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Groves Wright Anderson, VC, MC is the only Australian Victoria Cross recipient to have been born in South Africa, having been born in Capetown on February 12th, 1897. In fact, he has the distinction of being the only survivor of seventeen non-Australian-born VC winners.

Charles Anderson began his military career in late November 1914 when he enlisted in an Indian Territorial Battery which was in Africa with the early Indian Army contingent. There were no local units suitable for enlistment in South Africa at that time, so Charles Anderson joined the "Calcutta Volunteer Battery", and saw several actions with them as a machine-gunner. Only 17 at the time of enlistment, he very wisely considered it appropriate to gain some experience prior to applying for a commission, and on October 13th, 1916, he was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion, King's African Rifles (formerly the East Africa Regiment).

He was unfortunate to have missed the Battalion's earlier involvements with the Merehan tribe in 1913-14, however he saw his fair share of active service against the German-led Askari, service which led to the award of the Military Cross for continuous displays of bravery. The award was gazetted in the Honours list of January 1st, 1919.[1]

After retiring as a Captain in 1918, he traded his pistol and sword, first for pen and paper, and later for stockwhip and hunting rifle. After a couple of years in business, he left to manage a mixed farming property in the Great Rift Valley of Kenya. With cattle and agriculture, game hunting soon became a survival skill, the lions being

Paul Rosenzweig has recently completed a Graduate Diploma in Education, having already obtained an Honours degree in Zoology. He is a member of the Army Reserve, currently being the Medical Sergeant of the Adelaide University Regiment.

a threat to the stock and the buffalo a constant danger to the crops. The latter, he recalls, were the more troublesome because the Cape buffalo is an extremely dangerous beast, and hunting it in close country is a very hazardous venture. With massive horns spanning up to 1.5m and a body weight of up to 900kg[2], combined with a reputation for being bold, courageous and downright deadly, caution and stealth in the jungle becomes a byword to the hunter.

His experiences in the jungles of Kenya and East Africa, against man and beast alike, fitted Charles Anderson well for the ardours of jungle warfare he was yet to face, against a foe far different from those previously encountered.

On February 21st, 1931, he married Edith M. Tout, and three years later they moved to a grazing property near Crowther, Young, in New South Wales. On July 1st, 1940, after just sixteen months' service in the 56th Battalion (Riverina Regiment) of the CMF, Major Anderson was seconded to the AIF as the Second-in-Command of the 2/19th Battalion upon its formation at Wallgrove, NSW. After training at Wallgrove, Ingleburn and Bathurst, the unit embarked for Malaya in February, 1941, and after his promotion in August that year, Lt-Col. Anderson assumed command of the Battalion. When the Brigade Commander was incapacitated during a Japanese air raid on the Headquarters, Anderson was chosen to take command of the 45th Indian Brigade, of which his Battalion was a major component.

This Brigade was only partially trained, and many of the soldiers had received no formal weapons training. Two of the Battalions had been cut to pieces by the Japanese, Lt-Col. Anderson recalls, and the third had been out of touch with the Brigade for three days and had lost half their men by the time they rejoined.[3] After a hasty overnight reorganisation of the 2/19th and 2/29th Australian Battalions, and the remnants of the Indian Battalion, the Brigade was again ready to defend the Muar Front in Malaya.

Lt-Col. Anderson's appreciation was that the Muar-Yong Peng road had to be held sufficiently long enough to prevent encirclement of our main Army on the main North-South road. And that is what he did.

The operations in Malaya at this time will not be discussed at length here as there is a vast literature on this subject. Suffice to say that in January 1942, Lt-Col. Anderson led a small force against a Division of crack Imperial Guards who possessed almost unchallenged air and tank support, and while protecting his wounded and personally leading attacks and bayonet charges, he penetrated through the enemy lines to a depth of fifteen miles, destroying ten tanks and four guns.

Lieutenant Colonel C. G. W. Anderson V.C., M.C.

"On the fifth day", relates the Colonel, "I could hear artillery fire to the Southeast at Yong Peng and decided to break off the engagement and withdraw through the jungle. In my orders for withdrawal the first unit to move past the Start-up point was timed for 0900 hours. By coincidence, General Bennett at the same time sent a signal to break off engagement (I never got the signal)."[3] Through his accurate appreciation of the situation, his men were able to make their way back to Westforce, denying the enemy the chance of taking further captives which they would have undoubtedly mutilated savagely, as they had the wounded.

Of this fighting withdrawal, Anderson wrote later, "The well trained Australian units showed a complete moral ascendancy over the enemy"[4], while of the award of the Victoria Cross to Lt-Col. Anderson, which was gazetted on February 13th, 1942[5], the GOC Malaya, Lt-General Percival, later wrote, "The award of the VC to Lieutenant-Colonel Anderson of the AIF was a fitting tribute both to his own prowess and to the valour of his men."[6]

Following the bloody battle of Muar (called the battle of Bakri by the Japanese), and the fall of Singapore, Anderson was next to face the ordeal of captivity from February 15th, 1942 until August 1945. Repatriation to Australia and retirement from the Army on December 21st, 1945, allowed him to retire to his property to rediscover the pleasures and frustrations of being a grazier. At least now he no longer had to deal with 1.5m tall buffalo straying down from the high country of Kikuyu escarpment as he did in Kenya, and the wide open spaces were a welcome sight after the confinement of the Malayan jungle and Japanese barbed wire.

Anderson kept himself busy in retirement with an involvement in local politics, and was elected Country Party member for Hume in the House of Representatives in the general election of 1949. Not deterred by his defeat in 1951, he regained his seat in 1955, and in the 1958 election retained the title of MHR. After his defeat in December 1961, he retired from politics and returned to his property.

Charles Anderson, as the MHR for Hume, was appointed a member of the Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory on April 10th, 1957. He was so impressed with the developments he saw that in later years, he and his wife Edith, with their twin sons Jeremy and Nicholas, and their two daughters Gay and Virginia, moved to Red Hill, ACT to live.

Lt-Col. Anderson wears the following medals: Firstly, the Victoria Cross, with which he was invested personally by the then Governor-General of Australia, HRH The Duke of Gloucester, on January 8th, 1947, at Admiralty House, Sydney. The Military Cross, awarded in recognition of gallant services in the German East Africa campaign, is the George V type of which some 37,000 were awarded in WW1. He wears the WW1 trio of 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and English Victory medal (not the bilingual African Victory medal issue). From WW2, he wears the 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, Defence Medal and War Medal. He also wears the Coronation and Jubilee medals of Elizabeth II, although the photograph was taken before the latter was received, and this medal is therefore lacking. He does possess an Australian Service Medal, 1939-45, and wears this with his miniatures, but has not yet added it to his medals proper, which are kept locked away in a bank vault, and are only 'withdrawn' for special occasions such as Anzac Day and Armistice Day.

He still attends meetings and functions with such groups as the RSL, and has occasionally returned to Kenya and the UK, but he tries to avoid too extravagant a life-style. As he says, just a few months short of his 87th birthday, "at my age, one works slowly and capacity is limited"[7].

Although relatively short, Charles Anderson's military career is quite remarkable in that he has fought against both the Germans, and associated natives, in Africa and the Japanese in Malaya in two wars, and was decorated for gallantry on both occasions.

He admits that the Germans and the Askari in East Africa were "a very tough proposition", the war there being more in the manner of traditional warfare against an enemy whose skill and bravery could be respected. He was not so duly impressed with the Japanese who were "not in the same class"[3]. After the war, he noted that, "In hand to hand fighting they made a very poor showing against the superior spirit and training of the AIF"[4].

After a total of ten years' Army service, Charles Anderson still recalls those sixteen months he spent as an officer in the CMF in the early days of WW2. He has fond memories of those days, and recognises the important role played by the CMF in developing those attributes of character, leadership and discipline, while also forming an integral component of the Australian Defence Force. Lt-Col. Anderson has a few words of advice on its modern counterpart, the Army Reserve. He simply recommends, "every fit man so be trained."[7]

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Acknowledgements

I would sincerely like to thank Lt-Col. Anderson for his assistance in providing information and for the photograph.

VICTORIA CROSS CITATION, LONDON GAZETTE 13 FEBRUARY 1942

"During operations in Malaya from 18th to 22nd January, 1942, Lieutenant-Col. Anderson, in command of a small force, was sent to restore a vital position and to assist a Brigade. His Force destroyed ten enemy tanks. When later cut off, he defeated persistent attacks on his position from air and ground forces and forced his way through the enemy line to a depth of fifteen miles. He was again surrounded and subjected to very heavy, frequent attacks, resulting in severe casualties to his force. He personally led an attack with great gallantry on the enemy, who were holding a bridge, and succeeded in destroying four guns. Lieutenant-Colonel Anderson, throughout all this fighting, protected his wounded and refused to leave them. He obtained news by wireless of the enemy position and attempted to fight his way back through eight miles of enemy occupied country. This proved to be impossible, and the enemy were holding too strong a position for any attempt to be made to relieve him. On 19th January, Lieutenant-Colonel Anderson was ordered to destroy his equipment and make his way back as best he could around the enemy position.

Throughout the fighting, which lasted for four days, he set a magnificent example of brave leadership, determination and outstanding courage. He not only showed fighting qualities of a very high order but throughout exposed himself to danger without any regard for his own personal safety."

Christopher M. Fagg

MEDALS AND RIBBONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE KEEPING FORCES

The U.N. medals are established by the Secretary-General, for award to military personnel who are, or have been, in the service of the U.N. Such medals are subject to regulations and designations as issued from time to time by the Secretary-General, together with applicable regulations of the national governments of the recipient. The award of the medals and service ribbons are subject to the approval of the national governments concerned.

The standard provisions governing premature termination of service due to death, illness, wounds or repatriation apply.

All the medals are issued direct to eligible personnel at the time of actual service with a U.N. organisation (Peace Keeping Force), or are issued on behalf of the Secretary-General, in accordance with the respective national government's own administrative arrangements.

To date the U.N. has struck three different types of medal for personnel serving with the U.N., land, sea or air forces, and have issued these medals with eleven different ribbons.

Two of the medals have ring suspension, while the other has a straight bar suspension. All medals are circular in shape and made from bronze.

The medals comprise:

(i) Korea Medal
(ii) U.N.E.F. Medal
(iii) Standard U.N. Medal

The following list shows the U.N. organisations for which medals and service ribbons have been awarded:

Korea	—	U.N. Forces in Korea—1950-54
UNTSO	—	U.N. Truce Supervision Organisation—1948 to date
UNMOGIP	—	U.N. Military Observer Group for India & Pakistan—1948 to date—(Kashmir)
UNIPOM	—	U.N., India-Pakistan Observer Mission—1965-1966
UNEF (1)	—	U.N. Emergency Force (Gaza)—1956-1967
ONUC/UNOC	—	U.N. Organisation Force in the Congo—1960-1964
UNTEA	—	U.N. Temporary Executive Authority in West Irian—1962-1963
UNYOM	—	U.N. Yemen Observer Mission—1963-1964
UNFICYP	—	U.N. Force in Cyprus—1964 to date
UNDOF	—	U.N. Disengagement Observer Force—1974 to date
UNIFIL	—	U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon—1978 to date
UNOGIL	—	U.N. Observer Group in Lebanon—1958
UNEF (2)	—	U.N. Emergency Force (Cairo/Ismalia)—1973 to date

KOREA MEDAL

The medal is circular, made from bronze and hung from a straight non-swivelling bar suspension. Affixed to the suspender is a bronze bar bearing the printed word 'Korea' in raised relief.

The obverse of the medal is flat and smooth. In the middle of the medal is a raised pictorial representation of the world map, surrounded by two laurel branches, the whole being the U.N. emblem. The reverse is plain and bears the inscription "For Service in Defence of the Principles of the Charter of the United Nations". This is written in five lines. This inscription is written in the national language of the recipient.

The medal was struck in the following 12 languages:

(a) Amharic
(b) Dutch
(c) English
(d) French
(e) Greek
(f) Italian
(g) Korean
(h) Spanish
(i) Thai
(j) Turkish
(k) Belgian
(l) Tagalog

The ribbon consists of thin alternating, vertical, U.N. blue and white stripes. A total of 9 blue and 8 white stripes commencing and ending with blue.

The qualifying period of service for the Korean Medal was 30 Turkish (k) Belgian (l) Tagalog

UNEF MEDAL I

The UNEF medal is the second distinctive medal issued by the U.N. for its peace keeping forces.

The medal is circular, made from bronze and suspended by a ring suspension. The obverse bears the usual U.N. emblem. However, at the top between the two laurel branches are the letters UNEF in raised relief. The reverse is plain and bears the inscription "In the Service of Peace" written in two lines.

The qualifying period of service for this medal is 90 days service.

The medal was issued for service in the Israeli/ Egyptian Border areas (Gaza Strip) 1956-67.

The service ribbon awarded for the above stated area of operation was:

1. 56-67—Yellow background symbolising the Sinai desert, with a wide U.N. blue band running vertically up the middle of the ribbon, flanked on eithe side, first by two thin green vertical lines representing the Nile Valley, which in turn are flanked by two thin dark blue lines representing the Suez Canal.

U.N. STANDARD MEDAL

This is the third distinctive medal issued by the U.N., and appears to be the one presently adopted for issue covering service in all present and future areas inv06olving the U.N. Peace Keeping Forces.

The medal is circular, made from bronze, and is suspended by a ring suspension. The obverse bears the standard U.N. emblem (as described in the notes on the Korea Medal). The reverse is plain and has the standard U.N. inscription "In the Service of Peace".

There are at least two dies in existence for the striking of miniatures of these medals. The basic design is the same, however there are a few minor differences:

(a) The size of the lettering "U.N." on the obverse. One is small print, the other is twice the size.

(b) The laurel leaves on one are filled in, while the other displays the leaf in raised outline only.

(c) The size of the inscription of the reverse also differ, one being twice the size of the other.

The following (9) nine service ribbons have been issued with this particular medal.

1. *UNTSO/UNOGIL*—U.N. blue background with two narrow vertical white stripes, inset, running up each of the ribbon. The qualifying period of service being 6 months for UNTSO and 30 days for UNOGIL.
2. *ONUC/UNOC*—originally these organisations received the same service ribbon as UNTSO with the addition of a bronze bar bearing the word "CONGO". However, in 1963 it was decided that a distinctive ribbon for service should be issued. A blue and green ribbon with a narrow white stripe was chosen. The blue being U.N. colours; white representing peace; and green symbolic of the Congo Basin and hope. The qualifying period of service being 90 days.
3. *UNTEA*—the background of the ribbon is primarily U.N. blue, but more on the greyish side. A thin dark green stripe represents the jungle and swamplands of West Irian (West New Guinea), and a pale green stripe is symbolic of the island's coral beaches; a white strip indicates snow capped mountains.

However, the manufacturers of the ribbon were unable to reproduce the required colouring for coral, and therefore the pale green was accepted instead.

The qualifying period of service was 3 months.

4. *UNYOM*—the varying shades of brown up the middle of the ribbon indicate the dry rugged mountainous areas of the Yemen. Each side of this are yellow bands representing the desert, with a bank of U.N. blue on either side of the ribbon. The qualifying period of service was 60 days.

5. *UNFICYP*—the ribbon is U.N. blue, with a thick white band symbolic of peace, running up the middle of the ribbon. On each side of the white are thin dark blue lines symbolic of the Mediterranean.

The qualifying period of service is 30 days.

6. *UNIFIL*—the ribbon has three equal stripes—two are U.N. blue on the extremities, one in dark green situated centrally between intervening white stripes bisected vertically by a red stripe. The colours are representative of the U.N. and Lebanese flags.

The qualifying period of service is 90 days.

7. *UNDOF*—the ribbon's colours are selected to be symbolic of: burgundy of the purple haze at sunset plus the native thistles on the Golon Heights; the white indicates the snow capped Mt Herman range; black the volcanic rocks of the area; the blue band and red line represents the U.N. Zone.

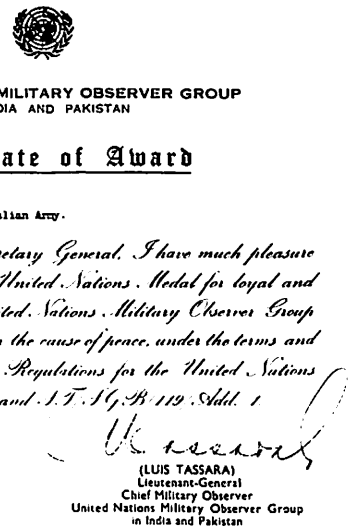
The qualifying period of service is 90 days.

8. *UNEF II*—1973 to date. Yellow background with two narrow vertical dark blue lines running up the middle symbolising the Suez Canal; this is flanked on each side of the ribbon by two wide bands of U.N. blue.

The qualifying period of service is 90 days.

9. *UNIPOM/UNMOGIP*—varying shades of green indicate the Kashmir Valley, black the Himalayan Range, with a white stripe to represent the snow capped mountains. The U.N. is represented by a U.N. blue stripe on either side.

The qualifying period of service being UNIPOM—90 days, UNMOGIP—6 months.



UNITED NATIONS MILITARY OBSERVER GROUP
IN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

Certificate of Award

To

1 Commando Company, Australian Army.

On behalf of the Secretary General, I have much pleasure in presenting you with the United Nations Medal for loyal and efficient service with the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan in the cause of peace, under the terms and conditions specified in the Regulations for the United Nations Medal. S/T/S/G/B/119 and S/T/AI/G/B/119/Add. 1

Srinagar 12 August 1972

(LUIS TASSARA)
Lieutenant-General
Chief Military Observer
United Nations Military Observer Group
in India and Pakistan

Certificate of Award issued by the United Nations for service with UNMOGIP in India and Pakistan.

U.N. ORGANISATIONS AUSTRALIAN PERSONNEL HAVE SERVED WITH:

UNMOGIP
UNYOM
UNTSO
UNFICYP
UNOC
KOREA
UNIPOM
UNDOF

REFERENCES:

1. Regulations for the U.N. Medal.
2. U.N. Secretary-General's respective medal designations.
3. Information from U.N. Secretariat.
4. U.S.A. Department of Defence.
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MILITARY HISTORY CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP

The Australian War Memorial will hold their Fourth Military History Conference from the 7th to the 10th February 1984. On Saturday 11th February the Military Historical Society of Australia, in conjunction with the War Memorial, will be holding a workshop.

The workshop will be divided into two streams — one for collectors — the other for researchers.

The section for collectors will concentrate on the conservation of museum items and will be under the expert guidance of a member of the war memorial staff.

The section for researchers will have several speakers including representatives of the Australian archives, the Audio-visual section of the War Memorial, the Mitchell Library and the State Archives of New South Wales. Panel discussions and question time will be an important part of the workshop.

Members are urged to attend the workshop. Further information may be obtained from:

Dr Michael McKernan
Assistant Director (Research and Publications)
Australian War Memorial
G.P.O. Box 345
CANBERRA 2601

Christopher Fagg

MULTINATIONAL FORCE AND OBSERVERS 1980 (M.F.O.)

Egypt/Israel Peace Treaty

The Treaty of Peace between Egypt and Israel, signed 26.3.1979, provided for the phased withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Sinai Peninsular, linked to agreed security measures set out within the Treaty. Final withdrawal of the Israeli Forces, and civilians, from the Sinai took place on 25.4.1982, and the Multinational Force and Observers took up its duty on that day.

The agreed security measures were of two kinds.

a. military restrictions in the Sinai and the border area of Israel; and

b. the stationing of a United Nations Peace Keeping Force within the Sinai.

Establishment of the M.F.O.

It became clear early in 1981 that the U.N. would not be able to provide the peacekeeping force required. Consequently the U.S.A. assisted in negotiations and the establishment of a 'Protocol', signed on 3.8.1981, by Egypt, Israel, and the U.S.A., establishing the M.F.O. to serve instead of the U.N. Force.

The M.F.O. was in the Sinai by 20.3.1982, and assumed its functions and respective duties at 1300 hrs (1 pm) on the 25.4.1982.

Mission of the M.F.O.

To prevent any violation of the security measures of the Peace Treaty.

Specific functions are:

a. operation of checkpoints, recce patrols, and observation posts along the international boundary and Line B within Zone C.

b. periodic verification of the implementation of the provisions of the Treaty.

additional verification within 48 hours after the receipt of a request from either party.

d. ensuring the freedom of navigation through the Strait of Tiran.

Medal Award

A service medal has since been authorised for award to M.F.O. personnel for recognition of their service.

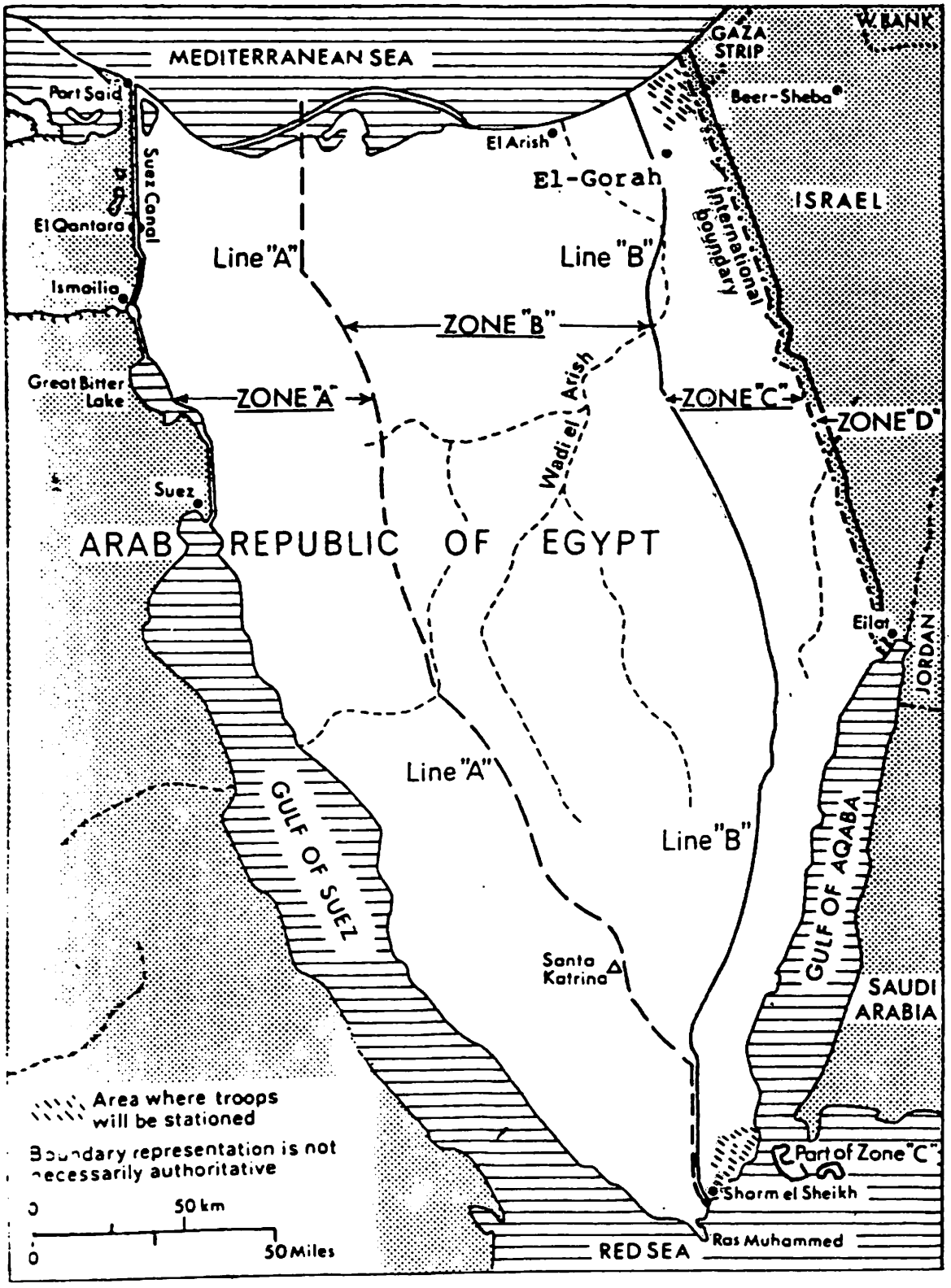
Participating Nations

Australia—Approx 109 personnel—8 UH-1H Helicopters
Colombia—Approx 500 personnel—1 infantry battalion
Fiji—Approx 500 personnel—1 infantry battalion
France—42 personnel—1 Transall C160 and 2 Twin Otters
Italy—90 personnel—3 minesweepers
The Netherlands—81 personnel—1 Mil Signals Unit, 1 Mil Police Unit
New Zealand—35 personnel—2 UH-1H helicopters
United Kingdom—35 personnel—1 HQ Company
USA—Approximately 800 pers—1 Infantry Battalion Task Force
Approximately 350—pers—Logistic support elem
Approximately 25—pers civilian observers

The Multinational Force and Observers Medal 1982

This medal was established by the Director General of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) for award to military personnel and certain civilian personnel who have served with the MFO.

The medal is circular, made from bronze and is 36 mm in diameter. It is suspended from the ribbon by a bar and ring suspension. The obverse of the medal bears the MFO emblem—a dove in flight, wings spread, clutching an olive branch, surrounded by the words "Multinational Force and Observers". The reverse of the medal bears the inscription "United in Service for Peace".


MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Port Said
Suez Canal
El Qantara
Ismailia
Great Bitter Lake
Suez
El Arish
El-Gorah
Beer-Sheba
GAZA STRIP
W. BANK
ISRAEL
International boundary
Line "A"
Line "B"
ZONE "B"
ZONE "A"
ZONE "C"
ZONE "D"
Wadi el Arish
ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
Eilat
JORDAN
Line "A"
Line "B"
GULF OF SUEZ
GULF OF AQABA
Santa Katrina
SAUDI ARABIA
Area where troops will be stationed
Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative
0 50 km
0 50 Miles
Part of Zone "C"
Sharm el Sheikh
Ras Muhammed
RED SEA

The ribbon is 36mm wide, with a white centre stripe 10mm wide, flanked by green stripes 3mm wide on either side. On each outer side of that are two, 10mm, orange stripes.

Eligibility conditions are:

a. 90 days service with the MFO

b. subsequent awards for each completed six (6) months tour of duty will be indicated by the appropriate metallic numeral being affixed to the ribbon.

All awards of the medal are subject to the approval of the National Govts of the respective participating nations.

Provision is made for the posthumous award of the medal.

The usual provision for awarding the medal if the service is terminated by illness, wounds, etc. apply.

At the time of writing this article, the Australian Government had not approved the award, though consideration was being given for approval, and 109 Australian personnel were eligible for the award, with the possibility of another 109, if Australia's new Government continues to participate within the force.

The Multinational Force and Observers Medal 1982 (obverse).

REFERENCES

1. Australian Department of Defence
2. U.S.A. Department of Defence
3. M.F.O. Medal Regulation
4. M.F.O. Secretariat
5. Protocol of August 1981
6. Defence Audiovisual Agency U.S.A.

Australian Colours in the Victory March

This photograph, from the collection of the Australian War Memorial, depicts a colour party of the AIF in the great victory march through London on 19 July 1919. (AWM D 831)

The question arises, however, of what these colours were, who carried them and what happened to them later. Can any members provide additional information on this interesting sidelight of Australia's part in the Great War?

PROHIBITION AGAINST EXPORT OF MEDALS AND DECORATIONS

On 15 November the Commonwealth Government announced a restriction on the export of medals and decorations. The text of the announcement is repeated here:

EXPORT OF MEDALS AND DECORATIONS

The export of medals and decorations awarded to Australians is now prohibited without Commonwealth Government approval.

The same applies to original citations and insignia associated with the awards, as well as coastwatchers' log books and flags used by Australian forces at Gallipoli in 1915.

Announcing this today, the Minister for Industry and Commerce, Senator John Button, and the Minister for Home Affairs and Environment, Mr Barry Cohen, said control over such exports had been achieved by amending the Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations.

"Medals and other decorations awarded to residents of Australia for gallantry, valour, achievement or other distinguished service may not be exported without the approval of the Minister for Home Affairs and Environment", the Minister said.

Such decorations, as well as other associated items mentioned in the newly amended Regulations were "a very important part of Australia's heritage" and it was desirable, in the national interest, to control their possible export.

Applications for export approval would be examined individually and considered on their merits.

For the benefit of members a full text of the relevant Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulation is given below:

GOODS THE EXPORT OF WHICH IS PROHIBITED UNLESS THE APPROVAL OF THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND ENVIRONMENT OR OF AN AUTHORIZED PERSON IS PRODUCED TO THE COLLECTOR

PART II

Item No.Description of Goods

1 Medals and other decorations awarded for gallantry, valour, achievement or other distinguished service, whether of a civil or military nature, to a person who

(a) was ordinarily resident in Australia at the time of the award; or

(b) in the case of a posthumous award was, immediately before his death, ordinarily resident in Australia at the time of the award,

not being a medal or decoration owned by the person to whom it was awarded

2 Original citations and other documents presented at the time of the award of a medal or other decoration of the kind referred to in item 1, or at the time of admission to membership of an order, not being a citation or document owned by the person to whom the citation related.

3 Insignia associated with a medal or other decoration of the kind referred to in item 1, or with an order, not being insignia owned by the person to whom the medal or other decoration was awarded or who was admitted to membership of the order.

4 A record compiled by a member of the armed forces of Australia in connection with the performance of his duty as a coast-watcher.

5 Flags used by the armed forces of Australia at Gallipoli in 1915.

The schedule is applified by the following amendment to Regulation 13A:

"(1A) A reference in the Twelfth Schedule to a medal or other decoration shall be read as a reference to a medal or decoration awarded by the King, the Queen or the Governor-General or by the government or head of state of a country that, at the time the medal or decoration was awarded, was an ally of Australia".

The prohibition was obviously directed towards the recent Spink's auction at which two VCs and other items were offered, being promulgated only the day before the auction.

Federal Council support the retention in this country of items of *significant* Australian military historical interest but is aware that the introduction of this prohibition may be of concern to the many collectors amongst Society members. Council believes that any representation to the Government on the matter will carry more weight if submitted by the Society on behalf of members. Consequently Council would be pleased to receive the views of those Society members who have an interest in this legislation. Any further developments will be reported in Sabretache.

Letters should be addressed to:

Federal Secretary MHSA
PO Box 30
GARRAN ACT 2605

BOOK REVIEWS

Short Stories from the Second World War, chosen by Dan Davin, Oxford University Press, 1982. Our copy from the publisher. Recommended price $19.99.

Dan Davin, a New Zealander selected the stories with a view to provide "a fictional companion to the history of World War II" bringing home the human element behind the history of the part played by Britain and the Commonwealth. An anthology of this nature drawn from what must be a huge amount of appropriate material is probably quite difficult to compile and the Selector set himself some quite rigid rules of thumb as selection criteria. In the first place he restricted himself to stories published in England either during the war or shortly after. He excluded stories written in the USA or originally not in English. He had difficulty in finding South African or Canadian stories, as he claimed in the introduction, but apparently not so in the case of New Zealand and Australian stories. In the event the two New Zealand contributions are from himself and the only one seems to be by an Australian (Jack Lusby), all others are English. In order to represent as many aspects of the war as possible, he fixed the upper limit of the stories at ten thousand words. The result of these criteria is a collection of twenty four short stories, most of them with an army background, three from the navy, six are airforce stories and four relate to servicemen or women and civilians during the London blitz.

It is difficult to comment on the stories themselves. All of them make for pleasant or enjoyable reading. They are of uneven length, which is probably a good thing. They all have one thing in common—they do not indicate actual localities where actions had taken place. Obviously, the authors did not want to be taken for reporters or historians. Half of the airforce stories are by one and the same author—surely Davin would have been able to find others.

The story which appealed to this reviewer's somewhat cynical turn of mind is by Julian Maclaren, "I had to go sick" which is a skit on army medical beaurocracy.

It is doubtful whether a military historian would be prepared to pay $20.00 for twenty four stories none of which could back up serious historical research. But then the Selector deliberately endeavoured to avoid this and succeeded.

The connosseur of fiction writing might find this anthology appealing—this reviewer does not.

H.J. ZWILLENBERG

John C. Reilly, Jr. *"United States Navy Destroyers of World War II"*. Blandford Press, 1983, pp.160, Photographs, Illustrations, Index. Our copy from Australia and New Zealand Book Co. Pty. Ltd., Recommended Price $17.95.

This book, edited by Frank D. Johnson, is not a history of destroyer operations but is the most readable technical description of a ship type and its various modifications over a period of years that I have seen. I am sure that if you are interested in Naval History, or, the U.S. Navy, or, the development of the "Destroyer" ship design, then this is certainly the book for you.

The chapters are arranged mainly into class types showing the fascinating evolution of the U.S. Destroyers from the 1890's "torpedo-boat destroyers" to the classes that fought World War II. To list some of these chapters the Flushdeckers, the FARRAGUT Class, the PORTER Class, the BENHAMS, Development of the SIMS Class, the BENSONS and GLEAVES, the FLETCHERS, the Allen M. SUMNER and GEARING Classes.

"The London Treaty, in effect at the end of 1930, placed a numerical ceiling on destroyer strengths,... limits on the size and power... It defined a destroyer as a surface warship of 1,850 standard tons or less and with no guns over 5.1 inches or 130 mm." This Treaty and the U.S. attempts to honour it, confined the development of this vessel in the 1930's period." The United States was

alloted 150,000 tons of destroyers; sixteen percent (24,000 tons) of these could be larger 1,850 ton ships if desired, while the rest were limited to 1,500 tons apiece." Therefore the ship designers and Navy requirements developed the Destroyer through a series of modifications which this book has designated into some 14 classes that fought in World War II. Each class is attempting to solve the basic conflicts caused by the real desire of conforming to the Treaty and at the same time to compress into the shell the offensive and defensive armaments which would allow the ship to effectively take its defined position in the Fleet. The Second Treaty of London 1936 allowed some modifications to this stricture of design and the growth in ship tonnage is noticed. The increased size and weight helped in solving some of the inherent instability problems that plagued this type of ship.

In the period leading up to and including World War II the U.S.A. produced some 572 destroyers and the breakup of these into the 14 classes is neatly displayed in Appendix D. The sometimes slight differences in these classes are well documented in each chapter of the book by a host of photographs which support the text class by class. In fact the book has some 228 black and white photographs. Although the photographs are clear and in many cases the discussed variations are highlighted by white circles I found that I needed a magnifying glass to see these variations clearly. I think photographs taken close to the particular subject variations would have been preferable—perhaps this type of close-up photography may not have been allowed by the security worries of the Navy, or, perhaps have not yet been released for publication.

Each chapter commences with a quotation and these are worthy of remembering. For instance, "A perfect ship of war is a desideratum which has never yet been obtained..." or "The Fleet that sinks while its enemy floats fails finally and utterly." "The first requirement for a warship is that it should float the right way up" heads Appendix A titled "The recurring problem of stability".

The shape of the destroyers did not vary considerably over the period despite the starting point of the 1915 four-stackers flushdeckers (some of which were traded to Britain in 1940) progressing to the 1931 two-stack, raised forecastle FARRAGUT and 1935 single-stacked GRIDLEY BAGLEY and 1937 SOMERS, reverting to two stacks for BENSON which had two boiler rooms and two engine rooms. The need for "Destroyer Flagships" or command/leader destroyers developed after 1930 and the 1933 PORTER class (1,850 tonner) was built. "Their gun battery reflected their purpose; as squadron flagships, they were expected to make up for the lack of light cruisers by clearing the way for attacking destroyer divisions in a fleet action and by backing them up in battleline defence with gunfire". The ships had four twin 5 inch/38 mounts. Changing attitudes to the use of the destroyer in the Battle Fleet saw thoughts to increase in speed and guns at expense of torpedo tubes. The introduction of the high speed 850 degree steam plan identified the GLEAVES Class, however, over the time the fifth 5 inch gun was lost to improve stability. Most destroyers were poorly equipped for defence against aircraft and stability problems did not allow a great change in the above deck configurations. The pace of antiaircraft defence development had been slow, eventually the Bofors 40mm AA gun and the Oerlikon 20 mm AA gun were selected and ships were fitted with them.

All in all a very comprehensive book on its subject and certainly a steal at the recommended price. It has ample footnotes to allow follow-up study, a bibliography, a reasonable index and as I said before, a most readable text.

J. HUGH MACDERMOTT

"A Naval Career" (By G.G.O. Gatacre)

A significant contribution to Australian Naval history was published in 1982. Rear Admiral G.G.O. Gatacre, CBE, DSO, DSC* has given us his "Reports of Proceedings" (A Naval Career) 1921-1964. His contribution came in the last months of his life. He died this winter aged 76. For ease of purpose, in introducing this review, I mention his obituary which appeared in a "Navy News" edition and referred to his passing.

R. Adm Gatacre, a former Fleet Commander, was born in 1907 and entered the R.A.N.C. in 1921. During World War II he was awarded the DSC for his role as Navigator aboard HMS Rodney which played a major role in the sinking of the German battleship Bismark. He was later awarded a bar to his DSC for his part in the Guadalcanal Assault in 1942.

Among his commands were HMA Ships Arunta, Anzac and Melbourne. As Captain of Anzac during the Korean War he was awarded the DSO for gallantry in the face of the enemy. Later he was awarded the CBE in 1960. Admiral Gatacre served in the R.A.N. for 43 years.

"Reports of Proceedings" (hereinafter called "ROP") is both easy to read and review. Published by the Nautical Press (Manly, N.S.W.) it features strikingly larger type-set on good quality paper. In keeping with the jargon of the day it is certainly beneficial to the sight-impaired. In fact, if all books were printed in similar style it would do a good service for the reading public.

My first impressions of "ROP" were rather bemused. It is couched in an old-fashioned, perhaps Service-type style, which is a refreshing contrast to the day's high-tech type prose. It is surprising to find a book so easy to read and enjoy. There are though perhaps too many personal photographs. Three full-size photos of the Admiral in dress blues are over-stating the obvious in pages 306-309. Still, too many is possibly better than too little.

Still, that is rather unfair in that he has done the R.A.N. a great service in producing his book. Even if only one young man or woman is inspired to join the Navy as a result of his efforts then his book has served its purpose. Some schools of historical theory try to debunk the influence of important figures merely deferring to the common man who was regarded to be more important in determining progress. Well, thousands of officers, sailors and Wrans may have served under him buchools of historical theory try to debunk the influence of important figures merely deferring to the common man who was regarded to be more important in determining progress. Well, thousands of officers, sailors and Wrans may have served under him buy have participated in certain events and added to its history. The book is worthwhile not just for the story and photographs, but also for the drawings, scroll work and commendations reproduced in print. Many of the photographs are not fully captioned. There are some rather boyish Captains who of course are now retired Admirals themselves. Spotting them is half the fun!

The book does not have an index. However, his chronological summary of appointments can be followed fairly easily in its historical form. He does us a service in explaining Naval procedures and folk lore to the layman. He offers humorous personal anecdotes about the lighter side of Service life. He also described the frustration and low points which remain a test of character. He pays fitting tribute to his wife, Wendy, who shared in the privations of Service life and reared his children—one of whom also joined the Navy.

Many important figures feature in his book. They include the Royal Family, the Pope and various political figures. He refers to a niggardly authority which refused to let him accept and wear a foreign decoration (U.S. Legion of Merit). He also offers his assessment of what went wrong in the tragic Melbourne/Voyager collision of 10 February 1964 which took the lives of 82 fine Australian seamen. In all, an interesting and informative book. He has added much to the far too sparse knowledge of Australian Naval history. Its style and content overcomes those small weaknesses which, after all, is a problem for the reviewer and not the reader. It remains a valuable work for any Naval library.

MIKE FOGARTY

A Hospital at War—The 2/4 Australian General Hospital 1940-45, Dr Rupert Goodman, Boolarong Publications, Brisbane, 1983, hardcover, 14.5 cm x 22.5 cm illus, index. Recommended price A$14.95.

Major Warren Perry, a past-Patron of the MHSA in one of the series of Lieutenant General Sir Edmund Herring Lectures to the Melbourne University Regiment in October 1982 said:

"A published history of one's regiment, for example, which is based on adequate research and is written with skill and understanding, should interest all members of that regiment. ..., members of one regiment may be able to improve their knowledge of other arms and services by studying them through their unit histories."

A Hospital at War certainly falls into this category of military history, identified in his lecture by Warren Perry. The story has been carefully assembled by Dr Goodman (a Ph.D, not MD) who served with the 2/4 as a nursing orderly and later as Education Officer. The history is detailed, treating with feeling the personalities of the hospital from the CO to the Hygiene wallah, each one intent on fulfilling his role to provide medical care to the members of the Australian Forces and others who passed through their hands.

Some readers may have difficulty with this attention to personal detail and to the statistics but I found the story engrossing as the Hospital moved through its raising at Puckapunyal, to the Middle East, its shipwreck before becoming one of the besieged units in Tobruk, then Jerusalem, Colombo, Redbank (near Brisbane) and to its final campaign in Labuan. It is a story of immense planning, training, devotion to duty and all too often, improvisation.

The author, as mentioned, is not a medico, his work since the war has been in the field of education. He was for a period Headmaster of Malvern Grammar School and is currently the Queensland Commissioner for the ABC. He has been Education Adviser to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Education in Queensland, a member of the RANF Committee of Inquiry into Queensland Nursing Education, a member of the Board of Governors of St Andrew's Hospital, Brisbane, and of the Senate of the University of Queensland. We are fortunate also to have Dr Rupert Goodman as a member of the Queensland Branch of the MHSA.

In his book, Dr Goodman has mentioned—Trig Ugalde'. I met him in the early 1950's as Padre Ugalde in 15 National Service Battalion at Puckapunyal, a quiet and unassuming man who gave no indication of his previous service in 2/4 AGH. There must be scope amongst our growing numbers of military historical sociologists for a proper assessment of the contribution made to the welfare of the Australian Army by dedicated people like—Trig' Ugalde and Rupert Goodman.

A small book, well illustrated, well-referenced and well worth reading by the military historian and by those with an interest in military medicine.

T. C. SARGENT

"What Did YOU Do In The Great War Daddy"—Australian War Memorial—edited by Peter Stanley

As it happens, I often drop into the office of the chap responsible for recruiting in our firm. Prominent among the wall hangings appropriate to his calling is a picture of a despondent civvy, 1914-18 vintage, slumped in a comfortable armchair, whilst a wide-eyed daughter asks "Daddy, what did YOU do in the Great War?" Hence the appropriate title for this selection of some 130 wartime propaganda posters from the Australian War Memorial collection. The examples have been drawn from several belligerents, from 1914 to Vietnam, with prominence being naturally given to Australian work.

"For God, King and Country"—words which stirred the hearts of my father's generation, were at least understood by mine, but now tend to rouse amusement, curiosity or even incredulity in my children's. These three generations span two world wars plus a variety of small ones in which Australians, civilian and servicemen, have been involved. In collecting the selection, and writing the introductory text, Peter Stanley, Research Officer at the War Memorial, one-time editor of Sabretache, and member of the MHS, has underlined remarkably the changes in environment and outlook over the years, as well as the different approaches of countries.

Typical among the 1914 British examples is one, meticulously drawn and accurate in military detail, of a fine upstanding young Guardsman being farewelled by a sprightly Chelsea pensioner, whilst in the background a suitably representative squad of civilians marches off to join Kitchener's First Hundred Thousand as the text describes it "harking back to the sententious Victorian tradition of story-pictures". The artist of this particular work, by the way, was Frank Dadd, himself killed in action in France early in the war. By contrast, the French posters of the same war have special appeal through their elan and freshness. Again, typically, "blood and iron" come through in the German selection. The best known Australian posters of the 1914-18 war came from Norman Lindsay, with his savage image of the picklehaubed Hun ravishing Australia and Australians. Nobody could charge Lindsay with the zealous attention to detail and precision of the Dadd poster. Lindsay's Australian soldiers, in their extravagant but forceful poses, bear strange weapons and orders of dress that would make a sergeant major quail—that valiant bugler with his bandolier over the wrong shoulder, to wit; but such criticism is probably unfair, given that the civilians at whom the message was aimed would be quite unconcerned with military trivia. A surprising omission from a representative selection of WWI posters is the famous Kitchener of the pointing finger, though of course it could be argued that it is so well known, and hence should be allowed to rest on its laurels.

There was plenty of humour about to leaven the horrors of World War I, but the authorities do not seem to have seen the need to draw on the rich material at hand from their Bairnsfathers and others. By World War II, advances in technology and advertising method exploited humour along with all other avenues, particularly by Britain using the work of leading cartoonists like Fougasse. In Australia, too, the bumbling efforts of Gunner Digby with their dire consequences rivalled those of his British counterpart, Pilot Officer Prune. I recall a series by Armstrong on the "Waste Not" theme, one in particular of a brawny, trouserless digger, delicately wielding needle and thread to repair his torn nether garment. Trying to think back to those years, when I was a young soldier, I believe that it was only the humourous thrust in these posters that reached me, but with what useful end effect I cannot recall. Poster propaganda, ranging from the image of the brutal Jap to the inane Gunner Digby had to cope with the opinions and attitudes of everyone in the community. Reactions did not always meet expectations. Some material had to be withdrawn in the face of public protest. Whether any serious analysis has been attempted to assess the nett value of the whole effort I do not know, but in this regard the article by Judy Mackinolty—"Wake Up Australia! Australian home front propaganda during the Second World War"—in the October 1982 issue of the Journal of the Australian War Memorial gives some pertinent comments, and is recommended complementary reading to this book.

Except for the last small section of the book, the posters call, loud and strong, for support and effort by soldier and civilian. The four tail-end posters cover Vietnam. There are three Australian, one New Zealand, all by "artists unknown" and all decry our military involvement. Assuming these specimens are a representative set for that war, the Australian Government, unlike the Moratorium organizers, saw no advantage in the poster as a propaganda aid. How far a cry from the Guardsman of 1914 and his Chelsea pensioner.

D.V. GOLDSMITH

I must confess that my interest in German uniforms of the Nazi-era is purely professional. Hence my library on the subject is limited to those books I consider the most comprehensive and accurate. In this area I have already found *German Army Uniforms and Insignia 1933-1945* by Brian L. Davis invaluable.

I was pleased to see that Davis has now produced a companion work to his uniform study. The new book, in similar format, *Badges & Insignia of the Third Reich 1933-1945*, from Blandford Press, is well presented and contains 64 colour plates of artwork by Malcolm McGregor.

The book's title is perhaps a bit misleading as the contents are devoted almost entirely to cloth insignia of the period. It is also apparent that the new book is intended to compliment the earlier work which is still necessary when examining some of the badges worn by the army. However the new book's scope goes far beyond that of the earlier one which was restricted to just one service.

I consider *Badges & Insignia of the Third Reich 1933-1945* a very useful publication. It is well presented, concise, and informative. Unfortunately all the colour plates are together and it is necessary to continually refer back and forward to the text. However I can understand that an alternative layout would have made production costs prohibitive.

The book is divided into eleven major sections, each supported by numerous contemporary photographs and keyed to the colour art-work. A wide range of organisations ranging from the Allgemeine-SS, the Army, Navy and Airforce, through to others like the Forestry Services is covered in the text. There is also a useful index.

PETER BURNESS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

May I trespass on the hospitality of your columns to appeal for assistance in a 'last ditch' campaign.

Some of your members may be familiar with my work as an author and historian of the First World War, and may know that I have devoted the last ten years to compiling a vernacular history of 1914—1918. Three books of what will probably be a series of six have already been published:- THEY CALLED IT PASSCHENDAELE (The story of the 3rd Battle of Ypres) THE ROSES OF NO MAN'S LAND (a history of the War from the point of view of the casualties and medical services) and, most recently SOMME (a history of the 1916 campaign). All my books depend heavily on first hand information from survivors 'all over the world' and, to date, we have contacted 3,000, many of whom we have interviewed.

But even after ten years, there are still many whom we have not traced. Time is rapidly running out and soon the irreplaceable personal recollections of this important period of our history will have 'faded away' with the passing of those who lived through it.

I should deeply appreciate it if any Australian veterans or any reader who can put me in touch with a surviving Australian soldier of the First World War, would contact me care of my publishers:

Michael Joseph Ltd.,
44 Bedford Square,
LONDON W.C. 1

With very many thanks,

Yours sincerely,
LYN MACDONALD

Dear Sir,

The following is an addendum to my article on the South Atlantic Medal in Volume XXIV, Page 18.

Additional Notes on the Gallantry Awards:

1. There were nil awards of the George Cross and Air Force Medal.
2. There were no posthumous awards of the D.S.O., as this is still the only gallantry award which cannot be awarded posthumously.
3. There were a total of 30 posthumous awards, 17 for gallantry, 13 Mention in Despatches.
4. There was a shared citation for the Q.G.M., between Lt Boughton J.K., and Lt Sheldon P.J.
5. There was no citation published for the award of the A.F.C. to Sqn Ldr Roberts A.M. (L.G. p 12858). It appears that Sqn Ldr Roberts' award was gained for work in connection with the introduction of air-to-air refuelling capability in the Hercules Fleet that participated in the war. Sqn Ldr Roberts was serving with 47 Sqn at the time.
6. The 3 MID's for the South Georgia campaign were awarded to members of the aircrew of Lt Cdr Stanley, at the time of the action for which he was awarded his D.S.O.
7. On 27.7.1983, Yiu Nam CHIU, a Hong Kong Chinese, was awarded the G.M. for actions during the war. He risked his life saving men from the vessel Sir Galahad, which was bombed by the Argentines with the loss of many lives. This increases the total gallantry awards issued by one.

Amendments to the medal summaries.

DFC (Posthumous) should read Navy 1
Navy 1P

Life Peerage should read military 1, not civil 1.

G.M. should read Navy 1, 1P and civil 1 (increased by medal to Chiu) making the total 3 not 2.

CBE there were 10 civil awards not 9.

OBE there were 51 military awards not 52, making the total 79.

MBE there were 53 civil awards making the total 120.

Christopher Fagg

Dear Sir,

In the introductory note to the editor of "Ensign Hamilton's Letter" published in *Sabretache* vol xxiv No. 2, Apl/Jun 1983, you state that he was probably of the 12th Regiment of Foot. However in the Army List dated 1 Apl 1859 there is no Ensign in the 12th with that surname, and the only William Hamilton listed was an Ensign in the 73rd, with the date of commission 8 October 1858. My belief that he was the man who wrote the interesting letter you reprinted is strengthened by the fact that the list of deaths in the August 1859 Monthly Army List includes an Ensign William Harrison of the 73rd, who died at 'Camp Buhampore' on 2 May 1859.

Yours sincerely
P.B. BOYDEN
Department of Archives
National Army Museum, London

SOCIETY NOTES

Albury-Wodonga Branch

The following Committee was elected at the AGM held 4 August 1983:

President—Don Campbell
Secretary/Treasurer—Cheryl Johnson
Committee—Russel Johnston, Karen Herkes, John Heafield
Bandiana Museum Representative John Heafield

● Periodically Federal Council receives comment on the content of Sabretache, particularly on the lack of articles on collecting interests. To clarify the situation part of a letter received recently from a Tasmanian member and the Federal Secretary's reply is reproduced here.

From the member:

"...It is interesting to see how the accents of the Society are changing. This is probably inevitable and indeed perhaps desirable and is no doubt due to policy decisions of the executive. The present forte (due to the annual seminars?) would appear to be military history. Possibly it is right that the Society should concentrate on this area and allow expertise to develop in this subject, rather than diversify on other facets of military interest. One does have a twinge of nostalgia for the days of badge collecting, etc., in which subject I'm sure there is still some interest."

The Federal Secretary's reply:

"Thank you for your letter of 30th August and the enclosed subscription for 1983-84. I am writing now to dispel any views you may have on Council policy on Sabretache. There is no deliberate policy to move towards a purely military historical journal the fact of the matter is that no-one is contributing any articles on badges and rarely on medals. So we can't publish what we don't have.

The days of badge collecting are still with us but Rex Clarke is not and he was largely responsible for the articles on badges in the period 72-78. Before that Barry Videon carried the burden. Of course you have now left yourself open to a challenge—what about an article on badges? We really need them and Council is aware of this, but if the badge collectors don't produce them, who will?"

● Stolen from a St Kilda, Vic. flat on, or about, Wednesday, 5th October 1983, the following Family Group of Medals.

Group of Nine: Lieut.-Colonel W.W. TRACY M.B.E., Queen's South Africa Medal (Clasps unknown)., 1914 Star with Clasp., British War Medal., Victory Medal., Defence Medal., War Medal., Long Service & Good Conduct Medal (Army)., Meritorious Service Medal.

Group of Nine: VX2120 MAJOR W.S.W. TRACY M.B.E., 1939-45, Africa, Pacific, France/Germany Stars., Defence Medal, War Medal., Australian Service Medal., Efficiency Decoration.

Group of Six: VX14091/RAAF No. 129865. Flying Officer B.A. TRACY. 1939-45, Africa Stars., Defence, War, & Australian Service Medals Greek Commemorative Medal.

A reward will be given for the safe return of these medals.

Anyone having knowledge of the whereabouts of these items are asked to contact Victoria Police at St Kilda C.I.B., 145 Chapel Street, ST KILDA, VIC., 3182. Telephones: (03) 534-6265; 534-6019; 534-6008, or the Victorian Branch Secretary, MHSA, 7/16 Barrett Street, CHELTENHAM, VIC. 3192.

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

THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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

ORGANISATION

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

SABRETACHE

The Federal Council is responsible for the publication quarterly of the Society Journal, *Sabretache*, which is scheduled to be mailed to each member of the Society in the last week of the final month of each issue. Publication and mailing schedule dates are:

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

Please address all Correspondence to:
The Federal Secretary, P.O. Box 30, Garran, A.C.T. 2605, Australia.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I/We .....of .....
(Name, Rank, etc.) (Address)

.....

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

Member of the ..... Branch
(*Strike out non-applicable alternative)

My main interests are.....
I/We enclose my/our remittance for $20.00 (Aust.) being annual subscription, due 1st July each year.

ISSN 0048-8933

Price $4.50